

where travel is a lifestyle

“Back to Namibia” UNTAG 20th Anniversary Reunion 4-17 October 2009



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This tour has been organized so that those who served in Namibia in 1989/1990 can return to see how the country has progressed since the first free and fair elections in 1990. During the 6-month rotations, many memories were created and this is an opportunity to share these memories with accompanying friends and family. It is also an opportunity to celebrate the 60th birthday of 17 Const Sqn, which was formed on 20 September 1949.

The tour enables you to enjoy Namibia's bountiful sunshine, endless open spaces and scenic beauty at leisure. Experience the rust-red dunes and golden grass plains of the Namib Desert, and the winding depths of Sesriem Canyon. Desert sands meet the sea at the coast, presenting a thriving fishing town and the quaint, historical architecture and bygone culture of Swakopmund. Spend exhilarating hours observing the vast and varied animal kingdom of the Etosha National Park, Africa's large cats and the magnificent countryside and everchanging landscapes you will travel through on your journey with your personal Driver guide. Enjoy the Namibian ambience of each of your destinations and the luxury, adventure and exhilaration of the activities at each.



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Route :

Windhoek – Rehoboth – Namib Desert – Sesriem – Sossusvlei – Walvis Bay – Swakopmund – Usakos – Karibib – Omaruru – Otjiwarongo – Outjo – Kamanjab – Opuwo – Ruacana – Outapi – Oshakati – Etosha National Park – Tsumeb – Grootfontein – Rundu – Grootfontein – Otavi – Otjiwaronfo – Okahandja – Windhoek

Highlights :

Capital City Windhoek, Namib Desert, Sesriem Canyon, Sossusvlei, Coastal Cities, Walvis Bay and Swakopmund
Cape Cross, Bird and Animal Kingdom of Etosha National Park, Caprivi and Kavango River, Lake Otjikoto, Waterberg Plateau



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Sun 04 Oct: Arrival in Windhoek

Arrival at the Windhoek International Airport. Here you will be met by your personal Driver/Guide who will assist you with your luggage before you proceed to Windhoek, the Capital of Namibia. Check in to the lovely Safari Court Hotel built on the City outskirts of Windhoek. In the afternoon, undertake an interesting and informative city tour.

Sight-seeing through Windhoek, the capital of Namibia. The city is considerably enhanced by stately historic buildings in German architectural style of the turn of the century. You can visit these old buildings, which lend a singular charm to the city, including the historic seat of government also known as the 'Tintenpalast', which means palace of ink in German. Right next to the Tintenpalast, the Christuskirche with its graceful sphere provides the city with a striking landmark. The white - walled Alte Feste, which was once a fort and now a museum, reflects the history of the country. Windhoek lies 1650m above sea level. The population of Windhoek consists of only 300 000 people which nevertheless makes Windhoek the largest city in the country. The largest portion of Windhoek's population stays in Katutura, the Bantu speaking - suburb of the city. Katutura is an Oshiwambo word meaning: "the place where we do not want to stay". All along "Independence Avenue", the former "Kaiserstrasse" (German for "emperor's street"), one can see the old, colonial houses right next to the buildings of the modern, post - independence Namibia.

Overnight stay and breakfast at Safari Court Hotel.

Safari Court Hotel****

Situated on a large property in Windhoek, the complex consists of the luxury four star Safari Court Hotel & Conference Centre and the three-star Hotel Safari. All of the spacious rooms are equipped with en-suite bathrooms and the grounds offer shady gardens and a large swimming pool to relax in. Free transport is available to and from the city centre.



Mon 05 Oct: Windhoek

This day is yours to spend at your leisure. Wander through the city, shop or revisit some of the attractions seen the previous day on the guided city tour. For dinner we recommend the famous Joe's Beer House (own account).

Overnight stay and breakfast at Safari Court Hotel.

Tue 06 Oct: Windhoek - Rehoboth - Namib Desert

After breakfast we depart via Rehoboth to the Namib Desert.

Like many towns in Namibia Rehoboth was once a missionary station. It is inhabited by the Baster community, which consists of the descendants of people of mixed parentage who trekked across the Orange River under their leader Hermanus van Wyk and settled at Rehoboth in 1870.

Mid-afternoon arrival at Hammerstein.

One of the oldest deserts in the world, maybe the very oldest, the Namib was already arid at least 80 million years ago. In the south it extends into South Africa, across the Orange River, while in the north it crosses the Kunene into Angola. The greater part of the Namib lies within Namibia, where it occupies some 1500km of Atlantic coastline. In width it generally varies between 80 and 140km, but in places reaches inland for as far as 200km.

Overnight stay, dinner and breakfast at Hammerstein Lodge.

*Hammerstein Lodge****

Hammerstein is a Lodge situated between Swakopmund and Luderitz and nestled between the Nubib and Tzaris mountains. It is an ideal stopover for travellers to the south of the Namibia.



Wed 07 Oct: Namib Desert - Swakopmund

Early departure to the highest sand dunes in the world.

Sossusvlei is a dune wonderland, with towering dunes up to 300m high surrounding a huge, dried-up pan. Dunes extend as far as the eye can see and their rich tints vary from pale apricot to vivid reds and oranges. During a good rainy season the Tsauchab River flows into the pan which creates a heaven for water birds. Even during the dry season, oryx, springbok and ostriches can be seen feeding off the sparse vegetation along the water courses.

This is then followed by a visit to the Sesriem Canyon. At the entrance to Sossusvlei is Sesriem Canyon, where centuries of erosion have incised a narrow



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gorge about 1km in length. At the foot of the gorge, which plunges down for 30m to 40m, are deep pools of water which become replenished after good rains. Sesriem derives its name from the time when early pioneers tied six lengths of rawhide thongs together to draw water from these pools.

We continue on our way to Swakopmund, via the coastal town of Walvis Bay.

Walvis Bay is Namibia's major harbour town; it is fast developing into a sought-after haven for spending a holiday at sea. Attractions are the lagoon with its prolific bird life, altogether some 80 000 wading birds including flamingos and rare white pelicans can be seen. A former enclave belonging to South Africa, Walvis Bay and the offshore islands were incorporated into the Republic of Namibia on March 1, 1994. The town has a well-developed and efficient port, while its fishing harbour is the hub of Namibia's fast-growing fishing industry.

Afternoon arrival in Swakopmund.

Overnight stay and breakfast at the luxurious Swakopmund Hotel****.

*Swakopmund Hotel*****

The Swakopmund Hotel & Entertainment Centre is tucked between the awesome expanses of the Namib Desert and the explosive breakers of the Atlantic Ocean. This hotel combines flawless service and stylish comfort. From the light and airy Reception Hall, to 90 spacious rooms and two sumptuous Presidential suites, the Hotel combines renowned Namibian hospitality with the first word in service and style. The PoolArea is indeed an oasis – sparkling blue water, palm trees, fountains and furniture made to laze on, offer welcome respite from the world's oldest desert. Where better to relax with a soothing drink while you and your companions contemplate tomorrow's desert escapades.



Thu 08 Oct: Swakopmund

Breakfast followed by a city tour of Swakopmund. The remainder of the day can be spent at your leisure. There are many activities on offer in and around the city which our Swakopmund office can discuss and arrange with you.

Swakopmund is much loved by Namibians as a welcome respite from the inland heat. It is also popular amongst visitors because of its old-world charm and relaxed atmosphere. Founded in 1892 during the period of German colonial rule, it served as the territory's main harbour for many years. The distinct German colonial character has been well preserved and today many of the old buildings serve a useful purpose. The Woermann House (1905) now houses an art gallery. The Woermann Tower was used in earlier times to see if ships came into the harbour. Other old interesting buildings are: „Die Alte Kaserne“, Hohenzollern Haus“, and the Railway Station Building.

Overnight stay and breakfast at Swakopmund Hotel.



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Fri 09 Oct: Swakopmund – Outjo

After breakfast we drive in a northerly direction to Namatubis Guestfarm just outside Outjo, via Cape Cross.

The largest and best known of the breeding colonies of Cape fur seals along the coast of South Africa and Namibia is the Cape Cross Seal Reserve north of Swakopmund. During the November/December breeding season as many as 200 000 seals gather at Cape Cross. It was here that the Portuguese navigator, Diego Cao, erected a stone cross in 1486. Also at Cape Cross is a small lichen reserve where a relatively large variety of these interesting and slow-growing organisms are protected.

Afternoon arrival at Namatubis.

Overnight stay, dinner and breakfast at Namatubis Guestfarm.

*Namatubis Guest Farm****



Namatubis is an excellent place to stay for travellers en route to or from Etosha. With its beautiful lush gardens, it is a veritable oasis and the spacious and comfortable units have twin double bed and en-suite facilities. Your hosts will serve you delicious meals and treat you with genuine Namibian hospitality.

Sat 10 Oct: Outjo -

Damaraland

Depart from Namatubis to travel to the north-west, via Kamanjab to Opuwo and the Ohakane Lodge. Mid-afternoon arrival at your destination.

Overnight stay, dinner and breakfast at Ohakane Lodge.

*Ohakane Lodge***

Ohakane Lodge is a 13-bedroom establishment, all rooms with en-suite facilities and air conditioning. It is situated in the small rural town of Opuwo in the Kaokoland. The Lodge is the gateway to the beautiful Kaokoland and its people, the Ovahimba.



Sun 11 Oct: Opuwo – Ruacana - Oshakati

Today we continue in a northerly direction, to Ruacana and then on to Oshakati.

Ruacana: The village lies 5 km away from the main route and is surrounded by a circular street. One will notice that this area has only been developed due to the



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power station. Many of the worker's houses are only seen by the remaining foundations. There are still about 300 people working at the power station. They and their families keep the village alive. The Ruacana Rapids in the Cunene, almost 160 km east of Epupa, are nearly always dry. This is due to the Calueque Dam just before the falls. The gorge is never the less very awesome with or without water. After a good rainy season, the Ruacana Rapids are nearly as inspiring in autumn as the Vic Falls in Zimbabwe.

Afternoon arrival and check-in at the Oshakati Country Lodge.

Overnight stay, dinner and breakfast at Oshakati Country Lodge.



Oshakati Country Lodge:

Situated in an impressive thatched main building that houses a restaurant, lounge, bar and conference facility. This is a good base from which to explore the traditional Ovambo lifestyle. Relax around the pool or depart on an interesting tour of the surrounding traditional villages. Oshakati is the hub of trans-border trade with Angola and is the ideal base from where business people and tourists can explore the Northern region.

This three-star facility has 46 air-conditioned en-suite double rooms, an a-la-carte restaurant, resident's bar, a swimming pool with bar service, and an air-conditioned conference facility.

Mon 12 Oct: Etosha National Park

After an early breakfast, you travel towards the Etosha National Park, via Oshiwelo. In the late afternoon, travel on to the lovely !Uris Safari Lodge.

The Etosha National Park, consisting of 22 270 sq km of saline desert, savannah and woodlands, is one of the largest parks in Africa. Its definitive feature is the Etosha Pan, a vast, shallow depression of approximately 5000 sq km. For the greater part of the year, the pan is a bleak expanse of white cracked mud which shimmers with mirages on most days. It is seeing vast herds of game with this eerie „great white place of dry water“ as a backdrop which makes the Etosha experience unique. A total of 114 mammal species are found in the park, including several rare and endangered, such as black rhino and blackfaced impala. About 340 bird species occur in the park, of which approximately one third are migratory, including the European bee-eater and several species of waders.

Overnight stay, dinner and breakfast at !Uris Safari Lodge.



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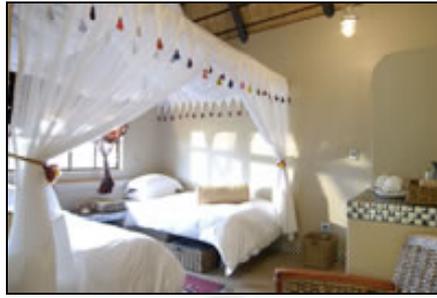
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!Uris Safari Lodge***

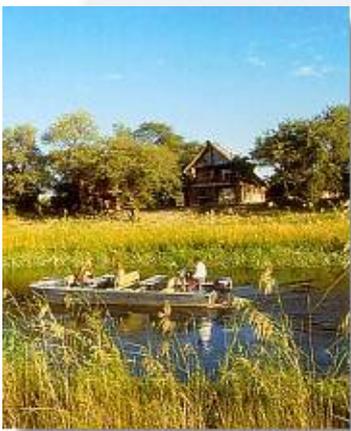
The Lodge is located 20km west of the town of Tsumeb in Namibia's diverse and fascinating Oshikoto region. The Lodge nestles in a 17,000 hectare private game reserve with an abundance of eland, kudu and other game.

Tue 13 Oct: Etosha National Park - Rundu

After breakfast we bid this region farewell and commence our journey towards a new, vastly diverse landscape. Travelling via Tsumeb and Grootfontein, we arrive in Rundu in the afternoon. En-route we visit the Ojtikoto Lake and the Tsumeb Museum.

The unique museum had its origins in 1915 when, during the South West African Campaign, retreating German forces dumped their military equipment into Lake Otjikoto. Some of the cannons have been retrieved and can be viewed in the museum in Tsumeb. Many legends surround the lake. A favourite myth is that Otjikoto and its sister lake Guinas are bottomless. Shaped something like an upside-down mushroom, Otjikoto was formed when the roof of a huge dolomite cave collapsed. Stalactite samples taken from an underwater cave have been estimated to be about 80 000 years old. A rare, mouth-breeding species of fish is found in the lake's depths. The town of Tsumeb, gateway to the north, has been closely linked to the mining industry since 1905. The history of Tsumeb is depicted in the Tsumeb museum, where a comprehensive collection of rare minerals can be viewed. In the Khorab room a collection of restored cannons and other armaments, which were dumped into Lake Otjikoto by the German forces, are displayed.

Overnight stay, dinner and breakfast at Kaisosi River Lodge.



Kaisosi River Lodge***

Here you will find peace and solitude and untouched African nature! The Lodge lies in a small paradise on the banks of the Kavango River and offers luxury and comfort in tropical surroundings. The cuisine is renowned and the spacious rooms are tastefully decorated.

Wed 14 Oct: Rundu

The day is yours to spend at leisure in these truly African surroundings.

Overnight stay, dinner and breakfast at Kaisosi River Lodge.

Thu 15 Oct: Rundu - Otjiwarongo



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Bid Kaisosi farewell after breakfast and commence the second-last leg of your safari, via Otjiwarongo to Wilderness Plateau Lodge at the Waterberg Plateau.

Originally known as Kanubus to the Herero, Otjiwarongo is said to mean “pretty place” or “place of the fat cattle” – an apt description, as the area is well known for its cattle ranches. This small yet busy town is situated about 250km north of Windhoek, on a slope amid undulating plains. In 1896, a Rhenish mission station was established here, after an agreement was signed with the Herero chief Kambazembi.

Mid afternoon check-in to the Plateau Lodge where you can relax in true Namibian style.

Overnight stay and breakfast at Wilderness Plateau Lodge.

*Waterberg Wilderness Lodge****

Farm Otjosongombe is practically at the centre of the Waterberg, the only farm that has access to the southern plateau and also boasts the strongest natural spring in the area. The abundance of water makes for unique animal and plant life. Excellent traditional farm cooking and comfortable accommodation with superb views await you.



Fri 16 Oct: Otjiwarongo – Okahandja

We depart after breakfast for Mount Etjo Ranch. Afternoon arrival and check-in before you join an optional (not inclusive) excursion to view the Lion Feed, then just relax at the Lodge.

Overnight stay, dinner and breakfast at Mount Etjo Ranch.

*Mount Etjo Safari Lodge****

Mount Etjo nestles within the Okonjoi Wildlife Sanctuary and is situated in one of the most scenic parts of Namibia. It is well-known for its big game, namely elephant, black and white rhino, hippo, giraffe and numerous antelopes. It is also one of the very few places in Namibia's interior which harbour hippos. “Etjo” means place of refuge and the comfortable ensuite rooms offer luxury while surrounded by an untamed Africa! The Main Lodge facilities offer a swimming pool and garden area, and overlook a waterhole that is well-visited by many animals.



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Sat 17 Oct: Departure

Leave Mount Etjo and commence the last stretch of your journey. En-route you travel through Windhoek once again.

In Windhoek you may have time for some last-minute souvenir shopping, before you continue on to the Airport where you check in for your onward bound flight.



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Cost includes:

13-nights, mostly 3-4* accommodation

Breakfast daily

9 Dinners

15% VAT

Porterage

Entrance to National Parks and museums as specified

Qualified Driver guide and Tour Manager to/from Windhoek International Airport

Transportation in an Air-Conditioned Tour Vehicle

\$6299.00 per person twin share, \$819.00 single supplement¹

¹ Based on twelve people travelling in a 15-seater coach to ensure passenger comfort.

