

# THE AFRICAN TOUCH

## Windhoek/NAMIBIA-BOTSWANA-ZIMBABWE/Vic Falls

### Day 1

Today is spent looking around Windhoek. It is a peaceful and relaxed city in a country with a record of good political stability, it's also known as one of the safest and cleanest cities on the African continent. In the afternoon we will go through the pre-departure getting you ready for your Southern Africa Safari.

### Day 2

Keetmanshoop is our next destination famous for The Giants Playground. It does look like some gigantic force placed the eroded dolerite rocks on top of one another forming strange rock formations. Time is spent looking through the Giants playground and around the quiver tree forest. The quiver tree is one of the most interesting and characteristic plants of the very hot and dry parts of Namibia. Tonight is your first night in the tents.

### Day 3

Heading south we'll be spending the night at Ai-Ais Hot Springs. It offers an excellent place to relax in and around after a hot, dusty day's drive. These hot springs with temperatures of 60 degrees Celsius, are rich in minerals and are reputed to have healing qualities.

### Day 4

Fish River Canyon is the second largest and oldest canyon in the world and is one of the most impressive natural formations of Southern Africa. It was formed approximately 500 million years ago, with some rocks at the bottom dating up to 2600 million years old. We spend some time at the canyon, before relaxing with sundowners in hand and watching the spectacular sunset over the canyon's rim.

### Day 5-6

Departing the Canyon, we make our way to Sesriem campsite, on the edge of the Namib Desert. The following day is spent exploring this stunning area. We will visit Sossusvlei – a clay pan, enclosed by the world's largest sand dunes, up to 300m high. We have the opportunity to climb the world famous Dune 45 for an unforgettable sunset over the desert. We'll also visit Sesriem Canyon, a small canyon typical of the area.

### Day 7-9

With its mind-boggling lunar landscapes, unforgettable sunsets and bizarre plants, Swakopmund is the perfect place to spend a few days. There are numerous fun optional activities for the more adventurous. (Quad biking in the dunes, fishing, sky diving, scenic flights etc.) As a group we will take a local township tour. You will meet people from Herero, Damara, Owambo and Nama origin and learn some of their culture. During our stay in Swakopmund we enjoy staying in a popular local lodge, leaving truck life behind for a few days.

### Day 10

Back on the road and tonight we're roughing it! On our way we'll visit the Cape Cross Seal colony before heading inland. We travel to the majestic Spitzkoppe, where we will bush camp for the night. Spitzkoppe is a huge granite outcrop and offers plenty of interesting walks.

Spitzkoppe has one of the most beautiful sunsets and sunrises in Namibia and is the perfect place to star gaze and experience the peace and quietness of this magnificent open land.

#### Day 11

In 2007, UNESCO approved Twyfelfontein as Namibia's first World Heritage Site. These rock engravings are attributed to the San (Bushmen). We'll explore this area before setting up camp close by.

#### Day 12

Next we're travelling onto a cheetah conservation project where we have the opportunity to interact with these special mammals. While we're here we'll also visit the Himba people for a fascinating cultural experience. With their skin and hair covered in red ochre they are a stunning tribe to look at. You can tell the marital status of a Himba woman by the way she wears her hair.

#### Day 13-15

For the next three nights we'll be staying in Etosha National Park. The Etosha pan dominates the park and is roughly 130km long and in places as wide as 50km. A vast array of animals lives around the pan, including elephant, lion, gemsbok, zebra, black rhino, giraffe, cheetah and leopard. After sunset you can watch some animals at the watering holes near the camping area, which is safe, being well lit with flood lights.

#### Day 16

Departing Etosha in the afternoon we'll drive to Tsumeb where we'll spend the night.

#### Day 17

We'll be travelling a bit off the beaten track towards the Waterberg Plateau. We'll conduct a guided nature walk along the top of the plateau where we may encounter black or white rhino and buffalo introduced into the sanctuary and learn more about the country's flora.

#### Day 18

Zelda Game and Guest Farm located on the Botswana border is our next destination. Here we will take a walk with a bushman tracker and learn a lot about animals, plants and the use thereof.

#### Day 19-20

Botswana has remained almost completely unspoiled and it's an ideal destination for nature lovers. The Okavango Delta is one of the world's largest inland waterways and its tranquility and quietness have a calming effect on those who visit it. We spend time with guides poling us around in mokoros (dug out canoes) and exploring the extensive waterways and wildlife. An optional flight over the Delta allows us remarkable views of this unspoiled wilderness.

#### Day 21-22

For the next two nights we'll be staying at Planet Baobab, the baobab tree capital of the world. We'll learn more about the fascinating geological origins of the Makgadikgadi. This vast pan desert, an area that is bigger than Switzerland, was once the largest expanse of fresh water on the planet. We'll also experience some modern African village culture and get a glimpse of rural Botswana life.

#### Day 23-24

Also in Botswana we'll visit Chobe National Park, it is one of the worlds' largest wilderness areas covering approximately 11,000sqm. This park has the highest elephant concentration in Africa – over 120,000. We camp at a lodge in Chobe. From here we organise a game drive in chobe National Park and a cruise in the relaxing waters of the Chobe River. During the heat of the day you can relax by the pool or find a shady spot along the river bank.

#### Day 25-27

Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls is, by some measures, the largest waterfall in the world. For some, Mosi oa Tunya – The Smoke That Thunders, is the highlight of their trip. The Zambezi plunges 1,000 metres over the gorge, creating a mist cloud that rises metres into the air and the thundering force can be heard from Victoria Falls town. Our days are spent exploring Victoria Falls and taking part in the many optional adventure activities. Included in the tour is a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River and a night drive followed by a bush dinner. These final nights of the safari are spent in en-suite rooms.