



## **Sand Dunes & Waterfalls with Australia Zoo September 2009**

***Southern Africa is a land of contrasts and extremes, from incredible sand dunes to sandy deserts, from semi-arid terrain to the beautiful Skeleton Coast, and from one of the greatest wildlife reserves on the continent to arguably the most famous waterfall in the world. Namibia is the sparkling but largely unknown jewel of southern Africa. Since gaining independence in 1990 it has continued to enjoy political stability and still boasts an excellent infrastructure. This country offers some of the most powerful scenery in the world, excellent wildlife viewing opportunities and rich cultural history within its vast borders. Driving from Windhoek to Sesriem, we explore the spectacular and bewitching sand dune sea over two days and its like nothing most of us would have ever seen before. In Swakopmund, Namibia's adventure centre, we can take up the offer of participating in an adrenalin-rush activity or simply relax and absorb the unique culture of this seaside holiday town. Etosha National Park offers very special wildlife viewing experience in Namibia's harsh environment. From here we head to the Caprivi Strip and spend a couple of days in the splendid riverine surroundings by the banks of the Kavango River. Our final stop is Livingstone, in Zambia, where we make our way down to spectacular Victoria Falls - a fitting finale to this awesome safari. This specially designed family tour comprehensively showcases the incredible beauty and diversity of Namibia and Victoria Falls, at a very relaxed pace.***



## **DAY BY DAY ITINERARY**

### **Day 1 / Windhoek**

You are met at Windhoek International Airport on arrival and transferred to your guesthouse in the city. Depending on your time of arrival, you may have the opportunity to wander around the streets and get a feel for this small, quaint and German-influenced capital city. There are some interesting old buildings dating back to the German colonial days, although much of the capital is quite modern. There are a number of restaurants close to the guesthouse, where you can enjoy your evening meal. **Your tour leader will meet you at 6pm for a short pre-trip briefing.**

### **Day 2 / Sesriem**

This morning we bid Windhoek farewell and begin our epic journey that will take us through Namibia and on to Zambia and the mighty Victoria Falls. Today's drive is spectacular as we climb over the Eros Mountains and then the Khomas Hochland Range, before continuing across the Central Highlands. Travelling along gravel roads, we descend into the Namib-Naukluft Valley, via the spectacular Remhoogte Pass, pausing to take in the breathtaking mountain vistas along the way. We also stop at the single store in Solitaire for some scrumptious afternoon tea (this is at your own expense), which is produced by a local character named 'Moose' and is renowned throughout Namibia! As we are now at the eastern most edge of the dune fields of Namibia the scenery is stunning, with the grassy savannah interspersed with free roaming wildlife such as springbok, oryx and ostrich. We reach our lodge in the late afternoon in time to settle in and enjoy the sunset. The Betesda Guest Farm is set in an area of tranquility, silence and solitude, in tune with its surroundings of awe-inspiring plains and magnificent mountains. The rooms of the lodge, built with the flat rocks that are characteristic of the nearby mountains, have a wonderful view over the vast plains of the Namib with its different contrasts of rock, grass, mountains and sand. This will surely whet our appetite for even more impressive sights to come tomorrow and is a perfect way to end the day. On our evenings here, we get to enjoy delicious farmhouse style meals.

Meals included: 1 breakfast, 1 dinner

### **Day 3 / Namib-Naukluft National Park - Sesriem**

The effort required in getting up and departing before dawn will be well and truly worth it! As we drive in towards Sossusvlei the stars begin to fade. The full impact of an incredibly breathtaking scene hits us at dawn, as the colours of some of possibly the greatest sand dunes in the world blaze orange when their slopes are touched by the sun's first light. The sheer scale of the scene and the impact of light and shade on the ridgelines leave most people simply speechless. As the morning progresses we walk into Sossusvlei, which is the end of an ancient riverbed. It is usually devoid of water, but in recent years some unseasonable and heavy rains have on occasions turned it into a lake, surrounded by mountains of sand. There is an opportunity to climb some of the small or large dunes, depending on how energetic you feel. It can be quite hard work, as the ground seems to slip and slide away from beneath you; however it can be very rewarding, as you survey the grandeur of the area from the top of the dune. In the afternoon we visit nearby Sesriem Gorge - a small but fascinating area, where the desert strata has been cut away by the force of occasional floodwaters over thousands of years. A trip out to Elim Dune is the perfect way to end our experiences in Namib-Naukluft National Park.

Meals included: 1 breakfast, 1 lunch, 1 dinner

### **Days 4-5 / Swakopmund**

We travel through the Namib Desert today and head northwest to the Atlantic Ocean and the moody coastline of Namibia. The varied landscapes continue to be colourful and impressive. We leave the dune fields and experience more mountain desert vistas, which is particularly spectacular as we traverse Kuiseb Canyon. Entering the stark flatness of the Namib Desert we travel directly towards the Skeleton Coast and the seaside holiday town of Swakopmund. Along the way we stop at Walvis Bay Lagoon to look at the bird life that is attracted there. Flamingos in particular can often be found in large numbers. The town of Swakopmund is located on the Atlantic coast and is often covered by fog that rolls in from the ocean during the late afternoon and retreats again with the morning sun. Here we can visit a first-rate museum, the National Marine Aquarium and also participate in a number of optional activities, including hot air balloon flights, parasailing, sand boarding, quad biking, golf and trips to Walvis Bay for boating or kayaking with seals, dolphins and flamingos. Alternatively you may wish to take a sightseeing trip by light aircraft for another perspective of the great sand seas through which we have been travelling. Your leader will be able to make suggestions and advice on the various options available - it is often a difficult choice! During our time here we stay two nights in bungalows, near to the beach and walking distance to the town's attractions. Only breakfast is provided; however, some of the full-day activities include lunch and there are many good and inexpensive restaurants and bakeries in town.

Meals included: 2 breakfasts

### **Day 6 / Cape Cross - Uis**

We bid Swakopmund farewell and continue north along the coastline into the southern end of the Skeleton Coast to Cape Cross. Cape Cross is a huge breeding site for Cape fur seals, with seal populations reaching up to 100,000. With so many seals concentrated in a small area we are greeted with an incredible sight (and certainly an incredible smell, especially if the winds are onshore!). The shoreline and the waters are usually a seething mass of seals and

we are sure to get some great photographic opportunities. The site hosts a large cross and an information plaque on Diego Cao, the person who planted the cross there and also the first European person to reach Namibian soil in 1485. Leaving Cape Cross we turn inland across the gravel plains of the Namib Desert to the small town of Uis, in the heart of Damaraland. En route we skirt round the base of the Brandberg Massif – at 2573 metres, the highest peak in Namibia. The name Brandberg means 'Fire Mountain', due to the effect of the sunlight on its red rocks. The entire massif rises about 1900 metres from the surrounding desert floor and, in clear conditions, can sometimes be first seen from a hundred kilometres away! We stop here briefly to view the 'White Lady' San rock paintings. Our accommodation tonight is at Brandberg Lodge in spacious en suite rooms overlooking a swimming pool. Uis is an old mining town and one of the best places to buy semi-precious stones, which Namibia is renowned for. You can purchase stones like rough amethyst and tourmaline here at bargain prices.  
Meals included: 1 breakfast



### **Days 7-8 / Etosha National Park**

We continue north and pass some small towns on our way to the famous Etosha National Park, one of the largest game reserves in Africa. The name Etosha means 'Great White Place of Dry Water'. This huge park is home to 114 species of mammals and 340 species of birds. We spend time here searching for elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, gemsbok and the endemic black-faced impala, amongst many other species. One animal that we will literally see thousands of is the springbok. The arid semi-desert terrain of Etosha makes this one of the best places in the world to view wildlife.

On arrival we check into our bungalow accommodation and there should be time for a short game drive before sunset. Two outstanding nights are spent in Etosha staying in comfortable bungalows at Okaukuejo Rest Camp. The restcamp has a floodlit waterhole, ensuring that our game viewing can be non-stop. We enjoy breakfasts at the camps' restaurant, whilst lunches and dinners are at our own expense - either in the restaurants or, alternatively, we can buy food at the local shop in the rest camp and prepare meals in our own bungalows, which have self-catering facilities. Our mornings and afternoons are spent game driving around this area, whilst during the middle of the day we get to relax in the camp area or around the swimming pool.  
Meals included: 2 breakfasts

### **Day 9 / Etosha National Park**

Today we spend the day game driving across the park to our accommodation at Mokuti Lodge, situated on the eastern edge of the park. Along the way we visit the Great Etosha Pan, experiencing the silvery-white shimmer of baked mud and the many waterholes around its perimeter. At lunchtime there is time to stop at Halali Rest Camp and relax by the pool before continuing on with our game drive, seeing as much of the prolific animal life as possible.  
Meals included: 1 breakfast

### **Days 10-11 / Kavango River**

Today we leave Etosha National Park and drive to the northernmost region of Namibia and the town of Rundu. On this journey we cross the Red Line, a veterinary disease checkpoint, but in an abstract way, a line that divides the southern, first world, farming oriented part of Namibia from the northern, third world, self-sufficient and more traditional village part. We travel past small villages and take a few breaks along the way to see the local woodcarvers in action. These are good opportunities to pick up a few souvenirs. Entering an area known as the Caprivi Strip, we arrive at our accommodation, Rainbow Lodge, in Bagani, on the banks of the Kavango River, in the late afternoon. This gives us time to explore the area on foot and also enjoy a sunset in this rare desert wetland. Located on the fringe of the Okavango Delta, the Rainbow Lodge has semi luxury chalets with en suite bathrooms, roof fans, mosquito nets and all the furniture is hand-made from local wood. Shaded by a variety of indigenous trees, the lodge has a restaurant; a bar, a swimming pool and a decking that is built right over the river. There is also a barbecue area. There are many optional activities that we can enjoy during our stay here including game drives to Mahango Game Reserve (famous for hippos, crocodiles and elephants), river canoe trips using the famous local mokoros, guided walks and a guided village tour, where we can learn about the traditional lifestyle of the local Mbukushu people.  
Meals included: 2 breakfasts

### **Day 12 / Caprivi Strip - Katima Mulilo**

The last stretch of the Caprivi Strip is completed today with a drive to Katima Mulilo, the main town of the Caprivi, situated in the far northeast of Namibia on the banks of the Zambezi River. The town has a population of 23,000 and was established by the British colonial authorities in 1935 to replace the former German town of Schuckmannsburg, which had been the regional capital when Caprivi was part of German South West Africa. Our lodge is set in natural surroundings on the banks of the river. After arriving and settling in, you may wish to take a stroll through the

markets in town or simply relax in the garden at the lodge, take a swim in the pool, enjoy some fishing or maybe arrange to join an optional boat cruise.

Meals included: 1 breakfast

### **Day 13 / Victoria Falls - Livingstone**

Our final drive takes us to a new country, Zambia, and the town of Livingstone, the finale to our safari! A new road bridge that spans the Zambezi River connects Namibia with Zambia. After completing the passport formalities we enter Zambia and drive for 140 kilometres to Livingstone. In the afternoon we visit the magnificent Victoria Falls, named by Dr David Livingstone in honour of his English queen. In Zambia these falls are more commonly referred to by their Kololo name, Mosi-oa-Tunya or 'the smoke that thunders'. These magnificent falls are considered one of the seven wonders of the natural world and, when in full flow, form the largest sheet of falling water in the world. Our lodge is beautifully situated on the banks of the Upper Zambezi River and is a great place to relax at the end of the day.

Meals included: 1 breakfast

### **Day 14 / Livingstone**

Our tour comes to an end after breakfast on the final day. Our local guides will also help you to organise any of the myriad of optional activities available. A group departure transfer is provided this morning. Post tour accommodation and departure transfers can be booked in advance to spend more time in this exquisite area (at additional cost).

Meals included: 1 breakfast

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### **About Peregrine**

Peregrine has been operating adventure holidays since 1977. Today we can help you discover all four corners of the globe, from the Polar regions, to Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and beyond. We offer high-quality, excellent-value, small-group adventures to interesting areas of the world, in harmony with the local people and the environment.

### **Trip grade**

#### **Family adventure**

Designed especially for families with children, these tours include daily activities that are varied and interesting, and tiring travel is kept to a minimum.

### **WILDLIFE SAFARI**

With a particular emphasis on wildlife and the environment, often visiting some of the world's greatest game reserves or wildlife regions.

### **Included**

An experienced English-speaking local Peregrine leader, specialist local guides, arrival transfer, group departure transfer, transport, accommodation, meals, game activities, entrance fees to parks/reserves/sights indicated in itinerary.

**Accommodation:** 5 nights local guesthouse, 3 nights private lodge, 5 nights bungalow

**Meals:** 13 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners

**Transport:** custom-built safari vehicle, on foot

**Parks:** This trip includes 1 day in Namib-Naukluft National Park, 3 days in Etosha National Park and visits Victoria Falls by way of Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park.

### **Not included**

International flights, airport departure taxes, departure transfer, visas, meals unless specified in the itinerary, insurance, laundry, any optional tours or activities during free time, tips and items of a personal nature.

### **Additional accommodation**

Extend your holiday by booking some pre or post tour accommodation - ask Peregrine or your travel agent.

### **Optional Excursions**

\* prices below are a guide only.

#### **Livingstone**

- Elephant back safari - US\$140
- Full-day white water rafting (Option may not be available depending on water levels) - US\$135
- Rhino walk - US\$80

## **Other information**

### **Age limits and responsibility for minors**

The minimum age required to join this tour is four years old. This family trip is designed for families only (i.e. at least one adult and at least one child). The parent or guardian is fully responsible for their children throughout this tour. If you have a question regarding age and suitability, please contact Peregrine for further advice.

### **Travelling responsibly**

We care about the places and people that we meet on our journeys, and we try to ensure that we give something back, as well as taking away so many incredible memories. For more information on our commitment to responsible tourism, visit [www.peregrineadventures.com/rt](http://www.peregrineadventures.com/rt)

### **Peregrine Community Trust**

The Peregrine Community Trust, a division of Peregrine Adventures, provides funds for local community projects and initiatives that promote responsible and sustainable tourism development in the destinations in which we operate. First and foremost, but not exclusively, the Trust supports projects and initiatives that advance education and employment within the tourism and hospitality industry. The Trust operates on a not-for-profit basis, with funds donated by Peregrine, our staff and our travellers, with every cent going to the nominated projects.

By donating to one of the projects supported by The Peregrine Community Trust you will help promote responsible and sustainable tourism and make a positive difference for communities and travellers right now, and for the future. For online donations go to: [www.peregrineadventures.com/trust](http://www.peregrineadventures.com/trust)

### **Subscribe to e-news**

About once a month, we send out an electronic newsletter with news, specials and interesting articles. Subscribing is easy, and you can unsubscribe just as easily at any time.

Visit <http://www.peregrineadventures.com/subscribe> to subscribe to our e-news and for your chance to win a great adventure!

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## **Passport**

Well before travelling, please ensure that you have a current passport, with an accurate photo, that is valid for at least six months after your scheduled return home. Also check that your airline tickets are in exactly the same name as your passport. Some countries may require that you have a return air ticket, or have sufficient funds to purchase such a ticket.

## **Insurance**

On all our holidays you must have comprehensive travel insurance that covers you for medical costs associated with hospitalisation, emergency travel and repatriation back to your home country. Please take your insurance policy with you when you travel. Peregrine is able to recommend a policy for you. You may take other cover, of course, but we require you to be adequately insured before we can allow you to participate in our programmes. Your Peregrine leader will need to see and record your policy details at the pre-tour briefing, so please bring a copy along to the meeting. If you arrive without travel insurance your Tour Leader will require you to purchase a policy before you continue your journey with us.

If you are covered by a policy arranged through your credit card company you will be asked to provide evidence of this cover, as well as a 24-hour emergency contact number. Many credit card companies do not provide an insurance policy number. In this instance, the tour leader will need to record your credit card number, as this is required to activate any request for emergency assistance. You should also bring along the travel insurance information booklet provided by your credit card company. It is your responsibility to ensure that you meet the requirements set out by your credit card company in order to be effectively covered and that the cover offered is of a suitable standard.

## **Visas**

Australians, Americans, Canadians, British and New Zealanders do not currently require a visa for Namibia. For all other nationalities please reconfirm your visa requirements with your travel agent. For those nationalities that do require a visa these need to be obtained prior to arrival in Namibia.

Australians, Americans, Canadians, British and New Zealanders currently do require a visa for Zambia. A visa can be purchased at the airport or on the border on arrival. The visa must be paid in cash in USD. If you are entering Zambia more than once it is suggested that you request a multiple entry visa.

The cost ranges from US\$50 (approx) for a Single entry visa to US\$160 (approx) for a multiple entry visa and US\$20 (approx) for a day trip. The cost for American passport holders is US\$135 and for British passport holders it is US\$140 for a single entry visa and US\$442 for a multiple entry visa. If obtaining the visa on arrival, please check that you have been given enough days to cover your stay in Zambia. If you overstay the dates on your visa, then

you will be charged an additional US\$250 per person, per day. Please ensure you have US dollars cash and that the notes are series 2001 or later in issue.

It is your responsibility to ensure you have all required visas for your trip. Rules and regulations governing the issuance of visas are constantly changing, and vary for different nationalities and you should check visa requirements with your travel agent or relevant consular authority well before travel.

## Vaccinations

Vaccinations may be required for this trip. Please consult your doctor or a travel health specialist. The choice of vaccinations can depend on a range of issues including the specific destination, the duration of the trip, your personal health and of course what vaccines you have had before.

**Compulsory vaccines:** These days the only compulsory vaccine is for yellow fever, which is required for many countries in Africa and South America. It should be done at least 10 days before travel and must be recorded in an official certificate book. Please note that very often you may not need to show this certificate book when entering these countries, but you will need to produce it to immigration/customs on returning to your home country.

**Routine Background Vaccines:** We strongly endorse current public health recommendations that all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine vaccines such as tetanus, diphtheria, measles/mumps/rubella, polio and influenza, and paediatric vaccinations for children.

**Travel Vaccinations:** While the food and water-borne diseases such as hepatitis A and typhoid will apply to most of our travellers, other travel vaccines such as hepatitis B, rabies, meningitis, Japanese encephalitis and cholera may apply to select travellers, especially long-term travel. Travel health experts can advise on what is required and also what is not required!

**Malaria:** There is no vaccination against malaria, which is transmitted by mosquito bites and is a risk in many less-developed tropical areas, particularly in Central, East and West Africa, Melanesia (especially Papua New Guinea) and the Amazon region. In Asia (particularly India) and Central America it may be a problem in rural areas. Protection against mosquito bites is essential and where the risk is considered high, anti-malarial medications are recommended. Anti-malarial medications should be discussed with experts as there are different medications available and not all medications suit all people or all destinations. We prefer that trekkers to altitude try to avoid the use of mefloquine (Lariam) if possible.

For travellers from Australia and New Zealand, we strongly recommend Travel Doctor-TMVC clinics to obtain the most up-to-date advice on health risks and vaccinations (see [www.traveldoctor.com.au](http://www.traveldoctor.com.au) for locations and detailed vaccine information or phone 1300 658 844 for an appointment in Australia). Some vaccines require more than one dose, so arrange for your visit at least 4-6 weeks before you travel. Travellers living outside Australia and New Zealand will need to consult a similar organisation in their own country (please ask your travel agent for recommendations), but can still access the following link for information:

[www.traveldoctor.com.au/travelreport.asp?UnqID=0.4630191&PageID=10&nav=personal-traveller](http://www.traveldoctor.com.au/travelreport.asp?UnqID=0.4630191&PageID=10&nav=personal-traveller)

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## About this information

It is important that you should read these notes in conjunction with the detailed trip specific **Pre Departure Information**. This information is supplied to you at the time of booking and contains extensive information about subjects such as climate, clothing and gear, medical and visa matters, currencies, and other information about the countries visited.

The information provided here is given in good faith and has been compiled with all reasonable care. However, things change and some of the information may become out of date. Please keep this in mind when you read it and check with us if you want to be sure about something. The document was correct at time of printing, but you can check online for the most up to date version. If you have any queries, please contact your travel agent or our staff in Australia. We are here to help you!