

The Namibian Northwest

Dates: D1: 16-27 April '21; D2: 29 Apr-9 May '21

Location: Damaraland/Skeleton Coast

Group size: 6; Cost GBP 8,195 per person

ANDY SKILLEN
PHOTOGRAPHY



I'VE PHOTOGRAPHED THIS PART OF NAMIBIA FOR **MORE THAN 20 YEARS** FOR A NUMBER OF PROJECTS, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN ABLE TO PUT TOGETHER AN ITINERARY THAT WILL GIVE YOU A TRUE SENSE OF THIS **INCREDIBLE, EMPTY WILDERNESS...IN COMFORT!** WITH **10 NIGHTS ON LOCATION**, STARTING AT THE ICONIC RED SAND DUNES OF **SOSSUSVLEI**, WE WILL USE **OUR OWN AIRCRAFT** TO FLY FROM PLACE TO PLACE AND CUT DOWN ON LONG TRANSIT TIMES...AS WELL AS ENABLE YOU TO SEE THIS BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY FROM THE AIR! THE **HOANIB RIVER VALLEY** IS ONE OF THE HARDEST PLACES TO VISIT...AND HOME TO THE DESERT ADAPTED **LION** (AS WELL AS OTHER SPECIES SUCH AS **CHEETAH, GIRAFFE, ZEBRA AND ELEPHANT** TO NAME A FEW), AND YOU WILL HAVE 4 DAYS TO ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE THIS RAREST OF PREDATORS THROUGH THE LENS. FROM HERE WE FLY FURTHER NORTH TO THE HEART OF FREE-ROAMING **BLACK RHINO** COUNTRY...WHERE FOR ANOTHER FOUR NIGHTS WE WILL TRACK THESE TRUE SURVIVORS BY VEHICLE, AND THEN ON FOOT, TO GIVE YOU FACE TO FACE PHOTOGRAPHIC OPPORTUNITIES. **NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY**, OTHER ANIMALS, **INCREDIBLE SCENICS**....THIS TRIP REALLY DOES **HAVE IT ALL!** (12D, 11N)

Please note: because of demand there are now two departures for this adventure. Please specify your preferred dates, and we will try and accommodate. If you are flexible, let us know and we will inform you which trip you will be on. We will do our best to match accommodation to avoid single supplements etc.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- **EXCLUSIVE GROUP SIZE OF JUST 6 GUESTS**
- **REMOTE LOCATIONS AND TRULY EPIC SCENERY**
- **TRACKING BLACK RHINO ON FOOT**
- **CHANCES FOR DESERT ADAPTED LION, CHEETAH, ELEPHANT AND GIRAFFE AS WELL AS OTHER SPECIES**
- **ENDLESS CLEAR SKIES FOR NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY**
- **PRIVATE AIRCRAFT BETWEEN LOCATIONS**
- **OPTIONAL FLY-IN TO THE SKELETON COAST ON A DAY TRIP**
- **PRE-DAWN ACCESS TO THE DUNES OF SOSSUSVLEI**
- **AS MUCH, OR AS LITTLE, PHOTOGRAPHIC TUITION AS NEEDED!**

COSTS AND LOGISTICS

- **Group size:** 6 guests only
- **GBP 8,195** per person, based on twin-share accommodation
- **Start point:** Windhoek International Airport
- **End point:** Windhoek International Airport

WHAT'S INCLUDED...

- **1 night** accommodation in Windhoek
- **2 nights** lodge-based accommodation in Sossusvlei (inside the national park)
- **4 nights** in our remote camp in the **stunning Hoanib valley**
- **4 nights accommodation** in a beautiful concession in remote Damaraland
- **Private vehicle**
- All guiding and park fees
- **Charter flights between all locations and back to Windhoek at the end**

WHAT'S NOT...

- International and/or any domestic flight to/from the itinerary start/end points
- Items of a personal nature
- Visa fees as appropriate
- Any departure taxes not covered in your international flight
- Gratuities

YOUR ITINERARY....

Day 1: Arrive in Windhoek, and overnight (1 night)

Having arrived in Windhoek International Airport after your long international flight, we will meet you at the airport and transfer you to a comfortable bed and breakfast or boutique hotel for an overnight stay. We will arrange a meet-up that evening and a welcome meal, to give you a chance to meet your fellow photographers also before an early night and a good night's rest in advance of our adventure!

Day 2: Transfer to Arusha airport and flight to Sossusvlei (2 nights)

Up early in the morning for breakfast, and then our transfer to Windhoek airport to board our private charter flight to the sand dune country of Sossusvlei. Flying due west, we will have a fantastic view of this incredible landscape from the air, before landing, meeting our vehicle and being transferred to our lodge. We will head out on an afternoon and sunset expedition that day. Up before dawn the next day, we will head down to Dead Vlei to get there for sunrise and before the rest of the visitors. By staying inside the park, we gain the advantage of not having to wait until the park gate opens...and therefore can always be on location at sunrise and sunset. After a morning's photography in and around the dunes, we will head back to the lodge for lunch and a rest. Sesriem Canyon is close by and easily walkable, and then in the afternoon, we will head back out for another session. The final morning we will be able to do one more early morning drive before heading to the airstrip and our onward flight to Hoanib.

Days 3-6: Hoanib river valley (4 nights)

In a remote area of the Kaokoveld, with gravel-strewn plains and dry riverbeds that draw fascinating wildlife, lies Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp. We will extensively explore this isolated area, moving along the riverbed's narrow ribbon of vegetation, where a wealth of desert-adapted animals can be found; in camp the research centre provides even more insights. Here we will use morning, afternoon and potentially full day game drives to seek out lion, cheetah, elephant, rhino, giraffe and others. There are a number of desert oases we can head for also to photograph,

The unforgiving Skeleton Coast, with its shipwreck remains and noisy colonies of Cape fur seals and brown hyena if lucky is also within reach. To get there we may fly or take a fascinating 4x4 trip via the Hoanib river and floodplain, the dune fields and Klein Oasis. Flying back – weather dependent – gives us another angle on this hard to reach wilderness. The dunes around camp will also give us a chance to explore and photograph on foot, with potential options for the smaller denizens that call this area home. After 4 exciting days here, we will once again board our charter 'plane and continue our journey to Damaraland and the heart of desert-adapted black rhino country.

Days 7-10: Private concession - Damaraland (4 nights)

In a wide valley sometimes flush with grass, our lies in the enormous Palmwag Concession, where trackers patrol and protect one of Africa's largest free-ranging populations of Critically Endangered desert-adapted black rhino. Rhino tracking on foot and by vehicle with these dedicated conservationists is a unique and exclusive wilderness experience and we will also ensure we get plenty of other photographic options in through full-day outings and drives. I have even photographed prides of lion in this region before (and been charged by one particularly angry male!), and coupled with the red-rock-strewn vistas that stretch to the horizon, this is a place to fill memory cards..and just memories! Unique landscapes, incredible rare wildlife and amazing skies – it's a beautiful, beautiful place.

Day 11: Depart Damaraland for Windhoek

Regrettably, it all has to end at some point, and perhaps if we have time for one last short excursion this morning, we will do so, but otherwise we will transfer to the airstrip to hook up with our charter 'plane again and the flight back to Windhoek...and your onward journey.

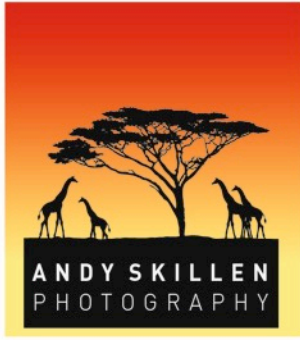
WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

To reserve your space on this very special adventure, either:

- a. send an email to Andy@faunavista.com or Carrie@faunavista.com to register your interest and receive a booking form
- b. download the generic booking form using the link on the page from where you obtained your itinerary, fill it out, and send it to either email address as above.

Charity...a permanent winner

Andy's photography is all about giving some thing back; back to a world that has given him such a wealth of memorable experiences and opportunities. As a result, a proportion of all the profits we make from every perspective of Andy's work is donated to some of the world's leading wildlife charities. These include the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF), Animals Asia and the Bushlife Foundation – for which Andy and Carrie are the UK ambassadors. Your holiday is not just therefore an adventure for yourself, your friends and your family, but a true contributor to the frontline of wildlife conservation.



CHANGING THE IMAGE OF WILDLIFE TRAVEL...