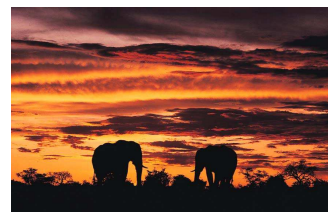
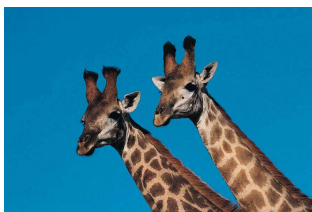


**21 Day Great Trans-African Lodge Safari**  
**Non-participation small group Lodge Safari from / to Victoria Falls through Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana**  
**Group Size Minimum 4 people**  
**Group Size Maximum 10 people**

**Tour price 2012**

Tour Type	Price pp Sharing	Single Supplement	Local Payment
Fully accommodated Lodge Safari	€ 3395	€ 489	\$ 330



**Contents:**

**Highlights**

**Departure Dates**

**Pre departure Information**

**Itinerary**

**Special Events**

**Included in the price**

**Highlights**

Caprivi wildlife, cultural experience at Rundu, Etosha National Park, Himba Tribes, Damaraland, Desert Elephants, Swakopmund, Sossusvlei, Waterberg, Bushmanland, Okavango Delta, Khwai River, Magkadikgadi Pans, Chobe National Park, Victoria Falls

**Departure Dates 2012**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
<b>March</b>	16/03/2012	05/04/2012	<b>August</b>	13/08/2012	02/09/2012
<b>April</b>	15/04/2012	05/05/2012		28/08/2012	17/09/2012
<b>May</b>	15/05/2012	04/06/2012	<b>September</b>	21/09/2012	11/10/2012
<b>June</b>	01/06/2012	21/06/2012	<b>October</b>	15/10/2012	04/11/2012
	22/06/2012	12/07/2012		29/10/2011	18/11/2012
<b>July</b>	06/07/2012	26/07/2012	<b>November</b>	06/11/2012	26/11/2012
	16/07/2012	05/08/2012			
	29/07/2012	18/08/2012			

\*\* Guaranteed departures

### **Included in the price**

20 nights in fixed accommodation, all transport in fully kitted 4x4 safari vehicle, game drives as mentioned, meals and activities as mentioned in itinerary, park entrance fees, experienced local guide.

### **Not included in the price**

Travel insurance, flights, pre and post tour accommodation, optional activities, all drinks, tips and curios, all personal expenses.

### **Meal Key**

**B – Breakfast**

**L – Lunch**

**D – Dinner**

### **Itinerary**

#### **Day 1: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**

On arrival into Victoria Falls Airport, you will be met and transferred to Amadeus Garden Guesthouse. The rest of the afternoon may be spent at leisure enjoying one of the many activities available in Victoria Falls.

**Accommodation:** Amadeus Garden Guest House or similar (rooms with en-suite bathrooms, swimming pool, restaurant & bar)

#### **Day 2: Victoria Falls to Camp Kwando, Namibia**

**BLD**

Our tour starts in Victoria Falls from where we make our way to Camp Kwando after crossing the Zambezi River and entering Namibia. In the early afternoon we will arrive at our camp, located on the Kwando River. Before dinner at the lodge we'll embark on an afternoon game drive in the Mudumo National Park. In contrast to the rest of Namibia, the area is lush with riverine forest, marshes, dense savannah and mopane woodland.

**Distance:** 355 km **Departure:** 08h00  
**Lunch Stop:** A picnic spot en route  
**Accommodation:** Camp Kwando or similar (chalets with en-suite bathrooms, swimming pool, bar & restaurant)

#### **Day 3: Rundu and N'kwazi Lodge, Namibia**

**BL**

Our journey continues west as we drive along the Caprivi Strip to the town of Rundu. We make our way to N'kwazi Lodge and spend a relaxing afternoon at our lodge on the banks of the Kavango River. Optional activities such as horse riding or a sunset cruise are available; alternatively just relax by the pool with a sundowner listening to the sounds of mother nature.

**Distance:** 432 km **Departure:** 08h00  
**Lunch Stop:** A picnic spot en route  
**Accommodation:** N'kwazi Lodge or similar (chalets with en-suite bathrooms, swimming pool, bar & restaurant)

<b>Day 4: Cultural Experience in Rundu, Namibia</b>	<b>BL</b>
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Today you have the opportunity to experience the Namibian culture. After breakfast we head out to visit a local church or school in Rundu, the closest town to our Lodge. In the afternoon you will have more time for optional activities you missed the day before or to enjoy another relaxing afternoon by the pool.

<b>Distance:</b>	40 km	<b>Departure:</b> 09h00
<b>Lunch Stop:</b>	N'Kwazi Lodge	
<b>Accommodation:</b>	N'Kwazi Lodge or similar (chalets with en-suite bathrooms, swimming pool, bar & restaurant)	

<b>Days 5 &amp; 6: Etosha National Park, Namibia</b>	<b>BLD, BLD</b>
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After breakfast we make our way to Namibia's well-known highlight of the north – Etosha National Park. We spend two nights in the park, where our days are spent on game drives in the hopes of spotting the big five as well as cheetah, giraffe, zebra and the numerous different types of antelope the park has to offer. Our nights are spent at the flood lit waterholes encountering the parks various nocturnal animals as they come to drink. Etosha Game park was declared a National Park in 1907, it is home to approx. 114 mammal species, 340 bird species, 110 reptile species, 16 amphibian species and, surprisingly, one species of fish.

**Day 5**

<b>Distance:</b>	360 km	<b>Departure:</b> 08h00
<b>Lunch Stop:</b>	A picnic spot en route	
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Namutoni or similar (chalets with en-suite bathrooms, swimming pool, bar & restaurant)	

**Day 6**

<b>Distance:</b>	150 km	
<b>Lunch Stop:</b>	A picnic spot en route	
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Okaukuejo or similar (chalets with en-suite bathrooms, swimming pool, bar & restaurant)	

<b>Day 7: Etosha to Kamanjab, Namibia</b>	<b>BLD</b>
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We leave Etosha National Park through the main gate and drive to Kamanjab, which is the gateway to Damaraland. We visit a Himba village, to find out more about their traditions & lifestyle. Experience the milking ceremony and the smoke bath. Learn about their beliefs around the holy fire, ancestors, and herbal medicine.

<b>Distance:</b>	380 km	<b>Departure:</b> 08h00
<b>Lunch Stop:</b>	A picnic spot en route	
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Oase Garni Guest House or similar (rooms with en-suite bathrooms, swimming pool, bar & restaurant)	

<b>Days 8 &amp; 9: Damaraland to Swakopmund, Namibia</b>	<b>BL, B</b>
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Today we head to Damaraland to see the bushman paintings and etchings in the area. We also make a visit to the Petrified Forest, and the Organ Pipes, before continuing south west out of the dry interior of Namibia to the German town of Swakopmund on the Atlantic coast. The next day is yours to spend at your leisure either exploring this quaint town or participating in some of many optional activities listed below.

**Distance:** 410 km **Departure:** 09h00  
**Lunch Stop:** A picnic spot en route  
**Accommodation:** A la Mer or similar (Rooms with en-suite bathrooms, swimming pool, bar & restaurant)

#### **Optional activities in Swakopmund**

Below is a list of some of the most popular optional activities on offer in Swakopmund. Pre-booking is recommended to avoid disappointment. The rates are per person and are quoted in South African Rand. All activities are subject to availability and may require a minimum amount of passengers to operate. Certain activities only operate at specific times of the year. Please contact our reservation office for further information. Should you wish to partake in an activity that is not listed below, we will gladly assist you with rates and reservations.

Quad biking	R500.00
Sand boarding	R250.00
Sand boarding	R350.00
Living Desert Tour	R600.00
Tandem Sky Diving	R2000.00
Shore Fishing	R1250.00
Boat Fishing	R1000.00
Dolphin Cruise	R480.00
Township Tour	R450.00

#### **Day 10: Namib Naukluff National Park, Namibia**

**BLD**

An early morning start takes us from Swakopmund south through Walvis Bay on our way to Sesriem in the Namib Desert, which is considered to be the oldest desert in the world.

On the way there we will make a stop at the small settlement of Solitaire where you will have a chance to sample their world renowned apple crumble – only served *without* cream! (Own account) Once we reach our lodge we enjoy a relaxing evening under the countless stars.

**Distance:** 390 km **Departure:** 08h00  
**Lunch Stop:** Namib Naukluff National Park  
**Accommodation:** Hammerstein or similar (rooms with en-suite bathrooms, swimming pool, bar & restaurant)

#### **Day 11: Sossusvlei and Windhoek, Namibia**

**BL**

This morning we wake up really early to visit the world's highest sand dunes at Sossusvlei and Dead Vlei. These red sand dunes, which can reach a height of more than 300m, are absolutely spectacular and provide a fantastic photo opportunity. With luck there may even be water in the vlei (lake). After enjoying breakfast inside the park with the dunes as our backdrop we make our way to the capital city of Windhoek. Dinner can be enjoyed in one of the numerous restaurants in the city (own expense).

**Distance:** 350 km **Departure:** 05h00  
**Lunch Stop:** A picnic spot en route  
**Accommodation:** Vondelhof Guest House or similar (rooms with en-suite bathrooms, swimming pool & restaurant)

**Day 12: Waterberg Plateau, Namibia**

**BLD**

Today we leave Namibia's capital behind us and drive to the Waterberg Plateau Park close to Otjiwarongo. On arrival we go for short hike in the reserve to view the wildlife on the plateau. The plateau was first envisaged as a reserve for eland, Africa's largest species of antelope. In 1972 it was proclaimed a reserve and has since become a sanctuary for several rare animals.

**Distance:** 350 km **Departure:** 08h00  
**Lunch Stop:** A picnic spot en route  
**Accommodation:** Waterberg Camp or similar (chalets with en-suite bathrooms, swimming pool, bar & restaurant)

**Day 13: Grooffontein, Namibia**

**BLD**

Departing from the Waterberg we drive deep into Bushmanland and on to Roy's Rest Camp an ideal stopover to northern Namibia. Why not stretch your legs on one of the walking trails the camp has to offer, for bird and game watching.

**Distance:** 215 km **Departure:** 08h00  
**Lunch Stop:** A picnic spot en route  
**Accommodation:** Roy's Rest Camp or similar (bungalows with en-suite bathrooms, swimming pool, bar & restaurant)

**Day 14: Bushmanland – walking with the bushman, Namibia**

**BLD**

Today we will take a guided visit to the Living Museum of the Ju/'Hoansi-San, a local bushman community and get to see them partaking in their daily activities. The Living Museum is an authentic open-air museum where guests can learn a lot about the traditional culture and the original way of living of the San. A walk is taken in the vicinity of the village with the hunters to search for bush food, watch them prepare snares and ropes and start a fire the Ju/'Hoansi-way. We will then continue east onto Tsumkwe and our accommodation for the night.

**Distance:** 280km **Departure:** 08h00  
**Lunch Stop:** A picnic spot en route  
**Accommodation:** Tsumkwe Lodge or similar (rooms with en-suite bathrooms, swimming pool, bar & restaurant)

**Day 15 Maun, Botswana**

**BL**

We leave bushmanland and travel to Maun, the gateway to the Okavango Delta and Moremi Game Reserve. The name Maun is derived from the San word "maung", which means "the place of short reeds".

**Distance:** 375 km **Departure:** 08h00  
**Lunch Stop:** A picnic spot en route  
**Accommodation:** Thamalakane River Lodge or similar (chalets with en-suite bathrooms, swimming pool, bar & restaurant)

**Day 16: Khwai River, Botswana**

**BLD**

After breakfast we will be picked up by our local Botswana guides and take a short drive to the mokoro station. From here, we will float in dug-out canoes through the thick vegetation of the Okavango Delta discovering a variety of birds and wildlife. Unlike other deltas, it flows into the Kalahari Desert without ever reaching the coast. After this spectacular excursion, we make our way to our camp, which is situated in close proximity to the famous Khwai River. After settling into our camp, we will enjoy dinner and embark on a night game drive – a fantastic opportunity to spot some nocturnal animals that are more difficult to encounter during the day.

**Distance:** 110 km **Departure:** 08h00  
**Lunch Stop:** Picnic spot en route  
**Accommodation:** Khwai Bedouin Camp or similar (semi-permanent tented camp with en-suite bathrooms, bar & restaurant area)

**Day 17: Khwai River, Botswana**

**BLD**

Today will be spent in the Khwai area. We will embark on an early morning game drive and in the afternoon we enjoy a sunset game drive, hopefully spotting the variety of animals that frequent the region. Khwai is renowned for its large concentrations of mammals and its exceptional location makes it a regular host to elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard, cheetah and wild dogs. Birdlife is also abundant with exceptional sightings of wildfowl and raptors.

**Distance:** 150 km **Departure:** 07h00  
**Lunch Stop:** picnic spot en route or Khwai Bedouin Camp  
**Accommodation:** Khwai Bedouin Camp or similar (semi-permanent tented camp with en-suite bathrooms, bar & restaurant area)

**Day 18: Planet Baobab, Botswana**

**BLD**

We leave the bush behind and travel east towards the Makgadikgadi Pans; once a large river fed lake the pans are now saline and empty. This afternoon we take a relaxed stroll to the elephant hole learning about the flora and fauna in the area before returning to the lodge for a braai (barbeque) dinner.

**Distance:** 430 km **Departure:** 08h00  
**Lunch Stop:** A picnic spot en route  
**Accommodation:** Planet Baobab or similar (traditional huts with en-suite bathrooms, swimming pool, bar & restaurant)

**Day 19: Kasane & Chobe National Park, Botswana**

**BLD**

Today we drive north to Chobe National Park. After appreciating the wide-open, uninhabited spaces under the endless canopy of blue sky, we make our way to the final stop of the day, Chobe Safari Lodge. The Chobe National Park, which is the second largest national park in Botswana and covers 10,566 square km, has one of the greatest concentrations of elephant found on the African continent. In the afternoon we go on a cruise on the Chobe River, a truly unforgettable experience and one of the best ways to view the wildlife and the spectacular sunset.

**Distance:** 350 km **Departure:** 08h00  
**Lunch Stop:** A picnic spot en route  
**Accommodation:** Chobe Safari Lodge or similar (rooms with en-suite bathrooms, swimming pool, bar & restaurant)

<b>Day 20: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe</b>	<b>BL</b>
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Continuing our trip we leave Botswana and drive back to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. Your guide will take you on a tour of the might Victoria Falls, known by the local Kololo tribe as Mosi oa Tunya- "the Smoke that thunders". The rest of the day may be spent at leisure or partaking in one of the many activities on offer.

**Distance:** 90 km **Departure:** 09h00  
**Lunch Stop:** A picnic spot en route  
**Accommodation:** Amadeus Garden Guest House or similar (rooms with en-suite bathrooms, swimming pool, bar & restaurant)

<b>Day 21: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe</b>	<b>B</b>
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Our safari ends after breakfast. You will be transferred to Victoria Falls Airport in time for your departure flight. We hope to welcome you again one day on another of our African adventures.

**Optional activities in Victoria Falls**

Below is a list of some of the most popular optional activities on offer in Victoria Falls. Pre-booking is recommended to avoid disappointment. The rates are per person and are quoted in US Dollars. All activities are subject to availability and may require a minimum amount of passengers to operate. Certain activities only operate at specific times of the year. Please contact our reservation office for further information. Should you wish to partake in an activity that is not listed below, we will gladly assist you with rates and reservations.

13 Minute Helicopter Flight	\$130.00
25 Minute Helicopter Flight	\$250.00
Boma Dinner	\$45.00
Sunset Cruise	\$45.00
Bungi Jump	\$132.00
Half Day Elephant Back Safari	\$120.00
Elephant Interaction with breakfast or lunch	\$121.00
Half Day Canoeing	\$110.00
Full Day Canoeing	\$125.00
Half Day Rafting	\$120.00
Full Day Rafting	\$130.00
Flying Fox	\$38.50
Gorge Swing	\$88.00
Zip Line	\$66.00
Half Day Lion Walk	\$130.00
Lion Cub Interaction	\$65.00
Wildlife Conservation and Awareness Safari	\$75.00

\*Please note prices are subject to change

## **Pre-departure Information**

### **Contents:**

#### Pre and Post Tour Arrangements

Departure

Transport

Accommodation

Meals

First Aid

Luggage

Insurance

Clothing & other items

Participation

Spending Money

Visas & Vaccinations

### **Pre and Post Tour Arrangements**

Pre and post tour accommodation and transfers can be arranged on request.

Amadeus Garden Guest House – standard room (Victoria Falls)

€ 56 per person sharing (BB)

€ 88 per person single (BB)

One way airport transfer from Victoria Falls Airport to Victoria Falls Town or vice versa –

€12 per person

**\*Please note all rates are subject to change according to rate of exchange fluctuations\***

Should you require alternative accommodation or transfers to different points, please contact our reservation office, who will gladly assist you.

### **Departure:**

The Great Trans-African Lodge Safari departs from Amadeus Garden Guest House in Victoria Falls.

**Please note that the daily departure times are a guideline only and are subject to change due to seasonal variations, as well as unforeseen circumstances. The final decision rests with your guide who will advise you at what time you will be departing each day.**

On the evening of Day 1, there will be a meeting presented by your guide, at 7pm, at Amadeus Garden Guest House. It is imperative that all clients attend this meeting so as not to miss out on any critical information.

### **Transport:**

Jenman Safaris uses fully equipped Toyota 4x4 land cruisers or appropriate vehicles with comfortable seating, large windows for game viewing and a music system. An off-road trailer is fitted with a field kitchen. All luggage is carried on the vehicle or trailer roof racks to ensure maximum comfort in the vehicle.

### **Accommodation:**

We make use of mid-range typical African standard lodge accommodation. Accommodation is situated either in national parks, on the banks of a river, or in other places of interest. The accommodation will be a mix of lodges, chalets and tented camps with en-suite bathrooms.

**Spending money:**

Clients are advised to bring enough money to cover the purchase of curios, tips, alcoholic drinks and additional entertainment. US Dollars, Pound Sterling, Botswana Pula, South African Rands and Namibian dollars are the most practical and convenient currencies.

**Meals:**

All breakfasts are included during your safari. Lunches and dinners are only provided on the days as indicated above. Lunch will be a picnic-style. Please advise us of any special dietary requirements in advance.

**First Aid:**

Our guides are trained in basic first aid and the vehicle is equipped with a comprehensive medical aid kit. Preventative Malaria medication should be taken before the trip and throughout its duration, although it is advisable to consult a doctor prior to departure.

**Luggage:**

Maximum baggage allowance: 12 kg. Jenman Safaris stipulates this luggage allowance, as an overloaded vehicle is a danger to both the clients and the guide. This does not include photographic equipment and a small daypack. Please bring a backpack or soft barrel bag, not a suitcase. Don't bring too much clothing, as there are laundry opportunities along the way. Please adhere to the allowance specified as space for luggage is limited.

**Insurance:**

It is compulsory for all travellers to have insurance covering their personal requirements, medical expenses and personal possessions. This is to be arranged before leaving your home country. Jenman Safaris has comprehensive public liability insurance.

**Clothing and other items:**

shorts	camera	walking shoes
light trousers/jeans	swimming costume	sandals
T-shirts	sun hat	windbreaker
warm clothes (May – August)	long-sleeved shirts	soap
torch & spare batteries	water bottle	UV protection
mosquito protection	towels	

**Participation:**

The Great Trans African Safari is a non – participation lodge safari.

**Visas an:**

The onus is on the client to organize all visas required to visit Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana prior to departure.

## **Information on areas visited**

### **Contents:**

**Botswana**

**Magkadikgadi Pans**

**Okavango Delta**

**Namibia**

**Damaraland**

**Chobe National Park**

**Maun**

**Etosha**

**Namib-Naukluff National Park**

**Swakopmund**

**Waterberg Plateau**

**Western Caprivi**

**Zimbabwe**

**Victoria Falls**

**Sossusvlei**

## **BOTSWANA**

The San were among the first human inhabitants of this region before the Setswana migrated southwards and slowly occupied the region from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards, until early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. By mid-century missionaries arrived, including David Livingstone and Robert Moffat, and by 1885 the territory was a British protectorate. Botswana gained its independence in 1966 and has been the most stable democracy in Africa. The first president ruled from 1966 until his death in 1980, the second till 1994 (re-elected twice, then resigned) and the third from 1998.

The country has a strong currency with one of the highest per capita incomes in Africa, maintains a neutral international political stance. It is heavily reliant on mining (especially diamonds) & tourism and maintains close ties with its neighbor South Africa, an economic powerhouse for the region.

Wildlife is abundant in Botswana and includes lion, giraffe, leopard, antelope, elephant, crocodile and ostriches. Botswana is semiarid and has an average annual (summer) rainfall of 640 mm (about 25 in) in the north to less than 230 mm (less than 9 in) in the Kalahari. Drought is therefore not uncommon and the vegetation is mostly savannah.

Geographically Botswana is relatively flat (the average elevation of about 1000 m) and can be viewed (for all intents and purposes) as three major regions as follows:

Chobe National Park in the north, another outstanding wilderness area of enormous diversity – lion and elephant can be viewed from river cruises or 4x4 game drives.

The Okavango Delta is a vast marshland and one of the largest inland river deltas in the world – 15 000 km<sup>2</sup> of wilderness and prime safari area. The Kalahari Desert in the central and southwestern regions occupies over half the land area of Botswana. It is a mystical, harsh and unspoiled landmass.

The salt pans of north-central Botswana and the Tuli block in the far eastern corner of Botswana are also areas of significance.

### **Chobe National Park**

Chobe is approx. 11 000 km<sup>2</sup> of wilderness area watered by the Chobe & Savuti Rivers and thus attracting huge concentrations of game. This includes lion and some of the highest concentration of elephant in Africa – an estimated population of around 25 000 in winter. Game viewing is renowned and in the Northern areas near Kasane, both the riverboat game viewing experience and the 4x4 vehicle option are popular.

In addition the spectacular annual summer migrations of plains game, especially Zebra, is a highlight, as well Giraffe, Warthog and numerous antelope including Sable, Roan, Oribi, Reedbuck, Lechwe and the colourful Chobe Bushbuck.

Bird watching opportunities in Chobe are ample and include some 350 species including the awesome African Fish Eagle, the rare Pell's Fishing Owl, saddle-billed storks, long-toed Plovers, pink-backed Pelicans, African Skimmers, Bradfield's Hornbills and Carmine Bee-eaters. In addition, the sunsets are spectacular.

### **Makgadikgadi Pans**

The lesser-known Makgadikgadi Pans National Park is situated between Maun and Nata in Botswana. The shimmering salt pans of Makgadikgadi are the size of Switzerland and most of the time appear as a glaring, white, endless plain. When the rain comes a dramatic change takes place as the pans come to life with frantically feeding water birds and great herds of game. The best time to visit this area to coincide with the migration is from December to March or in the dry season from April to October when the pans are dry.

The park contains four main vegetation types: riverine woodland, scrubland, pure grassland and salt pans. The pans support palm groves and peculiar looking Baobab trees whose branches look more like roots, giving rise to the name 'upside down tree'. These are interspersed with short spiky yellow grass found on rises between the pans, known as 'prickly salt grass'. This grass is extremely saline resistant to the extent that salt crystals can sometimes be seen on the leaves. The interior of the reserve comprises scrub and grassland with a few 'islands' of Real Fan Palms and Camel-thorn Acacia.

From April to November game such as Springbok, Gemsbok, Wildebeest and Zebra move slowly from the pans area in the south east of the park, to the Boteti River in the west. During this migration animals accumulate in their thousands. The heavily wooded areas beside the river also contain shy antelopes like Duiker and Bushbuck.

### **Maun**

Maun is the gateway to the Okavango Delta and one of the best safari experiences you will have. Countless safari and air-charter operators have offices here, thus it is busy with people coming and going especially around the airport. The best time to go is during the winter months from May to October when there is little or no rainfall and the days are warm and cloudless. Nights can be cold though so take a jacket. November to April can be very hot, with most of the rainfall between December and February.

Maun has developed rapidly from a rural frontier town and has spread along the wide Thamalakane River. It now boasts good shopping centers, hotels and lodges as well as car and 4x4 vehicle hire. However, it still retains a rural atmosphere and local tribesmen still bring their cattle here to sell and you could see antelopes grazing the riverbanks.

### **Okavango Delta**

The Okavango Delta in northern Botswana (near Maun) incorporates the Moremi Game Reserve and is a unique wildlife paradise - one of the finest in the world. It is also one of the largest inland river deltas in the world. This unsurpassed natural environment is a maze of waterways, islands and reed banks creating a perfect habitat for lion, elephant, leopard, buffalo, giraffe, hyena, wild dog, kudu, impala, roan, zebra, lechwe, hippo and crocodile, amongst others. There are approx. 440 bird species in the delta and fish species are also abundant, including tiger fish, sharp-toothed catfish, barbell and bream. Travel through the swamps and surrounding areas is generally done by open 4x4 game viewing vehicle or a peaceful meander in a 'Mokoro', a flat-bottomed dugout canoe.

The Delta is hot throughout the year with temperatures ranging from approx. 14°C in January to 24°C in July. Rainfall averages 525 mm annually, but varies greatly from year to year. Water levels and flooding reach a maximum between March and July, after rains at the source and the usual 15 000 km<sup>2</sup> can expand to approximately 22 000 km<sup>2</sup> in high-rainfall years.

## **NAMIBIA**

'Namibia' means 'open plains' in the ancient Hottentots language. It is a sought after tourist destination defined by endless sunshine, scenic beauty and unusual and contrasting topography. Namibia is sandwiched between two deserts - the Namib Desert, said to be the oldest in the world, on its western coastline and the Kalahari Desert in the eastern interior. Northern Namibia features the great Etosha National Park, with the countries largest concentration of game and in the south the majestic Fish River Canyon plunges 550 m and extends for 160 km. Between these four highlights lies over 820 000 km<sup>2</sup> (the size of France & Britain combined) of contrasting scenery.

The world's highest dunes are found in haunting scenery inspiring somber reflection. Pre-historic rock art, the ancient fossil plant, *Welwitschia mirabilis* and fossilized dinosaur footprints are preserved in the ancient, rocky mountain ranges.

Many of the features of this country are of particular scientific interest and attract scientists from all over the world.

Namibia is the first country in the world to include protection of the environment and sustainable utilization of wildlife in its constitution. About 15,5% of the country has been set-aside as national parks. In these areas, rare and endangered species of animals, birds and plant life are preserved and protected. They serve as a living reminder to us all, and to the generations of the future, of how it once was in Africa.

### **Damaraland**

North of the main road of Swakopmund and South of Kaokoland extends Damaraland, one of the most beautiful regions in Namibia. Open plains, grasslands, and distant mountains as well as a petrified forest of 260-millionn year old trees create the landscape. Damaraland habits Namibia's highest mountain, the Brandberg with its famous "white lady" painting and the most precious open-air rock art gallery in the world at Twyfelfontein. Game, which can be found in this area, is the desert elephant, black rhino, ostrich and springbok.

### **Etosha**

Consisting of over 22 000 km<sup>2</sup> of saline desert, savannah and woodlands, the Etosha National Park is one of the largest game reserves in Africa and one of the major sanctuaries for wildlife. Its definitive feature is the Etosha Pan, a vast shallow depression of about 5 000 km<sup>2</sup>. This great, white expanse locals call 'great place of dry water', often shimmers with mirages and herds of game can be seen within this eerie setting. There are 144 mammal species in the park, including elephant, giraffe, blue wildebeest and black rhino, predators such as lion, cheetah, leopard, wildcat, hyena and jackal. The black rhino population of 300 is one of the few growing populations in the world and the local elephants are reputed to be the largest in Africa - the tallest standing at 4 m at the shoulder. Their tusks however are relatively small due to genetic defects and mineral deficiencies in their diet. The majestic eland, the tiny, shy Damara dik-dik (45 cm high) and the striking gemsbok, with its dramatic black and white markings are common. Bird life is prolific and some 340 species have been identified, including Namibia's national bird, the vividly coloured crimson-breasted shrike. During the more rainy seasons Etosha is also one of the most important breeding grounds for flamingos.

Etosha is also known for its expert game management and attentive protection of the unspoiled environment.

### **Swakopmund**

A true oasis and respite from the solemn desert and its monotonous heat. A seaside holiday resort full of old-world charm and modern amenities, from the quaint German colonial influences to a funky Internet café.

The tranquil setting includes promenades, palm trees and beautifully tended public gardens, the Swakopmund museum (covering natural history, mineralogy, botany, historical and ethnological aspects), the National Marine & Research Centre, an aquarium, a public library, an Olympic sized, heated indoor swimming pool and a grassed golf course in a desert setting. This 'middle of the desert' feel is one of its attractions – one can enjoy the wild expanse of the adjacent desert and sea and yet be within easy reach of the creature comforts of Swakopmund's hotels, restaurants, bars and a much-needed laundries! There is plenty to see and do and activities include quad biking, sand boarding, rock & surf fishing and skydiving.

### **Sossusvlei**

The visual spectacular in the Sossusvlei area is unsurpassed. Amongst the continuous towering dunes as far as the eye can see is arguably the highlight of the Namib Desert, the Sossusvlei, an enormous clay-pan, enclosed by dunes. After a heavy rainfall, rare in this area, the vlei fills with water and, as the clay layers are virtually impermeable to water, a turquoise lake remains for quite some time.

The dunes and their rich tints vary from pale apricot to vivid reds and oranges, and contrast vividly with the dazzling white surfaces of the white clay pans, or lakes, below.

During the rainy season one of the larger of these pans creates a haven for water birds, often including flamingos. Even during the dry season, Oryx, springbok and ostriches can be seen feeding off the sparse vegetation along the watercourses.

The dunes of the Namib Desert developed over a period of many millions of years and are shaped by strong-multi-directional winds. It is thought that the vast quantities of sand were carried into the Atlantic Ocean by the Orange River. The surf pushed the sand back onto land and coastal dunes formed. Dunes have subsequently shifted inland and northwards. Wind continuously re-stacks the sand of the huge shifting dunes of the Namib Desert. It tirelessly forces the grains of sand on the flat windward slope upwards to the crest of the dune. Here they fall down in the wind shade. The leeward slope, therefore, is always considerably steeper than the windward side.

### **Waterberg Plateau Park**

The Waterberg Plateau Park can be found 280 km north of Windhoek and stands out of the thorn savannah with its lush vegetation at the lower slopes. This 20 km wide and 50 km long table mountain massif consists of porous sandstone which let to surface water and springs at the foot of the mountain, from which it got its name.

Historic interest people may already have heard about the name Waterberg. It was the area where in 1904 the devastating battle between the Hereros and the German Colonial soldiers took place. But the only thing, which remembers at this tragic event, is a military graveyard near the park.

Nowadays the Waterberg Plateau is a sanctuary for many endangered species. It habits among others black and white rhinos, buffalos, various types of antelopes, giraffes, leopards, cheetahs, hyenas, jackals, wild dogs and the only herd of Cape vulture in Namibia. Beside the big mammals several enchanting small ones can be seen as well, such as the Damara Dik-Dik or lesser bush babies. The plateau is said to be one of the most interesting geological sites in Namibia and disposes over a rich variety of flowers, trees and shrubs. You can experience karees, lead wood and buffalo-thorn trees and weeping wattle with its yellow flowers appearing in the spring. Other attractions are the dinosaur tracks and petrified dunes. Unfortunately visitors are not allowed to explore the park by their own vehicles, but there are regular daily excursions organized by the park.

The nights can be spent in a beautiful rest camp, which can accommodate more than 200 people, or at a camping site.

### **Western Caprivi**

A part of the Western Caprivi previously known as the Golden Triangle is a pristine wilderness area, practically untouched by any. The area was formerly under government jurisdiction – a 'no man's land' so wild that both private landowners and even nature conservation officials had no authority until the early-nineties. The land was finally handed over to nature conservation officials who now have prominent presence in the area.

## **ZIMBABWE**

This is a country blessed with great natural beauty, game reserves and mineral wealth. The diverse landscape changes from mountainous to wilderness to typical Bushveld. The country is also home to large animals and a large bird population. Zimbabwe is a country located in the southern part of the continent of Africa, between the Victoria Falls, Zambezi river, Kariba Dam and the Limpopo river. Zimbabwe is bordered by South Africa to the south, Botswana to the west, Zambia to the north and Mozambique to the east.

### **Victoria Falls**

'So lovely it must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight' said David Livingstone of the supreme Mosi-oa-Tunya ('The smoke that thunders'). This legendary traveler first saw the Falls from the Zambian side and his memory is enshrined in the nearby town of Livingstone. The views from the Zimbabwean & Zambian side are quite different, varying dramatically depending on the season and water flow.

The Falls are over a mile in length and boast the largest curtain of water in the world - over 500 million liters of water per minute go over the falls and drop 100 m at Rainbow Falls on the Zambian side. Not surprisingly is it the seventh wonder of the world and fast becoming one of the top adventure destinations in the world.

The river is divided into a series of braided channels that descend in many separate falls. Below the Falls the river enters a narrow series of gorges, which represent locations successively occupied by the falls earlier in their history. Since the uplifting of the Makgadikgadi Pan area some two million years ago, the Zambezi River has been cutting through the basalt base rock, exploiting weak fissures, and forming a series of retreating gorges. Seven previous waterfalls occupied the seven gorges below the present falls, and Devil's Cataract in Zimbabwe is where the next cut back will form a new waterfall that will eventually leave the present falls lip high above the river in the gorge below.