



Conservancy Safaris
NAMIBIA
make your footprint count



**KAOKOLAND
NATURALLY**

with
STEVE BRAINE

6 days and 5 nights

Minimum participants 2, maximum 9

Steve Braine has a love and passion for the bush and is recognised as one of Namibia's top naturalists. Steve guides specialised ornithological tours and also has four butterflies named after him. Not only does he have an in-depth knowledge of the larger mammals but has a special interest in the reptiles and smaller creatures which often go unnoticed.

The very nature of this north-western part of Namibia lends itself to unusual and specialised sightings. The different habitats - riverine vegetation snaking through the desert as a linear oasis, apparently barren and forbidding plains, isolated inselbergs and harsh mountains - all harbour specialised creatures. This is the ultimate safari for guests interested in natural history.

Rainfall in this arid to semi-arid area is an erratic and extremely important event. Our journey will take us to those places where we have the best chance of seeing the desert's wonderful creatures. Birds are also influenced by the sporadic rain and Steve's encyclopaedic knowledge of their habits and habitats will unfurl a whole new world for us.

The general area in which this excursion operates extends from Wereldsend northwards to Orupembe Conservancy.

ITINERARY

Day 1

We pick** you up at your accommodation establishment either in Windhoek or Swakopmund (**it is essential to have an early start as this is a long drive**) and travel to Wereldsend, historic base camp of IRDNC (Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation) from where the now national community-based conservation program (CBNRM) was piloted in the early 1980s. See the graveyard of bones, a reminder of the massive commercial poaching of the 70s and early 1980s that came close to wiping out the desert adapted elephant, black rhino and other megafauna. Hear how rural communities turned this situation round. Wereldsend is not a camp site open to anyone. This is an educational stop and serves to place the entire conservation of Kunene in context.



We visit several natural springs in the area. These life sustaining water sources are often focal points for wildlife. Enjoy a short walk through the basalt-boulder strewn slopes, home to Hartmann's zebra, oryx, kudu and springbok. End the day with a sundowner and watch the last rays of sun paint a kaleidoscope of colours on this magnificent canvas, before settling down for a mouth-watering dinner prepared by our friendly and professional back-up crew.

Overnight: Camping at Wereldsend.

**** If you are a self-driver we could also meet you at Wereldsend or Palmwag Lodge**

Day 2



At sunrise we join Torra Conservancy game guards looking for desert-adapted black rhino and other wildlife. This might entail covering some of the terrain on foot; stout shoes are essential. The day focuses on the fascinating fauna and flora of this extreme environment. It is difficult not to be touched by this stark landscape



broken by red staccato hills and impressive mesas. Hidden valleys may offer surprise sightings of a diversity of wild animals, perhaps even giraffe in this unlikely habitat. As we explore the area, who knows what we will find? Perhaps a desert adapted elephant, or perhaps black rhino, perhaps even a desert lion



Towards late afternoon we slowly make our way to our bush camp, already erected by our back-up crew. Spend a night camping wild, enjoy delicious bush cuisine alongside a crackling campfire, while you immerse yourself in the sounds, scents and flavours of an African night.

Overnight: Bush camping in the Obob dry riverbed or at Kaias Spring.

Day 3



We travel through spectacular scenery via Hunkap towards the Hoanib River, a linear oasis with majestic Ana, Leadwood and Camelthorn trees marking its course. En route we search for desert elephants, desert lions, giraffe, oryx and other wildlife which seasonally use this ephemeral river's



resources. A picnic brunch under the canopy of an ancient tree provides time to reflect on your impressions and learn about the strategies some of these animals and plants have developed to survive in this arid environment. Our journey continues through the dramatic Okongwe Valley (towards the 3 568 square kilometre Puros Conservancy. This vast area, with a population of less than 300 Himba and Herero herders, is one of the conservancies that own our company and we will be hosted here for the night.



Puros is an interesting place and we might find or see several endemic species here. Many are nocturnal and a night walk or drive adds a different dimension to your experience.



Overnight: Camping at Puros Community Campsite.

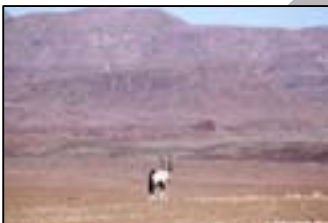
Day 4



You may wish to rise early to drive into the river bed, looking for desert adapted elephants and other fascinating wildlife. Egyptian geese, herons, plovers and a variety of other birds frequent the "wetlands" that characterize this river bed.



See Puros village which has elephants to thank for its water tank and taps. Visit a small cultural business run by Himba women and take advantage of a shopping opportunity.



We then take a scenic drive west and northwards across vast desert plains, passing strange rock formations. We visit a small spring in the middle of the desert, used by wildlife but too salty for people. Our destination for tonight is Etambura Camp, Namibia's first Himba-owned camp, on a hilltop with views that will take your breath away. Relax in comfort in your room with a view, each with an en suite bathroom and private deck area.



At Etambura you might see a klipspringer or, if you are lucky, at dusk, a Jameson's rock rabbit. Tiny footprints are evidence that genets and African wildcats call this place home. A diversity of birdlife, different species of fascinating commiphora, bottle trees and other vegetation make this unique spot, with its spectacular sunrises and sunsets, an unforgettable highlight. Enjoy a stroll and explore the hill with its many endemic species of plants and trees. Observe the skittish rock hyraxes sunning themselves on jagged rocks.



We are now guests in Orupembe Conservancy, and our conservancy hosts will join us for a meal. Spend an interesting evening at the fire talking to Himba game guards or conservancy staff.



Overnight: Etambura Camp

Day 5



We follow a scenic route down the Khumib River, an area reminiscent of the “wild west”, and cross over the water divide at “Karonda Namanga”, a steep mountain whose name means “*cannot be climbed with a spear*”, descending into the most times dry river bed of the Hoarusib. Our route passes small Himba settlements and we may see goats browsing with springbok nearby or a line of ostrich high-stepping past peacefully grazing cattle. This is again a good opportunity to spot elephant and other desert adapted animals. We pass near Puros village, following the course of the Gomatum River well known for its relaxed giraffe herds, cross the spectacular Giribis Plains with its mysterious Fairy Circles until we reach Sesfontein Conservancy’s Ganamub Mountain Camp built on a hillside among granite boulders. Immerse yourself in the sounds, scents and flavours of an African night around a crackling campfire, knowing your presence is making conservation sustainable for the people and animals who share this vast region.



Overnight: Camping at Ganamub Mountain Camp

Day 6



After an early breakfast, we drive past the game-rich Palmwag Concession area and, depending on your destination, travel to Windhoek or Swakopmund. Alternatively, if you are a self-driver, we drop you off where you have left your vehicle.



RATES

01 January 2012 to 31 December 2012

Per person sharing

N\$27,575

Single supplement per person

N\$2,685

**** The rate quoted above applies if there are 4 or more guests booked on the safari. Should there be less than 4 a surcharge will apply. It is also possible to book a private safari - price on request.**

Scheduled Departure

26 April – 1 May

INCLUDED

Breakfasts, light lunches, snacks, dinners

Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages

EXCLUDED

Breakfast on Day 1

Dinner on Day 6

Flights to and from Namibia

Transport to Windhoek/Swakopmund prior to the safari and transport from Swakopmund to Windhoek at the end of the safari (Shuttles are available from Swakopmund to Windhoek; these are reliable and good value for money)

Accommodation prior to or after the safari on Day 6

Rates are in NAD, are influenced by industry increases and may change without prior notice. Our rates include 15% VAT.