

Itinerary for Namibia Study Tour, 2020

April 15th, Day 1:

Arrive in Windhoek, Namibia. Meet at Casa Blanca Boutique Hotel. Late afternoon group orientation, updates and dinner at Casa.

April 16th, Day 2:

Following a Casa breakfast we will listen to A “History of Namibia” lecture by Dr. Martha Akawa, University of Namibia (UNAM). After a short coffee/tea break, Ms. Louisa Mupetami, the Deputy Permanent Secretary of Natural Resources, Parks and Regional Services. Following this we will head to the University of Namibia (UNAM) to have a lunch with PLU Alumni, Edwin Tjiramba, Director of Marketing and Communications and the PLU students who are studying at UNAM for the semester. After lunch, we will tour Heroes’ Acre war memorial. The rest of the afternoon is free time for resting or exploring downtown Windhoek. A group dinner will be at the Stellenbosch Bistro.

April 17th, Day 3:

Following Casa breakfast, we will tour the township called Katutura with city guide, Audwin “Scobie” de Wet. We also will visit Fidel Castro Luz Primary School in the informal settlement of Babylon. Lunch will be at Sicilia’s in downtown Windhoek. Scobie then will continue his city tour of the Independence Memorial Museum, Parliament building and other city sites. You will have an option of remaining in the city or returning to Casa. An evening gathering at NICE (National Institute of Culinary Education) restaurant with heavy appetizers will complete the day. You will meet with members of PLU’s “Namibian Nine” (Alumni of PLU), the UNAM Vice Chancellor Kenneth Matengu and, if available, the current US Ambassador to Namibia, Lisa Johnson.

April 18th, Day 4:

Following breakfast, we meet our guide and driver for the next 9 days, Uanee Karuuombe, and drive north to Otjiwarongo, oft referred to as the cheetah capital of the world. Lunch (on own) will be at Kari’s restaurant. Uanee will drive us to Cheetah Conservation Center for a tour of the facility with Dr. Laurie Marker, if available, cheetah feeding and a cheetah drive. We return back to Otjiwarongo for the evening and stay at the Village Boutique Hotel. You will have time to rest and then before dinner here we will meet with our guest speaker, Dr. Betsy Fox of Elephant Human Relations Aid (EHRA) and hear her efforts to save the Desert Adapted Elephant. You will have an opportunity to engage with Betsy during dinner.

April 19th, Day 5:

We will leave after breakfast to drive north to the main city of the Kunene region, Opuwo. This is the region of the Himba and Tjimba people. This is one of the longest drives so we will make a stop at the Outjo Bakery or local grocery store to select lunch items (on own) for a picnic lunch along the road. We will stay at Opuwo Country Lodge above Opuwo. Our pre-dinner guest speaker will be, Mr. Kazahora

Kapi, Principal of the Ondao Mobile School, the largest school in Namibia with 35 school sites and over 3500 learners, one of the most successful projects in providing services to educationally marginalized learners. He will share the history and challenges of the Ondao Mobil School. Dr. Paula Leitz will then talk about PLU's involvement in the training of the Ondao teachers. You will be able to engage with Mr. Kapi during dinner.

April 20th, Day 6:

After breakfast we will visit two of the Ondao mobile tent schools and a Himba village. This is Uanee's home area, so he will be able to answer all of your questions about Himba life and culture. A sack lunch will be provided so that we can make a stop along the way. Upon our return to Opuwo, you will have an opportunity to explore the town, make purchases and meet Queen Elizabeth, who sells Himba bracelets and other local creations. Or you can decide to return back to the Hotel for rest. That evening we will eat at the Kaokoland restaurant in Opuwo.

April 21st, Day 7:

After breakfast we drive east through Ovamboland to the northeastern gate of Etosha National Park. This is the 2nd longest drive of the tour. We will stop in Oshakati for lunch (on own) and then continue into the park through King's Gate. Thus begins your safari experience. We will be staying at Mushara Bush camp outside of the south east gate.

April 22nd, Day 8:

After breakfast, we will return back into Etosha for game viewing and lunch at the remote Onkoshi Camp overlooking the Etosha salt pan. We return to Mushara in the late afternoon for rest and dinner.

April 23rd, Day 9:

After breakfast we will drive back into Etosha for more game viewing. Lunch will be at Halali Camp (on own). After lunch we will drive to Okaukuejo Camp where you can rest and sit at the watering hole. Dinner is at the camp. Night game viewing at the water hole can be magnificent.

April 24th, Day 10:

We will travel to the southern gate (Anderson) of the park and will drive southwest. We will have lunch in Damara Mopane Lodge (on own). After a short stop at the Petrified Forest we will arrive at Mowani Mountain Lodge. You will have time to rest or enjoy the pool, and then stroll up to sit upon a huge boulder and watch the sun set over the desert plains while enjoying a Sundowner drink (on own) and appetizers. Dinner is at the Lodge.

April 25th, Day 11:

There are two options for this day. One is included in the tour, the other would be on your own. The tour that is included in your tour package will begin after breakfast. We take a short ride to Twylfelfontein, the Bushmen petroglyph UNESCO World Heritage site (this includes a 30-minute hike up and around rocks), with a short stop at the Organ Pipes rock formation. Lunch will be at Twylfelfontein Lodge (on your own). After lunch we will visit the Damara Living Museum to learn about the Damara culture and history. You then return to Mowani for rest, the pool and/or another sundowner before dinner.

The optional trip is a 4-6 hour drive searching for the desert adapted elephants. You will be woken up early in the morning and provided a sack breakfast. Once the elephants have been located and you an opportunity to observe them, you head back to Mowani for rest and dinner. The cost for this trip is approximately \$US70. You will have the responsibility to let the lodge know that you are interested in taking this tour upon arrival or you can contact the lodge directly prior to your U.S. departure.

April 26th, Day 12:

After breakfast we drive south to Windhoek. A stop will be made at the Okahandja Mbangura Woodcarvers Craft Market at Okahandja for souvenirs and lunch at Brew (on own). Then a 50-minute drive back to Windhoek to the Hilton Hotel which is centrally located in the downtown. You can shop or rest. We will have a closing dinner at Joe's Beerhouse.

April 27th, Day 13, Program ends/depart on own for airport
OR Optional tour to Sossusvlei:

After an early breakfast (on own) we drive toward Sossusvlei, in the Namib-Naukluft National Park. We will stop for lunch at Café Van Der Lee, Solitaire (on your own). Then we continue our drive to Sossus Dune Lodge where you will have time to relax or swim. Dinner is offered between specific hours.

April 28th, Day 14:

A very early rising as we will leave at 5 a.m. to get into the dunes before sunrise. You will be provided a sack breakfast. Coffee/tea is usually set out for us by that time. Once we get to Sossusvlei we transfer to a vehicle capable of traveling through sand to the trailhead into Deadvlei. This trail is sandy and a bit of a climb. Some may choose to climb one of the big dunes (Big Daddy or Big Mama). After time exploring and photographing these amazing dunes, we return to Sossus Dune Lodge for an afternoon of rest, pool and then dinner. Our guide, Uanee, will do an optional afternoon trip to Sesriem Canyon, a 5-minute drive for those interested.

April 29th, Day 15:

After breakfast we travel back to Windhoek and stay at the downtown Hilton. We will stop in Solitare to pick up food for lunch on the bus. Dinner on own.

April 30th, End of program, everyone departs on own for airport