



‘NAMIB MAGIC’

NAMIBIA– LANDSCAPE & WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHIC/VIEWING SAFARI – 14 Nights|15 Days

Tour Summary & Locations:

ALTERNATIVE A:

29 August / Day 1:	Windhoek (Namibia) – 1 night; Accommodation in B&B
30, 31 August / Day 2, 3:	Namib Rand Nature Reserve – 2 nights; Accommodation in Camping
01, 02 September / Day 4, 5:	Sesriem - Sossusvlei - Deadvlei – 2 nights; Accommodation in Camping
03, 04 September / Day 6, 7:	Swakopmund or Walvis Bay – 2 nights; Accommodation in Lodging
05 August / Day 8:	Spitzkoppe – 1 night; Accommodation in Camping
06, 07 September / Day 9, 10:	Palmwag Lodge, Damaraland – 2 nights; Accommodation in Camping
08 - 11 September / Day 11 - 14:	Etosha National Park – 4 nights; Accommodation in Camping
12 September / Day 15:	Driving Back to Windhoek, and Departure to Homelands

ALTERNATIVE B:

22 August / Day 1:	Windhoek (Namibia) – 1 night; Accommodation in B&B
23, 24 August / Day 2, 3:	Namib Rand Nature Reserve – 2 nights; Accommodation in Camping
25, 26 August / Day 4, 5:	Sesriem - Sossusvlei - Deadvlei – 2 nights; Accommodation in Camping
27, 28 August / Day 6, 7:	Swakopmund or Walvis Bay – 2 nights; Accommodation in Lodging
29 August / Day 8:	Spitzkoppe – 1 night; Accommodation in Camping
30, 31 August / Day 9, 10:	Palmwag Lodge, Damaraland – 2 nights; Accommodation in Camping
01 - 04 September / Day 11 - 14:	Etosha National Park – 4 nights; Accommodation in Camping
05 September / Day 15:	Driving Back to Windhoek, and Departure to Homelands

Tour Route:	Windhoek (Namibia) – Windhoek (Namibia)
Tour Code:	NAM_15D_LND-WLD_WIN-NRNR-SOS-SWA-SPI-PAL-ETO
Optional Activities:	Hot Air-Balloon Flight over Namib (Sossusvlei); Scenic Flight over Namib (Swakopmund); Night Game Drive (Safari) in Etosha National Park
Extension:	...



DAILY PROGRAMME

❖ Day 1

Meeting in Windhoek;
Accommodation in B&B;
Group dinner in the evening to know each other.



❖ Day 2

Driving to NamibRand Nature Reserve – 4.5 hrs;
Setting up the camp in Namib Rand Nature Reserve Campsite;
Game Drive (Safari) (1) in the afternoon;
Star Gazing at night time...



• Red Dunes, Colourful Rock Formations and Ridge Lines, Long Yellow Grass, Patches of Greens in Acacia Thorn Trees here and there; Hartmann's Mountain Zebras, Oryxes, Ostriches, A Glimpse of Cheetahs... Maybe a rare Caracal, an Aardwolf, a Brown Hyena, Golden Mole?..

We always say there is no guarantee in wildlife sightings, but NamibRand is always astonishing with its amazing landscape, sunrises-sunsets, and stargazing opportunities. Nights are exceptionally dark here, and the air so crisp which makes a great combination to view and photography the Milky Way.



And yes, 'Fairy Circles'... No one knows how they are formed, but they are there as you don't have to go all the way up to Marienfluss Area close to Angola Border to see more of them.

Possible Animal Sightings: Oryx, Ostrich, Mountain Zebra, Wildebeest, Springbok, Steenbok, Black-Backed Jackal, Ground Squirrels, Raptors, and occasionally Spitting Cobra...

❖ Day 3

Game Drive (Safari) (2 and 3) in the morning and the afternoon;
Star Gazing at night time...

❖ Day 4

Driving to Sesriem after a good breakfast with a final Game Drive (6) in NamibRand Nature Reserve – 1.5 hrs;
Setting up the camp in Sossusvlei;
Lunch at Solitaire on the way or campsite in Sossusvlei or a picnic place in open desert along the drive towards the Deadvlei;
Dune Hiking and Climbing in and around Deadvlei and Sossusvlei;
Star Gazing at night time...



If the question is 'what is the most photographed place on Earth', one of the answers would be 'Deadvlei': A plain covered with creamish white dried clay surrounded by the highest sand dunes on the planet; and, 700 hundred years old, dead but standing petrified Acacia Trees in the middle...

Sossusvlei is the gateway to Deadvlei in Namib's southern portion, Namib-Naukluft National Park. In fact, it is a cut through into the sand dunes of Namib. Desert sand contains iron as in dust particles which gives it reddish colour as the whole land of dunes has been eroding for millions and millions of years of ongoing process. When the early and late lights of the morning and evening are added, it all turns into a surreal red and a game of tones. Are you fit enough to climb on some of the highest sand dunes on the Planet; 'Elim Dune', 'Dune 45' or 'Big Daddy' as the second highest standing 325 metres high?.. If no, start working out before your expedition starts, for watching the sunrise and sunset from the top of one is special.

There is another alternative to be overlooking sea of sand; requiring less energy, but not a cheap activity at all: Hot-Air Ballon Flight over Namib... Needless to write many words, images below would tell...

Sesriem Canyon is a get-away activity when we have time left after dune climbing, sunrise and sunset chase, perhaps flying with a hot-air balloon early in the morning. The canyon has been formed by Tsauchab River



through sedimentary rocks with a depth of 30 metres. There are small portions of water debris along the canyon. It is worth to take a dip to cool off during a 4 kilometre hike...



❖ Day 5

As 'Optional Activity', the day may starts early with a breathtaking Hot-Air Balloon Flight over the Namib at sunrise... or... Morning Dune Hiking and Climbing in and around Deadvlei, Sossusvlei and Sesriem Canyon; Lunch at a Picnic Site or back at the camp; Afternoon Dune Hiking and Climbing in and around Deadvlei, Sossusvlei and Sesriem Canyon; Star Gazing at night time...





❖ Day 6

Dune Hiking and Climbing in and around Deadvlei, Sossusvlei, or Sesriem Canyon early in the morning;

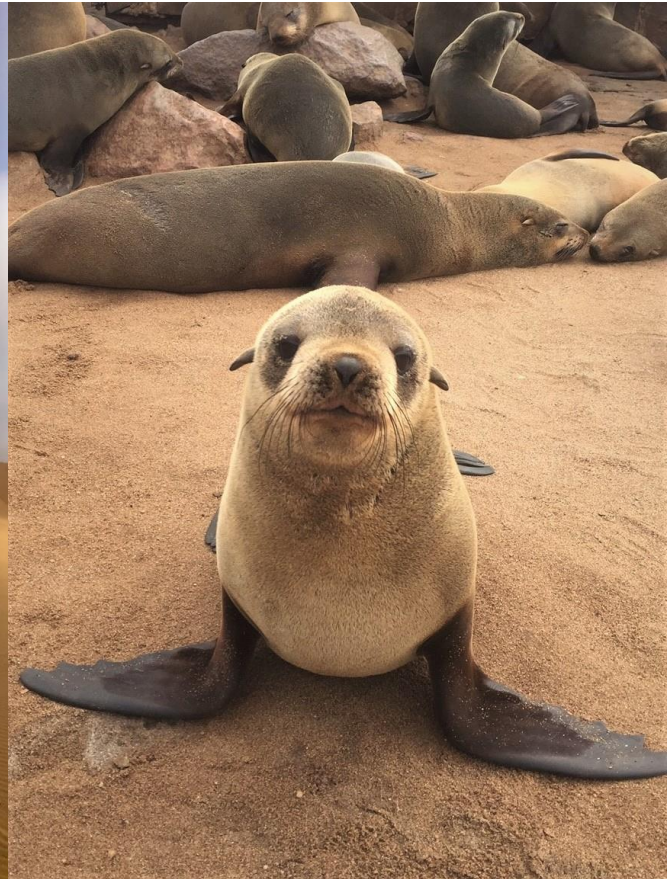
Driving to Swakopmund at noon time via scenic road through the desert – 4.5 hrs

Lunch at campsite or a picnic place on the way;

Accommodation at a lodge.

Guests are welcome to eat out for dinner in Swakopmund (Swakopmund Oysters!) or join staff dinner at the campsite of the lodge.





- Swakopmund is the second biggest city after Windhoek and it is the 'Marine Capital' of Namibia. Swakop River, meeting with the Atlantic here and giving the name to this town, divides Namib into two: Namib-Naukluft National Park in the South; Dorob and Skeleton Coast National Parks in the North.

Like Luderitz, Swakopmund offers boat tours in the Atlantic in search for sea mammals and sea birds. In addition to that, if you would like to fly over Namib Coast and inlands with a scenic flight, this is the place.

Swakopmund is a very organized town, hence serves as a resourceful stop-over location to rest and gain energy if you will continue to North or the other way around to South. One of the major highlights of Swakopmund Stay-Over is 'Little 5' aka 'Living Desert Tour'. Would you like to meet little but remarkable survivors of Namib: Sidewinder Snake, Namaqua Chameleon, Shovel-Snouted Lizard, Cartwheeling aka Dancing White Lady Spider, and Palmato Gecko?.. or How about an adventurous ride on the dunes to Sandwich Harbour?.. Searching for Flamingos and Sea Birds in Walvis Bay in large numbers?..

Swakopmund can be a marine industrial town in the middle of the desert on the coast, but embodies many attractions in terms of wildlife and landscapes.

- Please note that, a scenic flight over Skeleton Coast of Namib or southern section can be arranged for the afternoon-sunset time.



❖ Day 7; 25th of September, 2019

Day starts early with 'Little 5' Tour in Namib Desert. These are Namaqua Chameleon, Sidewinder Snake, Shovel-Snouted Lizard, Palmato Gecko, and Cartwheeling aka 'Dancing White Lady' Spider.

All Day Tour also includes Walvis Bay (flamingos) and driving over dunes where the desert meets with the Atlantic Ocean;

Lunch over the Dunes...





❖ Day 8

Driving to Spitzkoppe through Skeleton Coast and Henties Bay along Ship Wrecks – 3 hrs;
Accommodation and Lunch at Spitzkoppe Campsite
Setting up the camp in Palmwag Campsite;
Hiking around the Arches and Rock Formations of Majestic Spitzkoppe;
Star Gazing at night time.





• Namib's Erongo Region has two significant peaks: Brandberg Mountain as the highest point of Namibia, and Spitzkoppe...

When you continue up to North East direction towards inland from Swakopmund rather than choosing the coastal road to Skeleton Coast, as we have pointed out in the introduction of 'Namib Explorer', you start seeing Spitzkoppe ahead even from 80 kilometres distance. It is not a high peak from Desert's floor, close to only 700 metres; however, what makes it significant is that it is a giant 'Koppe' aka 'Lava Bulb' that gushed out of the earth's surface 150 million years ago.

Spitzkoppe is Rock Climber's Heaven in Namibia. There are two Gigantic Rock Arches as well as burial grounds and hundreds of rock paintings of indigenous tribes of Erongo Region in natural caves and coves on koppe's heights. Simply, it is a sacred place.

Together with NamibRand Nature Reserve, the air is so crisp and the nights are exceptionally dark which makes star gazing an unbelievable experience. When it is Full Moon, Spitzkoppe appears as if it is covered with a snow blanket.

There is not much of a wildlife here except daisies and reptiles; but it is certainly a happy place for hiking lovers...

❖ Day 9

After the morning hike in and around Spitzkoppe, driving to Palmwag Lodge & Campsite – 5.5 hrs;

Lunch at a Picnic Site on the way;

Setting up the camp in Palmwag Campsite;

• Dorob National Park lies in the north of Swakopmund with several major attraction points stretching along the road towards Torra and Terrace Bay of Skeleton Coast where the civilization considerably ends and complete isolated sands of Namib begins. These are Henties Bay, Mile 72, White Lady Salt Pan, Cape Cross Bay, Bocock's Bay, Mile 108, and Torra Bay... Seal colonies and Flamingos in large numbers are the primary living inhabitants. Non-livings are a number of ship-wrecks signifying why this region is called the Skeleton Coast. Namib's Coastal Waters can be as unforgiving as Her earth side.

There has been reports lately on famous but only a handful of Namib's Desert Lions and Leopards preying on seal pups during nursing seasons... FYI...

• When you reach at civilized frontier of Skeleton Coast at Torra Bay and turn right towards inland through Torra Conservancy; or, from inland, Kamanjab or Khorixas roads towards the Atlantic as you pass the canyons through Etendeka Mountains, you reach at a heavenly place called Palmwag...



This is in fact one of the oases in Namib significant with palm trees. Terrain is covered with copper coloured stones in 'bowling size' and most of the vegetation is of Euphorbia Damarana aka 'Damarana Milk-Bush' as well as Acacia and Mopani Trees.



• Etendeka means 'Flat-Top' in Herero Language. Damaraland was once an enormous lava field which collapsed due to sudden cool-down as some of the large portions got hard crusted long before than the rest which formed these significant heights.

There are three canyons in Palmwag Concession where natural springs come to surface and become a life source for the fauna: Barab, Aub and Kwahab... Harsh conditions reign over the terrain almost all year long while carnivores, herbivores and the vegetation react with all their adaptive skills.



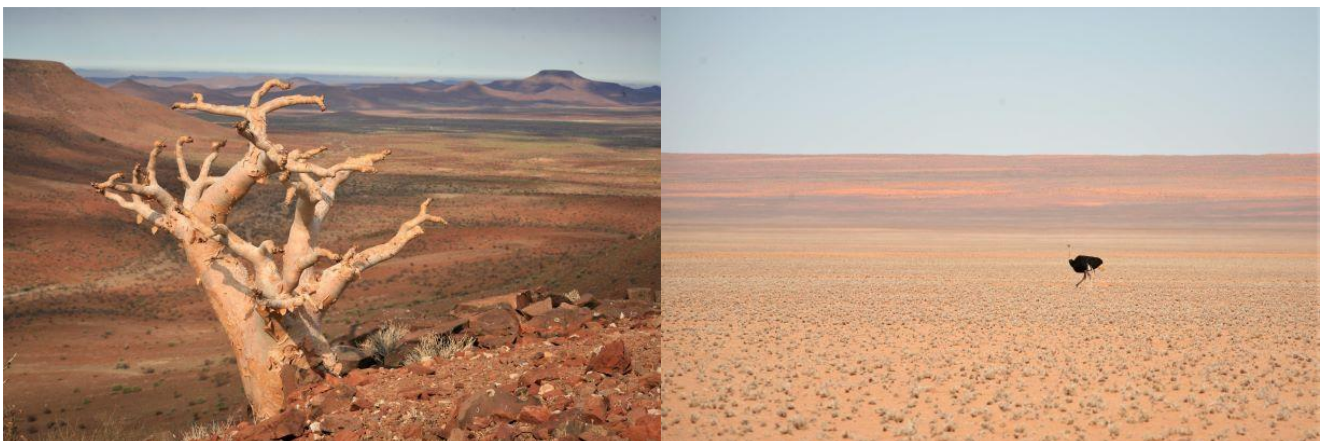
Highlights of Damaraland Wildlife Sightings are Desert Elephants, Desert Lions, Desert Rhinos, Desert Giraffes and Hartmann's Mountain Zebras. There are only a handful of these amazing creatures, so any sighting is a very unique and privileged experience.

Possible Animal Sightings: Desert Elephant, Desert Giraffe, Springbok, Hyena, Mountain Zebra, Kudu, Desert Lion and Leopard, Damara Dik Dik, Steenbok...



❖ Day 10

Game Drives (4 and 5) early in the morning and in the afternoon;
Lunch at a picnic site within Palmwag-Damaraland Concession;





❖ Day 11

Driving to Etosha National Park via Kamanjab after breakfast to visit a Himba Tribe Village – 2 hrs;
Lunch at picnic site;
Driving to Etosha National Park – 4.5 hrs
Camping at Okakuejo Campsite;
Game Drive (6) in the afternoon



Needless to write many words on one of the oldest, one of the largest National Parks and Reserves of whole Africa Continent. Simply, Etosha is wildlife enthusiasts' and photographers' major destination in Namibia and Southern Africa.

The Park is an enormous pan itself with great plains where all kinds of carnivores and herbivores roam wild and free. Birdlife is plenty including raptors.

There are several and healthy waterholes around where animals and birds congregate, especially in dry season starting in May and June. The Park is more beautiful in mid-rainy season from February to May with its flourishing vegetation which attracts more birds, more antelopes, and apparently more predators respectively.

Etosha is proud to be home to Africa's crowdest Black and White Rhino Population. Elephants are giants in size and in numbers. It wouldn't be a surprise to see two dozens of giraffes in one waterhole. Lions are divided into smaller groups rather than forming big prides. Open plains are perfect hunting grounds for cheetahs. Leopards and other cats in smaller size tend to stay camouflaged during day time, but there are great chances of spotting them at waterholes. Good news is that Etosha National Park offers night safaris to waterholes nearby main campsites which increase chances to see nocturnal carnivores such as Bat-Eared Foxes and Cape Foxes.

It is forbidden to drive on the main salty Etosha Pan due to high chances of getting stuck in salty mud during and after rainy season; however, it is always special to look out for migrating animals from North to South towards the hard sandy zones through the pan as they grow bigger and bigger in the horizon with shadows in mirage.



❖ Day 12

Game Drive (7) early in the morning for wildlife action around several waterholes in Okakuejo Zone;
Lunch either at picnic site or back in Okakuejo Campsite;
Game Drive (8) in the afternoon;
Optional Night Game Drive (9) after dinner which is conducted only by NWR (Namibia Wildlife Resorts) - Etosha NP Rangers.





❖ Day 13

Moving/Driving to Halali Campsite as in Game Drive (10) and checking all waterholes along the way to Halali;
Lunch either at picnic site or Halali Campsite;
Game Drive (11) in the afternoon.



❖ Day 14

Game Drive (12) early in the morning for wildlife action around several waterholes in Halali Zone;
Lunch either at picnic site or back in Halali Campsite;
Game Drive (13) in the afternoon;
Optional Night Game Drive (14) after dinner which is conducted only by NWR (Namibia Wildlife Resorts) - Etosha NP Rangers.

❖ Day 15

Exiting Etosha NP in Game Drive (15) mode from Halali Camp to Okakuejo Zone;
Driving time to Windhoek, Hosea Kutako International Airport to catch your flights back to homelands – 5.5 hrs;
Fairwell with lots of quality time memories along with lots of quality images...

Important Note:

- In case of your flights from Windhoek to Johannesburg or direct to homelands is before 15:00pm on Day 15, then Etosha NP period will be kept 3 nights instead of 4 while an accommodation in Windhoek will be added instead on Day 14. The last thing we would like to face is driving faster than usual to Windhoek or your missing return flights.

What is Included

- The tour is mostly full board - all inclusive at locations where we camp. Same statement applies in locations where guests stay in lodges if the facility embodies campsite since, we – the staff will be camping and eating at campsite. Guests are welcome to join;
- All game drives (safari) that we conduct and mentioned within the itinerary;
- All transfers.



What is Excluded

- International Flights;
- Hot-Air Balloon Flight over Namib Desert;
- Scenic Flight over Skeleton Coast of Namib Desert;
- Personal Travel Insurance;
- Dinners or any other courses that guests would like to eat out where it is possible, and where the facility (lodges and guest houses) has its own service;
- Please note that, we will have a limited selection of Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic beverages on board. If you need a specific brand of beverage, please feel free to bring it along or let us know in advance to have it on board;
- All game drives (safari) activities that we are not allowed to conduct by ourselves, such as bush walks, night drives that are only conducted by park and reserve rangers;
- Activities that we have to buy from third parties upon guests' request that may occur at locations, and not listed in mutually agreed itinerary before the tour starts.

Expedition Tools and Camping Gear

Please meet "Pel's Fishing Owl", our safari vehicle, or the vessel to be correct. It is specially designed and built for long expeditions as closed frame rather than an open framed safari vehicle requiring photographic tools and air-conditioning to protect our guests and gears from harsh conditions of Southern Africa in terms of dust, sand, extreme hot and sometimes cold weather conditions.

It has 'dropped-down' windows and a 'pop-up' roof to enable all the guests to have better viewing. We have 220V and 12V (USB) plugs with adapters for our international guests from different regions, next to each seat where you can charge all your camera and other electronic device batteries.

We provide custom designed 'gimbals' for cameras for better photographic opportunities as well as monopods that are located in seat pockets. Those seat pockets keep your personal daily tools together with lenses and camera bodies that you may bring. You will also find flasks for hot beverages and water with your name on them.

Please find 'What-To-Bring' text below. Before that, we ask you to bring your own tripods only, which we don't provide, along with your clothings.







We use 3m. x 6m. Big Size Meru/Bungalow Tents when we are camping in the wild bush for periods of 5-7 days, such as Okavango Delta, Central Kalahari, Makgadikgadi and Nxai Pans where there are no common ablutions as we provide Bush Shower (Bucket Shower) and Bush Toilets as Tent Extension. Please see first images below to Bungalows. However, if the expedition route is Namibia where all the national parks and reserves have high-quality ablutions, and if we will be staying at a location less than 4 days and have to travel from one location to another in a faster way which requires faster camp setup and packing, we provide 3.1 mt. x 3.1 mt. large size 'Dome Tents' for our guests. These tents can accommodate two beds, two bed side tables.

We hate sleeping bags and ground mattresses!.. This is why we have proper beds with proper mattresses with home-style pillows, duvets, blankets, bed covers and duvet covers in cotton. Your comfort is our priority.

A Chef, Bush Chef will be accompanying during the whole trip cooking for you and all of us. We serve quality food, quality alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages in all-inclusive mode. Your appetite is also our priority.





WHAT TO BRING?

Kalahari Basin, with Central Kalahari, The Makgadikgadi, Nxai and Sua aka Sowa Pan at the center, stretches to all directions, from Karoo Region of South Africa to Caprivi Strip of Namibia-Angola Border, from Zambia and Zimbabwe's Batoka Plateau which Zambezi River cuts through down to Victoria Falls all the way to inner lands of Namibia, from Chobe and Okavango Delta to Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. It is a massive land.

Namib Desert lies on the Atlantic Coast and elongates from Orange River aka Oranjemund on Namibia-South Africa Border in the south all the way up to Kunene River that runs along Namibia-Angola Border and meets the Ocean.

There are two seasons here: The Rainy Season and The Dry Season...



Rainy season is from January to April while Dry Season reigns from July to October. May and June, November and December are transitional periods which display characteristics of two seasons.

Rains come down in short buckets of showers mostly in the afternoons as open skies rapidly give way to bundles of clouds. It is hot in day and night times as the temperatures fluctuate between 15 C-37 C / 60 F-99 F.

Dry season is significant with blue skies and surprisingly colder than the rainy season. You may wake up to 0 C-32F degrees in the mornings. Maximum daytime temperatures are around 25 C-77 F.

Day and Night temperatures in Transitional Months - May and June, November and December - are 10 C-30 C / 50 F-86 F.

Under the guidance of brief information above, here below is the list of 'what to bring' for 10-12 days of an expedition time along with you in the first place:

- 1 x Preferably Duffle Bag, rather than a Hard Case one; since, charter flight carriers are small;
- It shouldn't exceed 15 kg. per person;
- 1 x Day Pack, containing all medication and cosmetics;
- 1 x Camera and Lens Bag, if you are carrying more than one camera and another set of lenses;
- If you have the chance of combining Day Pack, Camera and Lens Bag in one, that would be very handy and useful;
- Tripod for Night Photography;
- Sun Screen, SPF30 or preferably SPF50;
- Malaria medication as prescribed by your doctor;
- Memory Cards;
- External Hard Disk for Photography Back-Ups;
- Notebook and/or Tablet;
- Travel Adapter(s)/Universal Charger;
- 1 x Shoes or 1 x Boots, comfortable, closed, and preferably Gore-Tex;
- 1 x Sandals, preferably closed ones rather than Flip-Flops.

Clothing recommendation is natural colours - brown, green, beige, khaki of the following:

- Multiple Cotton Socks that will keep your feet warm in cold, and breath in hot temperatures;
- 3 x Long Outdoor Pants, for evening wear;
- 2 x Safari Shorts, for daytime wear;
- 3 x Long Sleeve Shirts;
- 4 or 6 Short Sleeve T-Shirts;
- 2 x Fleece or Jacket, one light and one heavy;
- Hat and Beanie, for sunscreen, cold nights and mornings;
- Scarf;
- Towel(s);
- Swim Suit (you never know);
- Book(s);
- Headphones.

WHAT NOT NECESSARY TO BRING?

Merubisi Safaris will provide you the following items:

- Head Lamps;
- Binoculars – 8 x 42;
- Monopods;



- Gimbals & Brackets for Camera Mounts at vehicle's openings;
- Reference Books for Birds, Mammals, Reptiles, etc.;
- Any Medication and Assorted First-Aid Kit other than your special prescriptions.

Please note that, Laundry Service may be offered in appropriate locations during stop-overs for logistical and personal shopping's in between stages for longer expeditions;

Please feel free to get in contact at least 5 days prior to your departure to Southern Africa if you would like us to fetch anything on behalf of you;

Please note that, we will have a limited selection of Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Beverages on board. If you need a specific brand of beverage, please feel free to bring it along or let us know at least 5 days in advance to have it on board.

We are looking forward to hosting you in the best way we commit and you deserve...

Yours Sincerely...