



ELIM ROUTE

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Highlights: Exclusivity (no more than 100 people maximum in 330 000 ha), camaraderie in extreme dune driving, unforgettable desert camping under a starry sky, coastal scenery on a shipwrecked deserted coastline, angling at one of Africa's best fishing spots, abandoned mining towns, Reutersbrunn (tented camps)

Itinerary: Elim is a 5 day tour with a challenging route that is best suited for the more experienced 4x4 enthusiast. Some of our tour guides have been part of desert excursions since 1966 and will offer a wealth of advice and stories gained from the desert university over these years. These ever changing dunes must be approached with all the available wit of the driver demanding the maximum power of the vehicle under the helpful guidance of the guides.

The meeting point for the tour will be the evening before at either Sesriem or Solitaire on the brim of the desert in Southern Namibia. Bookings at these venues must be done by guests and Namab (PTY) Ltd can assist with the bookings as a free service. All costs at these venues are not part of the tour fees and are for the exclusive account of the guests. Please note that these sites are also used by tourists visiting Sossus Vlei which are major tourist attractions locally and internationally posing a threat to the availability of accommodation. This first evening is a casual get together and the beginning of long-lasting friendships in the making.

Day 1: After breakfast the two-way radios are issued and the journey start with a 10 km drive in a northerly direction from Sesriem to Elim. The final briefing takes place at Elim explaining the main concession rules, nature conservation guidelines, driving tips, pecking order, etc. One realise that the tour has finally started in all earnest once you hear the hissing sound of tyres being deflated.

All the guests fall in line behind the first guide vehicle with the last vehicle being the back-up guide. All vehicles follow in the tracks as well as driving techniques of the lead vehicle to master the dunes. It is difficult to understand the sheer brutal force that the lead guide use to traverse the dunes - some higher than 200 metre! Penalties for failures to reach the crest of the dunes or other misconducts are served on the spot by "kangaroo" type courts to the entertainment of all other guests.

The purpose of the first day is primarily to bond man and machine through conquering the dunes of the oldest desert in the world. The first day also introduce the guest of what to expect the next two days revealing to the guests a glimpse of the hidden beauty within the desert offering photographers a feast for the lens. For no reason, at a place no different than a thousand similar encountered on the way, the lead guide park his vehicle with the instruction: we will camp here for tonight! The camp is set-up in a jiffy by the guides and helpers. Vehicles are parked randomly for the night as any spot is a good spot.

Filled with a mixture of achievement, exhaustion and excitement all the guests relives the day past calling into remembrance the failures with the associated penalties, the achievements and of course.... the endless discussions of the best desert vehicle..... After supper the talking continue till the early hours of the morning and when you finally go to bed (or just lay down on the sand next to the wheel of your beloved best 4x4...) you fall asleep in awe of the Milky Way crossing the starry sky.

Day 2 & 3: Fear and hesitation is replaced on the second and third day by confidence, fulfilment and enjoyment having successfully graduated day one of desert driving. Where at first you blindly followed the example of the leading tour guide with only one goal in mind - to reach the crest of the dune - day two see a new dimension where you discuss with the fellow guest the best way to launch a full frontal attack on the dunes ahead.

Strategies emerge and plans are forged until finally the first vehicle go into action executing the collaboration to the letter. Then finally on the third day you have crossed the desert and reached the cold Atlantic Ocean and you realize that this moment will be recalled in your memory every time you visit the sea. At the end of day 3 we arrive at the campsite Reutersbrunn (tented camps)

Day 4: The activities of this day are largely determined by the preferences of the guests on tour. You find yourself in probably the best fishing spot on the African continent combined with the exclusivity of the area prohibiting visitation without a Namab (PTY) Ltd permit. Even people that have never done any fishing before, become passionate about the sport. This is a catch and release area and no fish may be taken out of the desert.

Only a few larger specimens are taken by the guides to be turned into a mouth-watering dish for lunch and supper. Imagine the photo in your office and the casual comment: Oh, this was on my last 4x4 trip at Meob Bay in the Namib desert.... Guests can also explore the beach (200 km unspoilt in either direction!) or continue with dune driving, visit abandoned mining towns photograph shipwrecks or just soak up the sun having some quiet time.

Day 5: The journey back home begins after breakfast. There is still a long drive ahead along the coast negotiating the tides of the ocean. Leaving Meob Bay you will encounter more shipwrecks, cape fur seals, jackal and most probably oryx. The tour officially ends in Walvis Bay where we bid farewell to the newly acquainted friends.

Packages to Choose from:

Same as for eco- tours Walvis Bay/Meob Bay/Walvis Bay and Kanaan/ Meob Bay/Walvis Bay.

PLEASE NOTE:

All tours can be tailored to the wish, expectation, endurance and stamina of our guests. We were more than willing to adopt to more, or less of a life-changing adventure with you.