

# 2012 TRAVEL ADVENTURES

## THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL WONDERS OF NAMIBIA

*Explore the landscapes, wildlife, and cultural heritage of this southern African nation*

See inserts for optional pre- and post-trip extensions to Cape Town, South Africa (July 8–11), and Botswana and Victoria Falls (July 22–27)

### July 11–22, 2012

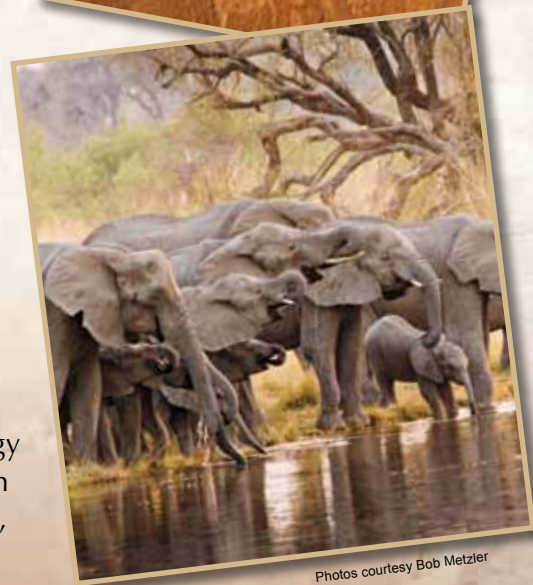
Stretching from the rugged Atlantic coast to the vast Kalahari Desert, the southern African country of Namibia abounds with spectacular landscapes and unique wildlife. Jagged shorelines, shimmering sand dunes, and deep canyons host an amazing array of plants and animals, some found nowhere else in the world. And for millennia, this landscape has been home to myriad peoples who have relied on its bounty for survival. Archaeologists have discovered stone tools fashioned by early humans some 750,000 years ago, as well as pottery sherds and elaborate rock paintings that are evidence of later hunter-gatherers. Today, Namibia is home to numerous and diverse cultural groups, including the Herero, Himba, San, Nama, Afrikaner, German, and Portuguese.

Our Namibian journey takes us from the dramatic sand dunes of the Skeleton Coast; to Damaraland, renowned for its breathtaking beauty, fascinating rock art, and abundant wildlife; to the Kaokoveld, where we explore the last true wilderness in southern Africa. Game drives, archaeological excursions, and a visit to a traditional village make this an unforgettable African experience. Throughout, our guide will be conservation and wildlife expert Grahame Thomson, who will be joined at intervals by specialists in other fields, including archaeologists, anthropologists, geologists, and conservationists.

### SCHOLAR



**Grahame Thomson** is a longtime leader in wildlife conservation, ecotourism, and cultural tourism in southern Africa, with a special interest in archaeology and paleoanthropology. Through his association with leading academic institutions in Namibia, Botswana, and South Africa, Grahame has also assembled a select group of guest researchers and other scholars (see insert).



Photos courtesy Bob Metzler



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Photos courtesy Bob Metzler

## EDUCATIONAL FOCUS

- The archaeology and history of Namibia, from the first arrival of humans 750,000 years ago to the present
- The diverse geology, geography, and ecology of Namibia, and how people, plants, and animals have adapted to the various environments
- The conservation of wildlife and the preservation of traditional cultures, including the San (Bushman) and Himba

## TOUR DETAILS

**Tuition:** Tuition is per person and based on shared accommodations. Tuition includes accommodations, meals listed, entry fees and permits, game drives with professional guides, most gratuities, and transportation from arrival in Windhoek, Namibia, on July 11, 2012, until departure from Maun, Botswana, on July 22, 2012. Transportation to Windhoek and from Maun is your responsibility. Airport departure taxes and visa fees not included.

Program prices are based on current tariffs and currency exchange rates and are subject to change. Crow Canyon reserves the right to levy a surcharge, if necessary, prior to the final payment date.

**International Air:** International air flights are not included. For assistance making arrangements, we recommend Travel Management, Inc., in Post Falls, Idaho. E-mail [crow@tmitravel.net](mailto:crow@tmitravel.net), or call 1-800-975-7775 and ask for the Crow Canyon representative. Or, you are welcome to make your own arrangements. Plan to arrive in Windhoek, Namibia, no later than 4:00 p.m. on July 11, 2012. Schedule departure from Maun, Botswana, for any time on July 22.

**Accommodations:** All nights, except for the night at Ngepi Camp, are in hotels or lodges of at least first-class quality, with several being luxury lodges. Ngepi Camp is a more rustic eco-camp, where you stay in bush huts or tree houses (both with private baths). Shared accommodations are based on double occupancy. Single accommodations are available for an additional fee of \$2,175.

**What to Expect:** This program does not involve strenuous activity, but it does include short hikes of moderate difficulty and standing for an hour at a time at sites. Most of the time we will travel in air-conditioned minibuses, but on game drives we will be in four-wheel-drive, sometimes open, vehicles. On occasion, roads will be rough.

**Dates:** Wednesday, July 11–Sunday, July 22, 2012

**Tuition:** Member\* \$9,995 • Nonmember \$10,195

**Deposit:** \$1,000 • Balance due: April 11, 2012

\*Minimum \$100 membership required. For information on membership, visit [www.crowcanyon.org/membership](http://www.crowcanyon.org/membership).

## DETAILED ITINERARY

**B:** Breakfast  
**L:** Lunch  
**D:** Dinner

### Wednesday, July 11: Arrive Windhoek

Arrive in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, by 4:00 p.m. for a welcome dinner and introductory program. Overnight, Olive Grove Lodge. (D)

### Thursday, July 12: Windhoek • Namib Naukluft National Park • Swakopmund

Today we travel from Windhoek to Swakopmund via Kuseb Canyon in Namib Naukluft National Park. A lovely coastal town with attractive beaches, lush flower gardens, half-timbered houses, and colonial-era structures, Swakopmund is a popular tourist destination. Tonight Russell Vinjevd, CEO of Kunene Conservancy Safaris, gives a presentation on general conservation topics of Namibia. Overnight, The Hansa. (B, L, D)

### Friday, July 13: Skeleton Coast • Erongo Mountains • San Rock Art Sites

This morning, tides and weather permitting, we visit Sandwich Harbour with Steve Braine, one of Namibia's leading ornithologists. We then travel up the famous Skeleton Coast through the western fringes of Namib Naukluft Park, renowned for some of the highest sand dunes in any desert environment, rivaling those at well-known Sossuslei. We marvel at the bizarre welwitschia plant. After lunch at a famous seafood restaurant in Swakopmund, we drive to Ai Aiba Lodge in the Erongo Mountains, a dramatic volcanic landscape where an abundance of wildlife, spectacular views, and stunning San rock art sites await us. Tonight Dr. Roy Miller, a highly respected geologist with an environmental emphasis, introduces us to the geology of Namibia. Overnight, Ai Aiba Lodge. (B, L, D)

### Saturday, July 14: Damaraland • Twyfelfontein

After Dr. Miller leads us on an early morning exploration of the unique geology and spectacular San rock art panels of Ai Aiba, we depart for the plateaus of Damaraland, one of the most untamed and ruggedly beautiful areas in all of Namibia. Lush grasslands, deep gorges, and sandy washes harbor a wide variety of animal life, making the region

one of Africa's last "unofficial" wildlife areas. Originally inhabited by the ancestors of the San, Damaraland today is home to the Damara people, seminomadic herders and farmers whose language is unlike that of other Namibian ethnic groups. We arrive at Twyfelfontein, a rocky outcrop with thousands of ancient images carved into its many faces, and today a national monument. Archaeologist and rock art expert Dr. Beatrice Sandelowsky guides us to many of the panels and discusses the history and interpretation of the amazing images. We enjoy a late-afternoon game drive, followed by dinner and star gazing. Overnight, Twyfelfontein Lodge. (B, L, D)

**Sunday, July 15: Damaraland • Community Conservancies**

Garth Owen-Smith, internationally renowned conservationist and author of the recently published book *Arid Wilderness*, leads us on a full-day excursion into the community conservancies, where the desert elephant and black rhino have found sanctuary during the past two decades. Garth, a pioneer of community-based natural resource management in Namibia, discusses how local communities and indigenous people are partners with government in habitat conservation and wildlife protection. We return to Twyfelfontein Lodge for dinner and a leisurely evening. Overnight, Twyfelfontein Lodge. (B, L, D)

**Monday, July 16: Kaokoveld**

After an early morning game drive, we venture into the Kaokoveld, often described as the last true wilderness in southern Africa. Numerous animal species have adapted to the harsh desert conditions, including desert elephant, oryx, giraffe, springbok, and Hartmann's zebra. The

Kaokoveld is also home to the Himba, nomadic pastoralists who are famous for covering their skin with a mixture of ochre butter and herbs to protect themselves from the sun. We stay tonight at Opuwo Country Lodge in northern Namibia. (B, L, D)

**Tuesday, July 17: Kaokoveld**

Margaret Jacobsohn, an internationally renowned expert on the traditions and origins of the nomadic Himba tribe, guides us on a daylong exploration of the Kaokoveld, including a visit to a traditional Himba Village. As guests of the villagers, we learn how the Himba have preserved their ethnic identity and culture, largely due to the remoteness of the area in which they live. We return to Opuwo Country Lodge for the evening. (B, L, D)

**Wednesday, July 18: Etosha National Park**

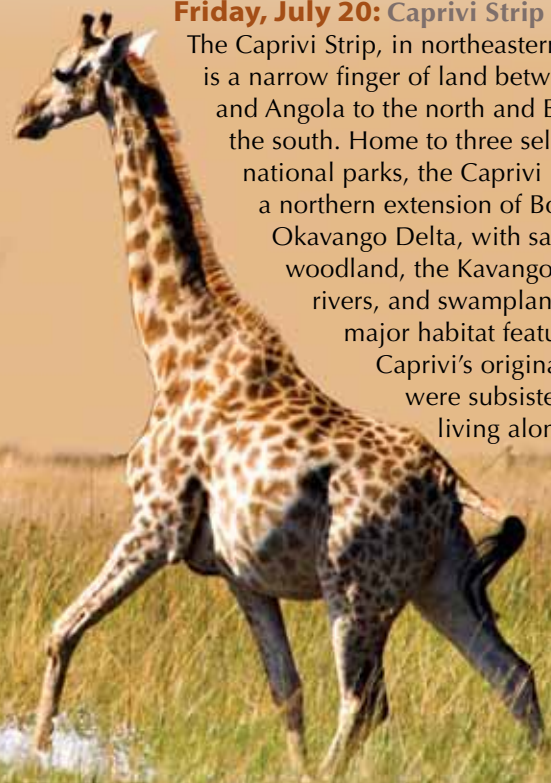
Traveling east, we arrive at the western part of Etosha National Park, which has only recently been opened to the public. One of the world's greatest wildlife-viewing areas, Etosha (meaning "Great White Place") is dominated by a massive saline pan surrounded by perennial springs, scrub, and grassland. Etosha's diverse wildlife includes 114 mammal species and 340 bird species; the latter include flamingos, which flock to the area when seasonal rains transform the pan into a shallow lagoon. The reserve also supports an interesting assortment of vegetation, including mopane, African moringa, and red bushwillow. Overnight, Dolomite Camp. (B, L, D)

**Thursday, July 19: Etosha National Park**

We spend the day driving through the park, viewing game and enjoying a picnic lunch at Halali Camp along the way. Overnight at luxury Onguma Tented Camp on the eastern side of Etosha. (B, L, D)

**Friday, July 20: Caprivi Strip**

The Caprivi Strip, in northeastern Namibia, is a narrow finger of land between Zambia and Angola to the north and Botswana to the south. Home to three seldom-visited national parks, the Caprivi is actually a northern extension of Botswana's Okavango Delta, with savannah woodland, the Kavango and Kunene rivers, and swampland being its major habitat features. The Caprivi's original inhabitants were subsistence farmers living along the river



banks, and the area has also been home to the San people for hundreds of years. On our drive to the Caprivi, we stop at Popa Falls, where birdwatchers will enjoy the variety and number of birds. Overnight, Ngepi Camp, an eco-camp located on the banks of the Kavango River. (B, L, D)

**Saturday, July 21: Botswana • Tsodilo Hills • Nguma Lodge**

Today we cross the border into Botswana, to explore the Tsodilo Hills, which rise dramatically from the floor of the Kalahari Desert. Stone tools indicate that Bantu people arrived as early as A.D. 500, but more than 4,000 rock paintings and other archaeological remains suggest that ancestors of the San hunted here about 30,000 years ago. Both the Bantu and the San still consider the hills a mystical place, "home of very old and very great spirits." Tsodilo Hills is Botswana's only World Heritage site. We continue to Nguma Lodge, located on the western extremity of the Okavango panhandle. After a late-afternoon cruise down the Okavango River, we gather for our farewell dinner at the lodge. (B, L, D)

**Sunday, July 22: Maun • Departures**

After breakfast, we drive to Maun Airport for flights home or to proceed with the post-tour extension. (B)

***Itinerary subject to change.***

## TOUR RESERVATIONS

**Phone:** Call **800.422.8975, ext. 160 or 146**, Mon–Fri, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Mountain Time).

**Online:** Use the secure reservation form at [www.crowcanyon.org/travel](http://www.crowcanyon.org/travel).

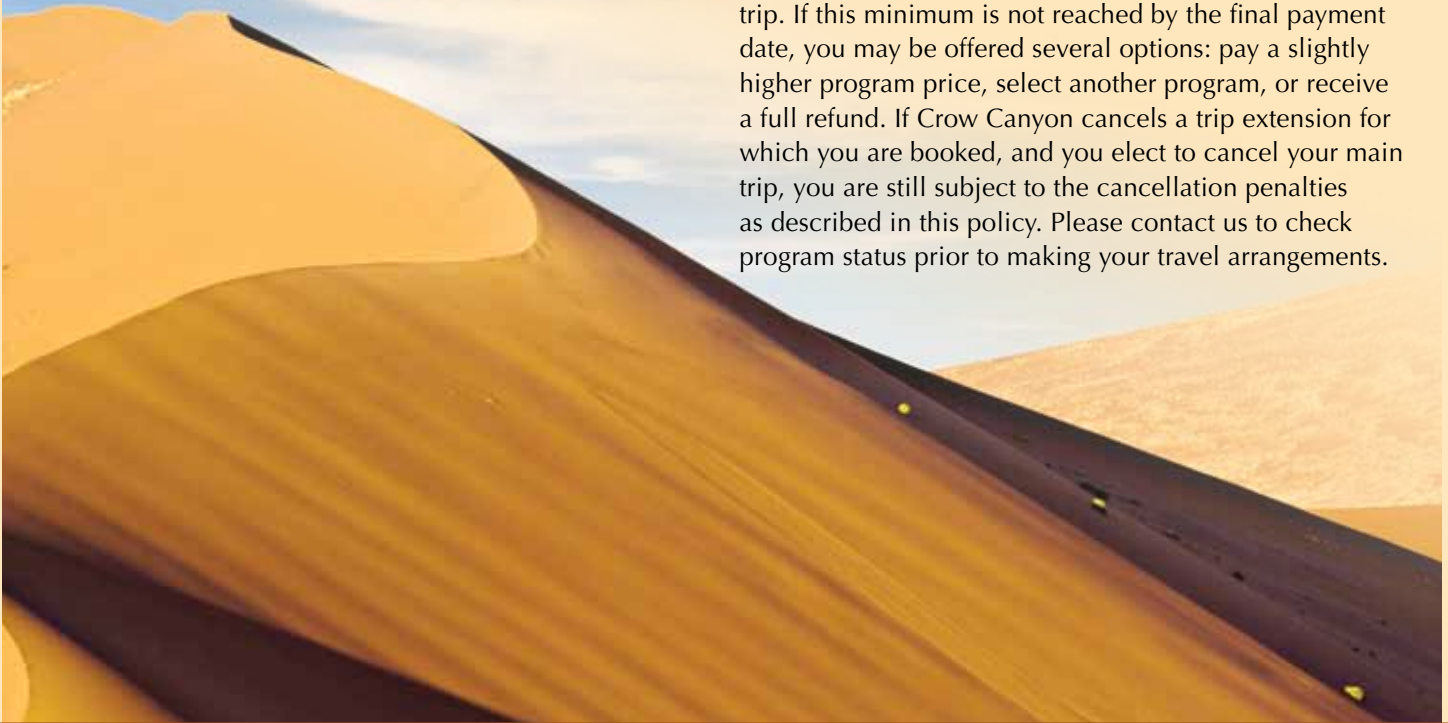
**Please Note:** Online requests are subject to availability. Your credit card will not be charged until your registration is fully processed and confirmed by Crow Canyon.

**Late Reservations:** To secure reservations on a trip for which the final payment deadline has passed, full payment by credit card is required at the time of your reservation. Last-minute reservations are subject to space availability and may require the payment of late fees.

**Cancellation:** All cancellation requests must be made in writing to Crow Canyon Registrar, 23390 Road K, Cortez, CO 81321-9408, or e-mailed to [travel@crowcanyon.org](mailto:travel@crowcanyon.org). Cancellations become effective on the date received. The following penalty schedule applies: On or before April 11, 2012: \$500 handling fee; after April 11, 2012: forfeiture of all payments.

**Group Size:** Our programs are designed for small groups. A minimum number of participants is required for each trip. If this minimum is not reached by the final payment date, you may be offered several options: pay a slightly higher program price, select another program, or receive a full refund. If Crow Canyon cancels a trip extension for which you are booked, and you elect to cancel your main trip, you are still subject to the cancellation penalties as described in this policy. Please contact us to check program status prior to making your travel arrangements.

Courtesy Bob Metzler



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