

## 02 NIGHT NAMIB DESERT TOUR



### INFORMATION

#### SOSSUSVLEI

Located in the scenic Namib-Naukluft National Park, Sossusvlei is where you will find the iconic red sand dunes of the Namib. The clear blue skies contrast with the giant red dunes to make this one of the most scenic natural wonders of Africa and a photographer's heaven. This awe-inspiring destination is possibly Namibia's premier attraction, with its unique dunes rising to almost 400 metres – some of the highest in the world. These iconic dunes come alive in morning and evening light and draw photography enthusiasts from around the globe. Sossusvlei is home to a variety of desert wildlife including oryx, springbok, ostrich and a variety of reptiles. Visitors can climb 'Big Daddy', one of Sossusvlei's tallest dunes; explore Deadvlei, a white, salt, claypan dotted with ancient trees; or for the more extravagant, scenic flights and hot air ballooning are on offer, followed by a once-in-a-lifetime champagne breakfast amidst these majestic dunes.

#### DEAD VLEI

This ancient clay pan was once an oasis, studded with acacias and fed by a river that suddenly changed course, leaving the earth to dry up along with the trees it previously supported. So dry were the climatic conditions that the trees never decomposed – instead they were entirely leached of moisture so that today, 900 years later, they remain as desiccated, blackened sentinels dotting the pan's cracked surface. Surrounded by the red-pink dunes of the Namibia Desert, they create a surreal spectacle that is a photographer's dream.

#### DUNE 45

Named for its location 45 kilometres past the town of Sesriem, Dune 45 is renowned for its elegant shape, which – along with its position close to the road – have earned it the distinction of 'most photographed dune in the world'. If you're not keen for the strenuous hike to the top of Big Daddy, Dune 45 is a more forgiving alternative, standing at only 80 metres and featuring a much gentler gradient.

#### SESRIEM CANYON

Sesriem Canyon, a deep chasm carved through the rocks by water, is a striking natural feature of the area that is best explored on foot. Stony walls rise up sharply on both sides of the canyon, while birds roost in its crags and lizards dart along the ledges. The canyon's name was coined when early settlers used it as a water source, using six lengths of leather ('ses riem – six thongs) tied together to lower buckets into the water at the base of canyon.

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Namib Desert Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia, Sossusvlei

Collection time is between 08:00 and 08:30 from anywhere within Windhoek. Windhoek is surrounded by mountains and we have to pass both the Eros Mountains and the Khomas Hochland Range. As we come through the mountains, we drop down from the central plateau to grassy desert savannas. We stop at Solitaire for petrol and perhaps also afternoon tea before we continue to our first night at Namib desert lodge. We aim to arrive at our lodge during the early afternoon.

Overnight: Namib Desert Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia – Full Board Basis

#### Namib Desert Lodge Gondwana

#### Collection Namibia

Set below striking fossilised dunes, the comfortable lodge provides a spectacular experience of ancient desert. 65 rooms, two swimming pools and a waterhole are surrounded by sandy splendour. Breathe in the grandeur on a sunset drive and feel the earth underfoot. Relax in the arms of the Namib.



### Day 2: Namib Desert Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia, Sossusvlei

Early start to catch the soft light of the sunrise over the desert. After passing through Sesriem we continue towards Sossusvlei along distant sand dunes on both sides of the road. We will stop at the famous Dune 45. Those who feel fit may climb the dune and get a breath-taking view of the surrounding desert and dunes. After breakfast we will take a desert walk in the cool of the morning, with chance to see Gemsboks, Springboks, Black-backed Jackals and Ostriches We will also visit the Dead Vlei. As the day cools off in the afternoon, we will make a short excursion to Sesriem Canyon.

Overnight: Namib Desert Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia – Full Board Basis + Park Fees + Sossusvlei & Sesriem canyon excursion

### Day 3: End of Itinerary

Early start and back to civilization on scenic roads through the Khomas Hochland Mountain Range. We will arrive back in the city in the afternoon and you will be dropped off at your accommodation on our return. Your guide will choose the perfect location for lunch.

Breakfast & Lunch