



Conservancy Safaris
NAMIBIA
make your footprint count

Kunene Wildlife & Culture

6 days and 6 nights / Maximum of 9 participants

TRIP SUMMARY

Day 0 : Arrival at Wereldsend for briefing and introduction to conservation in the area

Day 1 : Rhino trekking in Torra, then onto Sesfontein through Damaraland towards the Hoanib River – searching for elephants, lions, oryx, giraffe and other animals.

Day 2 : Head to the Puros Conservancy, game viewing and meeting fascinating local people on route.

Day 3 : Follow the Hoarusib River and the Etendeka Mountains through dramatic scenery and landscapes. Meet local people and again view the unique flora and fauna.

Day 4 : Spend time with the Himba people, learning more of their ways and the challenges they face.

Day 5 : Follow the course of the Gomatum River through Puros to the Giribis Plains (with their mysterious fairy circles) and onto Sesfontein's stunning Ganamub Mountain Camp.

Day 6 : After a leisurely breakfast it's a game drive back through Sesfontein and the Palmwag Concession to Wereldsend.

Please note that activities in the conservancies described on particular days are flexible and interchangeable as these are not "staged" but depend on the current day to day activities and events of the communities themselves.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 0

We meet from* late afternoon at Wereldsend, historic base camp of IRDNC (Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation) from where the now national community-based conservation program was piloted in the early 1980s. See the graveyard of bones, a reminder of the massive commercial poaching of the 70s and early 1980s that came close to wiping out the desert adapted elephant, black rhino and other megafauna. Hear how rural communities turned this situation round. * Arrival times can be controlled by client, driving from their previous accommodation.

Overnight : Wereldsend Camp (semi-permanent tented camp)

Day 1

An early start with Torra Conservancy game guards looking for desert-adapted black rhino and other fascinating animals and plants. This might entail covering some of the terrain on foot. Later we head north via the village of Sesfontein (which means six springs). The route takes us through typical basalt hills, a signature feature of Damaraland. We travel north via Sesfontein and into the dry bed of the Hoanib River, a linear oasis with majestic Ana, Leadwood and Camelthorn trees marking its course. The remainder of the day is spent exploring, searching for elephants, lions, giraffe, oryx and other wildlife which seasonally use this ephemeral river's resources. In the late afternoon we climb out of the river bed and make our camp at the foot of high hills providing us with a fantastic view across the Hoanib Valley.

Overnight : Wild camping in Hoanib Valley



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Day 2

Our morning will be spent searching for elephants, lions, giraffe, oryx and other wildlife which seasonally use this magnificent ephemeral river's resources. We then head north, across magnificent landscape, towards the 3568 square kilometre Puros Conservancy. This vast area, with a population of less than 300 Himba and Herero herders, is one of the conservancies that own our company and we will be hosted here tonight. Spend the evening around the campfire in the Puros Conservancy Camp, where elephants may stroll past your tent. This is a good opportunity, if you are interested, to obtain insights into the real conservation problems and their local solutions. **Overnight : Puros Conservancy Camp (semi permanent tented camp)**

Day 3

We take a scenic drive up the Hoarusib River, cross the flank of the Etendeka Mountains and descend into the Khumib dry riverbed. Our route, through dramatic landscapes, passes small Himba settlements and we may see goats browsing with springbok nearby or a line of ostrich high-stepping past peacefully grazing cattle. Our destination for the next two nights is "Etambura Camp", Namibia's first Himba-owned camp, on a hilltop with views that will take your breath away. Relax in comfort in comfortable accommodation units, each with an en suite bathroom and private deck area. KCS guests have exclusive use of this camp! Meet our conservancy hosts and spend an interesting evening at the fire talking to Himba game guards or conservancy staff.

Overnight : Etambura Camp

Day 4

Today's emphasis is on the interesting and intricate culture of the local Himba people. A member of the conservancy will give us an insight into the collection of resin/myrrh. In the months of December to April, Himba women harvest resin from commiphora wildii – the perfume plant or myrrh made famous by the Bible's three wise men. Hear how IRDNC, the local support NGO, has assisted conservancies to earn a regular annual income by sustainably harvesting and marketing this valuable product to international cosmetic companies. Understand the challenges of living in an arid and harsh environment and see the fascinating adaptations that one needs to make to survive as an individual and society in such circumstances.

Overnight : Etambura Camp.

Day 5

After a hearty breakfast, we head south, traversing vast and silent plains. We once pause briefly in Puros, before following the course of the Gomatium River and cross the spectacular Giribis Plains with its mysterious Fairy Circles. We overnight at Sesfontein Conservancy's Ganamub Mountain Camp built on a hillside among granite boulders. Immerse yourself in the sounds, scents and flavours of an African night around a crackling campfire, knowing your presence is making conservation sustainable for the people and animals who share this vast region. **Overnight : Ganamub Mountain Camp**

Day 6

After a leisurely breakfast we travel via Sesfontein and past the game-rich Palmwag Concession area back to Wereldsend.



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RATES

1st January 2011 to 31st December 2011

Rate per person sharing: USD 3,400

Single supplement: USD 36

Includes :

Breakfasts, light lunches, snacks, dinners

Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages

Excludes :

Flights to and from Namibia

Transport to and from Wereldsend before and after the safari

Accommodation prior to or after the safari

It is also possible to book a private safari – price on request.

Rates are in USD, are influenced by industry increases and may change without prior notice.

Our rates include 15% VAT.

Note:

Community based activities vary from trip to trip as these depend on the seasonal nature of conservation activities and on the events currently taking place in the host communities. Our itinerary remains flexible because of environmental, climatic and human factors.