Namibia

September 19 – October 3, 2020
As the driest country south of the Sahara, Namibia showcases the extraordinary fusion of an unforgiving land with a unique, thriving ecosystem. The scarcity and unpredictability of rainfall has shaped a remarkable living landscape of unparalleled beauty, contrasts and intrigue. Celebrated for its astonishing scenery, abundant wildlife and fascinating cultures, this desert-dominated country offers a startling array of experiences. Observe the electric activity of wildlife-packed waterholes in Etosha National Park; track desert-adapted elephant within the breathtaking rockscapes of Damaraland; encounter one of the world’s last, true nomadic tribes, the Himba; witness the raw and rugged Skeleton Coast; behold the arresting beauty of the Namib’s towering red sand dunes; and star-gaze under bejeweled night skies. No longer a forgotten corner of the continent, Namibia is gathering well-deserved recognition as one of Africa’s most sought-after travel destinations.
Saturday, September 19: Windhoek
Arrive in Windhoek and transfer to the Hotel Heinitzburg, where you’ll enjoy welcome drinks and dinner.

Sunday, September 20: Okonjima
Depart Namibia’s capital and drive north to the internationally renowned game reserve of Okonjima, nestled amongst the slopes of the Omboroko Mountains. Home to the pioneering predator-conservation project, the Africat Foundation, this 55,000-acre reserve boasts a thriving wildlife community. Using radio telemetry, track resident Cheetah and Leopard, whilst learning of Africat’s commitment to the long-term preservation of Namibia’s large carnivores. The area’s rich Acacia thornveld and broken sandstone ridges also supports a diverse avifauna, including such highly-prized Namibian endemics as Monteiro’s Hornbill and Damara Rockjumper. After dark, a floodlit blind allows rare glimpses of some of the continent’s most elusive nocturnal creatures, notably South African Porcupine and the irascible Ratel, or Honey Badger. Dinner and overnight at Okonjima Bush Camp.

Monday, September 21: Onguma Plains
After a morning game drive at Okonjima, continue your journey northwards to the stunning Onguma The Fort. Strategically located at the eastern end of Etosha National Park, Onguma is your home for the next two nights and a perfect base for exploring the eastern side of this wildlife-rich area.

Tuesday, September 22: Onguma Plains / Etosha National Park
An early start takes you into Etosha National Park, Namibia’s most famous wildlife reserve. During this season, after months of little rain, the land is dry and the animals’ thirst draws them to waterholes in spectacular aggregations. Focus your
attention on these scattered springs, where Southern Giraffe jostle for space alongside hundreds of Plains Zebra, Blue Wildebeest, Greater Kudu, Eland, stately Gemsbok, Springbok and the localized, endemic Black-faced Impala. Activity is often electrifying, as predators, large and small, patiently await timely hunting opportunities, whilst dust-bathing elephants coat their bodies in clouds of white clay. Overnight at Onguma The Fort.

**Wednesday, September 23: Etosha NP and Ongava Game Reserve**
Today’s adventure entails an epic transect of this iconic wildlife Mecca. As you journey westward across Etosha National Park, the concentrations of animals grow ever more impressive, with some springs literally heaving with a constant procession of life. In the late afternoon, arrive in the 125-square-mile private reserve of Ongava, famous for its healthy population of Black Rhinoceros and Black-faced Impala. Dinner and overnight at Andersson’s at Ongava.

**Thursday, September 24: Etosha NP and Ongava Game Reserve**
Ongava shares a common boundary with Etosha, allowing for a full day of exploring the park’s western side. Here you’ll encounter very different scenery and vegetation, and hopefully glimpse the Hartmann’s Mountain Zebra among the park’s prolific wildlife. Return to camp and spend time in the hide situated on the edge of a waterhole providing unrivalled opportunities for viewing the endangered Black Rhinoceros alongside its larger cousin, the White Rhinoceros. Dinner and overnight at Andersson’s at Ongava.

**Friday, September 25: Damaraland**
The drive from the parched savanna plains of the north into the rugged Kunene Region is akin to entering an open-air geology museum, the broken landscape fashioned from 560-million-year-old Damara granites, schists and marbles. Take time to view game and absorb the vastness of the scenery along the way. Your home for the next two nights is Mowani Mountain Camp, lying camouflaged within massive granite boulders. Arrive in time for sunset cocktails with unparalleled panoramic views. Dinner and overnight at Mowani Mountain Camp.

**Saturday, September 26: Damaraland**
Your morning focuses on tracking the region’s famous desert-adapted elephants, herds of which frequent the dry riverbed of the Huab. Adjacent rocky hillsides are home to the scarce Hartmann’s Mountain Zebra, along with agile Kaokoland Rock Hyraxes and the unusual Dassie Rat. This unique wildlife spectacle unfolds against a backdrop of dramatic topography: table mountains of multi-hued sandstone contrasting starkly with azure skies, and ancient watercourses snaking through vast tracts of wilderness. It is within this primordial landscape that the early Bushmen held dominion, etching their legends on the flat red rocks of Twyfelfontein, now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Spend the afternoon appreciating these ancient engravings, along with the country’s most famous botanical oddity, the primitive Welwitschia. Dinner and overnight at Mowani Mountain Camp.

**Sunday, September 27: Skeleton Coast**
Following an early breakfast, drive north to Sesfontein. Living within this unforgiving environment are people known as the Himba, who have clung fiercely to their traditions and semi-nomadic way of life. Covering their bodies in a layer of...
ochre-red pig grease and sporting long, mud-encrusted dreadlocks, these striking pastoralists are amongst Africa’s most intact tribal groups. Stop to experience their beguiling culture.

Next, depart for your charter flight to Möwe Bay and a two-day exploration of the virtually uninhabited Skeleton Coast. The beaches here are strewn with bleached whale bones and the wrecks of over a thousand ships, from wooden Portuguese galleons that were submerged hundreds of years ago to modern steel-hulled vessels. Onshore, towering sand dunes and wind-swept plains extend as far as the eye can see. Spend two nights nestled between the sand dunes at the Shipwreck Lodge, with sweeping views of the Atlantic.

**Monday, September 28: Skeleton Coast**
An early morning drive to the Möwe Bay area reveals more of this rugged and alluring coastline. Here you’ll encounter the Cape Fur Seals that line the rocky shore in large, thriving colonies. With luck, you may witness Brown Hyenas or Lions stalking seals along the shoreline. Following lunch, explore Huarusib River Valley with its steep canyon walls of black and red volcanic rock. Hidden in the river’s narrow gorges, find dozens of “clay castles”, unusual geological formations created by the gradual erosion and deposition of clay. Overnight Shipwreck Lodge.

**Tuesday, September 29: NamibRand Nature Reserve**
Following breakfast, bid farewell to the Skeleton Coast and take to the air, flying southwards along the barren coast. After a quick refuel in Swakopmund, the flight swings inland to traverse the spellbinding dune sea of the Namib Desert. Touch down at Wolwedans Dune Lodge where you’ll spend two nights.

**Wednesday, September 30: NamibRand Nature Reserve**
Explore this truly breathtaking area in search of a charming array of diminutive desert-adapted denizens such as Tenebrionid beetles, White Lady Spiders, Namaqua Chameleons and Namib Golden Moles, that bring to life the secrets of survival in this waterless world. Namibia’s only true avian endemic, the handsome Dune Lark, is easily spotted scurrying between tussocks of Bushman grass. Although NamibRand Nature Reserve is also home to healthy numbers of Gemsbok, Red Hartebeest, Springbok, Aardwolf and Bat-eared Fox, the game-viewing here is often eclipsed by the expansive vistas of pastel-yellow grasses, craggy mountains and an endless sea of red dunes. Overnight Wolwedans Dune Lodge.

**Thursday, October 1: Namib-Naukluft National Park**
After breakfast take an interpretive journey through NamibRand to your final destination, Sossusvlei Desert Lodge. Spend the afternoon exploring the stark beauty of the dunes surrounding the lodge. The world’s oldest and most biodiverse desert, the Namib is also one of the darkest, and an after-dinner interpretation by a resident astronomer will reveal just why it was awarded with gold honors as an International Dark Sky Reserve. Overnight Sossusvlei Desert Lodge.

**Friday, October 2: Namib-Naukluft National Park**
A pre-dawn departure into Namib-Naukluft National Park, one of Africa’s largest conservation areas, places you within reach of the Earth’s tallest red sand dunes. These reach their apogee around the dead-end watercourse known as Deadvlei, where seductively-sculpted lines and dream-like contrasts of color and shadow
make for a photographer’s Utopia. Add to the perfection of this otherworldly landscape herds of Springbok, statuesque Gemsbok, and Ostrich families wandering amidst fields of golden grasses. Spend this last day breathing it all in, one last time. Overnight at Sossusvlei Desert Lodge.

Saturday, October 3: Windhoek / Depart
Following breakfast, board your return flight to Windhoek, in time for independent international connections.

Photos: Ostrich, Orxy and Red Dunes
A – Windhoek
B – Okonjima
C – Onguma Plains
D – Ongava Game Reserve
E – Damaraland
F – Skeleton Coast
G – NamibRand Nature Reserve
H – Namib-Naukluft National Park

By Air
By Road
Marco Tonoli

Marco organised his first expedition into the Drakensburg Mountains at the age of 13 for a group of friends, which ultimately led to an unquestionable love of exploring and sharing the natural world. As soon as he was of legal age, he was on the first plane out of his home country, South Africa, to discover the cultures and environments of the Middle East, Far East and Europe. This love of the world’s wilderness areas and the people within it, led him to pursue what turned out to be an adventurous 16-year career as a naturalist guide throughout Southern and East Africa.

His love of ethology and species adaptations, and their survival in harsh and extreme habitats took him to the Kalahari Desert, where he led and trained a team of specialist guides, as well as lived and worked closely with the region’s best trackers. In due course he developed a passion for the art and science of tracking, conducting desert Black Rhino walking safaris for the next four years.

Marco took a small break from guiding to study wildlife filmmaking and photography in the pursuit of documenting the natural world, which has allowed him opportunities to work on productions by National Geographic and Discovery Channel, as well as having images appear in notable natural history publications throughout the world.

“Marco is simply one of the most knowledgeable guides I’ve ever come across, and I’ve come across quite a few! I highly recommend Marco to anyone wanting guiding of the highest caliber.”

– Alex W., United Kingdom
Expedition Details

Namibia  September 19 – October 3, 2020

$21,970  Per Person Rate  
$25,370  Solo Rate  
15 Days  Trip Length  
12 Guests  Group Size  
Windhoek / Windhoek  Start/End

Included

Apex Expeditions’ rates include all accommodations; all meals, activities and excursions as described in the itinerary; air within Namibia, as noted in the itinerary; services of an Apex Expedition leader, plus local guides throughout the itinerary; local beer & wines at lunch & dinner; all gratuities; airport transfers; permits and entrance fees; all taxes.

Not Included

Costs not included in the price of your Apex expedition include travel to and from start and end point of trip; premium brand drinks and liquor; travel insurance (Trip Cancellation and Interruption, as well as Emergency Medical and Evacuation insurance, are highly recommended); airport departure taxes; excess baggage fees; passport and/or visa fees; items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, souvenirs, etc.); and independent travel arrangements pre- or post-trip.

Payments & Terms

20% of the trip cost will confirm your place on the expedition. The final balance is due 150 days prior to departure. All prices are quoted in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars. Per person pricing is based on double occupancy. The solo rate is paid by participants who specifically request single accommodations and is subject to availability. If you are traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, we will try to match you with a roommate of the same gender. However, if a roommate is not available, the published solo rate will be charged. Upon confirming your reservation you will be required to pay the published Solo Rate, if we are able to pair you with a roommate, the applicable difference will be refunded at the time that the final trip payment is due for all participants. Please note that solo accommodations are limited and cannot always be guaranteed throughout. For our full set of Terms & Conditions, please visit our web site at www.apex-expeditions.com/about/terms-conditions/

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Reservation Form

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Person 1: (Primary Contact)
Passport Name:

Preferred Name:
Date of Birth:
Email Address:

Mailing Details:
Address:
City: State: ZIP Code: Country:
Home Phone: Mobile Phone:

Double  Solo

Person 2: (If applicable and at same address, otherwise please submit a second Reservation Form.)
Passport Name:
Preferred Name:
Date of Birth:
Email Address:

Deposit Information:
My deposit check is enclosed (20% of total tour fare)
Charge my deposit to my: VISA  MasterCard  American Express
Card #: Expires: CCV Code:
Name on Card:
Signature:

Please return this completed form to Apex Expeditions.
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