

Experience Namibia by Motorbike

Dear Rotarian Bikers and Africa Enthusiasts,

Our first tour of Namibia aroused a lot of interest, but not everyone could manage the date. AND what's even more inspiring, some participants of that tour enjoyed it so much that they are clamouring for another one, even though not everyone who took part in the March/April 2008 tour could claim that they escaped Namibian soil without a scratch (gravel, asphalt, some sand).

So, in October 2010 we're heading off on a second tour which is designed to avoid covering the same ground as the first tour as much as possible. But of course, there are some places that are really worth a second visit. Some of the lodges are fabulous, and we'll be spending an extra day at some of the more beautiful places.

There will be meetings with Namibian Rotary Clubs and we have already contacted Club presidents.

We invite all our Australian friends to participate in this travel !!!!

We will be riding Yamaha 660s that have been specially modified for these tours. The luggage will be transported in one or two jeeps, depending on the number of participants. That means that there will be room for either three or six ladies to accompany the tour. If the longer interval comes off, the first one or two days are for **exercises in gravel conditions!**

The cost of the 17 day (or 19 day) tour (14.10.2010 (12.10.2010) – 31.10.2010) will be about €3.000 twin share, **not** including flights, drinks and fuel (about €8 per day).

The price for those accompanying the tour will be about €2.600. The final price will depend on the exchange rate at the time.

Gravel-Travel Conditions of Travel apply (www.gravel-travel.de) (there is a [English version available](#))

So that we have adequate time for planning we need to receive your expressions of interest by 31.10.2009. **The closing date for registrations is 31.3.2010.** Some of the lodges are in fantastic locations, but their capacity is not unlimited!!!

I am open to all of your questions and suggestions. A description of the route will be up on the net as soon as all possibilities have been explored. A tentative itinerary is attached to this email.

I wish us all an unforgettable experience!!!

Rotarian Biker greetings,

Your

Stefan Frick

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English itinerary

Dear Stefan,
finally I can send you the itinerary for our tour in October 2010... I hope you like it , the total distance will be 4130 km...

day 1 : arrival in Windhoek International Airport, transfer to our Gravel Travel Lodge. Like last time we will have a brunch there, followed by an intensive briefing and introduction in the bikes and GPS systems and a short introduction round (around 90 km). In the evening we have our "traditional" bushman fondue.

day 2: the first stage goes through the Khomas Highlands via Nauchas to the Spreetshoogte pass with its spectacular view point over the Namib desert. After going down the quite steep pass we reach the small petrol station Solitaire which is world famous for its apple pie... Our destination is the new build Hoodia Desert Camp (same owner as Hammerstein Lodge) which is situated at the banks of the big Tsauchab river (only seasonable running) in a very beautiful scenery.
320 km

day 3: along the border to the Namib we are heading south through very beautiful landscapes. Via Zaris pass we reach Duwisib Castle which was build by german Baron von Wolf with his american wife around 100 years ago. After the visit we ride along the Tiras mountains in southern direction and will reach the small farmtown Helmeringhausen. We stay over in the Helmeringhausen Hotel. Usually the dinner is served outside under the clear sky where we will feel the real namibian spirit...
280 km (http://www.helmeringhausen.com/index_d.html)

day 4: today the roads are wide and straight gravel roads...easy to ride but with beautiful landscape. Our destination is the Canyon Lodge close to the Fishriver Canyon (the 2. largest after the Grand Canyon) which we will have a look at before.
290 km (<http://www.resafrica.net/canyon-lodge.de/>)

day 5: the most beautiful road along the Orange river is part of todays stage...but to get there we have to go around the whole Canyon. This will make the day quite long but believe me: its worth every km...200km beautiful gravel road and 300 km tar road we have to ride...the landscape is still impressive the whole day. 10 kms before Lüderitz we will visit the small ghost town Kolmanskop, an old abandoned german diamond mine which is very interesting to see because most of the houses are still in a good condition and we can get a good idea of how people lived and thought at that time. In Lüderitz we stay at the Nesthotel which is built on a small peninsula so that every room has seaview...
500 km (<http://www.nesthotel.com/homegerman.html>)

day 6: there is only one road to Lüderitz , so we have to go back on the tar road for 120 km before we reach the gravel road into the desert. The red dunes on the one side and the Tiras Mountains on the other side this road is one of the most beautiful on the whole trip. The surface is sometimes a bit sandy but most of the time not too soft...Our destination for today is the Sossusvlei Lodge, a unique luxury place at the entrance gate to Sossusvlei and the highest dunes in the world...
(<http://www.sossusvleilodge.com/>)

day 7: very early this morning we have to start to see the beautiful sunrise with spectacular shades in the dunes. We go to Sossusvlei and have breakfast there under one of a few shade trees. From there we go on in northern direction always along the Namib desert through Gaub pass and Kuisib pass.

Our overnight place today is Kobo Kobo Hills and most of our customers call it the most beautiful lodge on the whole trip...
370km (230 gravel and 140 tarred roads) (<http://www.kobokobo.com.na/>)

day 8 and 9: this morning we can start a bit later after a nice brunch. Its not a long road to the coast to Swakopmund the small german originated town. Here its much cooler because of the cold Benguela current and there is many things to do and to see, like boat tours, quadbiking in the dunes, museums, restaurants and also a meeting with the local Rotary's between Walvis Bay and Swakopmund is possible
160 km

day 10: from Swakopmund we turn back into the desert...after 120 km tared road t he gravel starts again. Heading north we pass the spectacular Spitzkoppe mountain, the abandoned tin mine of Uis and reach the unique landscape of the Brandberg mountain and Damaraland. We stay at Twyfelfontein Country Lodge.
380 km (http://www.namibialodges.com/twyfelfontein_d.html)

day 11: before we go on the road again we have a short visit of the famous rock engravings and the organ pipes of burnt mountain. The road is quite short but very beautiful today. Besides the beautiful landscape of Damaraland we often see Elefants along the road. Highlight of the day is the Grootberg Lodge with its stunning view into the valley...
160 km ...(<http://www.grootberg-lodge.com/>)

day 12: todays stage has probably the most variety of the whole tour...changing landscapes, lots of animals , the warm springs of Ongongo where we will have a short swim..., the giant baobab trees, small tribal villages and the himba people will make this day unforgettable. We sleep in Opuwo in the Opuwo Country Lodge.
270 km not so far...but we will need the whole day for this
http://www.namibialodges.com/opuwo_d.html.

day 13: this day we start with a visit in a traditional himba village, where we can experience that there are other ways of living than ours...the road today is not that interesting (mostly tared) but the lodge itself is a dream. The Hobatere Lodge is situated in pure wildlife and lions and elefants are usually direct at the houses. There will be a game drive in the afternoon.
210 km (<http://www.resafrica.net/hobatere-lodge.de/>).

day 14: from Hobatere we go on tared roads and wide gravel roads direction southeast. In the afternoon we will reach the Vingerklip Lodge which got its name form the high fingershaped rock standing next to it.
241 km (http://www.vingerklip.com.na/index_d.html).

day 15: from Vingerklip we are heading more east. Our destination is the Waterberg Wilderness Lodge, which is my personal favourite...a few natural running streams are keeping the whole area green, fresh water is even running through different swimming pools and high trees are giving shade, a small green paradise in this normally so dry country. There is also a game drive in the afternoon.
260 km (http://www.waterberg-wilderness.com/wilderness_lodge.de.htm)

day 16: from the Waterberg we are heading straight south. Through wide farmland and typically straight gravel roads we get to the small "gardentown" Okahandja where we als o find a lot of traces of the german villonial time. Interesting is the namibian military museum and the big wood carvers market where you can find a lot of unique souvenirs.
322 km (<http://www.okahandjalodge.com/>).

day 17: today we go back to the Gravel Travel Lodge. The road through the mountains offers again some amazing views and is a good final experience of this wide country
220 km

day 18: this day is for either just relaxing at the pool or a visit to the city of Windhoek before the flight departs in the evening

Our bikes are Yamaha XT 660 and XT 660 Tenere. The choice can be made on the arrival day. The engines of the two bikes are the same but the chassis are different, the Tenere is much higher and a bit heavier. All bikes are equipped with preprogrammed GPS systems.

greetings from

Ralf