

Abercrombie & Kent  
SOUTHERN AFRICA



Day Tours & Experiences  
NAMIBIA



#### SOSSUSVLEI HOT AIR BALLOONING

As the sun's first rays peek over scarlet sand dunes, the hot air balloon drifts slowly upward, revealing the undulating landscapes of Sossusvlei. The adventure begins before sunrise when you are collected from your accommodation, and driven to the take-off area. Once the balloon is airborne you drift silently over the desert for about an hour, where the views of the Namib Desert are exceptional.

#### SOSSUSVLEI SAND DUNE EXCURSIONS

Enter the Namib-Naukluft Park at sunrise, while the temperature is mild and the dune contrasts are at their best. Travel in one of the all-terrain URI game viewer vehicles, custom-built in Namibia with your own specially-trained guide who will share all his knowledge of the area, animals and plant life. At Dune 45, the more energetic have the opportunity to climb to the upper ridge of the world's most -photographed dune. Guests are able to spend time in Sossusvlei before returning to their lodge. Other excursions in the area include a trip to Sesriem Canyon and Elim Dune.



Our selection of day tours and experiences encompass a wide selection of full day and half day excursions from areas around Namibia. These excursions allow guests to fully customise their tour to suit their individual interests. We recognise our guests seek real experiences and a depth of understanding that expands their full appreciation of their chosen destination.



#### HORSE RIDING SAFARIS

The horse-back riding offered can be tailored to suit each guests' riding ability. There are sunrise and sunset options, each of which lasts three to four hours. End the experience with refreshing drinks and delicious snacks.

The horses range from gentle souls to more lively rides, once again dependant on each client's level of experience. For the more adventurous of spirit, a night under the stars with softly burring horses should be on everyone's bucket list.





### MARINE CRUISE

Depart from the Walvis Bay Yacht Club and cruise into the beautiful and sheltered bay area, home to a shipwreck, lighthouse, oyster platforms, different bird species, seals and an abundance of marine life to mention a few.

The Catamaran will move along the oyster platforms where your guide will share more information about Walvis Bay's own cultivated oysters, delicacies which you will later get to taste. The journey proceeds to the ever-growing Pelican Point for a closer look at the lighthouse and resident seal colony. The old supply railway spoors can still be seen from the years when the lighthouse was occupied by the coast guards.

Moving around the point, a variety of marine life may be encountered, these include Benguela Dolphins, Dusky Dolphins, Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins, Mola Mola (Sunfish) and Leatherback Turtles. Enjoy the array of sights and sounds whilst relaxing in the saloon, on the trampolines or on the deck with a glass of sparkling wine, local oysters and delicious snacks and drinks.



### NIGHT DESERT WALK

Enjoy an interesting and informative night walk in the Swakop River Valley, which focuses on the nocturnal reptiles and insects of the Namib Desert.

Late afternoon you will be collected at your hotel by your representative to depart on a night walk to the Namib's gravel plains where you will be shown the desert adapted night life concentrating on species of Geckos, Spiders, Gerbils and Scorpions.

During the day the desert looks inhospitable, unfriendly, devoid of any animal life, but once the sun sets, the sand turns into a playground for all kinds of animals. Most of the creatures in the Namib are nocturnal and can be observed only after dark.

The night walk offers a glimpse into the nocturnal theatre of this unique eco-system. After dark the seemingly barren Namib gravel plains come to life. The walks provide an amazing educational experience of the little seen nocturnal creatures.





### SANDWICH HARBOUR DAY TOUR

The Sandwich Harbour begins when you are collected from your hotel in the morning. Enjoy a drive along a beautiful dune chain adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean, zigzagging the original railway line between Swakopmund and Walvis Bay.

This is an opportunity for a detailed look at the formation of 'the world's oldest desert' - its origins, its composition and its movements. Your first stop is at 'Bird Rock' - a guano island inhabited by about 200 000 birds and one of the first examples of man's efforts to utilize the rich natural resources of the area.

The Lagoons at Walvis Bay and Sandwich Harbour have been declared 'Wetlands of International Importance', while the 'Bird Paradise' at Walvis Bay is also a key nesting and feeding site for thousands of visiting and resident birds. A recent bird survey, counted record numbers of Flamingo, Plover and Tern between Walvis Bay Lagoon and Sandwich Harbour. Pelican, Avocet, Turnstone and a huge variety of waders can also be seen, with numbers peaking at around 170 000 in November. Several endemic species, such as the Dune Lark and the Damara Tern, are also in the vicinity.

Leaving Walvis Bay behind, you head for the lower reaches of the Kuiseb Delta. This unique ecosystem is dotted with archaeological sites, 450 year-old animal tracks, wind blown graves and magnificent dunes. There is evidence of ancient and recent gathering, harvesting and trading by the Topnaar, an indigenous Namibian community descended from the Khoi group, which relies on the naturally occurring Nara fruit for survival.



Turning south, you begin the approach to Sandwich Harbour. This crosses barren salt pans and vegetation covered hummock dunes, which shelter small groups of Springbok, Ostrich, Jackal and the occasional Brown Hyena. Peregrine Falcons, Pale Chanting Goshawks and Black-breasted Snake Eagles can sometimes be seen hunting small mammals (such as gerbils and three-striped-mice) which share the dunes with a fascinating variety of desert-adapted insects, reptiles and plants.

This section of the journey is as dramatic as the landscape, and it soon becomes clear why Sandwich Harbour is often described as inaccessible! Spring tides and shifting sands ensure an unpredictable route, but as you approach the towering, wind-sculptured dunes at the edge of Sandwich Harbour, there is a sense of entering a different world.

All that is left of the old whaling station and its community of traders and fishermen, is the freshwater lagoon, a solitary deserted building and the strange greenery of this unique coastal wetland. This is the setting for your picnic - a large hamper full of homemade cakes, savouries, salads, fruit and drinks - and a spot of bird watching. Some 40 000 birds, 34 different species, have been recorded in this area. Enjoy a leisurely walk around the Lagoon, which is also an official marine sanctuary where you may spot seals, dolphins and even whales, before heading back to your hotel.

### NEURAS WINE AND WILDLIFE ESTATE

In the local Khoikhoi language, Neuras means the "place of abandoned water". The wine estate owes its early existence as a farm to the presence of several crystal clear cold water springs and dates back to 1894.

Activities at Neuras are ideal for wildlife enthusiasts, geologists, hikers, wine connoisseurs, or those looking to get away from it all and absorb the tranquil seclusion and peacefulness of nature. Enjoy wine tours through the vineyard and cellar followed by wine tasting paired with a delicious cheese platter.

As a volunteer, a stay at Neuras Estate will include active participation in the conservation efforts to restore the land to its original beauty, track wild carnivores, research free-roaming wildlife and at the right time of the year, even help out in the vineyard and of course enjoy a glass or two!

