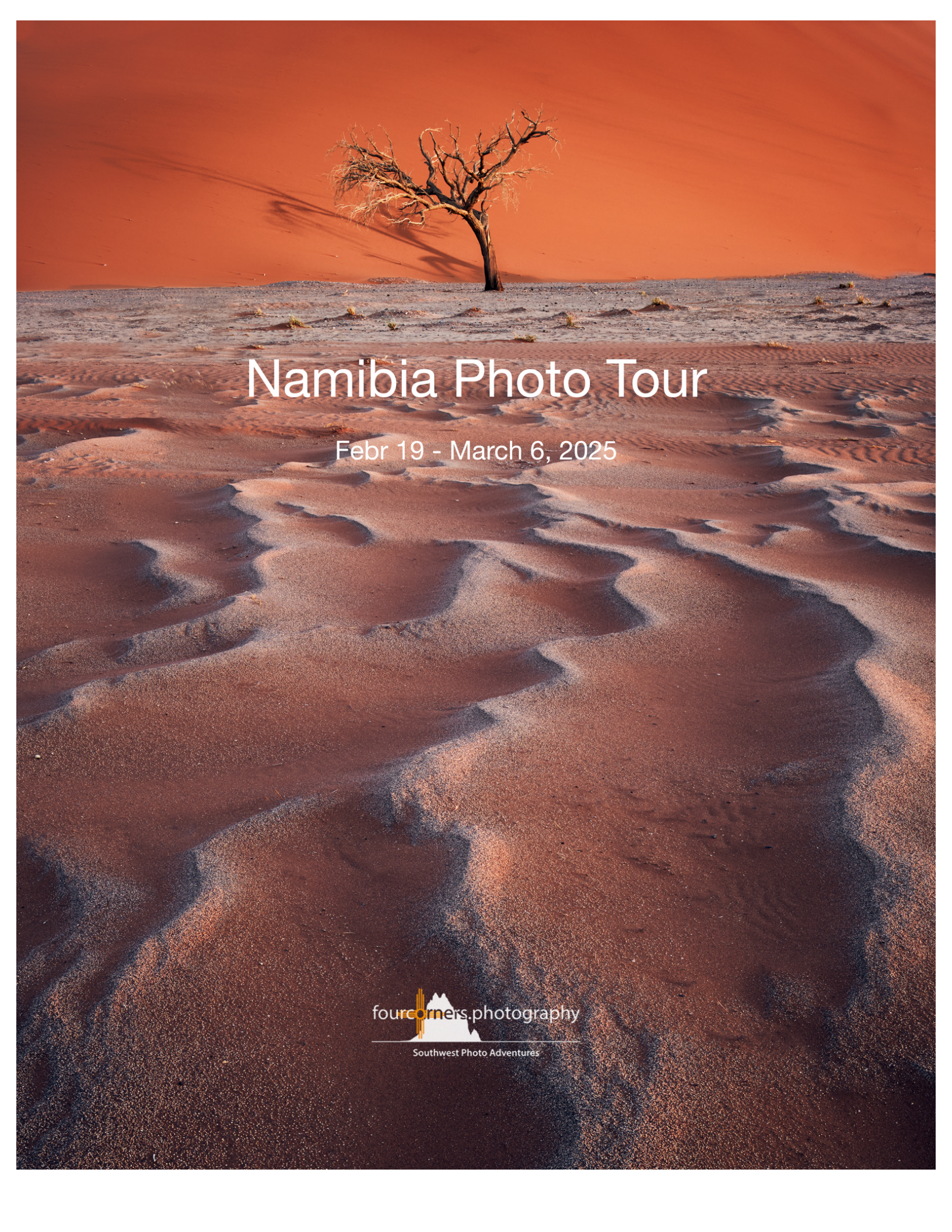




Namibia Photo Tour

Febr 19 - March 6, 2025

Hi Rand,

Here you will find information to prepare yourself for your upcoming trip February 19 – March 6, 2025. Please look through all links. Read them carefully! we tried to anticipate all possible questions, but please, do not hesitate contacting us with any remaining questions. You can call or text Peter (559-860-8034), or just send us an email.

Make sure you print the liability waiver and sign it. You will have to hand it over to us at the beginning of your photo tour. Ideally, sent it to me through mail when you are paying the remaining tuition fee by 12/19/2024.

- Itinerary
- Accommodations
- Meals
- Clothing and Apparel
- Photographic gear
- Travel insurance
- Liability waiver
- Frequently asked questions
- Financial

1. ITINERARY

QUICK OVERVIEW

Wednesday, 2/19	Arrival in Windhoek, Tenbergen Hotel Pension
Thursday, 2/20	Otjiwa Safari Lodge
Friday, 2/21	Namutoni, Etosha National Park
Saturday, 2/22	Okaukuejo, Etosha NP
Sunday, 2/23	Okaukuejo, Etosha NP
Monday, 2/24	Swakopmund
Tuesday, 2/25	Sandwich Bay, Walvis Bay
Wednesday, 2/26	Sesriem, Namib Naukluft National Park
Thursday, 2/27	Sesriem, Namib Naukluft National Park
Friday, 2/28	Sesriem, Namib Naukluft National Park
Saturday, 3/1	Aus
Sunday, 3/2	Lüderitz
Monday, 3/3	Lüderitz
Tuesday, 3/4	Mesosaurus Fossil Camp
Wednesday, 3/5	Windhoek, Tenbergen Hotel Pension
Thursday, 3/6	Windhoek, Departure

DETAILED OVERVIEW

Day 1 – Arrival at Windhoek Airport

On our first day of the Namibia Photography Tour we will meet at the airport and take you to our hotel in Windhoek. The first day is to relax, take in your first African impressions in the capital of Namibia, going over our itinerary, questions and concerns. If need is, we might go to a supermarket to buy some details for our trip. The day concludes with dinner at a special Namibian barbecue restaurant.

Drive airport to hotel: 45km, 40min

Day 2 – Otjiwa Safari Lodge

Your first full day in Namibia kicks off with a breakfast at our hotel, after which we will hit the road towards our first destination – Otjiwa Safari Lodge. It will be an easy drive through some typical Namibian Grand Escarpment landscape. At arrival to the lodge you will have time to refresh and rest from the drive. In the late afternoon you will have your first adventure with a safari drive in search of rhinos, antelopes, giraffes.

Drive Windhoek to Otjiwa Safari Lodge: 220km, 2h 15min

Day 3 through 5 – Etosha National Park

We start the morning with a lavish breakfast after which we head to Namutoni, our first lodge at Etosha National Park.

Etosha is in northwestern Namibia and one of the largest national parks in Africa. It was proclaimed a game reserve in 1907 and was elevated to the status of a national park in 1967. It gets its name from the large Etosha pan which is almost entirely within the park. The national park is home to hundreds of species of mammals, birds and reptiles, including several threatened and endangered species such as the black rhinoceros.

We will do a photographic safari here for the next three days. Expect to see baboons, elephants, zebras, giraffes, rhinos, hyenas, jackals, lions, various sorts of antelopes, just to name some of the many animals.

Our first overnight stay in Etosha will be at the most east located lodge, Namutoni, while the second and third night will be at the central south located Okaukuejo lodge. The latter has a big water pool which attracts wildlife during the night, early and late hours of the day. Providing great photo ops.

Day 6 – Himba Village & Swakopmund

We leave now Etosha with its abundant wildlife behind and head towards the cooler coast area. On our drive to Swakopmund we will have a stop at the little Himba village to get to know some of these originally Namibian inhabitants.

Our adventure take us now, via Zeila Shipwreck, to Swakopmund. A complete different setting will be met here. Experience now cooler temperatures, see marine wildlife and witness the desert meeting the Atlantic Ocean.

Drive Etosha to Swakopmund: 520km, 6h

Day 7 – Walvis Bay and Sandwich Bay Harbour

The day starts with an early breakfast to then join our tour guides who will take us along the sea salt mining company of Walvis Bay, driving then on the beach and meeting skittish sea wildlife and finally to be impressed by the desert with its huge sand dunes meeting the sea. It will be an adventurous experience driving along treacherous sand with crushing waves on one side and sand dunes on the other. The Skeleton Coast offers here a very unique sea and desert experience.

At the end of the day we will be back in Walvis Bay.

Drive Swakopmund to Walvis Bay: 60km, 40min

Days 8 through 10 – Sesriem

We leave the cooling temperatures of Walvis Bay and journey through barren and yet beautiful landscape to Naukluft Namibia National Park which is one of Namibia's most spectacular landmarks.

Once checked in to our lodge we will press on and drive down the valley to see the last sunlight of the day setting the dunes in colorful flames.

We are almost half through our tour and you are hopefully used to getting out of bed early morning as this particular morning will be our earliest one to get up. We have to drive to the end of the Sossusvlei road, drive a last stretch through deep sand and have a short hike to then enter famous Deadvlei. Here we will find 700 years old dead camel thorn trees reaching out a white flat pan, surrounded by red sand dunes. Photographing sunrise here will be the climax of the tour!

Deadvlei is such a unique and iconic area that it deserves a second visit or if you prefer an optional scenic helicopter flight or hot air balloon ride over Sossusvlei in the early morning. A helicopter ride can also be an option towards the end of the day as the low sunlight provides magnificent contrast in the dunes and creating wonderful textures in the landscape laying underneath.

Drive Walvis Bay to Sesriem: 320 km, 5h

Days 11 – Aus

We will get up early before dawn for a sunrise photo session. Our aim will be to catch the first rays of golden light on the sand dunes of Sossusvlei. Once finished we will continue with our journey to the minuscule town of Aus.

After our checking in to our hotel we will go in search of the feral horses and explore an

abandoned train station at late afternoon. The very same train station will be visited again in the night for astrophotography.

Drive Sesriem to Aus: 330 km, 6h 10min

Days 12 and 13 – Lüderitz

The following day we have a short drive to Lüderitz, a port city in southern Namibia, home of the close by diamond mining ghost town of Kolmanskop. This was once where the Namibian diamond boom started in 1908. It became one of the wealthiest towns in the world despite its isolated location, including a tram, ice making factory and a hospital with the first X-Ray machine in the Southern Hemisphere. The town was abandoned in 1956 and left for nature to reclaim it. The interior of the abandoned houses display an array of vivid colors and textures which contrast beautifully with the sand dunes invading the privacy.

We will stay two overnights in Lüderitz giving us enough time to photograph Kolmanskop with various light conditions and discover the charm and diversity of the rooms of this once thriving mine town.

Drive Aus to Lüderitz: 110 km, 1h 30min

Day 14 – Quiver Tree Forest

As soon as we finish our photography morning session in Kolmanskop we will get in our 4x4's and head to Keetmanshoop and from there to the nearby located Quiver Tree Forest. Quiver trees are actually, despite their size not really trees, but huge aloe plants. These trees are scattered among basalt boulders and with the right light the setting provides incredible photogenic impressions. For those who still did not have enough with the day can go out and do astrophotography during the night.

Drive Lüderitz to Mesosaurus Fossil Camp: 380km, 4h

Day 15 – Windhoek

The day starts with astrophotography followed by sunrise over the hills of the Quiver Tree Forest. Enjoy the last moments of being out in the wild Namibian countryside with the warmth of the sun.

A breakfast awaits us at our chalets to then starting a long drive back to our starting point of our tour – Windhoek.

Drive Mesosaurus to Windhoek: 550 km, 5h 40 min

Day 16 – Windhoek

This is the last day of our tour. We will have a slow start of the day with breakfast after which you have the day to pack up, do some souvenir shopping in Windhoek.

Finally our shuttle service is to take us back to the airport and we will say goodbye. You will be going back home with wonderful memories and remarkable images waiting to be downloaded onto your hard drive, skillfully post processed and printed to finally hang on your walls at home.

2. Accommodations

Namibia's hotels, lodges, guesthouses, bed & breakfasts are without exception fairly clean and safe! We are staying at places that I have been before and I know exactly what to expect from them. They all have en-suite shower or bathroom. You will not have to bring any own towels with you on the trip.

Our guesthouses in the towns Windhoek, Lüderitz and Walvis Bay are rated 4.1, 4.3 and 3.8 stars respectively. The chalets of the lodges at Sesriem and Spitzkoppe are rated 4.1 and 4.6 stars. Our most simple accommodation of all, at the rustic chalets of Mesosaurus Fossil Camp, is rated with a whopping 5 stars!

The chalets at Mesosaurus Fossil Camp and the lodges at Sesriem and Spitzkoppe do not have any air-conditioning. Please be prepared for a warm night.

I am sure we have a very good selection and I hope you will feel spoiled. All of our accommodations have breakfast included and these are not to be compared at all with what we get in the US and is called continental breakfast. The breakfast is generally very good, abundant and with great variety!

All accommodations have electricity. You will need a South African plug adapter to connect and load up your electronic gear. Have a look at Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=south+africa+plug+adapter&ref=nb_sb_noss. Electricity in Namibia is **220 Volts**, alternating at 50 cycles per second. If you have a device that does not accept 220 Volts at 50 Hertz, you will need a voltage converter.

3. Meals

All breakfasts and dinners are included in the price of the photo tour. Breakfast will be at our guesthouses and lodges. Some of the dinners are at our accommodations, and when not I will take the group out to places well known to me. If you opt to have your own dinner at some place of your own choice you will be responsible for the payment of it.

There is only one lunch included in the tour. This exception is when we are going on a tour to Sandwich Harbour. The organization which is taking us there will spoil us in the desert with a great lunch. All other days you will have to organize it yourself. As most of the time we will be either on the road during lunch time I recommend you to get snacks to be taken while we are driving from "A" to "B". We will not have too many opportunities for groceries. I will give you instructions when and where to buy your snacks.

Alcoholic beverages are not included in the price of the photo tour. You will be responsible to pay for all your drinks throughout the entire trip. You are also responsible for leaving tips at restaurants, lodges and guesthouses and in particular for Johannes, our guide, during Etosha NP and the Himba village.

If service at the restaurant was good a 10% tip (local currency) is an adequate amount. For Johannes the tip should be USD 40.

4. Clothing & Apparel

Expected weather conditions for February 19 – March 6, 2025:

In most parts of the country, average daylight temperatures are between 65 – 95 °F. Higher-altitude locales, such as the capital of Windhoek, get a bit cooler, and desert temperatures drop overnight to as low 55-60°F. The Namibian coast is always cooler than inland, and winters are particularly foggy along the Skeleton Coast. Bring warm clothes, early mornings can be cold.

Chance of rain is difficult to foresee. We will be visiting Namibia during monsoon time, but that does not mean a lot for an arid country such as Namibia. Bring your rain gear with you anyway.

Clothing Kit

Underwear & socks
1 fleece or jumper
2 pairs of shorts
1 pair of pants
Nightwear
5-7 shirts
1 long sleeved shirt
Swimming wear
1 pair of sandals/ flip flops
Walking shoes or thorn proof boots
1 pair of flat shoes
1 casual outfit for evening
Sun hat and sunglasses
Light rain gear
Wash bag

Other Kit

Antihistamine tablets
Sun cream (high factor)
Personal medical kit
Wet wipes
Sewing kit
1 head lamp
Credit card
Driver license
Passport
Day pack
Insurance documents
Plug adapter

Laundry

Most lodges and guesthouses have laundry facilities. Some properties charge a nominal fee for this (some do it for free). As laundry in lodges is generally done by hand, it is better you wash your underwear yourself.

Luggage

My recommendations are that you take one soft bag per person. Hard shell suitcases are difficult to store and take up too much space. Try to restrict yourself to a maximum of one 35 lbs bag per person, which should be more than adequate.

Remember not to pack any items of value or any medications in your checked-in luggage, always out these on your carry-on luggage. The same applies to your money and all your documents.

5. Photographic Gear

The gear that you have also reflects the type of photography you want to shoot. Take the following list as recommendations based on what and how I create my own images:

1- Starting with the obvious: A (dSLR) camera with at least one lens.

2- Batteries: Backup batteries can never be enough. You can upload your batteries in your rental truck or at the lodge/ guesthouse. Be aware that you might need a 12V plug for the car and an adapter for Namibian sockets.

3- Lenses: A selection from wide angle all the way through large focal lens will give you ample compositional possibilities. Zoom or prime, it doesn't matter.

4- Tripod: My own belief is ... the bigger the better.

5- Remote control: To minimize tremor to the camera and for long exposure images.

6- Filters: Circular polarizing filter, ND grad filters.

7- Backpack: Protect and carry around all your gear through some very rugged terrain.

8- Drone: Most areas do not allow drones. These will be clearly marked and otherwise I recommend just common sense in using these utterly loud and intrusive flying objects.

6. Travel Insurance

In order to participate in a photography tour or workshop you are required to have comprehensive insurance coverage for personal accident and injury, medical and repatriation costs during the photography tour. In addition we strongly recommend that you arrange cancellation and travel insurance covering the loss, expenses and damages arising from, including but not limited to, cancellation of the photography tour or workshop (whether in whole or in part), loss of baggage and personal money and belongings, as well as flight cancellations and delays.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your travel insurance covers you for ALL aspects of your tour.

You must ensure that your insurance covers you for medical evacuation and repatriation, both internationally and locally.

Carry your insurance detail with you all times.

Be advised that this is a mandatory item according to the **Terms and Conditions** you accepted when you did your deposit. We will request a copy of your travel insurance prior to the trip. We cannot let anyone participate on this tour who does not have proof of an insurance. Please send us a copy of your insurance attached to the liability of waiver by 12/19/2024.



Waiver of Liability

(Required for attendance to photography tours and workshops)

By joining this photo tour I hereby unconditionally and irrevocably release, quit and forever discharge Peter Boehringer and successors, heirs, beneficiaries and assigns for, from and against any and all rights, claims, obligations, actions, causes of actions, suits, demands, costs, expenses, damages to persons or property, injuries, losses, delays, mishaps, expenses thereof associated with photography tour or workshop participation or other occurrences, including, without limitation, attorney's fees (collectively "Claims"), arising out of or resulting from my attendance and participation in the course of the photography tour or workshop or in transit thereto. I shall indemnify, defend and hold Peter Boehringer harmless for, from and, against any and all Claims.

As there is always an element of risk in any adventure associated with the outdoors, participants must read this form carefully. This liability release will certify that the participant is physically and mentally fit and capable of participating in outdoor photography exercises in field locations, and is fully and completely aware of any associated risks created by field locations and weather. I reserve the right to change our arrangements and itinerary should conditions necessitate, or to cancel any aspect of the photo tour due to exceptional circumstances.

By joining this photography tour or workshop I acknowledge that I have read the above information concerning responsibility and release Peter Boehringer from any liability against any and all Claims. I also acknowledge that Peter Boehringer have the right to refuse service to anyone at anytime.

Your initials: _____

Your Name (Please Print): _____

Emergency contact in case you have an accident or serious health issue:

Contact person: _____ Phone #: _____

Allergies: _____

Please list any special medication that you are taking which might have some emergency character under specific circumstances:

Your Signature: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

8. Frequently Asked Questions

Money

The Namibian dollar (N\$) is divided into 100 cents. This is freely convertible in Namibia; there is no black market and no customs regulations applicable to moving it across borders. It is currently tied to the South African rand so that N\$1 = R1. Rand can be used freely in Namibia - nobody even notices. It is though, often difficult to change Namibian dollars once you leave Namibia. The contrary is also valid. Many banks overseas know only the exchange rate for rand and, and don't supply Namibian dollars, or even quote a rate for it. Buy in the US, prior to your trip, South African rand.

Cash in the form of Namibian dollars or South African rand is essential for buying small items, and in remote areas, although I have to say that I saw a great improvement over my last several trips regarding credit card acceptance. However, cash is essential for tipping when staying at lodges and restaurants.

The major credit cards (Visa and MasterCard) are widely accepted by lodges, hotels, restaurants and shops, but American Express and Diners Club cards are increasingly difficult to use. Even smaller towns have ATM's, either as part of a bank, or inside a supermarket, and withdrawing cash by this means is usually no harder than in the US.

Changing money at any commercial banks is easy, but a lengthy process. Opening hours are not as we are used in the US and smaller towns have weird schedule. You need to have your passport with you and make yourself ready to spend some 15 to 30 minutes to get it done. US\$ 100 bills are generally not accepted and bills must be in a very good condition or they will be rejected. US\$ bank notes dated before 2003 will not be accepted in Africa due to high number of forgeries.

Keep all valuables and cash well hidden. It is well worth having a small wallet for local currency that is easily accessible for shopping and a separate wallet for credit cards and foreign currency, keep them in different places.

Tipping

Tipping is a very difficult and contentious topic - worth thinking about carefully; thoughtlessly tipping too much is just as bad as tipping too little.

Helpers with baggage might expect a couple of Namibian dollars for their assistance. Restaurants will often add an automatic service charge to the bill, in which case an additional tip is not usually given. If they do not do this, then 10% would certainly be appreciated if the service was good.

If a guide has given you really good service, then a tip of about N\$150 (US\$10) per guest per day would be a generous reflection of this. If the service hasn't been that good, then don't tip.

Phone & WiFi

Phone connection will be possible only in larger towns such as Windhoek, Lüderitz and Walvis Bay. All other places, during our trip, your phone will be off the grid.

Most guesthouses and lodges have WiFi, although not necessarily with good and fast connections and sometimes even not working at all. Better, do not count with any service!

Visa & Passport

A valid passport is required to enter Namibia. Visitors to Africa must have a passport that is valid for at least 6 months beyond your intended departure date, together with onward travel documents, proof of accommodation and sufficient funds for the duration of your stay.

A visa is required to enter Namibia for all U.S. citizens. You will obtain your tourist visa at arrival to the airport in Windhoek. You will have to fill out a form prior entering the passport control queue.

It is worth leaving copies of your itinerary, credit cards, passport, visa and insurance details with family or friends so that they can be contacted in case of emergency. An even better plan is to also email yourself copies of these important documents just in case.

Health

Some vaccines are recommended or required for Namibia. The National Travel Health Network and Center and WHO recommend the following vaccinations for Namibia: hepatitis A, hepatitis B, typhoid, cholera, yellow fever, rabies and tetanus. Recommended for most travelers to the region, especially if non vaccinated.

Yellow fever is only needed if you are entering Namibia coming from a country which has Yellow Fever. If you never were vaccinated for it, you will have to get the vaccination at least 10 days prior of entering the country that has Yellow Fever advisory.

Malaria is a risk in some parts of Namibia. We will not be even close to any of the malaria areas. You will not need any malaria prophylaxis.

Having a small first aid kit is highly recommendable.

I will be carrying around during our entire tour a GPS and GEOS SOS device to ensure our constant exact positioning and SOS signal in case of a health emergency.

Travel Safety

Namibia is, for the most part, a safe country to visit. However it does have a rather high crime rate. Crime is a serious issue in Namibia's capital Windhoek and other areas throughout Namibia. Incidents such as muggings and bag snatching happen frequently, especially in areas frequented by foreigners.

Nevertheless, Windhoek is generally friendly, but obviously don't flash your 'touristness' and your wealth about. Personally, I never had any issues in Namibia.

Always lock the vehicle up and leave in a secure place when going out or while you are shopping. This is especially important in populated areas. Always leave one of your party with the vehicle to look after it, especially in towns. Never leave cameras and valuables in view and always drive with the doors locked when in towns.

Can I drink the tap water in Namibia?

Tap water is purified in hotels, lodges and other public places so is safe to drink. If you are worried about drinking the tap water, bottled water is available to purchase throughout Namibia.

9. Financial

Here is a break down of the costs of your Namibia Photography Tour 2025. The tour price is US\$ 8,000 and includes your transfer from Hosea Kutako International Airport to our guesthouse in Windhoek and back to the airport at the end of the photo tour, the truck rental including gas and extended insurance, all lodge and guesthouse accommodations, all park entrance fees, all breakfasts and dinners. It does not include your flight to Namibia and back home from Namibia, travel and medical insurance, alcoholic beverages, drinks, snacks, lunch, tips, personal expenses, helicopter or small airplane flights and hot air balloon ride over Sesriem and other not mentioned in included.

Namibia Photo Tour, February – March 2025	8,000
Single room fee	1,900
Deposit	– 500
<u>Remaining payment</u> (to be paid by 12/19/2024)	<u>9,400</u>

Please send me a check in the value of US\$9,400 (pay to the order of: Fourcorners Photography LLC), by 12/19/2025 to:

Peter Boehringer
8 Road 5336
Farmington, NM 87401,

or pay via Zelle to peter@boehringerphotography.com,

or wire to:

Bank of America Routing Transit Number 026009593
My account number: 439010216413
BIC BOFAUS3NXXX
Fourcorners Photography LLC, Peter Boehringer, 8 Road 5336, Farmington, NM 87401.

10. Your Notes

