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SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

The Best of Botswana and Namibia
for the San Diego Natural History Museum



Traveling in August 2014

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Join the San Diego Natural History Museum and Dr. Michael Hager on a dream safari in Botswana and Namibia. This is an inspired - and inspiring - combination offering Africa's finest and most unspoiled wildlife destination teeming with game alongside Namibia's hauntingly beautiful untamed country.

From the Okavango Delta to the famed red sand dunes of Sossusvlei, this is a safari of breathtaking landscapes and awe inspiring creatures. We'll visit varied habitats, stay in small authentic camps, see a wealth of diverse flora and fauna and watch the interplay of predator and prey as nature's mysteries unfold before our eyes.

You'll begin in Botswana's Chobe Linyanti area. Undoubtedly one of Africa's most beautiful rivers, the Chobe supports a diversity and concentration of wildlife unparalleled anywhere else in the country. Vast herds of elephant bathe and play in the waters where they rub shoulders with thousands of buffalo. Waterbuck, lechwe, puku, giraffe, kudu, roan, sable, impala, warthog, bushbuck, monkeys and baboons, along with lion, leopard, hyena and jackal are found here along with more than 450 bird species.

On to the famed Okavango Delta, one of the most sought after wildlife destinations in the world. Here, visitor numbers are strictly controlled and the heart-stopping excitement of big game viewing is heightened by the supreme tranquility and serenity of an untouched delta. Home to too many species to list, the Delta and nearby Moremi Game Reserve with their meandering palm and papyrus fringed waterways, reveal the many facets of this unique ecosystem, the largest intact inland delta in the world.

From Botswana, you'll fly to Namibia where the scenery takes center stage. Begin in the Namib Naukluft where the oldest desert in the world is arguably the most beautiful. The ever changing colors of this landscape shift from pink to dark red to gold throughout the day. You'll see the towering horseshoe of 1,000 foot dunes at Sossusvlei and the famed Skeleton Coast strewn with bleached whalebones and ancient shipwrecks as you explore in the company of your expert guides. Desert adapted wildlife like oryx, springbok, jackal, ostrich and birds of prey await.

Your final stop is the coastal colonial German outpost of Swakopmund where culture and wildlife are back on the menu (along with some rather tasty local cuisine). Here, the Atlantic Coast shelters Cape Fur Seals, dolphin and impressive pelagic birds, while the living desert including the Moon Landscape of Damara Granites and millennium old Welwitschia plants is a revelation.

Your expert guides will interpret all these experiences bringing the natural history and eco-systems into vivid relief for you, but the thrill of discovery is yours alone. You'll stay in top notch accommodation throughout what is truly a once in a lifetime safari.

We hope you will join us.

Summary of Arrangements

Date	Activity
Thursday, 21 August	Arrive Maun, Botswana
	Fly Maun to Saile
	Linyanti Bush Camp - 3 nights
Sunday, 24 August	Fly Saile to Kanana
	Kanana Camp - 3 nights
Wednesday, 27 August	Fly Kanana to Maun
	Fly Private Charter Maun to Windhoek
	Galton House - 1 night
Thursday, 28 August	Sossus Dune Lodge - 2 nights
Saturday, 30 August	Fly Private Charter Sossusvlei to Swakopmund
	Hansa Hotel - 2 nights
Monday, 01 September	Depart Windhoek

Thursday, 21 August 2014

Arrive Maun, Botswana

Today you will arrive into Maun, Botswana via Johannesburg, South Africa.

You will be making your own arrangements for international air travel though we are happy to recommend a flight consultant or the best routes. Kindly advise us of your flight itinerary once confirmed so that we can arrange transfers for you.

Fly Maun to Saile

As you disembark the plane you will be met and assisted through immigration formalities and with collecting your luggage. You will then be guided to board your hour long charter light aircraft flight to the Saile airstrip in the Chobe Linyanti Region.

Linyanti Bush Camp - 3 nights - Full Board

On arrival at the airstrip you will be met by your drivers who will transfer you by way of a one hour drive to Linyanti Bush Camp, ideally located to take advantage of the spectacular wildlife in the Chobe Linyanti region.

Chobe has some of Botswana's largest herds of elephant, thronging in their hundreds to spray and play in the shallows, while huge numbers of buffalo lumber through the dust. One of Botswana's most diverse regions, the wildlife sightings here come thick and fast. A fantastic marsh habitat is found upstream where the Chobe River becomes the Linyanti, with red lechwe and sitatunga splashing past huge basking crocodiles. This is one of Botswana's richest areas for birdwatching, with more than 450 species to spot.

You will stay at Linyanti for three nights on a full board basis to include all meals, drinks (excluding premium brands), laundry, and scheduled games activities.



Linyanti Bush Camp is situated in a private concession outside the border of Chobe National Park and is on the banks of the Linyanti Marsh. The camp is situated between the teak forests of the Chobe area and the Linyanti River with its massive swamps beyond, providing an ideal location for some excellent wildlife viewing in peaceful surroundings.

Linyanti Bush Camp is an authentic traditional safari camp with just six large tents, each with an en-suite bathroom with a flush toilet and shower. The tents have simple but smart furnishings, and offer great comfort and excellent views over the River and the swamps. The camp also has a small pool and a central mess tent with a comfortable library. Meals are mostly eaten outside, but can be taken in the mess tent if needed.

Linyanti Bush Camp offers game viewing with excellent guiding on day and night game drives, walking safaris, mokoro trips, boat cruises. Guests can also take advantage of some cleverly located hides. This area is best known for its large herds of elephants especially in the dry season when the Linyanti Swamps are an essential source of water in a dry region. Other animals include buffalo, zebra, lion, leopard, cheetah, wild dog, giraffe, eland, gemsbok, sable, hippo, hyena and various other nocturnal species.



Sunday, 24 August 2014

Fly Saile to Kanana

Today, at a time to be advised, you will be transferred to the Saile airstrip in time for your one hour light aircraft flight to Kanana in the south west of the Okavango Delta.

Kanana Camp - 3 nights - Full Board

On arrival you will be met and transferred to Kanana Camp situated in a private concession in the south west region of the Okavango Delta, to the west of the Moremi Game Reserve in Botswana.

The Okavango's spreading waters attract huge concentrations of animals. The Moremi Game Reserve protects a part of the Okavango Delta, and offers some of the finest game viewing in the region – and in Africa. This is the ultimate safari destination: explore by vehicle – with a raised air-intake for driving through deeper channels – by mokoro (a traditional dug-out canoe) and on foot. Huge numbers of elephant, buffalo, lion, hippo, giraffe and zebra plus every kind of antelope you can think of are found in the Delta. A predator paradise, the Okavango is a world-famous stronghold for leopard and wild dog as well as many rare and unusual mammal and bird species.

You will spend the next three nights here on a full board basis to include all meals, local drinks (excluding premium brands), laundry and scheduled game viewing activities.



Kanana Camp is perfectly situated to take advantage of the wealth of game in the Moremi Reserve and Okavango Delta. Due to the remote location of the camp access is by light aircraft only and visitor numbers are tightly controlled. The camp is located in an area which is flooded seasonally.

The camp can accommodate just sixteen guests in eight comfortable safari tents. Each tent is raised up on stilts allowing views of the beautiful surrounding floodplain. All of the large tents have an en-suite bathroom with a shower and flush toilet, and a verandah with great views. The camp has a large central mess and lounge, as well as a pool.

As well as day and night game drives, guests may also choose to experience guided bush walks and mokoro (dug out canoe) trips. By game viewing on foot and by mokoro, you do not have the noise of the vehicle and therefore will experience the bush in its true form. Kanana is renowned for its spectacular bird-watching, with exclusive access to a huge heronry, as well as regular sightings of Pel's Fishing Owl. Other activities on offer include boat trips, fishing (seasonal) or simply relaxing by the pool.



Wednesday, 27 August 2014

Fly Kanana to Maun

Today, at a time to be advised, you will be transferred to the airstrip and will board a 20 minute light aircraft flight to Maun.

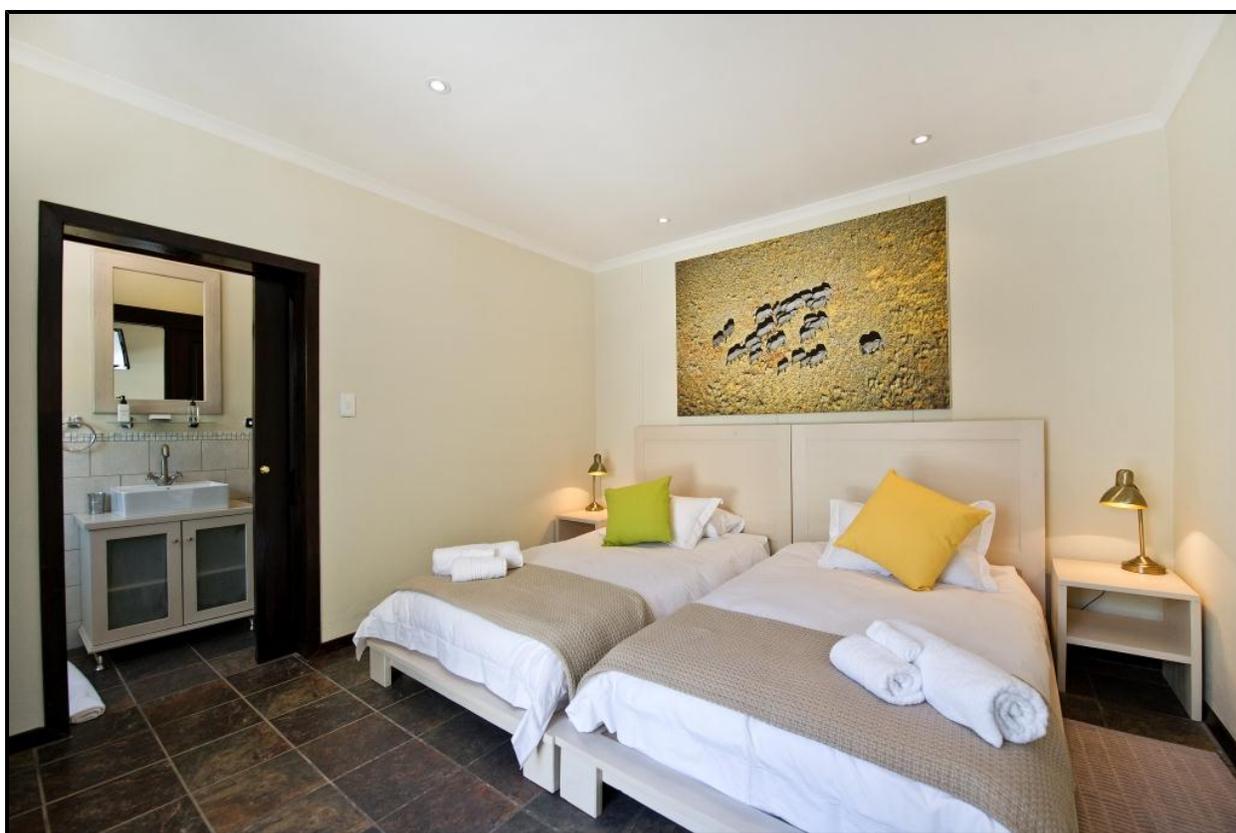
Fly Private Charter Maun to Windhoek

On arrival into Maun you will be assisted to your private charter flight to Windhoek, Namibia. This is a flight of about 45 minutes.

Galton House - 1 night - Full Board

After clearing immigration formalities and collecting your luggage, your guides will transfer you by road (this is a drive of about 45 minutes) to Galton House where you can rest and catch up on correspondence or arrange a ten minute taxi ride into the center of town to explore. If you wish, and depending on your arrival time, a snack lunch will be provided.

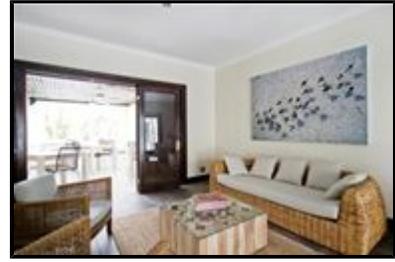
We have arranged a fun group dinner tonight. You will spend one night at Galton House on a full board basis to include your dinner tonight and breakfast the following morning as well as house wine and other local drinks with dinner.



Galton House, named after the famous explorer Sir Francis Galton, has a relaxed but efficient style which creates a very welcoming atmosphere. Just a ten minute drive from the town center and perched on the edge of Windhoek's northernmost affluent suburb of Eros, guests here can be sure of a peaceful and tranquil stay.

The eight rooms are all equipped with internet connectivity and satellite television, with a coffee/tea station available on request. The communal areas consist of a large lounge, dining room, swimming pool and garden. There is also delightful 'al fresco' dining area by the pool, where freshly prepared and very tasty meals are served.

There are a number of shops, restaurants and supermarkets within easy striking distance. Galton House is ideally located for an overnight stopover in Windhoek.



Thursday, 28 August 2014

Sossus Dune Lodge - 2 nights - Full Board

This morning you will be collected from Galton House and depart Windhoek in your safari vehicle with your personal guide, driving southwest through the scenic Khomas Hochland highlands before you head down the Great Escarpment into the Namib Desert below.

Everywhere you look in the Namib Naukluft there is a dramatic, arid beauty. There's enough condensation from cool Atlantic air to support a range of bizarre plants and life survives against the odds. In this timeless ancient landscape things change little. Even the cart-tracks left by pioneer settlers remain visible for years.

Landscapes in Namibia change with every passing minute. Through the long hours of the morning and from about four in the afternoon they take on an other-worldly beauty, strange shapes and shades standing vivid against the invariably clear blue of the Namibian sky.

You will arrive at Sossus Dune Lodge in the late afternoon where you will stay for two nights to explore the remarkable sights of the Namib Desert with your guide. If there is still time today, your guide will take you to visit Sesriem Canyon, a 30 million year old formation that serves as a fascinating geological record, or climb Elim Dune to see the sun set over the red Namib desert against the blue Naukluft Mountains.

On your second day, you will depart early for Sossusvlei with your guides arriving at the huge dunes early enough for incredible photographic opportunities. Climb the famed "Big Daddy" dune at more than 1200 feet or walk over to the Deadvlei clay pan where the skeletons of 900 year old trees stand scorching in the sun. Enjoy brunch under the shade of a camel thorn tree before returning to the Lodge.

There is interesting bird and animal life in the area including oryx, springbok, bat eared fox, jackal, ostrich, black breasted snake eagle, lappet face vultures, pale chanting goshawk and greater kestrel as well as interesting desert adapted flora.

Your stay here is on a full board basis to include all meals and local drinks (excluding premium brands).



This is the only lodge to be located within the Namib-Naukluft Park, making it perfect for a visit to the Sossusvlei Dunes. The Namibian government (NWR) own this new, up-market lodge and guests staying here are able to climb the dunes, getting to the top in time for sunrise, which is quite spectacular.

There are 25 canvas and thatch chalets here which are all linked by raised wooden walkways. Twelve are to the right of the main area and have spectacular views of the dunes, while the other twelve are to the left of the chalet and boast lovely views of the Sesriem Canyon and mountains. The main area combines a large decked area with a swimming pool, a bar and dining room as well as a large communal area for relaxing during the day.

From here, guests are able to go on Sossusvlei sunset drives, guided nature drives, a guided after-dinner stroll and stargazing, as well as guided walks to the Sesriem Canyon and Elim Dune.



Saturday, 30 August 2014

Fly Private Charter Sossusvlei to Swakopmund

After breakfast you take a scenic light aircraft charter flight up the coast, over the famed shipwrecks of Namibia's Skeleton Coast, to Swakopmund. You will arrive at the Hansa Hotel in time for a late lunch.

Hansa Hotel - 2 nights - Full Board

The next two nights will be spent at the Hansa Hotel on a full board basis to include all meals and scheduled activities. Kindly note that drinks are not included here.

This afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the town's quaint mix of European and African culture, as well as a little shopping in the vibrant markets.

On your second day you will explore the ice-blue Atlantic coast beginning at the port town of Walvis Bay where we have arranged a dolphin cruise on the outer lagoon. Squawking Cape Fur Seals and a vast array of pelagic birds make this a perfect contrast to the wildlife you will see in Botswana. After lunch, drive along the back of the coastal dunes where you will see the living desert with its unusual flora. Here, the astonishing Moon Landscape formed when Damara Granites pushed upwards through the earth's crust some 500 million years ago. Over time they eroded through the actions of the Swakop River changing it into what is known as a 'Badlands', home to an intricate lichen eco-system. You'll also see the extraordinary Welwitschia Plains where millennium old Welwitschia plants thrive in an inhospitable environment. Return for a farewell dinner to include local drinks.

The small town of Swakopmund is a little touch of Bavaria, marooned on Africa's Atlantic coast. It has evolved into Namibia's adventure capital, with a huge range of things to do. This is a town of small bakeries, grocers selling Germanic delicacies and bars providing fruit liqueurs: it's quite unlike any other town in Africa.



The grand three-star Hansa Hotel forms part of Swakopmund's architectural culture and dates back to 1905. It is said to be one of the oldest buildings in the town.

It is ideally situated in the center of Swakopmund within easy walking distance of town and the beach. The luxury of the hotel, its excellent cuisine and friendly service are well known and appreciated countrywide and overseas.



Monday, 01 September 2014

Depart Windhoek

Today you will be transferred by road, a drive of about four hours, from Swakopmund to Windhoek. Dinner tonight is at your leisure and payable direct. Your driver/guide will take you to the international airport in time to check in for your flights back to the US.

You will be making your own arrangements for international air travel though we are happy to recommend a flight consultant or the best routes. Kindly advise us of your flight itinerary once confirmed so that we can arrange transfers for you.

Pricing Details

The price per person (sharing) is \$12,555

Single rooms can be arranged on a first come, first serve basis and upon payment of an additional supplement of approximately \$7,945. However, we encourage single travelers to share with a fellow group member to avoid this charge.

Minimum group size is twelve including Dr Mick Hager.

The itinerary includes:

Internal flights (note: strict 33lbs baggage allowance per person including hand luggage)

Please be aware that scheduled light aircraft flights may make a couple of stops before reaching your destination; please let us know if you would like to know the cost of upgrading to a direct private flight

Private light aircraft charters
Passenger and airport taxes
Airport transfers
Other transfers
Accommodation and meals as stated
Drinks as stated
Laundry as stated
Activities as stated
National Park and concession fees

The itinerary excludes:

International flights
Visas
Travel insurance
Tips and gratuities
Other personal spending

If you weigh over 220lbs then you may be charged for a second seat on light aircraft flights, please let us know if this is likely to affect you.

Aardvark Vacation Prices

Unlike many other companies, we forward buy the foreign currency needed to pay for a booking at the time a trip is confirmed. Therefore, we will not apply any surcharges because of exchange rate fluctuations after receipt of your confirmation payment.

Please ask the management at Hansa Hotel if they can check you in online for your international flights 24 hours before your return.

Why Choose Aardvark Safaris?

Honest independent advice from knowledgeable and experienced Africa experts.

All of us here at Aardvark have both lived and worked in Africa. Because of this expertise, we customize first-class trips to areas we know and love. We are proud to say that we have experienced and stayed at every camp and lodge we book for clients, and maintain close relationships to some of Africa's top guides and hosts. By working with you to understand your needs and wants, we tailor safaris to meet your goals and expectations. We don't work on commission. Our only objective is to plan and provide a full itinerary with the most efficient routing to save you time and money while guaranteeing the best trip possible for you.

Vacations with financial protection.

Should we, or our suppliers, cease trading before you travel, your money is protected through the trust account we hold for each client. Your vacation payment is held until you have completed your travel, ensuring that we are able to offer you an automatic refund in the event that your trip is cancelled by us. In many instances, particularly if you book directly with companies in Africa or companies that aren't Registered Sellers of Travel, you may not get your money back if the company in question goes out of business.

We are an independently owned and operated California Registered Seller of Travel.

We don't work for anyone but you. As an independent company, we don't fill quotas or push pre-packaged trips. We are registered with the California Attorney General's Office as a Seller of Travel. That means we abide by the highest standards of care in the industry. We deposit all vacation payments received into a trust account, held until you have completed your travel. If, for any reason, there is a cancellation not in accordance with your contract, you are entitled to receive a prompt and automatic refund. Your satisfaction is our primary concern and we do everything we can to stand behind our commitment to you.

Avoid the pitfalls of booking direct with an African operator.

Your vacation is supposed to be hassle free but sometimes your dream vacation can turn into a nightmare. Booking directly, you have zero financial protection. On top of that, there should be some key questions that need to be answered before you proceed: Can you pay with a credit card? If so what are the hidden charges? If you cannot pay with a credit card, will you have to plan a money transfer at your expense? When you arrive in Africa what happens if no one is there to meet you? What if you have complaints regarding your trip, how do you arrange compensation? With other companies you can have extremely limited rights. With Aardvark, you have 100% protection. We encourage all prospective travelers to find out this information before booking their next trip to prevent unwanted hassles and headaches.

You pay no more booking through Aardvark than if you arranged the holiday yourselves.

Booking through Aardvark will cost no more than if you booked the trip directly through African companies. We are able to negotiate low prices with our suppliers that equal savings for you. Sometimes it is actually cheaper for us to plan a trip for you that it would be if you booked directly. If you do feel that we are charging more for accommodations or services than those you can find on your own, we are happy to look at the difference and see if we can remedy the situation. In addition, we can provide an overview detailing the cost of each component in your trip.

Once a trip is confirmed we will not charge you for any currency fluctuations.

As soon as you confirm your trip with an initial payment, we buy your lodging, guides, etc. in US dollars to protect you from any fluctuations in currency. The price will remain the same no matter what currency changes occur before your trip.

We are here if you need us: 24 hours 7 days a week.

Feel secure and comfortable knowing that you have emergency service available from both Aardvark and local representatives on the ground in case you encounter any difficulties while you are away. There is always someone available at Aardvark, seven days a week, 24 hours a day, to address any problems that you might encounter.

Your safety comes first.

Your peace of mind and safety are our greatest concern. We only offer trips to areas and accommodations that we've visited personally to assess their comfort level, food and hygiene. In addition, we evaluate the onsite first-aid and nearby medical facilities so that you can enjoy your holiday without worrying about your safety. We constantly monitor visa and health regulations, as well as State Department and foreign office reports to ensure that your vacation can be undertaken safely. These visa and health requirements are always included in your pre-departure package. Should severe weather or political unrest arise, we can recommend alternative itineraries or provide you with a refund. In addition, with our many contacts and offices on the ground in Africa, we always know who to speak with to mobilize assistance in the unusual event that it is required.

We are committed to looking after the environment and local communities.

Conservation is key to our daily operations. Each of our safaris provides our clients the opportunity to see the beauty of Africa: its breathtaking views, exotic wildlife, local communities, and remote areas. Many of the camps and lodges we recommend are green, low impact facilities while still providing high-end accommodations and facilities; feel free to ask us for more details. We work tirelessly to ensure that the benefits tourism brings to each region will not be offset by any negative environmental impact. We provide clients the option to offset their carbon emissions from their long-haul flights by purchasing carbon offsets which fund a project in Zambia that not only reduces carbon dioxide but provides food and employment to the local community. In addition, we support the Koiyaki Guide School in the Masai Mara National Reserve, giving the local community a chance to take part in their land and the future of tourism. Our efforts in this area have been recognized by AITO which has awarded us four stars for our responsible tourism work in the UK, US and Africa.

Recommendations are at the heart of our business and we would be delighted to supply you with references.

With several of our clients returning for their second or third safari with Aardvark and over 70% of our clients coming to us through recommendations, happy clients are truly at the heart of our business. Although we are now ten years old, we are a small company and have retained our personal touch. The owners remain involved with clients and sales on a daily basis and our team returns to Africa, year after year, to evaluate the properties we recommend to you. We encourage all prospective travelers to view the testimonials section of our website to see what past clients say about our services, and we would be more than happy to put you in contact with past clients with similar travel plans to answer further questions.