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Skeleton Coast Safari combined with Sossusvlei, Namibrand Nature Reserve and Lüderitz (Six days & Five nights)

This combination provides a safari which includes a drive into Sossusvlei, the NamibRand Nature Reserve and a unique opportunity to experience the mystique and splendor of the 'Sperrgebiet', the forbidden Diamond Area, situated on the far south-west coast of Namibia. From there the safari continues along the Skeleton Coast via Spencer Bay to the Huab Valley during the third day. The fourth day continues up the coast as far as the Hoarusib Valley and the fifth day as far as the Kunene river, being the northern border of Namibia. The safari ends in Windhoek, arriving just before sunset on the sixth day.

Day one: We meet at Eros Airport, Windhoek at 07h00 for an early morning flight to Sossusvlei in the Namib Naukluft Park. Sossusvlei is reputed to have the highest dunes in the world. The view of the shadow-lined dunes from the air is well worth seeing. We land at Sesriem from where we undertake an excursion by vehicle into the dunes. The dunes reach heights of 300m or more and for those inclined and fit enough to climb them, this might pose a challenge. After our excursion at Sossusvlei we fly to the Wolwedans Dune Camp in the NamibRand Nature Reserve where we stay for two nights. (A similar alternative will be offered if Wolwedans is not available) An afternoon drive through the nature reserve concludes our first day. Your pilot-guide will arrange for a light picnic lunch to be served during the day's itinerary.

Day two: We fly to Lüderitz to participate in the day-long Elizabeth Bay safari. This introduces visitors to the town of Lüderitz with its old ghost town relics at Kolmanskop and mining plants of the early German pioneers, the forbidden coast and a fur seal colony. The flight from Lüderitz during the late afternoon passes over Spencer Bay, with its picturesque Otavi shipwreck, seals basking on the rocky slopes, penguins and other bird life. This is possibly the most desolate and impelling part of the Skeleton Coast.

Day three: The flight from Wolwedans (or alternative) to Swakopmund includes an aerial view of the famous Eduard Bohlen shipwreck at Conception Bay. After landing and refuelling at Swakopmund, we continue with a low-level flight north along the Skeleton Coast past the seal colony at Cape Cross for a light picnic lunch near the beach. Thereafter we fly east, over the desert, to the Ugab formations—a nearly lifeless 'moon landscape' of numerous black ridges that stand out in stark contrast to the white desert floor—before landing at our Kuidas camp in the Huab River Valley, where we stay for the night. Ancient rock engravings are found amongst the rocks within walking distance of the camp.

Day four: After breakfast we depart by Land Rover to explore the colorful red lava and yellow sandstone of the Huab River environs and to be introduced to the ecological aspects of this area with its wide diversity of flora and fauna. This includes the Welwitschia Mirabilis, a tree that has been dwarfed by the rigours of the encroaching desert climate. We have lunch at Kuidas camp before flying along the coast to Terrace Bay in the Skeleton Coast Park. The most prominent shipwrecks along this part of the coast are the Montrose and Henrietta.

At the coast we access the roaring dunes by Land Rover, which always proves to be a stimulating experience. We also visit the beach with its profusion of multicolored pebbles consisting of agate, lava, granite and quartz. Interesting to see are old bleached whale bones scattered along the beach above the high tide mark. We return to the aircraft and continue north to our Leylandsdrift camp in the Hoarusib Valley in the Kunene Region, where we stay for the night.

Day five: After breakfast we embark on a scenic drive along the Hoarusib Valley to visit a settlement of the nomadic Himba people. We might be lucky enough to come across the desert-dwelling elephant who frequent this valley. From here we continue north along the Skeleton Coast by aircraft to the Kunene River acting as a border to Angola. The Kaiu Maru shipwreck and pieces from old sailing vessels lie scattered along this part of the coast. From the airfield we take a scenic drive by Land Rover to our favorite lunch site. After lunch we continue through the mountains and dunes of the Hartmann Valley - which extends to the Kunene River - reaching our Kunene River camp in the late afternoon.

Day six: An early morning boat trip on the Kunene River as it flows through scenic desert landscape, observing bird life and possibly some crocodiles. Birds vary from aquatic species on the perennial waters, to endemic desert varieties and those that inhabit dense riverine vegetation. After lunch at the camp, we fly back to Eros Airport, Windhoek, arriving in the late afternoon.

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