

Amazing Namibia

August 2011

We have just returned from a fabulous safari to Namibia! It is truly a country of contrasts and endless horizons and this has ended up a very long photo newsletter - and there are still many images not included! Namibia has had exception rainfall this season and this certainly showed in the landscape. There was water in the pan at the normally dry Sossusvlei (and even an Avocet!); Etosha Pan was full to the brim bringing in hundreds of thousands of flamingos and other water birds; and the countryside was covered with grasses and flowers!

We start with scenes from Sossusvlei - an extraordinary area dominated by beautiful red dunes.



Onto some of the smaller things - many from the desert sands around Swakopmund, others from Damaraland and Etosha...



Namib Ground Agama



Tenebrionid Beetle



Shovel-snouted Lizard



Ridged Seed Beetle



Horned Adder



Namaqua Chameleon



Boulton's Namib Day Gecko



Namibian Rock Agama (F)



Namaqua Chameleon



Namibian Rock Agama (M)

We spent time in Damaraland and had amazing close encounters with desert elephants. They were very relaxed and approached the vehicles while feasting on the Camelthorn pods - one young male decided to have a good scratch on the back of the one landrovers!



We saw many flowering plants along our route - here are just a few; with many others awaiting final identification!



Welwitschia



Namib Edelweiss



Dollar Bush



Bottle Tree



Euphorbia virosa



Hermannia spp.

We included a visit to a remote Himba tribe and were fascinated by their still very traditional way of life.



Although this wasn't a birding trip we still managed an impressive list - with several exciting species!



Flamingos on the coast



Ostrich in Sossusvlei



Rufous-eared Warbler



Double-banded Sandgrouse
(& chick)



Pygmy Falcon



Burchell's Courser



Red-eyed Bulbul



Namaqua Sandgrouse



Damara Hornbill



Double-banded Courser



Rosy-faced Lovebird



Ruppell's Korhaan

We included time at an interesting rock art site in Twyfelfontein.



And onto the mammals...



Kudu



Giraffe



Gemsbok



Bottle-nose Dolphin



Dassie Rat



Burchells' Zebra



Springbok



Cape Fur Seal



Black Rhino



Damara Dik Dik



Black-faced Impala



Elephant



Elephant (almost white from the Etosha soil)



Lioness



The same lioness on her way back to her hidden cubs!



We thought this sunset over the very full Etosha Pan was a fitting end!

We had an incredible time and Namibia is definitely a destination that should be on everyone's bucket list!

Best wishes,
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