



Sossusvlei Shuttle

Duration	3 Days
Cost	N\$1,300 per person sharing until 31/03/04 N\$1,500 per person sharing from 01/04/04
Group Size	Maximum of ten people
Departures	Saturdays from Swakopmund (Wednesday departures from June to October)
Mode of Transport	Minibus
Highlights	Sossusvlei

Day 1 We leave from Swakopmund by 09:00 heading a little further down the coast to the port town of **Walvis Bay**. South of the town there is a large marine lagoon which is home to a vast array of marine bird life, in particular **flamingos**. The first part of our journey takes us across more of the seemingly endless **Namib** gravel plains. Then the landscape suddenly changes and we are into the mountain desert. We traverse both the **Kuiseb** and Gaub passes, driving both times to the river beds at the bottom of the canyons and then climbing the long steep road to the top and the spectacular panoramas the mountains give us. Again the scenery changes as we make our way down to the dune fields at Sesriem.

We cross some open grass savanna and farm lands before the terrain begins to give way to the immense red **sand dune desert** of the Namib. We stop for lunch in the desert en-route and arrive in Sesriem during the late afternoon. We have time to relax and watch the sunset over the dunes from our campsite. (Lunch, Dinner)

Day 2 A pre-dawn start to see the sunrise in the dunes. From our campsite we drive a further 60 km into the desert and have our breakfast as the colours change and grow across the landscape. To reach Sossusvlei itself we must then walk for the last five km through the dunes. In the cool of the morning, with soft sunlight just beginning to play over the dunes creating a sharp light and shadow contrast across the whole desert. Ancient mineral pans, stunted Camelthorn trees and the chance of seeing a gemsbok or maybe an ostrich make the photo opportunities perfect.

We spend the morning in and around Sossusvlei, but as the day wears on we return to our camp for lunch and to escape the heat of the day. As the day cools off in the late afternoon we will take a short excursion to the **Sesriem Canyon**. (B, L, D)

Day 3 We have a fairly leisurely start to our last day. After breakfast we begin our journey, along scenic roads, back to Windhoek. We will stop for a last lunch en-route and are due back into the city around 15:00. (B, L)