

**SPECIAL CCF ITINERARY PREPARED FOR JILL ANGELO**  
**9 DAY PRIVATE GUIDED SAFARI TRAVELLING OCTOBER 2018**

Namibia is a vast country, even by African standards, covering an area approximately twice the size of California, but with a population of a mere 2 million – the second lowest densities in the world giving an amazingly 'soulful' feeling of peace and solitude. It is also an 'ageless land'; visible through our heritage of rock art created by stone-age artists and geological attractions such as the petrified forest where fossilised tree trunks have lain for over 280 million years. Added to the space and silence, these all contribute to a feeling of antiquity, solitude and wilderness.

The climate is typical of a semi-desert country. Days are warm to hot and nights are generally cool. Temperatures are modified by the high plateau in the interior and by the cold Benguela Current that runs along the Atlantic coastline. Except for the first few months of the year, the country is generally dry with very little rain.

This private guided Namibia safari affords you the chance to experience this magnificent and memorable country in a very personal way. You will have your own professional and experienced safari guide who will enhance your enjoyment of this unique country by making it a fascinating and stress-free journey of discovery amidst very dramatic scenery. The knowledge, experience and attitude of our guides are critical to a successful safari which is why we ensure that they are both personable and very professional.

Your Ultimate Safaris guide will have an intimate knowledge of each area and camp/lodge that you visit, allowing them to share the local highlights whilst adding continuity and depth to your safari. It goes without saying that they know exactly what a "True African Safari" is all about. Not only are our guides highly qualified, each has a specific area of expertise. Together they possess the breadth and depth of knowledge to allow them to answer questions and satisfy the particular interests of guests of all ages. Your Ultimate Safaris guide will turn your safari into an experience of a lifetime!

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#### ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Day 1, 2 & 3	Arrival Windhoek, transfer to Cheetah Conservation Fund, Otjiwarongo
Day 4, 5, 6 & 7	Drive to //Huab under Canvas, Damaraland area
Day 8	Fly to Windhoek, transfer to Avani Hotel
Day 9	Transfer to Windhoek International airport

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#### TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Travel with one of Namibia's best known naturalist guides.
- Visit the world renowned Cheetah Conservation Fund and have close encounters with the conservation foundation.
- Explore the Damaraland region whilst staying at an exclusive mobile camp.
- Search for the desert adapted elephant in the ephemeral river systems
- Track for the endangered black rhino in conjunction with the Save the Rhino Trust
- Visit an authentic and remote Himba settlement

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1 (08 Oct 2018)

#### Arrive in Windhoek, transfer to Cheetah Conservation Fund

Upon your arrival at Windhoek International Airport you will be met by your private Ultimate Safaris guides who will assist you with your luggage and changing money etc. before setting off to northern Namibia and travel to the cheetah capital of Namibia, Otjiwarongo. You stay at the Cheetah View Lodge & Babson House, donated to the CCF foundation to host guests and provide opportunities for a detailed immersion for two nights on the CCF foundation. Pending your arrival at in Namibia, the afternoon is spent on one of the scheduled activities as organized at the CCF. Here you may start off with the Cheetah Run activity and spend some time with senior researchers at the centre, including the well-known director, Dr Laurie Marker.

*Cheetah Conservation Fund:* CCF's focus is on research, conservation and education. An extensive modern Visitor and Education Centre encourage visitors to learn about cheetahs, their habitat and issues of conservation, with an opportunity to see resident non-releasable cheetahs, acting as 'cheetah ambassadors' for the species. A stop over at CCF makes a very worthwhile, enjoyable and informative visit for the tourist. The large modern Education Centre houses a museum that provides visitors and students the opportunity to learn more about the behavior and biology of the cheetah, and the Namibian ecosystem that supports Africa's most endangered cat species.

The excellent graphics and interactive displays in the centre bring the visitor through the history of the cheetah from pre-history to modern times, and explain how their range and numbers have diminished. Other exhibits show where the cheetah fits into the cat species family tree, how the cheetah differs from the 36 other cat species, how the cheetah is adapted for a high speed sprint and its specialized hunting techniques, and finally, the cheetah's life-cycle from cub to adult. A life-size 'play tree' shows the importance of these trees in a cheetah's territory. Continuing through the Education Centre, the visitor can learn about other aspects of conservation and the work of CCF: for example, how the cheetah lives within an ecosystem together with prey, and how farmers can live with cheetahs on their land by using non-lethal predator control methods, a prime example being the use of Kangal Anatolian Livestock Guarding Dogs from Turkey. CCF has been promoting the use of these dogs since 1994, breeding and donating them to Namibian farmers to guard their flocks.

Finally, a Future Room highlights the need for continued research so that humans and nature can live together. The Research Centre houses a veterinary clinic, laboratory and main offices. The Visitor's Centre has a large meeting room, gift shop, verandah and the predator prey ground' outside is a learning area for school groups and children of all ages. Enjoy the view of the Waterberg Plateau from the verandah, and relax in the landscaped courtyard with native gardens and an attractive sculpture of a cheetah.

*Cheetah View Lodge:* The Cheetah View Lodge consists of three individual low rise buildings set among the acacia trees on the fringes of the CCF reserve (in total five rooms). The restaurant above the Family room offers the perfect spot of an elevated view of the waterhole with excellent dining and refreshments available while viewing the endemic herbivores, scavengers and occasional predators it attracts. A short walk along the meandering path takes you r to the Twin/Double room suites which provide a peaceful retreat from which to enjoy the changing colors of the Waterberg as the sunsets at the end of the day.

*Babson House:* Luxuriate in one of the three sumptuously furnished bedrooms, experience breathtaking views of the Waterberg as you enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner on the deck overlooking Chewbacca's pen, or simply relax in the open-plan living area furnished in a traditional and elegant style. The Cheetah Conservation Fund also offers an exciting package of activities to all guests staying at the Babson House. These include; a Cheetah Run, Bellebenno Safari, and an Ambassador Exclusive, where guests have the opportunity to meet and spend time with one of our ambassador cheetahs along with senior cheetah researcher at the centre. The luxurious Babson House can accommodate up to six people to stay in three rooms at Babson House.

**Overnight: Cheetah View Lodge & Babson House - Cheetah Conversation Fund**  
**Inclusive of all meals with private chef, local drinks and all CCF activities**

[www.cheetah.org](http://www.cheetah.org)

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**Day 2 & 3 (09 & 10 Oct 2018)**  
**Cheetah Conservation Fund**

Today is spent on various activities as organized by the Fund and spend some time with one of CCF's cheetah ambassadors whilst being accompanied by a CCF personal guide, with good opportunities to spend time seeing some of Namibia's cheetahs.

**Overnight: Cheetah View Lodge & Babson House - Cheetah Conversation Fund**  
**Inclusive of all meals with private chef, local drinks and all CCF activities**

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**Day 4 (11 Oct 2018)**  
**CCF to Damaraland**

After breakfast this morning your Ultimate Safaris guide will collect you from CCF heading into the heart of Damaraland where you will spend the next four nights at your specially erected //Huab Under Canvas Camp. Damaraland is typified by displays of color, magnificent table topped mountains, rock formations and bizarre-looking vegetation.

The present day landscape has been formed by the erosion of wind, water and geological forces which have created rolling hills, dunes, gravel plains and ancient river terraces. It is the variety and loneliness of the area as well as the scenic splendor which will reward and astound you, giving one an authentic understanding of the word 'wilderness'.

En-route to your camp your guide will take you to visit a local Himba settlement – you may have to search for a while as the semi-nomadic Himba people sometimes move location with no notice. They are one of the last most traditional peoples of Namibia and have little time for conventional practices. You will learn about the customs and traditions of this very proud nation, and will be given insight into their beliefs, way of life and everyday routine. Your guide will prove invaluable to ensure an interactive encounter with these fascinating inhabitants of a harsh environment. You also have the opportunity to visit a local school which Ultimate Safaris supports (provided it falls during the week and not school holidays).

After a delectable picnic lunch at a suitably scenic location, you continue on to the Under Canvas Camp with the last stretch into the camp being on tracks which are well off the beaten path. You will arrive in the late afternoon after what would have been a long yet rewarding day – with time to enjoy fireside sundowners at your camp that will be your home for the next three nights.

*The Himba:* The Himba, Tjimba and other Herero people who inhabit Namibia's remote north-western Kunene Region are loosely referred to as the Kaokovelders. Basically Herero in terms of origin, language and culture, they are semi-nomadic pastoralists who tend to tend from one watering place to another. They seldom leave their home areas and maintain, even in their own, on which other cultures have made little impression. For many centuries they have lived a relatively isolated existence and were not involved to any noteworthy extent in the long struggle for pasturelands between the Nama and the Herero. The largest group of Kaokovelders is the Himba, semi-nomads who live in scattered settlements throughout the Kunene Region. They are a tall, slender and statuesque people, characterized especially by their proud yet friendly bearing. The women especially are noted for their unusual sculptural beauty, enhanced by intricate hairstyles and traditional adornments. They rub their bodies with red ochre and fat, a treatment that protects their skins against the harsh desert climate.

The homes of the Himba of Kaokoland are simple, cone-shaped structures of saplings, bound together with palm leaves and plastered with mud and dung. The men build the structures, while the women mix the clay and do the plastering. A fire burns in the headman's hut day and night, to keep away insects and provide light and heating. A family may move from one home to another several times a year to seek grazing for their goats and cattle. Men, women and children wear body adornments made from iron and shell beads. A Himba woman spends as much as three hours a day on her toilette. First she bathes, then she anoints herself with her own individually prepared mixture which not only protects her skin from the harsh desert sun, but also keeps insects away and prevents her body hair from falling out. She uses another mixture of butter fat, fresh herbs and black coals to rub on her hair, and 'steams' her clothes regularly over the permanent fire. Men, women and children adorn themselves with necklaces, bracelets, anklets and belts made from iron and shell beads. With their unusual and striking designs, these items have gained a commercial value and are being produced on a small scale for the urban market. Sculptural headrests in particular are sought-after items.

*Under Canvas camps* : are non-participatory and are serviced and equipped to ensure that guests can stay in great comfort while allowing them to relax and revel in the feeling of space and solitude that makes Namibia so special. Good food and wine are an important part of the overall experience, so our camp catering is of a suitably high standard - even in dry, desolate areas where this can be hard to maintain. Our camp chefs have their own unique specialties so delicious, wholesome meals and local delicacies are prepared for each meal using fresh local produce wherever possible. Guests are looked after by a caring, warm tribe of 'safari magicians' who love what they do and whose main ambition is to ensure that each moment spent Under Canvas is as perfect as possible. Days are filled with thrilling encounters and nights are spent entranced with exclusivity beyond most people's wildest expectations.

*//Huab Under Canvas* is located in a core desert adapted black rhino area in the //Huab Conservancy in Damaraland, approximately 90 km north west of Khorixas, and it is nestled in a grove of Mopane trees on the banks of a tributary of the //Huab River. Protected from all the prevailing winds and sun, the semi-mobile camp is virtually invisible from anywhere around and it carries arguably the lowest environmental footprint of any camp in Namibia.

Our Under Canvas camps use large rectangular Meru tents (4m x 3m and 2.5 m high) with built in groundsheets and mosquito screens on all doors and windows.

Each spacious tent is equipped with standard height camp beds, solar lighting, and storage for clothing and other belongings that need to be accessible. Each also has a bathroom which has its own flush toilet, bucket shower and washbasin. A small table, mirror, towels and toiletries as well as solar lighting are also provided in the bathroom, and chairs on the patio allow guests to relax and enjoy the surrounding view. Activities include tracking desert adapted rhino which is completely private and done in an area that has the highest tracking success rate in north western Namibia; exploring the upper and less crowded //Huab River in search of desert adapted elephants (if in the area); nature walks and scenic game drives; as well as the possibility of visiting some nearby prehistoric rock engravings.

**Overnight: //Huab Under Canvas Camp**

**Full board (all meals most local drinks included and excursions with Ultimate guide)**

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**Day 5, 6 & 7 (12, 13 & 14 Oct 2018)**

**Damaraland**

For the next two days you explore this remarkable Damaraland area, enjoying the freedom to explore the fascinating landscapes with your private Ultimate Guide. There is plenty of opportunity to disembark your vehicle and explore the area.

The Damaraland is a surprising refuge for desert adapted wildlife that may include elephants, giraffe, oryx, springbok and even some predators such as lion, though with any wildlife sightings in Namibia, its season depending and never guaranteed. The wildlife roams large tracks of unfenced desert landscapes and sightings

can therefore be at times challenging, but part of the adventure of exploring this wild untouched gem of Namibia.

Your highlights include a 4x4 scenic excursion along the ephemeral rivers of the Damaraland to explore this remarkable region and to search for game, including the endangered black rhino as well as the elusive desert adapted elephants if they are in the area. Your guide and experienced local tracker head out to track for highly endangered Black Rhinoceros, by identifying their tracks and tracking them from there. This is a truly remarkable experience and Damaraland is home to a variety of desert adapted wildlife and hidden desert treasures. You return to the camp in the late afternoons with some time to relax in the shade of the Mopane trees. Later in the afternoon you head out again for a scenic nature drive or walk to explore this vast and astounding ecosystem.

*Desert Adapted Elephant:* In habitats with sufficient vegetation and water an adult elephant consumes as much as 300kg of roughage and 230 liters of water every day of its life. Consider what a herd of them would eat and drink in a week or a month or a year. Finding an African elephant in a desert? Well, yes and not only elephant, but other large mammals as well, such as black rhinoceros and giraffe. Their ranges extend from river catchments in northern Kaokoveld as far south as the northern Namib. Apart from the Kunene River, seven river courses northwards from the Ugab provide them with possible routes across the desert, right to the Skeleton Coast. The biggest are the Hoarusib, the Hoanib, the Huab and the Ugab Rivers. Desert adapted elephant in Kaokoland and the Namib walk further for water and fodder than any other elephant in Africa. The distances between waterholes and feeding grounds can be as great as 68km. The typical home range of a family herd is larger than 2,000km<sup>2</sup>, or eight times as big as ranges in central Africa where rainfall is much higher. They walk and feed at night and rest during the day. To meet their nutritional and bulk requirements they browse on no fewer than 74 of the 103 plant species that grow in their range. Not a separate species or even a subspecies, they are an ecotype unique to Namibia in Africa south of the equator, behaviorally adapted to hyper-arid conditions. Elephant in Mali on the southwestern fringe of the Sahara Desert are the only others known to survive in similar conditions.

*Desert Black Rhinoceros:* Namibia is home to the larger of two subspecies of the black rhinoceros found in southern Africa. The only population that remains in the wild, unfenced and outside reserves occupies an arid range in the western Kaokoveld. Their preferred habitat is the mountainous escarpment, but they follow ephemeral rivers into the northern Namib as well, especially when conditions are favorable after rains. They are the only black rhinoceros in Africa that are internationally recognized as a “desert group”. Like desert-adapted elephant, they cover great distances. They walk and feed at night and rest during the day. To meet their nutritional and bulk requirements they browse on no fewer than 74 of the 103 plant species that grow in their range. One of the few animals to eat fibrous *Welwitschia* leaves; they even feed heavily on the milkbush (*Euphorbia virosa*) with its sharp spines and toxic latex, presumably because of the high water and fat content. They are physical defenses of dryland plants without apparent harm. Once widespread in the subcontinent, black rhinoceros are an endangered species. The smaller subspecies, *Diceros bicornis minor*, does not range into Namibia.

**Overnight: //Huab Under Canvas Camp**

**Full board (all meals most local drinks included and excursions with Ultimate guide)**

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## **Day 8 (15 Oct 2018)**

### **Damaraland to Windhoek**

After breakfast your guide will transfer you to the nearby local Doro Nawas airstrip in time for you to board your scheduled light aircraft flight (on shared basis) to Windhoek International airport. Bid fond farewell to your Ultimate Safaris guide.

Discover world-class facilities and signature services at the modern, chic *Hilton Windhoek*. The hotel boasts an ideal location in the heart of the Windhoek central business district, and is close to shopping venues and popular attractions.

The 150 guest rooms and suites offer access to our 24-hour fitness center, an 18m heated lap pool and the rejuvenating Breeze Spa. With a number of restaurants, bars and lounges, choose from a variety of innovative cuisines and intimate settings. There is something for every palate and preference at Hilton Windhoek. Enjoy a refreshing cocktail and panoramic views of the skyline from the rooftop Skybar or savor delicious seafood at the Parilla grill. Sample local and international wines and sushi at D'Vine or watch our chef's prepare Namibian specialties in the show kitchen at Ekipa.

**Overnight: Hilton Hotel, King Hilton Guest Room  
Bed & Breakfast (Lunch, Dinner & Drinks excluded)**

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**Day 9 (16 Oct 2018)**

**Departure**

Depending on your departure flight you will be collected and transferred out to the Windhoek International Airport in time to check in for your ongoing flight

This is officially the end of your safari. We hope to see you again soon, Bon voyage...!

**Breakfast**

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**\*\*\* End of Services \*\*\***

INCLUDED:

- Accommodation as stated above (**Provisional**)
- Road transfer to CCF
- Transportation in a luxury air-conditioned safari vehicle from day 4 - 8.
- Meals & Local drinks as stipulated above.
- Services of a registered and experienced English-speaking safari guide.
- Entrance fees and excursions as described in above itinerary, including those specified under highlights.
- Mineral water on board the safari vehicle.
- Scheduled seat rate from Doro Nawas airstrip to Windhoek International airport
- Welcome pack.

Mobile Camp guided portion of safari

- Transportation in a luxury air-conditioned safari vehicle and fuel.
- Accommodation as stated above in mobile camp, inclusive of bedding / bedrolls on stretchers, basic toiletries, towels and tents.
- All meals as stipulated above, focused on meals prepared on the open fire.
- Services of a registered and experienced English-speaking safari guide where stipulated as well as camp hand/support team
- All entrance fees and excursions as described in above itinerary.
- Local drinks at meals (this includes water, soft drinks, beer and table wine).

EXCLUDED:

- International flights to Namibia and airport taxes.
- Any meals not included in the above itinerary.
- Any entrance fees and excursions not included in the above itinerary.
- All premier and exported beverages as well as additional drinks not specified
- Laundry (laundry service available at lodges at extra cost unless otherwise specified).
- Gratuities.
- Items of personal nature (telephone expenses, curios, medicines etc).
- ENTRY VISA FEES.
- BANK CHARGES (as per bank or 3.5% commission for VISA/MASTER and 4.5% commission for AMEX).

**NOTES:**

- Services subject to availability at the time of booking.
- Rates subject to change without prior notice due to circumstances beyond our control e.g. fuel increases, currency fluctuation etc.
- Terms and conditions apply.

**HANDY TIPS:**

- **Visas/Passports:** Please ensure: 1) that you have pre-arranged your entry visa if required; 2) that your passport is valid for at least six months after your scheduled departure date from Namibia; 3) that you have a minimum of 2 consecutive clear pages. If this is not the case, there is a danger of being turned away by the Immigration Service on arrival at the airport – assuming your airline has agreed to bring you and risk a fine in the first place.
- **Health:** No vaccinations are mandatory but please consult your doctor for medical advice. Parts of Namibia are considered to be malarial so we recommend the use of anti-malarial prophylactics (normally Malarone), especially if visiting during the Namibian summer (December to April) – subject to advice from your own doctor.
- **Luggage:** If travelling on light aircraft, luggage is normally restricted to 20 kg (not including photographic equipment) per person in a soft, hold all type bag. Weight is generally less important than volume as everything is carried with you on safari. If adding extensions that involve light aircraft transfers the luggage limit may be reduced further to 12 kg in soft bags (please enquire if this may apply to you). If required, any extra luggage can be stored at our base when visitors are away on safari.
- **Vehicles:** Vehicles used are normally 4x4 safari vehicles, equipped with air-conditioning and cool boxes or fridges for drinks and snacks. A trailer for luggage is taken if required.

**Why travel with an Ultimate naturalist guide?**

An Ultimate Safaris naturalist guide will quickly turn a normal safari into a life enriching journey, creating a deeper understanding and appreciation for the incredible places and people that we visit. The guides are the link between our guests and the intricacies of the natural world, sharing their knowledge with enthusiasm and humour. Guests are taken on a journey through some of the world's most beautiful wild places, encountering wildlife spectacles and engaging with age-old authentic cultures while receiving detailed interpretation as offered by our highly trained naturalist guides. Throughout this experience, they are wrapped in the warm and caring hospitality that makes us Ultimate Safaris.

A guided safari offers our guests constant access to one or more of these exceptional guides who have an intimate knowledge of each camp/lodge and area we visit. This allows them to be able to expose the relevant highlights, adding continuity and depth to your safari, and effectively tailor-making your experience. It also means that they are able to take guests to stay at less sophisticated rural venues which might not otherwise be suitable for discerning visitors. The presence of our guide adds another level to the hospitality and service that can be offered there and thus ensures that we have the widest reach of options available to us while still maintaining the standards to which we aspire.

Our guides share in a philosophy that ensures they never cease adding to their encyclopedic knowledge and this makes them lifelong scholars in the fields of their expertise. Their infectious enthusiasm, dedication, character, and in-depth knowledge of the country ensure that guests are at the forefront of real, unique and authentic experiences throughout their journey. Being native to Namibia, our guides are welcomed as friends or family everywhere they go, thus ensuring authentic and life enriching journeys. These often result in guests becoming personal friends of both our guides and the people that they visit.

**All our Land Cruisers are equipped with:**

- Roof pop Tops for better photography and game viewing vantage points
- Air Conditioning
- Onboard Fridge/freezers and plenty of water.
- Personal library, which includes a series of guide books, maps, stationary and checklists.
- 220 volt electrical charging point, to charge electrical devices whilst traveling.
- Guaranteed window seat on every safari.
- VHF inter-vehicle radios that allow multi vehicle groups to communicate with each other while 'on the



road'

Our guides also travel with their renowned 'MAGIC BOXES', which ensure all en-route catering needs are taken care of, from a bush breakfast and coffee and tea stops to majestic sundowners.