

# 9 Day Skeleton Coast Expedition



The Skeleton Coast with her strong Atlantic currents and swirling fog has sent many a ship to an early grave. This remote area with her changing moods is one of the most isolated areas in the whole of Africa and she is waiting for you to explore her wonders of nature.

A wilderness like no other awaits, the park is 500km long starting at the Ugab River in the South to the Kunene River in the North. This is a place of beauty and tranquillity where one will find the true meaning of solitude. The park is known for its scenic beauty, endless landscapes with colourful plains, mountains and dunes. It is made for the avid adventurer and a photographer's dream destination.

The Ugab, Uniab, Hoanib, Hoarusib and Khumib rivers are essential to the park and the ecology. These oases are the subsistence for the Gemsbok (Oryx), Springbok, Cape Fur Seals, Ostrich, Brown Hyena, Leopard and Jackals. One may also find the endangered Desert Lion, Black Rhino and Desert Adapted Elephants along the riverbeds.

Join us for a true unique experience through this untamed wilderness, where one can still see minerals covering the sand and mountains, and massive sand dunes stretching all the way to the Kunene River. What is left of the numerous shipwrecks all have their own stories to tell of endurance, bravery and unfortunately in many cases, *tragedy*.

The Skeleton Coast Tourism Concession supports neighbouring communities in development, social, health and infrastructure projects. Each explorer on this epic expedition contributes to the legacy of the OvaHimba and OvaHerero people who have inhabited these unforgiving landscapes since the beginning of time...

*The Skeleton Coast National Park and surrounding areas support a large variety of fauna and flora species. Humans, unfortunately, can easily impact the areas in a negative way. We strive to preserve this spectacular and diverse habitat and therefore we apply strict rules during our trips. This covers areas such as where vehicles are allowed to drive, waste and bio-waste management, food preparation and cooking.*

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 + 13.11.2023

We meet group around 17H00 at Terrace Bay. After briefing from our guide, we install radios. Accommodation with Dinner and Breakfast.

### Day 2 + 14.11.2023

After breakfast we continue north. The first day will be taken a bit easy and we will explore the riverbed of the Hoanib. We will then pass on towards Mowe Bay and set up our camp in that area.

### Day 3 + 15.11.2023

Many interesting stops will be made along the way, especially at the engine and remains of the Ventura Bomber that crashed after a failed rescue attempt in 1942. Entering the Hoarusib river we might come across herds of Oryx and Springbok. This river is also famous for Black Rhino, Desert Adapted Elephants, Brown Hyenas and the very rare Desert Lions. After exploring the Hoarusib river we continue towards Khumib River and Sarusas Spring. We overnight in Khumib river area.

### Day 4 + 16.11.2023

Leaving the beautiful Khumib Valley we continue north. Today's drive will take us through the most colourful landscapes in the park. The area is extremely sensitive, and we take well care of not leaving footprints behind. We stop at the Sarusa mine which is no longer operational, however one can still see many quarts and amethyst crystals scattered everywhere. After stopping at Agate Mountain, we set up camp for the night.

### Day 5 & 6 + 17. & 18.11.2023

Today is mostly beach driving. We pass *Angra Fria*; destined to become a harbour during the 1960's they decided that the area was just too uninhabitable. Further north we reach the remains of the Dunedin Star and one of the shelters that the survivors erected to safeguard them from the harsh elements. Not much of the wreckage is visible but listening to the rescue mission will make one understand why this is called the "Skeleton Coast". We reach the Kunene mouth around lunch. The Kunene originates in the Angola Highlands and paths her way through desert and mountains where it forms a delta in the Atlantic Ocean. The river host plenty fresh water fish, Nile Crocodiles, Green Turtles and *Soft-Shell* Turtles. After Exploring the *mouth*, we head east in to the dune belt. We camp near the bank of the river in the dune belt.

### Day 7 + 19.11.2023

Today we head east along through dune belt. This is a slow pace day with many scenic stops overlooking Cunene River. We set up camp in dune belt with a stunning view towards Angola.

### Day 8 + 20.11.2023

Today is our last day in the park. We continue east. The day is mostly spent manoeuvring our way through spectacular desert scenery. There will be plenty of stops as the guides read the changing dunes and what lies behind them. Herds of Oryx are a common sight in the dunes as they make their way down to the river. We settle for the night in the Hartmann Valley.

### Day 9 + 21.11.2023

Staying off the beaten track we head south to the Hoarusib River. Once again, we enter the territory of the Desert Elephants, lions, cheetah, leopard and Hyena. Passing Hoarusib Canyon we reach the small town of Purros where we will overnight at the Bush Lodge.

- End of Service -