

The Namibia Living Culture Tour

A Photographic Tour and Workshop in Namibia

"Visit Namibian friends for truly unique photographs of prehistoric African culture"

February 21 – March 5, 2020 (13 days)

With

Christian Goltz, kiss-of-light, Photographer and Lecturer, Namibia
Werner Pfeifer, Tour Guide, Namibia



Introduction

We are glad and proud to be able to offer the *Living Culture* photographic tour and workshop.

Namibia's landscapes are known to many by now. They are known for their harsh beauty and vastness. Travelers and photographers tend to fall in love with Namibia, Africa's last true wilderness. Yet there is so much more than its obvious attractions. Some say that God created Namibia in anger. They cannot possibly mean its gentle and cheerful people.

Even die-hard landscape and wildlife photographers usually wish to photograph indigenous people when they meet them - the most interesting subject to humans is humans, even more so when traveling. Frequently, however, the situation is awkward, leading to bad mood and bad images: How to make a good image of a stranger from a completely different culture? Certainly not by 'secret grab shot'...

During this event we travel to some of the culturally most important locations in Northern Namibia (Damaraland (near Twyfelfontein), Kaokoland (near Opuwo), Kavango (Okavango River near Rundu), Grootfontein-Tsumkwe Area)) to visit traditional communities of the Damara, Himba, Mbunza and San (Bushman), respectively. All of these people know us for many years and they are very welcoming and proud to display their historic ways to visitors. These unique conditions in combination with expert photographic advice practically guarantee outstanding photography and an experience of a life-time. Our visit will also contribute substantially to the livelihood of the visited communities.

Time permitting, game drives or, for example, a visit of the rock engravings at Twyfelfontein (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) are possible.

There will be no formal lectures on photography, emphasis is on image critique, learning by doing. Your questions, however, will not go unanswered, be they technical, artistic or cultural.



The Contents

This is not a 'photo safari'. We take our time and focus (!) on four outstanding cultural themes in Northern Namibia: The Damara (Twyfelfontein), the Ovahimba (Kaokoland), the Mbunza (Okavango River near Rundu) and finally the San (Bushmen) in the Grootfontein-Tsumkwe Area.

Near *Twyfelfontein* we visit the Living Museum of the *Damara* people. The Damara are one of the oldest Namibian cultures, formerly being hunter-gatherers, later cattle, goat and sheep herders. In the Living Museum they wear their ancient leather dress and show various traditional activities, such as tanning leather, milking a goat, preparing food from the bush, hunting techniques, singing and dancing, and the blacksmith will demonstrate the art of making a knife.

In the former *Kaokoland*, near Opuwo, we will spend time with the *Himba*. The Himba are the only people in Southern Africa still living very much the ancient way. Especially the women still wear their historic leather dress like thousands of years ago and paint their bodies with red ocher every morning.

At the *Okavango River* we will be welcomed by the *Mbunza*, one of the tribes collectively called Kavangos. There will be endless photographic opportunities during such activities as dancing, preparing a traditional dish, showing the old way of fishing with their dug out canoes and fish baskets etc. All this happens in a beautiful river setting.

Finally, we will have an unforgettable time with the *Ju/'Hoansi San (Bushmen)* in their Living Museum in the *Grootfontein-Tsumkwe Area*. We will witness their ancient hunting and gathering culture, including the making of jewelry and bow and arrows, playing old games, going on a hike to collect bush food, identifying tracks, setting up a snare and hunting with the bow. In addition to all these photogenic events we might be invited to singing and dancing at the camp fire in the evening.



The *Living Museums* are institutions created for the preservation and presentation of authentic ancient Namibian culture. A Living Museum is a cultural school and a Namibian communal tourism business at the same time. The museums were founded by the non-profit Living Culture Foundation Namibia (see resources) of which our guide, Werner Pfeifer, is a founding member.

There will be a relaxed, friendly atmosphere of trust during our visits. This will make it easy to return home with authentic, intimate images reflecting the welcoming and gentle, sometimes also mysterious, nature of the peoples visited. Traveling on your own would be underwhelming in comparison.

This workshop covers several fields of photography: Travel, portrait, action, even landscape. And whatever else you might come up with... It's definitely about outdoor photography using natural light, possibly modified by reflectors/diffusers. Fill flash may be employed. On the game drives we obviously do a bit of wildlife photography, for good measure.

There will be no formal lectures. We will have image reviews, very much fun and most instructive. Please bring 3 – 5 of your images (good or bad) and we will use these to get to know each other and possibly identify things to work on. Extensive knowledge and advice on travel and landscape as well as portrait photography, technical issues and on Namibia will of course be available.



Some subjects that will definitely arise, however, include:

- etiquette
- how to relax and make your subject (and yourself) feel comfortable
- working outdoors, on location
- natural light and light modification
- how to ensure authenticity
- adding depths (meaning) to your images
- ...

It will be good if you know your gear, otherwise bring your camera manual and show us how to break the rules. Emphasis is not on technical aspects of photography. Technical issues will be discussed when they arise, during image critique, for example. Frequently, beginners are more free in their approach and can produce very strong images. Thus, all levels of photographers are welcome. Workshop language will be English but obviously German is spoken as well. Non-photographers are welcome too but please note that there is no program but photography!

You will return from this workshop with a new and broader view, with great images and with new friends.



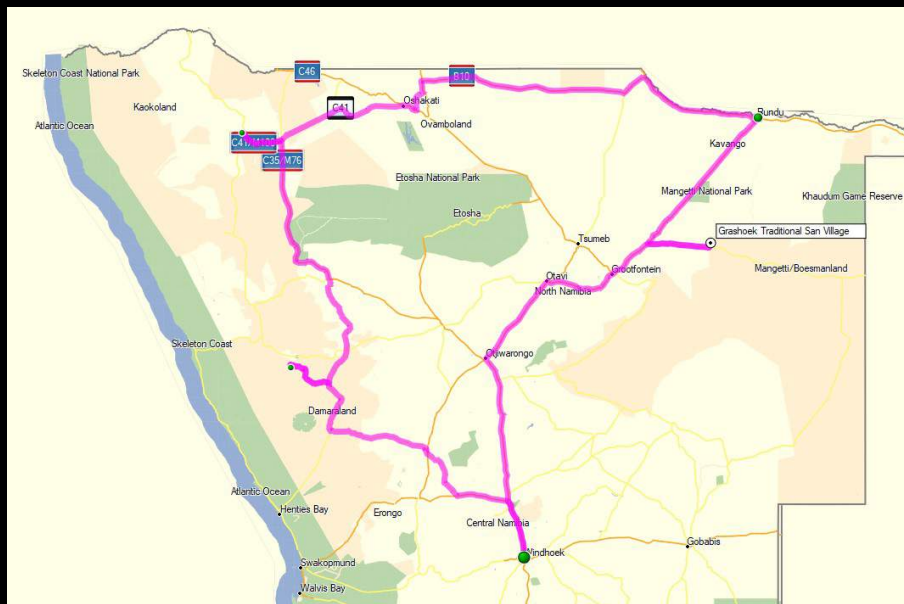
The People



Award-winning photographer *Dr. Christian Goltz* grew up in Namibia, left to pursue an international career as a geoscientist (Germany, Japan, USA) and finally returned to Africa in 2008 to be a full-time photographer and writer. He worked with digital imagery long before digital cameras became commercially available. His photographic teachers include Jock Sturges and Frans Lanting. He graduated from the New York Institute of Photography. Since his return he's been busy working for, e.g., the Namibian Government and the UN. He also regularly leads workshops and does photographic consulting. Christian is the founding president of the Photographic Society of Namibia and lecturer of photography at the University of Namibia. He lives at Monkey Hill, a game reserve about 100 km from Windhoek.

Werner Pfeifer is a 4th generation Namibian and one of Namibia's leading tour guides, a "white bushman". He is specialized in bush craft and survival courses, team building and adventure travel. He has formal training as a leather tailor and school teacher and has worked as a nature conservation officer in the past. He is a founding member of the Living Culture Foundation Namibia (LCFN), a non-profit organization focusing on cultural cooperation in rural areas in Namibia. Werner is also an avid amateur photographer with a special interest in cultural photography. He developed his own materials and techniques for body painting in the Namibian bush. He is also an excellent bush cook!

The Itinerary



Day	Description	Km, Time	Lodge/Hotel
Feb 21, Day 1	Leave Windhoek around 10:00. Drive to <i>Damara Living Museum</i> near Twyfelfontein.	450, 6h	Camping at nearby Abu Huab Camp
Feb 22, Day 2	We spend the day with the Damara people at the <i>Damara Living Museum</i> .		Camping at Abu Huab Camp
Feb 23, Day 3	In the morning we will be at the <i>Damara Living Museum</i> again to build on yesterday's work. In the afternoon we will explore the World Heritage Site of <i>Twyfelfontein</i> with its famous prehistoric rock engravings.		Camping at Abu Huab Camp
Feb 24, Day 4	This morning we will leave for the Himba Living Museum near <i>Opuwo</i> . We will stop at especially scenic spots in the stunning landscape and encounter first Himba people on the way.	400, 7h	Camping at Himba Living Museum
Feb 25, Day 5	We spend the whole day with the <i>Himba</i> in their traditional village.		Camping at Himba Living Museum
Feb 26, Day 6	A second, now even more intimate, day with the <i>Himba</i> as yesterday.		Camping at Himba Living Museum
Feb 27, Day 7	In the early morning we leave for the Mbunza Living Museum near Rundu, via Opuwo, Oshakati, Eenhana and Nkurenkuru.	800, 11h (!)	Camping at nearby Samsitu Camp

Day	Description	Km, Time	Lodge/Hotel
Feb 28, Day 8	We spend the day with the Mbunza		Camping at nearby Samsitu Camp
Feb 29, Day 9	We photograph the Mbunza in the morning and take a boat cruise on the Okavango river in the afternoon.		Camping at nearby Samsitu Camp
Mar 1, Day 10	We leave early for the Ju/Hoansi Living Museum via Grootfontein, to visit the San/Bushmen.	450, 5 h	Camping at Ju/Hoansi Living Museum Camp
Mar 2, Day 11	We spend the day with the Ju/Hoansi.		Camping at Ju/Hoansi Living Museum Camp
Mar 3, Day 12	We spend the whole day with our San friends since there is so much more to experience and photograph.		Camping at Ju/Hoansi Living Museum Camp
Mar 4, Day 13	In the early morning we will travel back to Windhoek via Grootfontein, Otjiwarongo and Okahandja. End of tour.	420, 6 h	Personal choice
		2520	

Please note:

- Accommodation is camping so that we are close to the villages (museums) and their people.
- We travel by 4X4.
- Even if not explicitly mentioned in the itinerary, there will be nightly image critique sessions and there is always time for questions/discussions, also during transfer.
- Additional photography sessions may be improvised.

The weather will be warm to hot with a possibility of rainfalls (which would be great, at least the clouds).

Your physical condition should be reasonably good – shooting days are long, the warm weather may take its toll. We will take some small walks.



The Prices etc.

The price per person is N\$ 54,000.- (EUR 3,400.-, US\$ 3,860.-, as of April 2019).

The prices include:

- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Camping equipment except sleeping bags
- All meals
- Pick up from International Airport
- Vehicles for the transport (fuel included)
- Entrance fees to places of interest as mentioned
- Activities at museums (no specialty activities such as knife making etc.)
- English/German speaking tour guide (Werner Pfeifer)
- All services by professional photographer Dr. Christian Goltz as per program



The prices do not include:

- All items of a personal nature
- Gratuities
- Extra Meals
- Alcoholic drinks
- Excursions / activities not in the program
- Personal Insurances (note: medical insurance is compulsory)
- Visa requirements, for the countries being visited
- Any flights
- All items not specified above

This is a quotation only and is subject to the availability of accommodation, vehicles and guides at the time of making the reservation.

Comparing our prices to those of international operators you may find them quite low – we pass on our advantages of being local: No travel and gear transportation costs for instructor, no expensive international insurance for gear etc., being friends with service and accommodation providers.



Booking terms and conditions:

Only written reservation requests will be accepted (email OK).

Acceptance of offer is to be confirmed with a 25% non-refundable deposit on the full booking value.

Balance payments become due 90 days prior to the commencement of services.

Reservations made within 90 days prior to commencement of service are to be paid in full upon receipt of confirmation.

Cancellations of services in part or in full become valid on the day of receipt of the written notification by us and attract the following cancellation charges:

- up to 90 days prior to commencement of services : 25%
- up to 60 days prior: 40%
- up to 30 days & 'no-show': 100%

Please make sure that you have *adequate insurance* (e.g., accident, health).

There are no plans to change the program. We reserve the right for changes in case of force majeure, changes due to operators and sickness, however.

Should we be unable to conduct the workshop, we will inform those booked for the workshop no less than six weeks prior to the start of the workshop. We will then refund all monies paid save bank transfer fee.



Resources

www.lcfn.info

Living Culture Foundation of Namibia
Detailed info on all the museums we will visit

Some recent photography by Christian may be found at Instagram. Christian is also on facebook.

Contact

Please email or call Christian for any questions you may have and of course to book a spot:

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Tel (+264) (0)81-3923761 (cell, whatsapp)

You may of course also contact Werner at wernertracks@gmail.com.



Workshop & Tour Impressions







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