



THE NATURALIST COLLECTION



Batis Birding Safaris | Desert Day & Night Tours | Namibian Naturalist | Braine Photography



DESERT DAY & NIGHT TOURS

Desert Day & Night Tours is based in Swakopmund and is part of The Naturalist Collection. We specialise in excursions to the Namib Desert including the popular "Living Desert Tour". We operate Eco-Tours for minimal impact on the environment.

Specialised Namib Desert Tours

Birding Tours ● Full & Half Day Desert Tours
Desert Day Walks ● Desert Night Walks



Birding Tours

1. Gray's Lark & Coastal Wetlands Birding

Half Day N\$ 1,700.00 Per Person - Minimum 3 Persons

± 5 hours

Pick-Up Time: ±08h00 from your accommodation in Swakopmund

Drop-Off Time: ±13h00 at your accommodation in Swakopmund

Please note: A surcharge of N\$200 per person if the pick-up is in Walvis Bay

Included: Guide, Vehicle, Refreshments (Water)

What to bring: Walking Shoes, Jacket, Sunblock & Hat, Binoculars & Photographic Equipment

Full Day N\$ 2.300.00 Per Person - Minimum 3 Persons

± 8 hours

Pick-Up Time: ±08h00 from your accommodation in Swakopmund

Drop-Off Time: ±16h00 at your accommodation in Swakopmund

Please note: A surcharge of N\$200 per person if the pick-up is in Walvis Bay

Included: Guide, Vehicle, Refreshments (Water)

What to bring: Walking Shoes, Jacket, Sunblock & Hat, Binoculars & Photographic Equipment

2. Dune Lark - Kuiseb Dunes & Walvis Lagoon Birding

Half Day N\$ 2,300.00 Per Person With 2 To 4 Persons

± 5 hours

N\$ 1,800.00 Per Person With 5 And More Person

Pick-Up Time: ±08h00 from your accommodation in Swakopmund / Walvis Bay

Drop-Off Time: ±13h00 at your accommodation in Swakopmund / Walvis Bay

Included: Guide, Vehicle, Refreshments (Water)

What to bring: Walking Shoes, Jacket, Sunblock & Hat, Binoculars & Photographic Equipment

Full Day N\$ 2,800.00 Per Person With 2 To 4 Persons

± 8 hours

N\$ 2,200.00 Per Person With 5 And More Persons

Pick-Up Time: ±08h00 from your accommodation in Swakopmund

Drop-Off Time: ±16h00 at your accommodation in Swakopmund

Please note: A surcharge of N\$200 per person if the pick-up is in Walvis Bay

Included: Guide, Vehicle, Refreshments (Water)

What to bring: Walking Shoes, Jacket, Sunblock & Hat, Binoculars & Photographic Equipment

Private Tours can be arranged for individuals or groups and will be quoted accordingly.



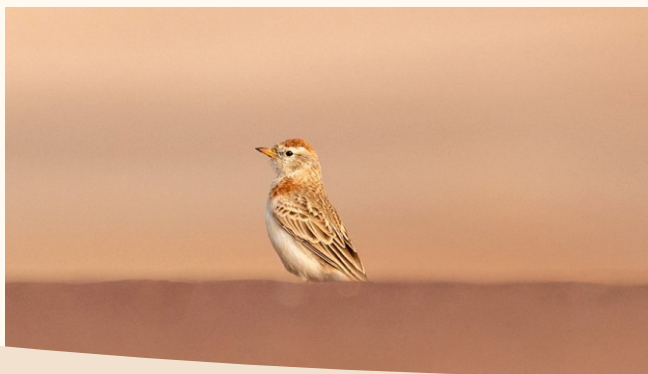


1. Gray's Lark & Coastal Wetlands Birding

This tour takes you north of Swakopmund to the quartzite gravel plains to search for the arid-adapted and cryptic Gray's Lark. Other targets that we will be looking for are the pale-coloured coastal form of Tractrac Chat, Red-capped Lark and Rufous-eared Warbler.

From the gravel plains we travel to the wetlands near the Swakopmund salt works and, depending on the time of the year, we may encounter large flocks of both Greater and Lesser flamingos, a variety of waders including White-fronted and Chestnut-banded Plover, African Oystercatcher, Ruddy Turnstones, Common Greenshanks, Curlew Sandpipers, Little Stints and on occasion common Redshank and other unusual species like Greater or Lesser Sandplover, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Franklin's Gull. We also scope the guano platform with its thousands of Cape Cormorants for the rarer Bank Cormorant. Kelp and Hartlaub's Gulls are common here and, in the summer, there may also be large numbers of terns including Swift, Damara, Sandwich, Common, Arctic and with luck Black Tern.

We also visit a small wetland in the Swakop Riverbed where Kittlitz's Plover is fairly common as well as Chestnut-banded Plover and a few other waders. Occasionally Cape Teal, Egyptian Goose, Rock Kestrel, Black-winged Kite and Peregrine Falcon may be seen. If time permits, we have a quick visit to the dunes to look for some of the dune-adapted lizards, insects, Namaqua Chameleon and Perringuey's Adder (Sidewinder).



2. Dune Lark, Kuiseb River and Walvis Lagoon Birding

We start the tour at the Kuiseb river where we will find Namibia's only true endemic, the arid-adapted Dune Lark. Other targets in this area include the coastal form of Tractrac Chat, Bokmakierie, Black-chested Prinia, Ashy Tit, Chestnut-vented Warbler, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Cape Sparrow, Dusky Sunbird, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Rock Kestrel, Lanner Falcon and Black-chested Snake Eagle.

From the Kuiseb we travel to the Walvis Bay Lagoon and salt pans (proclaimed as a RAMSAR site) where depending on the time of the year you may see thousands of wetland species (over 100,000 birds in summer and less than 50,000 in winter) such as Chestnut-banded and White-fronted Plovers, Curlew Sandpiper, Red Knot, Sanderlings, Little Stint, both Greater and Lesser Flamingos, Great White Pelican, various Gulls and Terns and with luck Terek Sandpiper, Great Sandplover, Red-necked Phalarope, Franklin's Gull and European Oystercatcher. However, the best time to see most of the abovementioned species is in our summer months from December to mid-April.

On a full day excursion, we will spend a short time at the sewerage works near Walvis Bay where large numbers of Common Moorhen, Hottentot Teal, Red-knobbed Coot and other wetland species may be found. We then travel to the Salt Pans near Swakopmund to look for any specials that may be around at the time before searching the surrounding desert plains for Gray's Lark, Rufous-eared Warbler and Tractrac Chat. If time remains, we can spend some time around the vegetated Swakop Riverbed and may encounter Orange River White-eye, Red-faced and White-backed Mousebird, Fiscal Shrike, Common Waxbill and with luck Peregrine Falcon. The Key species for this trip are Dune Lark, Gray's Lark, Orange River White-eye, Damara Tern and Tractrac Chat. There have been 76 different species of birds, 14 mammals and many reptiles recorded on this tour.



Full Day Birding & Eco Tours

1. Brandberg Birding & Eco Tour

Minimum 4 Adults - single travellers welcome to join existing tours.

Full Day N\$ 2,500.00 Per Person - Adults

± 8 hours N\$ 1,800.00 Per Person - Children (under 12)

Pick-Up Time: ±07h00 from your accommodation in Swakopmund

Drop-Off Time: ±15h00 at your accommodation in Swakopmund

Included: Guide, Vehicle, Light Picnic Lunch, Bottled Water & Soft Drinks, Entrance Fees

What to bring: Walking Shoes, Jacket, Sunblock & Hat, Binoculars & Photographic Equipment

2. Spitzkoppe Birding & Eco Tour

Minimum 4 Adults - single travellers welcome to join existing tours.

Full Day N\$ 2,500.00 Per Person - Adults

± 8 hours N\$ 1,800.00 Per Person - Children (under 12)

Pick-Up Time: ±07h00 from your accommodation in Swakopmund

Drop-Off Time: ±15h00 at your accommodation in Swakopmund

Included: Guide, Vehicle, Light Picnic Lunch, Bottled Water & Soft Drinks, Entrance Fees

What to bring: Walking Shoes, Jacket, Sunblock & Hat, Binoculars & Photographic Equipment

Private Tours can be arranged for individuals or groups and will be quoted accordingly.





1. Brandberg Birding & Eco Tour

The Brandberg is the largest mountain in Namibia at 2573m above sea level. It comprises a large massive inselberg of granite and has numerous valleys and gorges which offer not only good reptiles and birding but also larger animals such as Hartmann's Mountain Zebra, Oryx (Gemsbok), Springbok, Kudu, Klipspringer and Leopard. Desert adapted Elephant also occur in the Ugab River at the foot of the northern section of the mountain. There is a rich diversity of reptiles, scorpions and plant life including Welwitschia plant, the only member in the family Welwitschiaceae and is one of the more bizarre plants on the planet, on the western foot of the mountain. Birds are plentiful and raptors such as the African Black (Verreaux's) Eagle, Martial Eagle, Booted Eagle, Black-chested Snake Eagle as well as Lanner Falcon, Peregrine Falcon and Rock Kestrel are also fairly common. The near endemic Herero Chat, Benguela Long-billed Lark and Rüppell's Korhaan can also be encountered at the foot of the mountain, other species such as Mountain Wheatear, Familiar and Karoo Chat, Pale-winged Starling, Rosy-faced Lovebird, Red-faced and White-backed Mousebird, Bokmakierie, Grey-backed Cisticola, Black-chested Prinia and Sabota Lark are common and after good rainfall thousands of Namaqua Sandgrouse can be found drinking at the many seeps and springs that run off the mountain.

The key species which we will focus on while on this tour will be Herero Chat, Benguela Long-billed Lark, Rüppell's Korhaan, Ludwig's Bustard, Gray's Lark and the various birds of prey.

The Brandberg area has a possible 134 species of birds, 35 species of mammals and many species of reptiles, the area also has the largest diversity of scorpions in Africa!



2. Spitzkoppe Birding & Eco Tour

The Spitzkoppe often referred to as the 'Matterhorn of Namibia', is a huge granite inselberg within the Namib Desert and rises to approximately 1728 meters above sea level. The area lends itself to excellent photographic opportunities and the inselberg massif harbours many interesting fauna and flora. To date we have recorded 139 species of birds, 30 species of mammals and 16 species of reptiles, many of these are unique or endemic to the Namib Desert. The vegetation on the Spitzkoppe is different to the surrounding plains and interesting plants such as the *Cyphostemma currori* and *Hoodia currori* can be found. The more low-lying areas consist of stunted *Acacia melifera*, *Acacia reficiens* and *Acacia tortilis*, Sheppard's trees (*Boscia albitrunca*), Ringwood (*Maerua schinzii*) and many other desert adapted forbes and shrubs which grow primarily along the drainage lines, these in turn provide habitat and food for many species of birds, reptiles, insects and small mammals.



Desert Tours

1. Eco Dune Tour (Living Desert Tour)

Minimum 4 Adults - single travellers welcome to join existing tours.

Half Day N\$ 950.00 Per Person - Adults

± 5 hours N\$ 475.00 Per Person - Children (under 12)

Pick-Up Time: ±08h00 - 08h30 from your accommodation in Swakopmund

Drop-Off Time: ±12h30 - 13h00 at your accommodation in Swakopmund

Included: Guide, Vehicle, Refreshments (Water)

What to bring: Walking Shoes, Jacket, Sunblock & Hat, Binoculars & Photographic Equipment

Please note: Afternoon half day tours can be arranged on request. Departing 14h15 and returning 17h30/18h00 with a minimum of 4 adults and weather permitting.

2. Rocky Desert Tour - Moonlandscape, Swakop River Valley & Welwitschias

Minimum 4 Adults - single travellers welcome to join existing tours.

Half Day N\$ 950.00 Per Person - Adults

± 5 hours N\$ 475.00 Per Person - Children (under 12)

Pick-Up Time: ±08h00 - 08h30 from your accommodation in Swakopmund

Drop-Off Time: ±12h30 - 13h00 at your accommodation in Swakopmund

Included: Guide, Vehicle, Refreshments (Water)

What to bring: Walking Shoes, Jacket, Sunblock & Hat, Binoculars & Photographic Equipment

Please note: Afternoon half day tours can be arranged on request. Departing 14h15 and returning 17h30/18h00 with a minimum of 4 adults and weather permitting.

3. Eco-Tour Combo: Living Desert Tour & Rocky Desert Tour

This tour starts with the Eco Dune Tour, then a light lunch (included) and followed by the Rocky Desert Tour.

Minimum 4 Adults - single travellers welcome to join existing tours.

Full Day N\$ 2,100.00 Per Person - Adults

± 8 hours N\$ 1,050.00 Per Person - Children (under 12)

Pick-Up Time: ±08h00 - 08h30 from your accommodation in Swakopmund

Drop-Off Time: ±16h00 at your accommodation in Swakopmund

Included: Guide, Vehicle, Light Lunch, Refreshments (Water)

What to bring: Walking Shoes, Jacket, Sunblock & Hat, Binoculars & Photographic Equipment



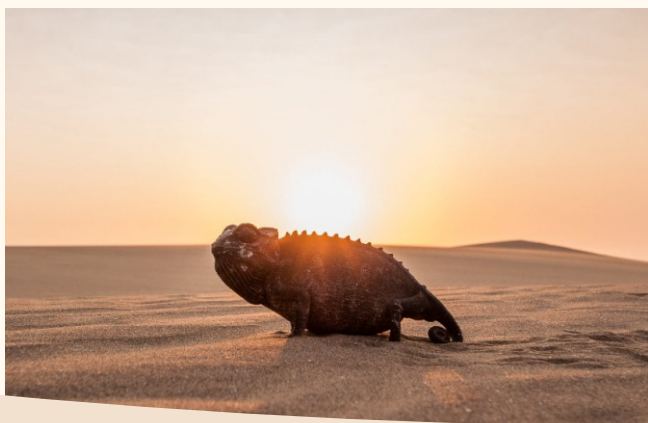


1. Eco Dune Tour - Living Desert Tour

This half day tour takes place along the eastern part of the major dune belt which lies between Walvis Bay and Swakopmund. Here the ecology of the dunes is concentrated on explaining the evolutionary aspects and the uniqueness of these adaptations. The theory part is dealt with in an informal way and the various desert adapted creatures are then searched for and the various interesting adaptations are pointed out to you. The main animals looked for are the Namib Sand-diving Lizard, Web-footed Gecko, Namaqua Chameleon, Pinguicula (Sidewinder), Namib Sand Snake, Namib thick-tailed Scorpion, the fog-basking Tenebrionid Beetle and several other insects, which only found along the dune belt. From the dunes we walk through a place known as 'The Horse Graveyard'. Here, the mass slaughter of South African military horses marked the turning point of Namibia's (then South West Africa) involvement in the First World War. This area, holding some 1,600 carcasses, signifies the key role that Swakopmund and Walvis Bay played in the development of Namibia.

A brief description of the minerals found in the dunes is also explained as well as the formation of the dunes and the importance of the coastal fog to all the living organisms and vegetation found along the dunes. The only birds that may be encountered here depending on rainfall are Trarzac Chat, Red-capped Larks, Gray's Lark, Stark's Lark, Burchell's Courser, Ludwig's Bustard, Rock Kestrel and Rufous-eared Warbler.

*Excellent
Photographic Opportunities
on all Desert Tours!*



2. Rocky Desert Tour - Moonlandscape, Swakop River Valley & Welwitschias

This half day tour takes place along the eastern part of the major dune belt which lies between Walvis Bay and Swakopmund. Here the ecology of the dunes is concentrated on explaining the evolutionary aspects and the uniqueness of these adaptations. The theory part is dealt with in an informal way and the various desert adapted creatures are then searched for and the various interesting adaptations are pointed out to you. The main animals looked for are the Namib Sand-diving Lizard, Web-footed Gecko, Namaqua Chameleon, Pinguicula (Sidewinder), Namib Sand Snake, Namib thick-tailed Scorpion, the fog-basking Tenebrionid Beetle and several other insects, which only found along the dune belt. From the dunes we walk through a place known as 'The Horse Graveyard'. Here, the mass slaughter of South African military horses marked the turning point of Namibia's (then South West Africa) involvement in the First World War. This area, holding some 1,600 carcasses, signifies the key role that Swakopmund and Walvis Bay played in the development of Namibia.

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Eco Friendly Walks

These walks must be booked at least 48 hours in advance.

1. Eco Dune Walk

Minimum 4 Adults - single travellers welcome to join existing tours.

Duration N\$ 750.00 Per Person - Adults

± 4 hours

Start Time: ±08h00 - 08h30 Departs from Desert Breeze Lodge

End Time: ±12h30

Included: Guide

What to bring: Walking Shoes, Jacket, Sunblock & Hat, Binoculars & Photographic Equipment

Please note: We can arrange to pick you up at your accommodations in Swakopmund where you will be returned to after the walk at an additional cost of N\$ 200 per group.

2. Desert Night Walk

Minimum 4 Adults - single travellers welcome to join existing tours.

Duration N\$ 750.00 Per Person - Adults

±2-2,5 hrs

Time: TBA - Depending on time of sunset

Included: Guide

What to bring: Walking Shoes, Jacket, Headlamp or small Torch & Photographic Equipment

Please note: We can arrange to pick you up at your accommodations in Swakopmund where you will be returned to after the walk at an additional cost of N\$ 200 per group.

3. Dinner & Desert Night Walk Combo

Minimum 4 Adults - single travellers welcome to join existing tours.

Duration N\$ 1,130.00 Per Person - Adults

±2-2,5 hrs

Time: TBA - Depending on time of sunset

Included: Guide & Dinner at the "Fish Deli" followed by the Desert Night Walk

What to bring: Walking Shoes, Jacket, Headlamp or small Torch & Photographic Equipment

Please note: We can arrange to pick you up at your accommodations in Swakopmund where you will be returned to after the walk at an additional cost of N\$ 200 per group.

Private Tours can be arranged for individuals or groups and will be quoted accordingly.



1. Eco Dune Walk

With the Namib Desert practically in our backyard you are very close to being in touch with an extremely rare eco-system. We offer an intimate experience on foot exploring the fauna and flora, most of which are endemic to the dune sea of the Namib Desert. We start the walk on the banks of the Swakop River and take a leisurely stroll through the scenic inter-dune valleys in search of Perringuey's adder, Fitzsimmon's Burrowing Skink, Namib Web-footed Gecko, Namaqua Chameleon, Gray's Lark and a plethora of other small desert-adapted species.



2. Desert Night Walk

We offer a night walk to the Namib's gravel plains where you will be shown the desert adapted night life concentrating on the various species of Gecko, Spiders, Gerbils and Scorpions.

During the day the desert looks inhospitable, unfriendly, devoid of any animal life, but once the sun sets, the sand turns into a playground for all kinds of animals. Most of the creatures in the Namib are nocturnal and can be observed only after dark. The Night walk offers a glimpse into the nocturnal theatre of this unique eco-system. After dark the seemingly barren Namib gravel plains come to life and we help you discover these little nocturnal wonders. The walks provide a truly amazing educational experience of the little seen nocturnal creatures.

This walk starts from near the Rossmund Lodge where a short walk across the Swakop River will take you to the desolate gravel plains to the south. It is advisable to have dinner before the walk.

We can arrange to pick you up at your accommodations in Swakopmund where you will be returned after the walk at an additional cost of N\$100 per group.





THE NATURALIST COLLECTION



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The Naturalist Collection began as Batis Birding Safaris more than ten years ago. Today, Namibian Naturalist Tours & Safaris and Braine Photography also belong to the fold.

The Naturalist Collection has grown from strength to strength and for well over a decade specialist birders and nature enthusiasts have flocked from all over the world to experience one of its top-notch, tailor-made, naturalist safaris. A large factor that sets this dynamic Namibian family run business apart is its unique team of specialized guides: Steve Braine, together with sons, Sean and Dayne, are an impressive trio.

With 40 years of active conservation under his belt, Steve's passion for the natural world rubbed off onto his boys. Sean and Dayne spent much of their early years growing up in the remote Skeleton Coast Park while their father was the warden of this fascinating wilderness. The young boys' curiosity about the environment, nature, wildlife and all things pertaining to the natural world was nurtured and honed from an early age. Later, much of their teenage years were spent in the Hobatere Concession area, a rugged wilderness teeming with wildlife and situated in Namibia's spectacular north-west. It was in this pristine bush world, that Steve, together with wife Louise, built and ran a lodge.

Hobatere Lodge became a resounding success and it was here that two key Braine family passions merged: a love of the wild and the joy of sharing it with others. Based here, both Sean and Dayne guided wildlife safaris and gained invaluable experience in the tourism industry.

Years of first-hand wilderness experiences, a deep fascination and understanding of the natural world have equipped the Braine trio with a unique skill-set that not only forms the cornerstones of The Naturalist Collection but creates the platform to launch specialized tours in herpetology, entomology, birding, botany, general wildlife and wildlife photography. Their enthusiasm for the natural world is infectious and their expertise enables the visitor to see the wonderful creatures that inhabit this earth through a naturalist's eyes.

This team's expertise stretches beyond Namibia's borders and tailor-made options further afield have become an additional product. Off the beaten track adventures into Angola translate into mind-blowing experiences and those who wish to explore the unique flora, fauna and natural wonders of Madagascar, Ethiopia or Uganda need look no further than The Naturalist Collection.



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