



CHEETAH; ALL PHOTOS BY ANN BURKE



## DISCOVER NAMIBIA

### AND THE CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUND

*Led by Ann Burke, CCF Indiana Chapter President*

May 9 – 25, 2020



*The cheetah is the world’s fastest land animal—and Africa’s most endangered cat. On this 17-day expedition, learn about the Cheetah Conservation Fund’s efforts to protect these incredible creatures through initiatives in habitat preservation, research, and education. Join Ann Burke as she makes her fourth trip to Africa and her third supporting the Cheetah Conservation Fund. She is thrilled to be able to share the beautiful conservation-minded country of Namibia and the inspirational work of CCF with her fellow travelers. Along the way, explore the country’s natural and historical highlights, from towering red dunes and fascinating geological formations to game drives in Etosha National Park where you may spot the “Big Five” and other iconic wildlife.*

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, where you will be introduced to the culture and crafts of Namibia.
- Learn about the Namib Desert and its unique wildlife. Visit Sossusvlei, Sesriem Canyon, and Swakopmund, exploring dunes and the Atlantic coastline on foot and on a Sandwich Harbour 4x4 day adventure.
- View rock engravings at Twyfelfontein, a World Heritage Site. While there, also visit The Living Museum of the Damara and search for desert elephants.
- Explore Etosha National Park and observe wildlife during daytime safaris and at night at a lighted waterhole.
- Learn about the holistic conservation efforts of the Cheetah Conservation Fund and spend time with cheetahs on site.





## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

### MAY 9 - DEPART US

Depart from your home city for your destination—Windhoek, Namibia.

### MAY 10 - WINDHOEK

Welcome to Namibia! Upon arrival this evening at the Hosea Kutako International Airport, after clearing customs and immigration, you will be greeted by a Holbrook representative and transferred to your hotel for overnight. *Overnight at Roof of Africa.*

### MAY 11 - SOSSUSVLEI

This morning after breakfast, travel southwest by safari vehicle through the scenic Khomas Hochland highlands before heading down the Great Escarpment into the Namib Desert below. Stop for a picnic lunch at a scenic location along the way. Arrive in the mid-afternoon at Le Mirage Resort & Spa, just 13 miles from the Sesriem gate to Sossusvlei. *Overnight at Le Mirage Resort & Spa. (BLD)*

### MAY 12 - SOSSUSVLEI

Rise early for a magical excursion to Sossusvlei within Namib-Naukluft National Park, one of the largest conservation areas in Africa. Sossusvlei is a large, white, salt-and-clay pan that contrasts with the red dunes that surround it. This area boasts some of the highest free-standing sand dunes in the world, reaching up over 1,000 feet. A 20-minute drive takes you to Dune 45. At approximately 280 feet high, the climb is well worth the effort; at the top you will have an incredible panoramic view of Dune Valley. Your guide will explain the history and formation of the Namib Desert and talk about the fascinating creatures and plants that have adapted to survive in these harsh conditions. Close to Dune 45 is the impressive Vlei. This vlei has long been cut off from the Tsauchab River by a large sand dune. The resulting landscape is characterized by its many dead camelthorn trees, which have been preserved by the extremely dry climate. En route, as you enjoy your boxed lunch, also stop to view Sesriem Canyon, a narrow gorge about a mile long and 98 feet deep, formed 2 million years ago by the Tsauchab River. The canyon provides an excellent visual history of the area's geology. Be on the lookout for bird life such as Pied Crows, Lanner Falcons, and Lappet-faced Vultures. *Overnight at Le Mirage Resort & Spa. (BLD)*

### MAY 13 - SWAKOPMUND

Rise early to catch the sunrise before breakfast and departure. The drive today takes you northwest through the awesome and ever-changing desert landscapes of Namib-Naukluft National Park, including the impressive Gaub and Kuiseb canyons. Stop for a delicious pastry in the town of Solitaire along the way. Arrive at the port town of Walvis Bay, where you will visit the lagoon, known for its impressive bird life (this activity may be done the following day due to travel times). In the summer months, the lagoon provides a feeding ground for up to 150,000 birds representing over 150 recorded species, including flamingos, pelicans, gulls, and cormorants. Continue north to Swakopmund, with its pleasant seaside location and cooler coastal air. Swakopmund resembles a small, German coastal resort town, with a variety of shops, restaurants, museums, craft centers, and galleries. You'll have the remainder of the late afternoon at leisure to relax at the hotel or explore the town and wander along the waterfront on foot. Although the sea is normally cold for swimming, there are pleasant beaches, and the cooler climate is usually refreshing after being in the desert. Dinner this evening will be at one of the popular restaurants in town with your guide. *Overnight at Beach Hotel Swakopmund. (BLD)*

### MAY 14 - SWAKOPMUND

Today will be spent on a Sandwich Harbour 4x4 day tour. Sandwich Harbour is part of the Namib-Naukluft Park. Together, the lagoon, salt pans, and bird sanctuary form the Walvis Bay Wetlands, seen by some as the single most important coastal wetlands of Southern Africa. Follow the coastline, glide over dunes, and be on the lookout for the flora and fauna that make this area so special. Lunch is served during the tour. Your return will be in the late afternoon, and you'll have the remainder of the afternoon and evening on your own to try out a restaurant of your choice, or simply dine in at your hotel. *Overnight at Beach Hotel Swakopmund. (BL)*

### MAY 15 - TWYFELFONTEIN

Check out and continue your journey north to Twyfelfontein via Brandberg Mountain. Stop along the way at the roadside stalls where vendors sell precious gemstones. Strewn over a hillside among flat-topped mountains, Twyfelfontein's boulders and slabs of red sandstone hold some 2,500 prehistoric engravings that depict wildlife, animal tracks, and abstract motifs, probably originating from San people. Stone tools and other artifacts found at Twyfelfontein suggest that hunter-gatherers occupied

the site over a period of perhaps 7,000 years. The engravings lie along two circular routes, one an hour's climb and the other 40 minutes longer. Twyfelfontein is one of Namibia's key National Monuments and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. *Overnight at Twyfelfontein Country Lodge. (BLD)*



#### MAY 16 - TWYFELFONTEIN

After an early breakfast, you will be treated to a memorable 4x4 excursion along the valleys of the ephemeral Aba-Huab River to explore this remarkable region and search for game. Damaraland, as this region is known, is home to a variety of desert-adapted wildlife, including desert elephants. The elephants are elusive, but as they are mostly active in the morning, this will be your best chance to see them. Return to Twyfelfontein for lunch.

This afternoon, visit the Living Museum of the Damara to learn about Damara culture, and then see two interesting geological formations, the organ pipes and Burnt Mountain. This evening, set out for elephant tracking. *Overnight at Twyfelfontein Country Lodge. (BLD)*

#### MAY 17 - ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

This morning, make your way to Toshari Lodge, near the Andersons Gate at the edge of the magnificent Etosha National Park. After settling in, you'll have time for an afternoon game drive in the park. *Overnight at Toshari Lodge. (BLD)*

#### MAY 18 - ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Rise early for game drives in the park today. Etosha, which was declared a game reserve by the German colonial administration back in 1907, covers an area of 8,600 square miles and consists of grassland, woodland, and savanna. Almost all African game species are represented here, including the "Big Five"—elephant, rhino, Cape buffalo, lion, and leopard. Other highlights include giraffes, zebras, wildebeests, antelopes, hyenas, honey badgers, and warthogs. More than 340 bird species have also been recorded in the park. This afternoon, check in at Okutala Etosha Lodge, a private lodge on a breathtaking piece of Namibian land, covering nearly 60,000 acres. After a late afternoon game drive with the camp guides, return to the comfort of the lodge with enough time to freshen up and enjoy dinner overlooking the camp's floodlit waterhole. *Overnight at Okutala Etosha Lodge. (BLD)*

#### MAY 19 - OTJIWARONGO

Today bid Etosha farewell and travel to the Cheetah View Eco Lodge, run by the Cheetah Conservation Fund. CCF is a

Namibian non-profit incorporated association dedicated to the long-term survival of the cheetah and its ecosystems. Arrive in time for lunch at the Cheetah Café. This afternoon get together for an orientation to the CCF program and learn about its mission and vision, followed by a walking tour of CCF's main facility, education center, museum, clinic, and creamery, and an introduction to the cheetahs, dogs, and livestock that live at the main center. *Overnight at Cheetah View Eco Lodge. (BLD)*

#### MAY 20 - OTJIWARONGO

Start early to watch the Cheetah Run, which is when the non-releasable resident cheetahs get their daily exercise. You will also want to be a part of the "cheetah feeding"—a ride-along to watch them take their breakfast. The cheetah is the world's fastest land animal and Africa's most endangered cat. Uniquely adapted for speed, the cheetah is capable of reaching speeds greater than 68 miles per hour in just over three seconds, and at top speed their stride is 23 feet long. With its long legs and very slender body, the cheetah is quite different from all other cats and is the only member of its genus, *Acinonyx*. The cheetah's unique morphology and physiology allow it to attain the extreme speeds for which it is famous, and it's often referred to as the greyhound of cats. Later this afternoon, you will be taken on a sundowner game drive through CCF's own "Little Serengeti" on the Bellebeno Reserve, a picturesque open plain spanning 113,668 acres. This very important area of land, which forms the part of the Waterberg Conservancy, is home to many free-ranging game species such as oryx, eland, red hartebeest, springbok, steenbok, duiker, warthog, and jackals. *Overnight at Cheetah View Eco Lodge. (BLD)*

#### MAY 21 - OTJIWARONGO

Today, discover the breathtaking Waterberg Plateau. Standing at nearly 1400 feet, this red and orange sandstone rock, topped with lush vegetation, is home to incredible fauna (25 species of mammals) and avian species (over 200 species) which thrive in this very special protected area. A boxed lunch will be provided so that you may enjoy a picnic in the reserve. *Overnight at Cheetah View Eco Lodge. (BLD)*

#### MAY 22 - WINDHOEK

Rise early this morning for one last memorable guided activity, or leisure time before checking out to make your way back to Windhoek. Once you arrive at your hotel in Windhoek, you'll have time for a festive dinner at Joe's Beer House. *Overnight at Roof of Africa. (BLD)*

#### MAY 23 - WINDHOEK

This morning, your guide will introduce you to Windhoek. On Independence Avenue, the city's main thoroughfare, well-preserved German colonial buildings stand side-by-side with modern architectural styles, and you can see executives in business suits alongside Herero women in traditional Victorian dress. Visit the neighborhood craft center, where you can explore on your own, have lunch, and then return to the hotel for relaxation. This evening, enjoy a special farewell dinner with your guide at one of the popular restaurants in town. *Overnight at Roof of Africa. (BLD)*

#### MAY 24 - DEPART

This morning can be spent relaxing, exploring Windhoek, visiting NamCrafts and the Craft Center, or doing some last-minute souvenir shopping if time allows, before transfer out to the Windhoek International Airport for your flight(s) home. (B)

#### MAY 25 - ARRIVE HOME

Welcome home!



## ABOUT YOUR LEADER



### Ann Burke

Ann believes in the transformative power of international travel and is passionate about wildlife conservation. She was a high school biology and environmental science teacher for over 25 years. During that time, she traveled

internationally with her students, allowing them to experience new cultures and global environmental challenges firsthand.

Ann was first introduced to Dr. Laurie Marker, Executive Director and Founder of the Cheetah Conservation Fund, at a biology teacher conference she attended early in her career. Ann has followed the wildly successful work of Dr. Marker since that time and believes strongly in the holistic approach to wildlife conservation that CCF follows and models.

In 2016, Ann completed a Master's in Biology at Miami University (Ohio) with a focus on international conservation. In 2017, she helped found and became the president of the Indiana Chapter of the Cheetah Conservation Fund. This will be her fourth trip to Africa and her third to the Cheetah Conservation Fund. Ann is thrilled to be able to share the beautiful conservation-minded country of Namibia and the inspirational work of CCF with her fellow travelers.

You can learn more about the work of CCF at their website: [www.cheetah.org](http://www.cheetah.org)



DEAD VLEI



WATERHOLE GATHERING



## LAND PRICING

**\$7,195** (based on minimum 8 participants)

Cost includes meals, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, in-country transportation, full-time guide for the duration of the program, all gratuities, bottled water on the bus, and carbon offset.

Does not include international airfare or items of a personal nature. Holbrook can assist with your flight arrangements if desired.

## TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

## THE FINE PRINT

*Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip, add \$795 per person. A \$500 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$300 cancellation fee until February 4, 2020, at which time non-refundable final payment is due.*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit [holbrook.travel/ccf-na20](http://holbrook.travel/ccf-na20) or contact Sandy Schmidt at [schmidt@holbrooktravel.com](mailto:schmidt@holbrooktravel.com) or 877-907-5360.



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