Namibia expedition 2025 with Thijs Heslenfeld





I take private guests into the remote, untouched African wilderness of Damaraland and Kaokoland in Namibia. A world without roads or fences, where elephant, black rhino and even the very rare desert-adapted lion roam.

There, we adapt to the silence and the beauty of the African wilderness. We enjoy anything that crosses our path, but we're not chasing the *big five*. We will probably meet the people from the local Himba tribe. But we take it the way it comes. We're not there to impress the people at home with our stories and images.

This is a rather adventurous way of travelling but it is remarkably comfortable at the same time. We cook on the campfire and warm our beds with a hot stone. We travel with a powerful and reliable 4x4 with 2 comfortable tents on the roof. And there's even a fridge on board. Because we may be roughing it a bit, but there's no such thing as an African sundowner without a decent gintonic;-)

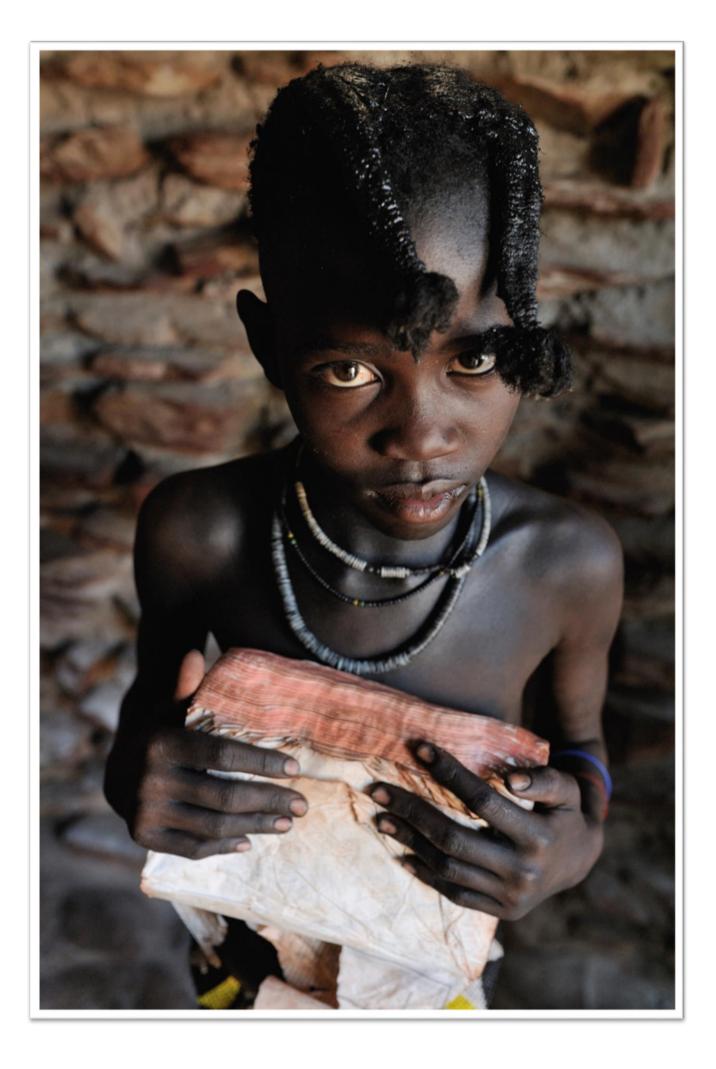
We simply use what is available and we only bring what is not (like our GT's and those juicy lamb chops). And we make a point of leaving as little traces as we possibly can. We never feed the wildlife, we don't consider the local tribal people a tourist attraction, we leave our camping spots as impeccable as we found them and we don't drive outside tracks or riverbeds.

So.

Are you ready for the real McCoy?

Thijs Heslenfeld

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HOW DOES THIS WORK?

This is not your 'ordinary' safari. We're not travelling in a group. In fact, we may not see any other humans for days. There will be no noisy private bankers at the campfire. When we wake up in the morning we don't know where we will sleep tonight.

The main thing is being out there and experiencing the space, the starry skies, the encounters with wildlife and local tribes and the campfire. Living in the here and now, that's what this is all about. The best thing to take home is the realisation that you can feel at home wherever you are on planet earth, whatever may happen.

In my experience there is one important rule of life that a journey like this presents: you can only experience freedom and joy if you can also accept there will be fear and anxiety. In other words: you can only be free if you can also feel scared. This is what I have experienced again and again during my travels, and this is what I want to share with others.

"The sad truth is that most people spend their lives saving money for adventures they will never experience. They save money instead of experiences"

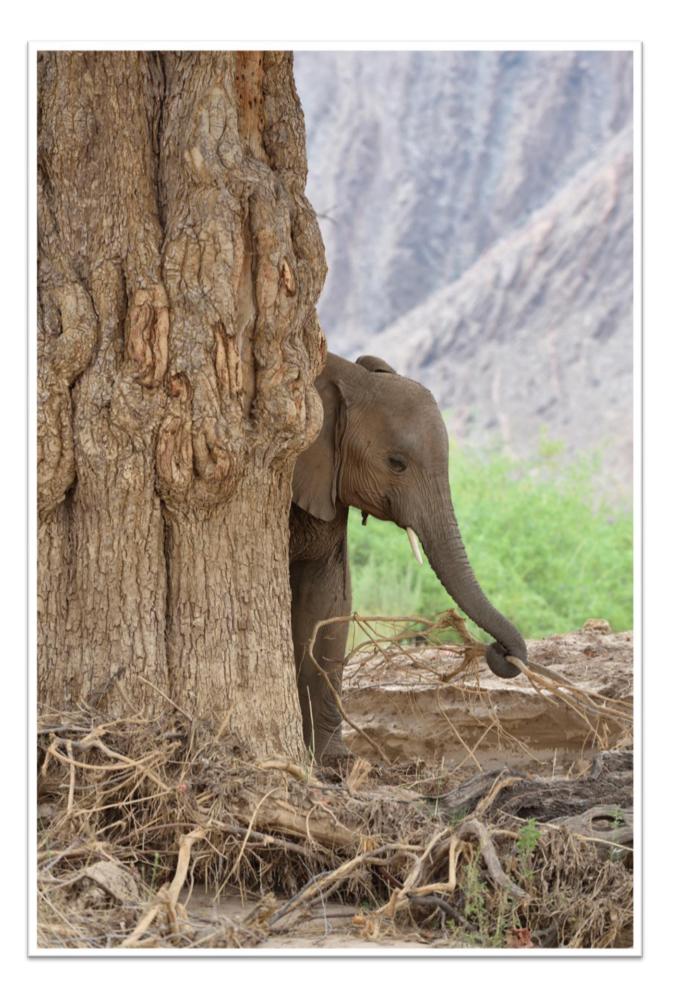
— Bill Perkins

I had 60+ guests joining me so far, travelling into the remotest parts of Namibia. Each and everyone of them agreed this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. If not a life-changing one.

Bert-Jan ter Hofte put it like this: 'My journey with Thijs has been the most pure, powerful and intense travel experience of my life. I experienced freedom like I never did before, driving a 4x4 through the most remote areas of Namibia, not meeting anybody for 5 days. In these parts of Namibia you can follow your inner compass. You have to. I felt myself being drawn from my comfort zone into the stretch zone every day, and that was great. Adventure and tranquility, freedom and responsibility - it was all there. Never before have I been so close to nature. It made me realise how cultivated my daily life in fact is.'

'My campfires became better each night', **Marc Knip** remembers. 'I learned to read tracks and spot wild animals. And although I still feel there is so much more to learn, something essential changed, because I started on a new journey. In our civilised world man has evolved from a hunter into a clown that worries about charging his iPhone – and the same goes for me. In Namibia there were moments that I felt the existence of this prehistoric man, fully connected with his environment, with planet earth. And the most intriguing is that I felt his presence inside myself!'

'From the very start Thijs made sure I felt safe and secure', says **Annemarie van der Toorn**. 'Not only is he a really nice guy, his driving skills and knowledge of nature make him the perfect man for the job. This trip made me realise again how the most simple things in life can be the most precious as well. This journey made me realise how important it is to find silence and peace within yourself. Something that is almost impossible to achieve here, at home, in my busy life. But there, in the bush it is almost impossible not to find it.'



'Ever since that journey I have made it a point to switch of my smartphone every friday night only to switch it on next monday. A small change that made a huge difference.'

If you want to know what it's like to bushcamp in Namibia, <u>this gallery</u> from my photo book '<u>Empty</u>' will give you a taste.

DATES & PRICING 2025

The next expeditions will be in the spring of 2025, starting early March and ending late May. Every individual expedition lasts 10 days *apart from time spent travelling in and out of the country*.

Prices start at € 8.950,- (or € 6.900,- p.p. if you travel together). This rate is full board and includes everything apart from your flight tickets, so all accommodations (e.g. hotels before beginning and after the end of your journey), food & drinks, transfers etc. You simply won't spend anything else while in Namibia.

If you want to find out more, simply call me or send me an <u>e-mail</u> so I can tell you all about these adventurous journeys. And if you want to be updated on any future expeditions, make sure to link on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Instagram</u> or <u>LinkedIn</u>.

MORE INFORMATION

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