

SKELETON COAST



COAST 2 COAST

T O U R S

& 4X4

You'll neva know until you go!!

MESSAGE FROM COAST2COAST TOURS:

“Welcome to the Skeleton Coast – a place where raw wilderness meets timeless beauty. At Coast2Coast Tours, we believe travel should be more than just a journey; it should be a transformation. Here, among shipwrecks, shifting sands, and fog-draped horizons, you’ll discover not only Namibia’s wild spirit but also your own sense of adventure. Join us as we explore this legendary coastline, where every dune, every wave, and every sunrise tells a story waiting to be lived.” - Coast2Coast Tours

GUIDES:

Nico Burger
Christelle Burger
Locin Burger

DURATION:

8 days

SKELETON COAST:

Stretching for nearly 500 km along Namibia’s northwestern shoreline and spanning about 40 km inland, the Skeleton Coast is one of the most dramatic and awe-inspiring landscapes in Africa. Here, the icy Benguela Current of the Atlantic Ocean collides with towering dunes and stark desert plains, creating a place both unforgiving and mesmerizing.

At the heart of this region lies Skeleton Coast National Park, covering an immense 16,845 square kilometers (6,504 square miles). Despite its reputation as a harsh wilderness, the area teems with life. Desert-adapted elephants, lions, brown hyenas, jackals, giraffes, seals, oryx, kudus, and zebras roam this rugged terrain.

The plant life is equally remarkable, thriving in a land without rain by drawing moisture from the Atlantic’s daily fog. Ancient *Welwitschia mirabilis*, hardy !Nara melons, lithops (known as “living stones”), lichen, and pencil bush stand as living testaments to survival in one of the world’s most extreme environments.



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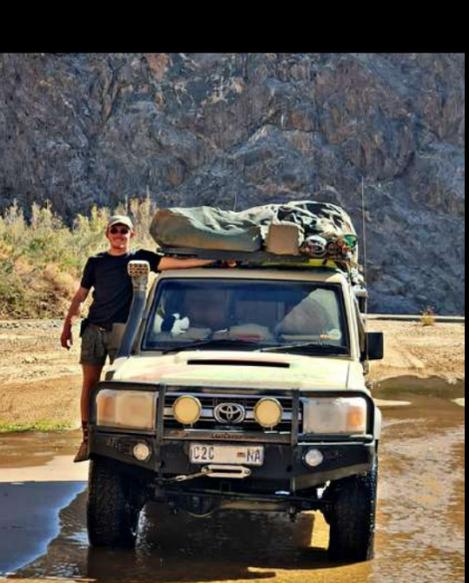
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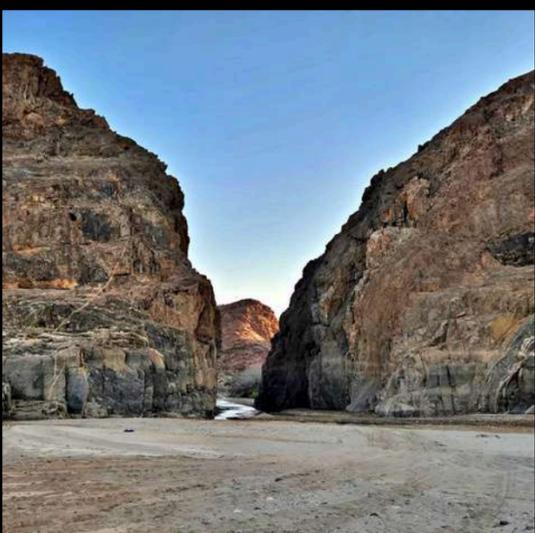
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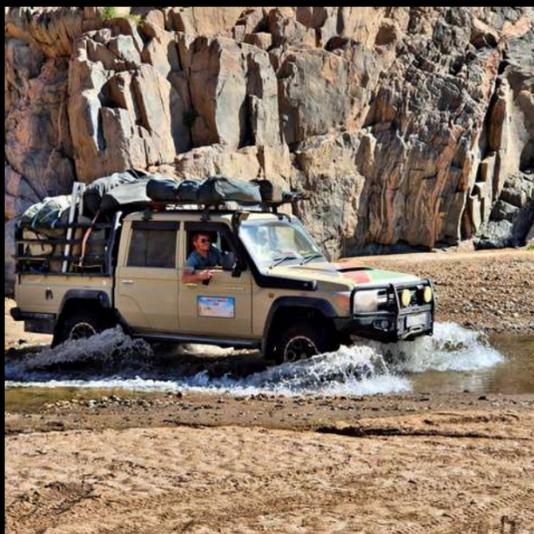
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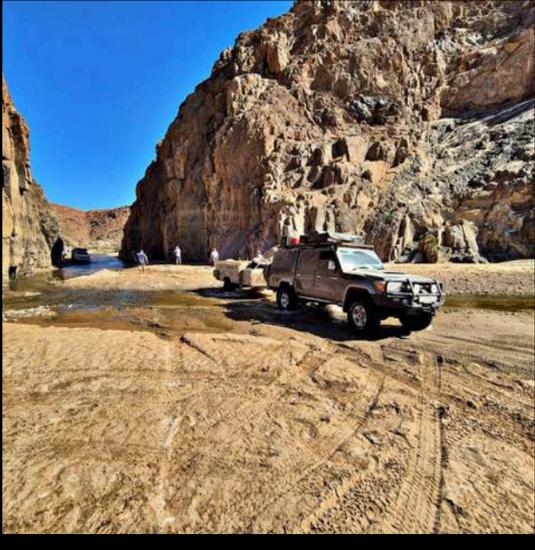
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DAY TO DAY LAYOUT:

DAY 1 - SWAKOPMUND TO MOWE BAY

Our adventure begins early morning at 07h00, when we meet Nico Burger of Coast2Coast Tours at the Shell petrol station in Swakopmund (last circle on the Henties Bay road; departure time may vary). Each vehicle is equipped with a radio transmitter, allowing Nico to guide the convoy, share insights, and ensure safety along the route. He emphasizes strict adherence to existing tracks to protect the fragile desert environment.

Our first highlight is the Zeila shipwreck, stranded on 25 August 2008—a haunting yet photogenic reminder of the Skeleton Coast's reputation. After a brief pause at Henties Bay, we continue north to the Skeleton Coast Park entrance gate.

Along the way, we stop at the abandoned oil rig, decommissioned in 1976. Today, it serves as a breeding ground for cormorants, and hyena tracks are often spotted nearby. The rusted steel, sculpted by time and sea air, offers striking photographic opportunities.

We then head to Terrace Bay, a renowned fishing destination, where we pause for lunch and refuel. This is the last chance to stock up, as beyond this point lies nearly 1,000 km of untouched wilderness—no shops, no towns, only us and the raw beauty of nature.

At Mowe Bay, the unofficial boundary between Damaraland and Kaokoveld, we bid farewell to civilization. From here, entry is restricted to permit holders, and we immerse ourselves in pristine landscapes, accompanied by the rhythm of waves and endless coastal vistas.

Just north of Mowe Bay, Nico selects a sheltered campsite tucked between dunes. As evening falls, our cook prepares dinner over the fire, and we gather around the flames—our “boesman's TV”—to share stories under the stars before settling into our tents for the night.

DAY 2 - INTO THE HEART OF THE SKELETON COAST

The journey continues as the scenery shifts dramatically—from stark, barren plains to rugged mountains, winding riverbeds, and the profound solitude that defines this remote corner of Namibia. The landscape itself becomes a canvas of color: golden sands give way to dark volcanic rock, while flashes of deep red garnet shimmer under the sun.

Along the way, we encounter another haunting shipwreck, its weathered timbers and rusted remains whispering stories of the past. Nearby, a rusted bulldozer and tractor stand abandoned—left behind by the van der Westhuizen brothers during their diamond mining attempts. These relics serve as reminders of human ambition and the legendary Dunedon Star rescue that unfolded in this unforgiving land.

Further north, we marvel at the remains of the Ventura Bomber plane, its scattered parts still visible decades after its crash into the sea. Each wreck we encounter adds another layer to the Skeleton Coast's reputation as a place where survival and history intertwine.

We then enter the Hoarusib dry river, flanked by towering mountains. Here, water pools shimmer among lush greenery, a striking contrast to the desert beyond. Crossing the river, we admire the delicate curls in the dried mud and discover unique plant species adapted to this harsh environment. Between the dunes, extraordinary rock formations rise—hard stone sculpted against soft sand, creating a breathtaking natural gallery.

As evening approaches, we set up camp on a dry riverbed. A hot shower and a delicious dinner await, followed by the serenity of the wilderness. Surrounded by silence and starlight, we soak in the tranquil atmosphere before resting for another day of adventure.

DAY 3 - RIVERBEDS TO CAPE FRIA

On this day, the landscape transforms once again. Leaving behind the rugged riverbeds and towering mountains, we journey into vast plains painted in striking hues. The barren terrain of dark brown and golden-yellow sands is illuminated by vivid patches of orange lichen, creating a mesmerizing natural mosaic.

Our route takes us to the abandoned Sarusas Amethyst mine, once famed for producing some of the finest amethysts in the world. Despite their exceptional quality, mining here was never economically sustainable, and today the site stands as a quiet monument to unrealized potential. Continuing north along the shoreline, we reach Cape Fria, a remote and windswept stretch of coast. Here, wildlife thrives against the odds: lappet-faced vultures, black-backed jackals, colonies of seals, and—if fortune smiles upon us—the elusive brown hyena. Each encounter reminds us of the resilience of life in this stark environment.

As evening falls, we set up camp in a place once marked by human struggle, where stranded travelers endured the Skeleton Coast's unforgiving conditions with little food or water. Tonight, however, we enjoy the comfort of a warm meal, the camaraderie of the group, and the timeless rhythm of waves breaking on the shore.

DAY 4 - THE KUNENE RIVER MOUTH & BOSLUISBAAI

Our journey brings us to the Kunene River mouth, one of the Skeleton Coast's most striking natural landmarks. Along the way, we pause at Bosluisbaai, a secluded bay offering sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean framed by desert dunes.

The Kunene River (also known as Cunene in Portuguese) is one of Southern Africa's few perennial rivers. Rising in the highlands of Angola, it flows south to form the border with Namibia before turning westward and emptying into the Atlantic. Stretching over 1,050 km (652 miles), the river is a vital lifeline in this otherwise arid region, sustaining wildlife and shaping the landscape. For the next two nights, we settle into Bosluisbaai Camp, tucked between dunes. After several nights of wild camping, the camp's facilities provide a welcome touch of comfort while still keeping us immersed in the wilderness.

DAY 5 - LEISURE AT BOSLUISBAAI

With vehicles unloaded, today offers a slower rhythm and time to savor the surroundings. Guests may choose to fish along the coast, try their hand at dune driving, or simply relax and enjoy the solitude of this remote paradise.

Later, Nico leads us over the dunes to a spectacular vantage point. From here, the views stretch across the Angolan mountains to the north and the rolling Namibian dunes to the south—a breathtaking panorama that captures the essence of the Skeleton Coast's wild beauty.

As the sun sets, we return to camp for another evening of camaraderie, good food, and the timeless soundtrack of waves breaking on the shore.

DAY 6 - ANGRA FRIA & WILD CAMPING AMONG THE DUNES

After enjoying breakfast and a refreshing shower at Bosluisbaai Camp, we retrace our route for about 40 km before turning east at Angra Fria. This stretch of the journey reveals fascinating natural and cultural landmarks, each with its own story to tell.

We pause to explore the mysterious Bushman's Circles, ancient stone formations that spark curiosity and imagination. Nearby, the circle dunes—newly formed and ever-shifting—showcase the Skeleton Coast's dynamic landscape, where wind and sand continually sculpt fresh patterns. By late afternoon, Nico selects a picturesque wild camp tucked into the dunes. Here, surrounded by sweeping desert vistas and the quiet rhythm of nature, we set up tents and settle in for the night. The evening offers a chance to reflect on the day's discoveries, share stories by the fire, and immerse ourselves in the solitude and beauty of this remote wilderness.

DAY 7 - KHUMIB RIVER TO PUROS

Our journey today takes us along the Khumib River, where the riverbanks reveal fascinating layers—fine silt delicately sandwiched between coarser mud, creating striking natural patterns.

As we follow the river's course, the scenery unfolds into some of the most breathtaking landscapes of the Skeleton Coast.

We continue toward the Hoarusib River at Puros, a region known not only for its dramatic beauty but also for encounters with the legendary “lonely men of Kaokoland”, the semi-nomadic Himba herders who embody the resilience of life in this remote wilderness. With luck, we may also spot desert-adapted elephants, giraffes, and a variety of antelope moving gracefully through the terrain.

The Hoarusib River offers spectacular views, with its winding channels framed by rugged mountains and lush pockets of greenery. As evening approaches, we set up camp either along the Hoarusib or the nearby Hoanib River, immersing ourselves once more in the tranquility of Namibia's wild frontier.

DAY 8 - HOANIB RIVER TO SESFONTEIN

Our final day begins with more encounters along the Hoanib River, where the enigmatic “lonely stone men” stand as silent guardians of the desert. As we follow the river's course, we keep watch for desert-adapted elephants, giraffes, and other wildlife that thrive in this remarkable ecosystem.

We pause at a spectacular viewpoint in the Hoanib, offering sweeping vistas of rugged mountains, winding riverbeds, and endless desert horizons—a fitting farewell to the Skeleton Coast's raw beauty. From here, we continue toward the Hoanib Poort, a dramatic gateway that marks the transition from wilderness to the final leg of our journey.

The adventure concludes as we drive along a scenic route to Sesfontein, our end destination. Here, surrounded by striking landscapes and the quiet charm of Namibia's northwest, we reflect on the unforgettable experiences of the past days—shipwrecks, dunes, rivers, wildlife, and the timeless spirit of the Skeleton Coast.



NOTES & RECOMMENDATIONS:

For accommodation after the tour, we suggest options such as **Sesfontein, Palmwag, Khowarib Lodge, Grootberg, and Kamanjab**. Please note that bookings for these stays should be arranged independently.

The tour price covers all concession fees payable to the Ministry, park entrance and usage fees per person per day, compulsory radio communication between vehicles, two dedicated guide vehicles, and three meals per day.

To ensure a smooth journey, each vehicle must be fully prepared. Essentials include:

- Sufficient fuel supply
- Tent, mattress, sleeping bag/blankets, and camping chairs
- At least 60 liters of water per vehicle
- Two large bags of firewood and one bag of charcoal
- Strong green garbage bags for waste
- Drinks and snacks, cutlery and crockery
- Warm jackets, bedding, clothing for both hot and cold conditions, sun protection, hats, lip balm, and personal medicine
- A reliable 4x4 vehicle in good condition, equipped with high-flotation tires, pump and pressure gauge, two spare wheels, emergency gear, tools, spare parts, and front and rear recovery points.

This adventure demands preparation, but the rewards are unforgettable.
As we like to say: "You'll never know... until you go!"



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