

SKELETON COAST



COAST2COAST

TOURS

& 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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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 Duneden 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 – JOURNEY NORTH

This day is dedicated to the long, rugged drive north. Leaving behind the dramatic riverbeds and mountains, we cross vast plains painted in hues of dark brown and golden- yellow sands, with vivid patches of orange lichen shimmering under the sun.

Important: Only if Skeleton Coast Camp is available will we head directly there on Day 3. Otherwise, we will do wild camping under the stars, surrounded by dunes and the raw wilderness of the Skeleton Coast.

By evening, we set up camp in the open, enjoy a warm meal, and soak in the serenity of the desert night. This is a true wilderness experience, preparing us for the adventures ahead.

DAY 4 - FISHING, RELAXATION & WILDERNESS

With two nights planned at Skeleton Coast Camp (depending on availability), today is all about slowing down and soaking in the atmosphere. We spend the day fishing, exploring Bosluisbaai's sweeping desert- framed views, and enjoying the tranquility of the Kunene River mouth. Wildlife sightings may include seals, jackals, vultures, and—if luck is on our side—the elusive brown hyena.

After several nights of wild camping, the camp's facilities provide a welcome touch of comfort. Evenings are spent sharing stories, savoring dinner, and embracing the wilderness rhythm. It's a day of rest, camaraderie, and connection with Namibia's raw beauty.

DAY 5 - ANGRA FRIA INTO KAOKOLAND

After enjoying breakfast and a refreshing shower at Bosluisbaai Camp, we retrace our route for about 90 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. Here, surrounded by sweeping desert vistas and the quiet rhythm of nature, we set up tents and settle in for the night.

DAY 6 - KHUMIB RIVER PAST 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” and 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.

We will set up camp in a dry river bed, and talk about the days adventure.



DAY 7 - HOANIB RIVER

Our journey continues into the legendary Hoanib River, a lifeline in the desert where wildlife has adapted to thrive against the odds. As we follow the river's course, we keep watch for desert- adapted elephants, giraffes, and other remarkable species that call this ecosystem home.

We pause at a spectacular viewpoint, 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 natural gateway that marks the transition from wilderness to the final leg of our adventure.

Evening brings us to camp along the river, where the silence of the desert is broken only by the sounds of nature. Surrounded by towering landscapes and the promise of wildlife encounters, we enjoy dinner and reflect on the journey so far.

DAY 8 - SESFONTEIN

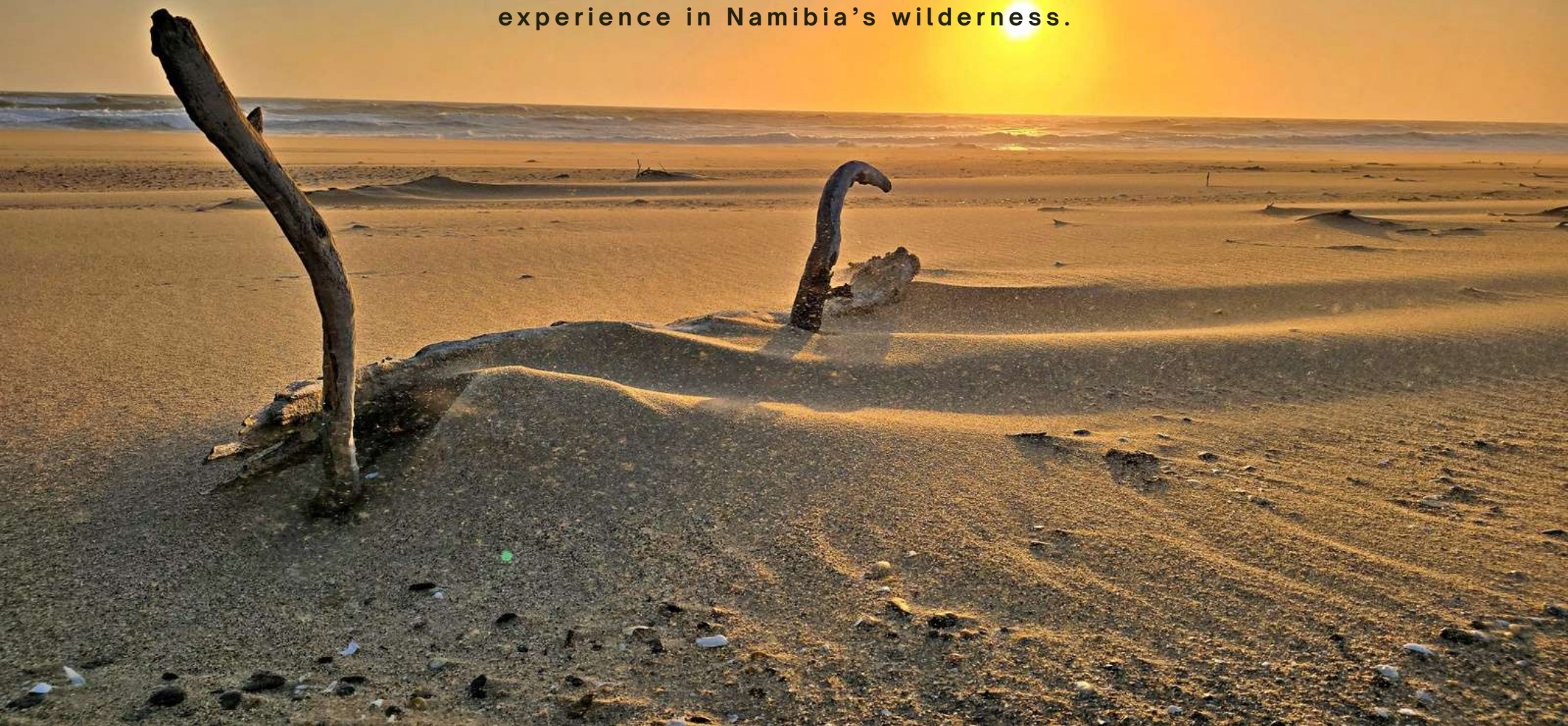
On our final day, we drive a scenic route toward Sesfontein, a destination rich in culture and history. Along the way, we encounter one last Stone Men sculpture, a symbolic farewell to the Skeleton Coast. The road takes us through a mountain pass with breathtaking views over the Etendeka Plateau, where Mopane trees and rock corkwood trees grow defiantly from stone. We also pass Himba communities, witnessing their traditional goat and cattle farming practices—a glimpse into Namibia's living heritage. As we arrive in Sesfontein, we will learn about its quiet charm and history, including the six fountains that gave the town its name and the old fort that still stands as a reminder of colonial times.

The adventure concludes here, with the tour officially ending any time from 11:00 AM. It's a moment to reflect on the unforgettable experiences of the past days—shipwrecks, dunes, rivers, wildlife, and the timeless spirit of the Skeleton Coast.



Please note:

This itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, road accessibility, or any unforeseen circumstances. Such factors may cause delays, require us to skip certain sections, or take alternative routes. Coast2Coast Tours will always prioritize your safety and comfort while ensuring the best possible experience in Namibia's wilderness.



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 two meals per day (Breakfast & Dinner).

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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