



Natural History Tour: Northeastern Namibia - Caprivi Strip

This was an excellent tour. From the moment Albert met us at Windhoek airport and took us to Eros Hills we felt at home with a friendly, interested and interesting guide who was going to ensure an exciting and varied tour.

An "appetiser" in the afternoon at Okapuka lodge was followed the next day by a drive to Vinger Klip with its fascinating cliffs and pillars. Three subsequent days and nights at Hobatere Lodge enabled us to sample a wide range of fauna, two drives in the day and one at night giving ample opportunity. It was here that we experienced such rarities as lesser spotted genet and the ringing and recording of birds by Steve Brain.

Crossing Etosha from west to east took three days and the same number of lodges. Albert's extensive knowledge - as well as navigational skills - helped us to sample so many mammals and birds in so many different settings. Seeing rhino, giraffe and zebra at the waterholes was wonderful but finding and observing Kirk's Dik-dik in its natural habitat was particularly thrilling for me.

The last section of the tour was spent beside and on rivers in the Caprivi Strip. Each location offered different perspectives and opportunities.

Again, I recall King's Den on the Chobe River with especial affection. Elephant and hippo were always on hand. It was our good fortune to witness a bull elephant traversing the water, gradually disappearing altogether but for its "periscope" trunk and reappearing in all its dark satin glory.

Our tour finished at Victoria Falls, a fitting closure in many ways but the abiding sentiment was the wish to continue or start again, with the same guide and company. Throughout the fortnight we had seen (and heard !) so much and learned even more and, it has to be said, largely due to Albert's guidance. He had responded readily and positively to requests, ideas, needs and, above all, questions.

We look forward to another trip in as near the future as possible. Best wishes, Chris & Anthea