

The Living Culture Tour

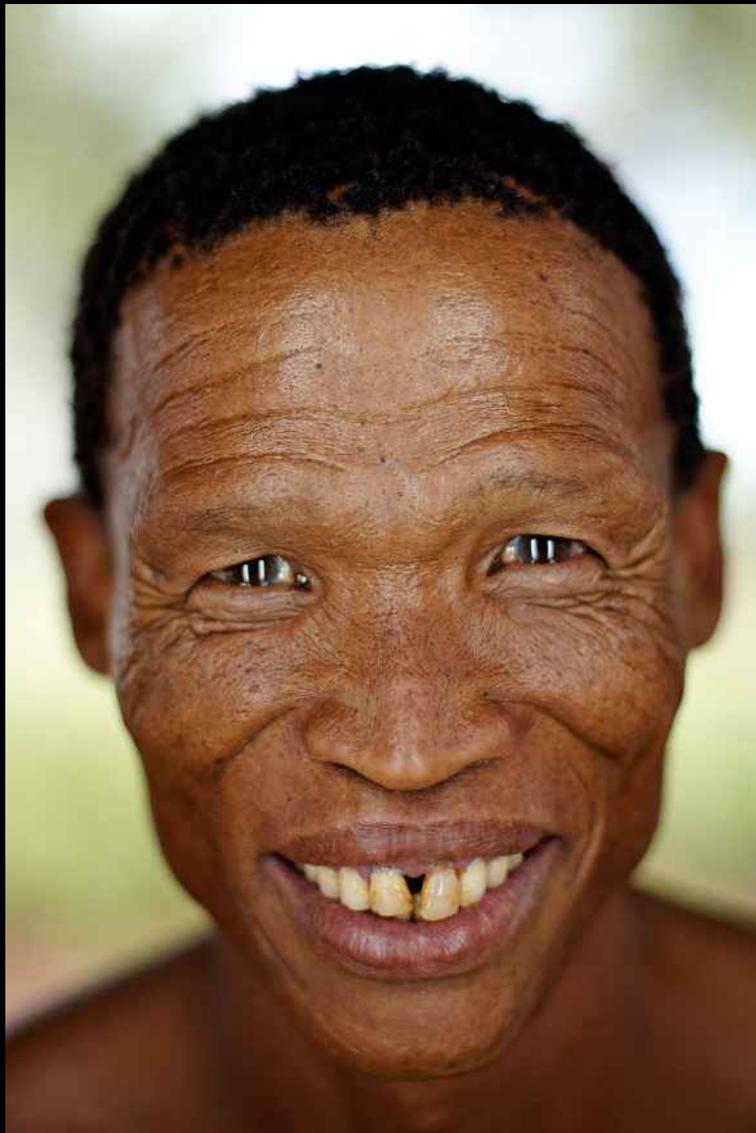
A Photographic Tour and Workshop in Namibia

"Visit Namibian friends for truly unique photographs of historic African culture"

April 03 – 16, 2012

With

Christian Goltz, kiss-of-light, Photographer, Namibia
Werner Pfeifer, Tour Guide, Namibia



Introduction

In the making for over a year, we are glad and proud to be able to offer the *Living Culture* photographic tour and workshop.

Namibia's landscapes are known to many by now. They are known for their harsh beauty and vastness. Travelers and photographers tend to fall in love with Namibia, Africa's last true wilderness. Yet there is so much more than its obvious attractions. Some say that God created Namibia in anger. They cannot possibly mean its gentle and cheerful people.

Even die-hard landscape and wildlife photographers usually wish to photograph indigenous people when they meet them - the most interesting subject to humans is humans, even more so when traveling. Frequently, however, the situation is awkward, leading to bad mood and bad images: How to make a good image of a stranger from a completely different culture? Certainly not by 'secret grab shot'...

During this event we travel to some of the culturally most important locations in Northern Namibia (Twyfelfontein, Kaokoland, Okavango River near Rundu, Grootfontein-Tsumkwe Area) to visit traditional communities of the Damara, Himba, Sambiu and San (Bushmen), respectively. All of these people know us for many years and they are very welcoming and proud to display their historic ways to visitors. These unique conditions in combination with optional expert photographic advice practically guarantee outstanding photography and an experience of a life-time. Our visit will also contribute substantially to the livelihood of the visited communities.

As a breather we have included game drives into the program as well.

There will be no formal lectures on photography, emphasis is on image critique, learning by doing. Your questions, however, will not go unanswered, be they technical, artistic or cultural.



The Contents

This is not a 'photo safari'. We take our time and concentrate on four outstanding cultural themes in Northern Namibia: The Damara (Twyfelfontein), the Himba (Kaokoland), the Sambiu (Okavango River near Rundu) and finally the San (Bushmen) in the Grootfontein-Tsumkwe Area.

Near *Twyfelfontein* we visit the Living Museum of the *Damara* people. The Damara are one of the oldest Namibian cultures, formerly being hunter-gatherers, later cattle, goat and sheep herders. In the Living Museum they wear their historic leather dress and show various traditional activities, such as tanning leather, milking a goat, preparing food from the bush, hunting techniques, singing and dancing, and the blacksmith will demonstrate the art of making a knife.

In the former *Kaokoland*, near Opuwo, we will spend time with the *Himba*. The Himba are the only people in Southern Africa still living very much the ancient way. Especially the women still wear their historic leather dress like thousands of years ago and paint their bodies with red ocher every morning.

At the *Okavango River* we will be welcomed by the Mbambangandu cultural dance group of the *Sambiu* tribe, the only historical tradition group in this area. There will be endless photographic opportunities during such activities as dancing, preparing a traditional dish, showing the old way of fishing with their dug out canoes and fish baskets etc. All this happens in a beautiful river setting.

Finally, we will have an unforgettable time with the *Ju/'Hoansi San (Bushmen)* in their Living Museum in the *Grootfontein-Tsumkwe Area*. We will witness their ancient hunting and gathering culture, including the making of jewelery and bow and arrows, playing old games, going on a hike to collect bush food, identifying tracks, setting up a snare and hunting with the bow. In addition to all these photogenic events we are invited to singing and dancing at the camp fire in the evening.



The *Living Museums* are new institutions created for the preservation and presentation of authentic ancient Namibian culture. A Living Museum is a cultural school and a Namibian communal tourism business at the same time. The museums were founded by the non-profit Living Culture Foundation Namibia (see resources) of which our guide, Werner Pfeifer, is a founding member.

There will be a relaxed, friendly atmosphere of trust during our visits. This will make it easy to return home with authentic, intimate images reflecting the welcoming and gentle, sometimes also mysterious, nature of the peoples visited.

This workshop covers several fields of photography: Travel, portrait, action, even landscape. And whatever else you might come up with... It's definitely about outdoor photography using natural light, possibly modified by reflectors/diffusers. Fill flash may be employed. On the game drives we obviously do a bit of wildlife photography, for good measure.

There will be no formal lectures. We will have image reviews, very much fun and most instructive. Please bring 3 – 5 of your images (good or bad) and we will use these to get to know each other and possibly identify things to work on. Extensive knowledge and advice on travel and landscape as well as portrait photography, technical issues and on Namibia will of course be available.



Some subjects that will definitely arise, however, include:

- etiquette
- how to relax and make your subject (and yourself) feel comfortable
- working outdoors, on location
- natural light and light modification
- how to ensure authenticity
- adding depths (meaning) to your images
- ...

It will be good if you know your gear, otherwise bring your camera manual and show us how to break the rules. Emphasis is not on technical aspects of photography. Technical issues will be discussed when they arise, during image critique, for example. Frequently, beginners are more free in their approach and can produce very strong images. Thus, all levels of photographers are welcome. Workshop language will be English but obviously German is spoken as well. Non-photographers are welcome too but please note that there is no program but photography!

You will return from this workshop with a new and broader view, with great images and with new friends.



The People



Dr. Christian Goltz grew up in Namibia, left to pursue an international career as a geoscientist (Germany, Japan, USA) and finally returned to his African roots in 2008 to be a full-time photographer and writer. He worked with digital imagery long before digital cameras became commercially available and started taking pictures when he was ten years old (Agfa Optima). His photographic teachers include Jock Sturges and Frans Lanting. Somewhere along the way he graduated from the New York Institute of Photography. Since his return he's been surprisingly busy working for, e.g., the Namibian Government and the UN. He runs his own fine art photo gallery and studio in Windhoek. He also regularly leads workshops and does photographic consulting. Christian also serves as president of the Photographic Society of Namibia.



Werner Pfeifer (relaxing at the Okavango here) is a 4th generation Namibian and one of Namibia's leading tour guides, a "white bushman". He co-owns Bush Culture Experience, a company specialized in bush craft and survival courses, team building and adventure travel. He has formal training as a leather tailor and school teacher and has worked as a nature conservation officer in the past. He is a founding member of the Living Culture Foundation Namibia (LCFN), a non-profit organization focusing on cultural cooperation in rural areas in Namibia. Werner is also an avid amateur photographer with a special interest in cultural photography.

The Itinerary

April 3 – 16, 2012; min. 8 participants, max. 12.

Day	Description	Km	Basis	Lodge/Hotel
Apr 03	Arrival at Windhoek International Airport where you will be met by us. Alternatively, join in Windhoek. Drive to <i>Omaruru, Erongo Mountains</i> . First encounter with the local San people. Lunch along the road (included) and dinner at the lodge (included).	340	Lunch + DBB	AiAiba Lodge
Apr 04	After breakfast we drive to the <i>Twyfelfontein</i> area where we will have lunch, dinner and overnight in a lodge. On our way we will have time to photograph the amazing landscape and some traditional Herero people. In the afternoon we visit the <i>Damara Living Museum</i> .	260	LDBB	Twyfelfontein Lodge
Apr 05	In the morning we will visit the <i>Damara Living Museum</i> again to build on yesterday's work. After lunch at the lodge we will explore the World Heritage Site of <i>Twyfelfontein</i> with its famous prehistoric rock engravings. Dinner and overnight at the lodge.	100	LDBB	Twyfelfontein Lodge
Apr 06	This morning we will leave for <i>Opuwo</i> , the capital of the <i>Himba People</i> . We will stop at especially scenic spots in the stunning landscape and encounter first Himba people on the way. Lunch pack along the road. Dinner and overnight in the lodge in Opuwo.	350	Lunchpack + DBB	Opuwo Country Lodge
Apr 07	We spend the whole day with the <i>Himba</i> in their traditional villages. Lunch, dinner and overnight at the lodge.	120	LDBB	Opuwo Country Lodge
Apr 08	A second, now even more intimate, day with the <i>Himba</i> as yesterday.	120	LDBB	Opuwo Country Lodge
Apr 09	In the early morning we drive from Opuwo via <i>Ruacana Falls</i> through former Owamboland to a lodge near the east gate of the <i>Etosha National Park</i> . We may opt for a first short <i>game drive</i> in the park if time permits. Lunch pack along the road, dinner and overnight at the lodge.	530	Lunchpack + DBB	Mokuti Lodge

Day	Description	Km	Basis	Lodge/Hotel
Apr 10	After a very early breakfast at the lodge, we will take the opportunity for a full day <i>game drive in Etosha National Park</i> to photograph game. Lunch pack in the park. Dinner and overnight at the lodge as above.	250	Lunchpack + DBB	Mokuti Lodge
Apr 11	In the early morning we travel via Tsumeb and Grootfontein to a lodge in the <i>Rundu</i> area, on the banks of the <i>Okavango River</i> . Lunch pack along the road, dinner and overnight at the lodge.	450	Lunchpack + DBB	N'Kwazi Lodge
Apr 12	We spend the morning and afternoon (when the light is best) with friends of the <i>Sambiu</i> tribe at the <i>Okavango River</i> . The Mbambangandu cultural group will give us an intimate glimpse at their historic culture. Lunch, dinner and overnight at the lodge on the banks of the Okavango River.	50	LDBB	N'Kwazi Lodge
Apr 13	We travel to Roy's Camp near the town of Grootfontein to check in and have lunch. In the afternoon we drive to the <i>Living Museum of the Ju/'Hoansi San</i> ('Bushmen'), about one hour east of Roy's Camp. The day will be concluded by singing and dancing at the fire. We have dinner and stay overnight at the rustic Roy's camp.	395	LDBB	Roy's Camp
Apr 14	We spend the whole day with our San friends since there is so much more to experience and photograph. Lunch pack in the bush. Dinner and overnight at Roy's Camp.	170	Lunchpack + DBB	Roy's Camp
Apr 15	In the early morning we will travel back to Windhoek via Otavi – Otjiwarongo - Okahandja. Lunch pack along the road. Dinner and overnight in Windhoek.	505	Lunchpack + DBB	Pension Steiner
Apr 16	After breakfast we will transfer you to the International Airport if desired. End of experience!	100		
		3740		

DBB - Dinner, Bed and Breakfast; LDBB – Full Board

Please note:

- Accommodation type is standard double.
- Similar Lodges/Hotels may be substituted, depending on availability.
- We travel by mini bus.
- Even if not explicitly mentioned in the itinerary, there will be nightly image critique sessions and there is always time for questions/discussions, also during transfer.
- Additional photography sessions may be improvised.

The weather will be warm to hot with a possibility of short rainfalls (which would be great, at least the clouds). The sun will hopefully rise at about 6 am and disappear around 6 pm local time. The moon is new in the beginning of the the workshop (great stars) and almost full at the end (bright nights).

Your physical condition should be reasonably good – shooting days are long, the warm weather may take its toll. We will take some small walks.



The Prices etc.

We need a minimum of 6 participants to be able to offer a reasonable price and we accept a maximum of 10 people to keep it personal.

Number of Participants	USD (indicative)	EUR (ind.)	ZAR/NAD (ind.)
6	6.000.-	4.540,00	48.330.-
7	5.555.-	4.203,00	44.740.-
8	5.222.-	3.951,00	42.060.-
9	4.962.-	3.754,00	39.960.-
10	4.754.-	3.597,00	38.290.-

Rates are per person in double accommodation sharing.
Supplement for single accommodation: US\$ 824.-

The prices include:

- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Meals as specified
- Pick up/drop off from International Airport
- Vehicle for the transport (fuel included)
- Entrance fees to places of interest as mentioned
- Activities as mentioned incl. fees, as per program
- English/German speaking tour guide (Werner Pfeifer)
- All services by professional photographer Dr. Christian Goltz as per program
- Compulsory insurance for tour operators' bonds
- VAT 15% & Tourism bed levy



The prices do not include:

- All items of a personal nature
- Gratuities
- Extra Meals
- Drinks
- Excursions / activities not in the program
- Personal Insurances (note: medical insurance is compulsory)
- Visa requirements, for the countries being visited
- Any flights
- All items not specified above

This is a quotation only and is subject to the availability of accommodation, vehicles and guides at the time of making the reservation.

Comparing our prices to those of international operators you may find them quite low – we pass on our advantages of being local: No travel and gear transportation costs for instructor, no expensive international insurance for gear etc., being friends with service and accommodation providers.



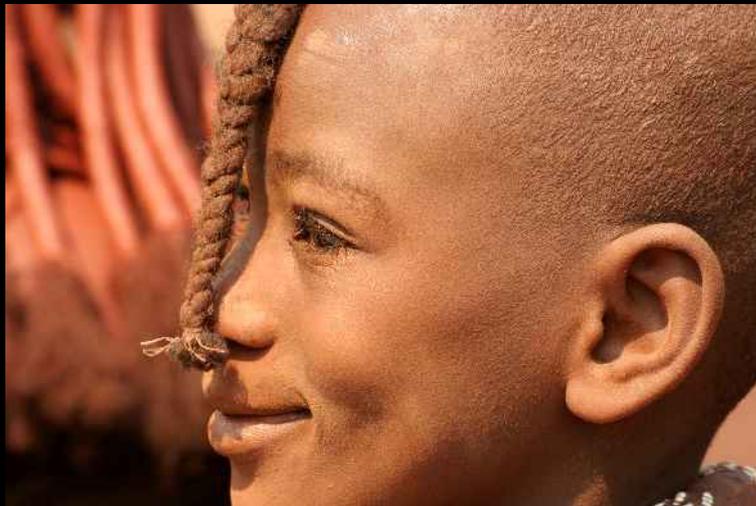
Booking terms and conditions:

You may find them [here](#). They adhere to the strict European travel regulations, e.g., your funds are insured against us going bankrupt.

Please make sure that you have *adequate insurance* (e.g., accident, health).

There are no plans to change the program. We reserve the right for changes in case of force majeure, changes due to operators and sickness, however.

Please note that, for their protection, the models cannot sign model releases so that you may use your images for your own, non-commercial purposes only. Of course you may use your images for editorial purposes, including, e.g., the sale of fine art prints. Commercial photography (such as for advertising and stock sales) can be arranged.



Resources

www.kiss-of-light.com kiss-of-light Photography (check "Workshop/Safari" for updates)

www.facebook.com/KissOfLightNamibia
Recent news about kiss-of-light

www.lcfn.info Living Culture Foundation Namibia

Contact

Please email or call Christian for any questions you may have and of course to book a spot:

christian@kiss-of-light.com

Tel (+264) (0)61-309102 (land), (+264) (0)81-3923761 (cell)

Fax (+264) (0)88625056

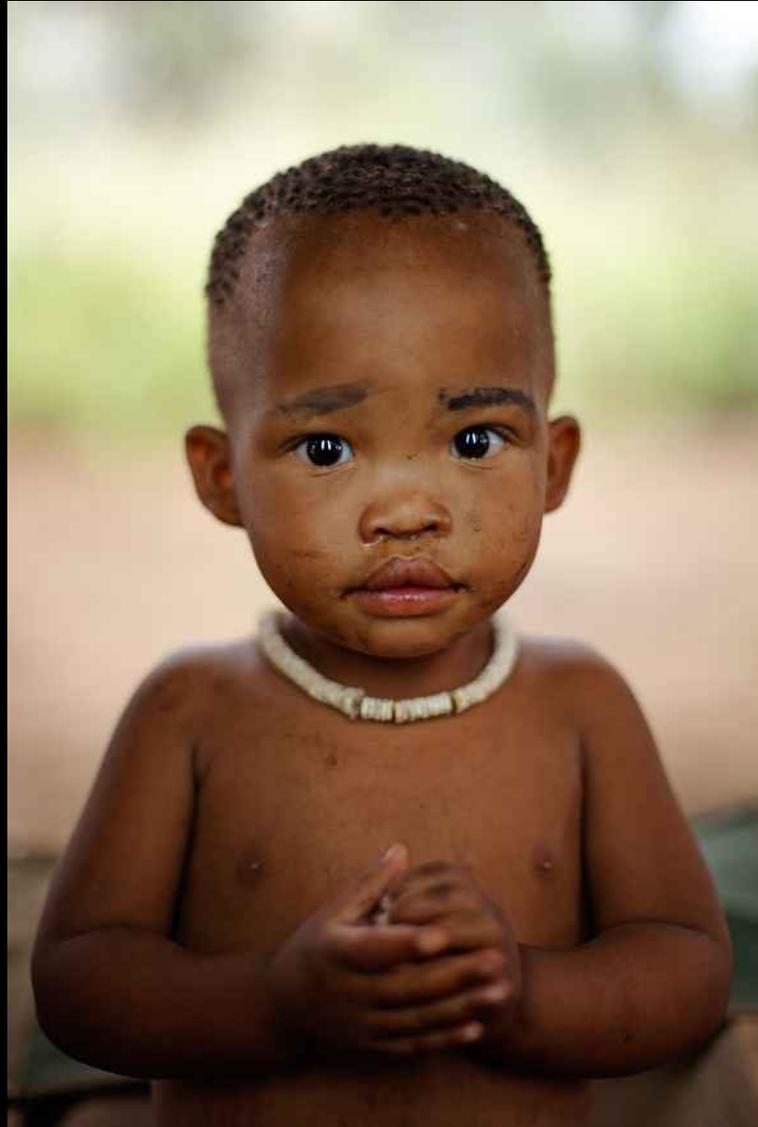
You may of course also contact Werner at Tel (+264) (0)81-2799278.



Workshop & Tour Impressions







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