

WALVIS BAY, NAMIBIA

ARRIVE:	FRIDAY	19 SEPTEMBER	0800
DEPART:	TUESDAY	23 SEPTEMBER	1900
ON-SHIP TIME:	TUESDAY	23 SEPTEMBER	1800

The Semester at Sea Field Program has a strong academic component. Faculty members develop field requirements that constitute 20% of the contact hours for each course they are teaching. As part of these field requirements, all Semester at Sea faculty design and lead field trips that integrate with their course work. The Faculty-Directed Practica (FDPs) for Namibia are listed below.

WAL01 FOOD SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION IN AN EXTREME ENVIRONMENT [FDP: WORKS] (1030-1730 Friday, 19 September) Minimum 30/Maximum 40 (PRICE: \$114.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

The primary objectives of this FDP are to understand complexities of food supply systems in an area almost entirely dependant on imported food and to understand how the physical environment affects food production systems and how social systems, economy, and culture history affect the availability of food

Begin in Walvis Bay with a tour of the port area, focusing on facilities dedicated to food export (fish, beef, grapes) and import (most other food products). Then travel to Swakopmund for a field mapping exercise in the central part of town. We will map and inventory food establishments (stores, restaurants, cafes) and answer the following questions: 1) is there any evidence of Namibian food production and traditional diets (either that of traditional agriculturalists in the northern part of country or gathered foodstuffs of the San)?; 2) where does most of the food in the supermarkets come from?; 3) what are the predominant cultural influences?; 4) who are the “consumers”?; 4) what is similar/different to US or Europe about food stores, restaurants, and other places that food is available in Swakopmund? 5) How does this “food landscape” differ from what you observed in Salvador? If time permits, we may visit the saltworks north of town. We will conclude with a meal in Swakopmund at our own expense.

WAL05 SALT MINE – GROUP A [FDP: FARES] (1300-1500 Friday 19 September) Minimum 4/Maximum 20 (PRICE: \$64.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

The Walvis Bay Lagoon is a sparkling stretch of water where the desert meets the sea, with abundant wild life (such as flamingos and white pelicans) and the lagoon’s natural beauty. The nearby salt field is a new kind of landscape students can use to develop their observation and drawing skills. Massive lagoons are built and flooded with sea water and left to dry in the hot sun; the water turns a beautiful pink before the salt crystallizes out. The salt mine facilities add a human component to the landscape, which can be richly explored through drawing. The objectives for this visit will be to highlight the local elements and relate them to the drawing courses. Participants will observe and reflect on the diverse elements present in the natural landscape as well as on the human intervention, via the salt mine facilities. Participants can take sketches of the site to use in class. We will discuss drawing techniques and strategies that will allow students to take full visual advantage of this FDP. The sea-salt mining operations near Walvis Bay and Swakopmund are among the largest in the world. A tour of the salt mine facilities and a presentation on the history of salt mining and mining activities is included.

WAL06 MEET WITH PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS [FDP: WERNET] (1300-1700 Friday, 19 September) Minimum 30/Maximum 35 (PRICE: \$78.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

Three Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs), Lucy, Leslie, and Megan, will join us on ship and give a presentation about Peace Corps and their experiences in and near Walvis Bay, Namibia. We will learn about their work assignments and their home life. Lucy, an education volunteer, works at the Catholic AIDS Action group which is just 5 kilometers from where we will dock. Leslie and Megan, who are both health volunteers, work in Swakopmund a town about 30 kilometers away from Walvis Bay. Leslie works for the Ministry of Education at

the Teachers' Resource Center. Megan works with a small NGO, Joint Compassion Keepers, where she works with youth. After their presentation we will visit Lucy's work site to see what the day-to-day life of a PCV is like.

As you listen to the three volunteers, think about issues discussed in class, specifically issues related to global stratification and inequality. Think about how social problems such as AIDS and a lack of resources impact both society and the lives of individuals.

WAL07 MARINE BIOTECHNOLOGY: OYSTER FARMING [FDP: TIMKO] (1300-1700 Friday, 19 September) Minimum 30/Maximum 35 (PRICE: \$71.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

European and Asian oyster lovers have tasted fresh Walvis Bay oysters and pronounced them among the best in the world. Now consumers worldwide want them too. Namibia is making plans to drastically increase production but there are limitations, pitfalls, and economic issues. This FDP will provide us an excellent opportunity to see how a developing nation is promoting a growing and unique biotechnology industry.

All oyster production in Namibia is through marine culture, the main species being the Pacific Oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) and a small quantity of European Flat Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*). The industry is implementing a "world best practice" quality control system and sustainable farming and harvesting practices. This "total industry" approach is strongly aligned to a "clean green" Namibian position.

We will visit the hatcheries of Beira Aquaculture (Pty) Ltd., be introduced to the history and culture of oysters in Namibia, become familiar with the life cycle of the oyster, view aquaculture techniques that are used to cultivate oysters, learn the importance of oysters to the ecosystem of the Walvis Bay area and Namibia in general, and hear about the economic realities of oyster culture as a business.

WAL12 ECO-MARINE KAYAKING [FDP: SOBEY] (0700-1300 Saturday, 20 September) Minimum 10/Maximum 14 (PRICE: \$93.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

A two-person kayak is an excellent vehicle from which one can not only feel and smell the ocean but also have a chance to observe marine wildlife "up close and personal". At the coast from Walvis Bay, there are opportunities for leisurely kayaking with excellent sights. Sea birds are in abundance, including pelicans, terns, plovers, cormorants, sandpipers and flamingoes, From Pelican Point, one can paddle amongst seals and occasionally dolphins.

WAL33 SALT MINE – GROUP B [FDP: CHAPMAN] (0900 -1100 Tuesday, 23 September) Minimum 4/Maximum 20 (PRICE: \$64.00) PRE-SALE ONLY



The Walvis Bay Lagoon is a sparkling stretch of water where the desert meets the sea. The many flamingos that gather at this rich feeding ground enhance the lagoon's natural beauty. Travel by air-conditioned vehicle directly to this lagoon, which nurtures a wide variety of bird life including the brightly-colored flamingos and the rare white pelicans. From here, continue to the nearby salt field which resembles snow-covered hills in the desert. Massive lagoons are built and flooded with sea water and left to dry in the hot sun; the water turns a beautiful pink before the salt crystallizes out. The sea-salt mining operations near Walvis Bay and Swakopmund are among the

largest in the world. A tour of the salt mine facilities followed by a presentation on the history of salt mining and mining activities is included.

For participant's own writing—and for further insight into the writing of Paul Bowles—please closely observe the desert landscape: What sort of psychological state should we identify with the desert? Can we get deeper inside

Paul Bowles' stories through close examination of this landscape? The aim of this practicum is twofold: to give further insight, if possible, into the stories of Bowles and to offer a rich landscape to use in participant's own writing.

The remaining trips in the Semester at Sea Field Program provide a variety of opportunities for students to enhance their overall study abroad experience. Students can visit sites of historical and cultural interest; learn about local environmental, political, economic and social issues; interact with local university students and other residents; become involved in community service; explore what is unique in each country; and enjoy some recreational activities.

WAL00 DIPLOMATIC BRIEFING (On Arrival Friday, 19 September, On Ship) Attendance is mandatory.

A representative from the U.S. Embassy in Windhoek, Namibia will present a briefing in the Union shortly after our arrival in Walvis Bay. Information regarding the current political and economic situation in Namibia will be presented. Safety and security considerations as well as practical information on such items as currency exchange, postal/telephone service, and transportation will also be discussed.

WAL02 SOSSUS DUNE LODGE – GROUP A (1030 Friday, 19 September – 1230 Sunday, 21 September) Minimum 11/Maximum 13 (PRICE: \$1,350.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

Sandwiched between two deserts – the Namib in the west and the Kalahari in the east – Namibia's arid southern region offers poignant and breathtaking landscapes. For most travelling to Namibia, exploring the Namib-Naukluft National Park is essential to understanding the vast desert landscape. Visit Sesriem, Sesriem Canyon, and the Namib-Naukluft National Park during this three-day adventure.

Although Sesriem is considered the gateway to the Sossuvlei sand dunes and the Namib-Naukluft National Park, the area is also known for its canyon of the same name. Early pioneers named the canyon "*ses riem*" (Afrikaans for "six belts") as it took that many belts tied together for a bucket to reach the water at the canyon's base. The Sesriem Canyon is set in a rugged yet picturesque landscape – sand dunes to the west and mountains to the east.

ITINERARY:

Day 1: Depart Walvis Bay and travel to the Sossus Dune Lodge, located within the majestic Namib-Naukluft National Park. Upon arrival, check-in to your room before enjoying lunch. In the afternoon, accompanied by your guide, walk to Sesriem Canyon. If the water is high enough, enjoy a refreshing swim in the canyon's natural pools. Return to the lodge for dinner and overnight (L, D; Sossus Dune Lodge)

Day 2: After an early morning wake-up call, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee before departing on an early morning drive through Namib-Naukluft Park. The Park is an ecological preserve in the Namib Desert and is considered the largest game park in Africa. Established in 1907 when the German Colonial Administration proclaimed the area between the Swakop River and the Kuiseb River a game reserve, the park has some of the most unusual wildlife and nature reserves in the world, and covers an area of 19,215-square miles (an area approximately the size of Switzerland). The park is home to a surprising collection of creatures that survive in this hyper-arid region, including snakes, geckos, unusual insects, hyenas, and jackals. After exploring the part, return to the lodge for lunch. The rest of the afternoon and evening is at leisure. (Packed B, L, D; Sossus Dune Lodge)

Day 3: After breakfast, check-out of the lodge and return to the ship. (B, Packed L)



WAL03 NAMIB DESERT/SOSSUSVLEI (1030 Friday, 19 September – 1230 Monday, 22 September)
Minimum 10/Maximum 30 (PRICE: \$816.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

Imagine camping under the cobalt night sky in one of the oldest and largest deserts in the world while exploring sand dunes towering 600 to 1000-feet high during the day. This trip captures a true Namib Desert experience with visits to Gamsberg, Sesriem and Sossusvlei.

Well removed from highly-traveled roads, Gamsberg dominates the landscape outside of Windhoek. Characterized by its conspicuous cap of weather-resistant quartzite sandstone, Gamsberg is a large table-topped mountain that looms 500-meters above *Khomas Hochland*. At a height of 2,347 meters, it is Namibia's fourth highest mountain. The plateau is regarded as an outstanding site for astronomical observations, as the night sky is breathtakingly clear; the absence of towns and the resultant darkness makes it an ideal location from which to study the stars of the southern hemisphere.

Although Sesriem is considered the gateway to the sand dunes of Sossusvlei and the Namib-Naukluft National Park, the area is known for its canyon of the same name. Early pioneers named the canyon “*ses riem*” (Afrikaans for “six belts”) as it took that many belts tied together for a bucket to reach the water at the canyon’s base. The Sesriem Canyon is set in a rugged yet picturesque landscape – sand dunes to the west and mountains to the east.

Sossusvlei, which means “Gathering place of water” in Afrikaans, is renowned for its monumentally-high sand dunes; one of the area’s largest dunes was measured as 325 meters high. Each dune is assigned a number. Sossusvlei’s mountainous dunes lie at the end of an erosional trough formed by the Tsauchab River. They are shaped by strong multi-directional winds, primarily the southwester, and have three to five sinuous crests, which meet at the highest point to give them their star shape. These gigantic star-shaped, numbered mountains of sand are a sought-after subject for artists and photographers. The warm tints of the sand, ranging from pale apricot to brick orange and deep red, contrast vividly with the dazzling white surfaces of the large deflationary clay pans at their bases.

Please note: Accommodations are in two-person dome tents (2.75 meters long, by 2.75 meters wide by 1.90 meters high) with a built-in groundsheet. Each tent has two large aerating windows, mosquito netting, foam mattresses, sleeping bags, bed rolls and small pillows. Because Gamsberg is more than 4,000 feet above sea level, you may wish to bring a light jacket for the cooler evening temperatures.

ITINERARY:

Day 1: Depart Walvis Bay and drive towards Gamsberg. En route, visit Kuiseb Canyon and the Hanno Martin shelter. After lunch, arrive at the campsite. Once at the camp, let your guides show you around and settle in before enjoying the rest of the day at leisure. Dinner is served around the campfire. Later, view planets, constellations and stars through a telescope under a brilliant and totally dark night sky. (L, D; Campsite)

Day 2: After an early morning wake-up call, enjoy a full breakfast. Afterwards, depart on an early morning drive through Namib-Naukluft Park. Explore the vast open landscape and the endless apricot dunes while traveling to Sesriem, considered the gateway to the sand dune desert. In the afternoon, enjoy a short hike through Sesriem Canyon. Centuries of erosion have incised a narrow gorge about one kilometer in length. At points, the gorge plunges nearly 30-40 meters. If the water is high enough, enjoy a refreshing swim in the canyon’s natural pools. Return to the camp for dinner and overnight. (B, L, D; Campsite)

Day 3: After another early morning wake-up call and full breakfast, travel to Sossusvlei, known for its monumentally high dunes. The morning is spent walking among the dunes of Sossusvlei and “Dead *Vlei*,” which is a large ghostly expanse of dried white clay, punctuated by skeletons of ancient camel-thorn trees, carbon-dated as being between 500-600 years old. Return to the campsite for dinner and overnight. (B, L, D; Campsite)

Day 4: After breakfast, return to the ship.

WAL04 LÜDERITZ & THE WILD HORSES OF THE NAMIB – GROUP A (1115 Friday, 19 September – 1400 Sunday, 21 September) Minimum 24/Maximum 27 (PRICE: \$1,377.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

The hazy Atlantic-coast town of Luderitz has immense appeal for its barren beauty and solitude. Many charming and fine buildings reveal its Colonial history as the first German settlement in South West Africa. Goerke House is the most impressive and sits with an excellent view, on top of Diamond Hill. It is open to the public and well worth a visit for its fine Art Deco interior of stained glass and wood panelling. Unfortunately the bride, fresh from Germany, for whom it was built in 1909, could not handle the bleak and windy isolation and left with her husband after only 2 years, never to return. The best view of Luderitz and the working harbour is from the peninsula of land that juts out and helps to form one of the best natural harbours along the Namibian coast. To the south of Luderitz along the coast is Diaz Point, where a big stone cross commemorates the Portuguese discovery of the area. Jackass Penguins and seals are often spotted nearby as the cold Benguela current welcomes them with its chilled wind. Close by is an old whaling station, where the rusted blubber boiling pots look like beautiful bizarre sculptures standing stark amongst encroaching pale rippling sand.



The Namib-Naukluft Park is renowned for the wild horses that roam the harsh but desert habitat. Although the herd's origins are not certain, recent findings believe the herd began 90 years ago by runaway horses from a neighbouring stud farm. The herd size increased during World War I when they were then joined by South African Army horses which were lost near Garub in 1915. Over the years the horses have adapted their feeding and drinking habits to the harsh Namib conditions. During periods of severe drought fodder was provided to ensure the herd's survival.

Day 1: Transfer to the Walvis Bay Airport for your two-hour chartered flight to Lüderitz. On arrival, meet your local guide and vehicle for the transfer to the Nest Hotel (for more information, visit www.nesthotel.com). All the luxury rooms and suites are sea-facing and have air-conditioning, satellite TV, radio and telephone. The hotel's facilities include a large swimming pool, a wellness center with sea-facing sauna and the Oyster Bar with sundeck serving fresh oysters while enjoying a full view over the Atlantic Ocean. The afternoon is at your leisure to explore the town or enjoy the hotel amenities. The hotel is the ideal place from which to explore the many attractions in and around Lüderitz, such as Diaz Point, the museum, the ghost town of Kolmanskop or the Bogenfels rock arch, and the forsaken mining town of Pomona. Before retiring for the evening, enjoy a three-course set dinner at the hotel. (D; Nest Hotel)

Day 2: After breakfast, travel to the ghost town of Kolmanskop (approximately 1 ½ hour drive). Originally developed after the discovery of diamonds in the area in 1908, the town provided shelter for workers from the harsh environment of the Namib Desert. The village was built like a German town and included facilities such as a hospital, ballroom, power station, school, skittle-alley, theater and sport-hall, casino, ice factory and the first x-ray-station in southern Africa. It also had a railway line to Lüderitz. The town declined after World War I as diamond prices crashed, and operations moved to Oranjemund. It was abandoned in 1956 but has since been partly restored. The geological forces of the desert mean that visitors can now walk through houses knee-deep in sand. After exploring Kolmanskop, head to Klein aus Vista in the Gondwana



Sperrgebiet Rand Park for lunch. Afterwards, travel two to three hours into the Namib Naukluft Park to catch a glimpse of the famed wild horses. Sense the solitude, vastness and the freedom of the Namib Desert horses before travelling to the Desert Horse Inn for dinner and overnight. (B, L, D; Desert Horse Inn)

Day 3: After an early morning wake-up call, depart for the Sperrgebiet Rand Park. Early the morning light of the pastel coloured landscape of the Sperrgebiet Rand Park with medium-sized dunes, granite-mountains, succulent Karoo flora and great vistas! Enjoy breakfast at “God's window” overlooking the Sperrgebiet. Return to the lodge

for check out and your return transfer to Lüderitz. Enjoy a scenic flight over the Namibian coastline. Upon arrival, transfer to the pier. (B, Packed L)

WAL08 NATURAL & GEOLOGICAL WONDERS OF THE NAMIB IN 4X4 VEHICLES – GROUP A (1300-1800 Friday, 19 September) Minimum 4/Maximum 50 (PRICE: \$99.00) PRE-SALE ONLY



Travel in 4x4 vehicles along the coastal road towards Swakopmund before heading eastwards toward the Namib-Naukluft Park. The Namib-Naukluft region is almost entirely made up of national parks, extending from Oranjemund, the restricted Diamond Area in the south, up to the Kunene River. In this arid region, water is more precious than diamonds. Plants have adapted to sprout at the first shower of rain and this is a magical place for photography enthusiasts.

The Namib is one of the oldest deserts in the world and known for some unusual characteristics. The central section is a shifting sea of warm, apricot-colored sand dunes, constantly changing with the play of light and shadow, depending on the time of day. The cold Benguela Current offshore captures vagrant moisture from the sea and the resulting fog provides vital moisture to the area's flora; some unique specimens have evolved here.

Drive through the Swakop River Valley, a dry riverbed that seldom flows, to the “Moon Landscape”, a vastly eroded valley, which has an appearance similar to that of the moon's surface. Spend time exploring this area of deep chasms and interesting geological features before continuing to “Welwitschia” Valley, where literally thousands of Welwitschia Mirabilis plants litter the ground. View these fascinating plants, which were discovered by Dr. Friedrich Welwitschia in 1859. The plant is a modified tree, producing a single, turnip-like stem that can be more than three feet thick and five feet tall. The adult leaves develop from this stem. At first glance, there seem to be many leaves, but closer inspection reveals only two, up to ten feet in length, split into many sections by the harsh, dry winds. This weird plant produces its first flower after about 20 years and has a lifespan of at least 500 years. Along with the Welwitschia plant, the valley also hosts a variety of interesting lichen plants.

Return to Walvis Bay via the dune belt to Dune 7. Stop en-route and enjoy a refreshing treat of fresh oysters and soft drinks. Orange juice and salty snacks are also provided. Drive through Walvis Bay, visiting the lagoon and tidal flood plains before returning to the ship. Depending on the time of year, a variety of water birds, including flamingos and pelicans may be seen.

WAL09 WALVIS BAY BIRDING TOUR (1330-1730 FRIDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER) MINIMUM 4/MAXIMUM 50 (PRICE: \$99.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

The rich feeding grounds of the Walvis Bay Lagoon attract literally thousands of flamingos. Altogether over 80,000 wading birds and rare white pelicans can be seen on the lagoon – a must for all birding enthusiasts. It is regarded as the most important wetland in Namibia and is a declared International Ramsar Site. Depart the pier and explore the rich bird life of the lagoon with a birding specialist. This knowledgeable guide will explain the fascinating rituals and habits of the birds encountered during this trip. Continue to Bird Paradise and Guano Island, a man-made bird haven which is home to an estimated 200,000 Cape Cormorants and is the exclusive breeding area of the white pelican. Return to the pier after this bird-watching experience.



WAL10 DESERT 4X4 ADVENTURE – GROUP A (1345-1815 Friday, 19 September) Minimum 4/Maximum 50 (PRICE: \$142.00) PRE-SALE ONLY



Experience the silence of the desert and much more on this half-day adventure – from the fascinating history of this area during WWI to previously unexplored desert terrain. Depart in closed 4x4 vehicles for the Namib Desert, one of the oldest deserts in the world and known for its majestic star-shaped dunes. Stop en-route and enjoy a refreshing soft drink and fresh Walvis Bay oysters. Arrive at the central section of this desert, a shifting sea of warm, apricot-colored sand dunes, constantly changing with the play of light and shadow. Although Namib means place of emptiness, the desert is home to several animals. Discover life in this seemingly desolate landscape and embark on a journey of desert exploration. Search for the endangered Damara Tern and the elusive Palmato gecko, a nocturnal and transparent reptile. Seek out the desert Sidewinder, also an inhabitant of the dunes. Find out where the fish moths live. Hear a dune “roar”. After enjoying this trail-blazing 4x4 experience, return to the ship along the scenic coastal road.

WAL11 CAMPING & STAR-GAZING IN THE DESERT – GROUP A (1400 Friday, 19 September – Saturday, 20 September) Minimum 31/Maximum 70 (PRICE: \$315.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

Imagine camping in one of the oldest and largest deserts in the world while gazing at the evening’s clear cobalt sky. This overnight trip to the Namib-Naukluft Park provides a stellar backdrop for Southern Hemisphere stargazing and is a true Namib desert experience.

ITINERARY:

Day 1: Disembark the ship in the late afternoon by 4x4 vehicles and transfer to the Namib-Naukluft Park, passing Dune 7, the Moon Landscape and Goanikontes Oasis en-route to Pajero Camp. Arrive at the campsite where you will be given free time to settle in to your four-bedded tents, freshen up or explore the area before dinner. Enjoy a barbecue dinner, which will be served in a Bedouin tent. During dinner, enjoy live Marimba music provided by a local band. After dinner, relax and enjoy the tranquillity of the desert, chat around the campfire or listen to a fully-trained stargazing expert share knowledge of the stars and planets of this southern sky. A large telescope is available for examining some of the more interesting celestial objects. Retire for the evening to your four-bedded tent. (D; Pajero Camp)

Day 2: After an early breakfast, pack your belongings and begin the return along the coastal road to Walvis Bay. En-route, pass Swakop Valley and the town of Swakopmund.

WAL13 SEA & SAND DUNES – GROUP A (0845-1600 Saturday, 21 September) Minimum 4/ Maximum 32 (PRICE: \$203.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

This trip combines the highlights of the region in one full-day adventure – a boat cruise on the Walvis Bay Lagoon, a delicious lunch on the beach and a dune ride in a 4x4 vehicle. This sea and sand combination begins with a 2 ½-hour marine cruise of the lagoon. The water in the Walvis Bay Lagoon is generally very calm and abundant with bird and marine life. Debark the boat at Pelican Point; the tip of the sandbank of a deserted beach and enjoy a picnic lunch set-up on the beach, including fresh oysters, sparkling wine, snacks, salad, bread and fruit. Namibian oysters are among the best-tasting oysters in the world. After lunch, leave Pelican Point in 4x4 vehicles, for a remarkable ride to Sandwich Harbor. Return to the ship and Walvis Bay after spending ample time in the dunes. Please note: It is not always possible to reach the actual lagoon at Sandwich Harbor by vehicle due to high tides.

WAL14 SOSSUVLEI BY AIR – GROUP A (0900-1230 Saturday, 21 September) Minimum 5/ Maximum 20 (PRICE: \$354.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

Transfer to the Walvis Bay Airport for the nearly 2 ½-hour scenic flight over the Namib Desert. The total distance covered by air is 610 kilometers (approximately 380 miles). Enjoy an hour of low-level flying to Sesriem and the Sesriem Canyon, passing over the Desert Ecological Research Unit Gobabeb founded in 1959 and Tsondabvlei, the only known breeding area of the Lappet-faced Vulture in southern Namibia. Although Sesriem is considered the gateway to the sand dunes of Sossuvlei and the Namib-Naukluft National Park, the area is known for its canyon of the same name. Early pioneers named the canyon “*ses riem*” (Afrikaans for “six belts”) as it took that many belts tied together for a bucket to reach the water at the canyon’s base. The Sesriem Canyon is set in a rugged yet picturesque landscape – sand dunes to the west and mountains to the east.

The flight then continues over Sossusvlei, home of the highest shifting sand dunes in the world. No part of the desert is visually more stunning than Sossusvlei. The warm tints of the sand range from pale apricot to brick orange and deep red, vividly contrasting with the large white clay pans at some of their bases. From Sossusvlei, continue into the Restricted Diamond Area, passing over the remains of three old diamond camps before crossing the coastline at Conception Bay. Pass over a number of Cape Fur seal colonies and the shipwreck of the passenger liner *Eduard Bohlen* stranded in 1909, which lies 850 feet away from the shore. Further along the coast is the *Shaunee*, another shipwreck that was stranded in 1976.



Passing over the Atlantic, with surf on the one side and the long wall of Namib Dunes on the other, reach Sandwich Harbor, a wetland of international importance protected by the Ramsar Convention. The highest recorded density of lesser and greater flamingos was recorded at low tide, with 7,791 birds per kilometer. View the coastal salt mines, south of Walvis Bay, which attract thousands of birds. Continue to Walvis Bay, Namibia’s major harbor town and a former enclave to South Africa. Walvis Bay was incorporated into Namibia on March 1, 1994. Upon arrival at the Walvis Bay Airport, transfer back to the ship.

WAL15 SWAKOPMUND – GROUP A (1400-1815 Saturday, 21 September) Minimum 25/ Maximum 120 (PRICE: \$84.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

Swakopmund had its beginnings as a landing station when in 1892 Imperial Germany erected two beacons on the site. Built on the coast of northwestern Namibia, Swakopmund is a beautiful town situated at the mouth of the Swakop River and is often described as “a slice of Germany on the edge of the desert”. It is a seaside resort and is a place of singular charm, resembling a Bavarian village nestled between the desert and the sea. Many buildings date back to the turn of the century and are now national monuments, harking back to the town’s German colonial past.

Travel north along the coastal road to Swakopmund (approximately 20 miles), enjoying magnificent views of sand dunes on the one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other. Upon arrival, enjoy an orientation of the town, with its many beautiful historical buildings dating back to the turn of the century and built in the Art Nouveau style. View the *Kaiserliches Bezirksgericht* (Magistrate’s Court), the Lutheran Church, and the old Railway Station, which is now the reception area for the Swakopmund Hotel. Pass by the local Hansa Brewery, and the jetty, which was built between 1903 and 1905 as a pier. Visit the Karakulia Weavery, where the wool of Karakul

sheep is spun, dyed and woven into rugs and wall hangings. Also visit the *Kristall Galerie*, a center displaying the biggest crystals in the world. The largest weighs nearly 14 tons and came from a Namibian mine. In addition, meander through the *Brauhaus* Gallery, a small shopping arcade in the center of town. Return to the fishing port of Walvis Bay by gravel road. Along the way, enjoy a brief stop at Dune 7, the highest sand dune in the area. Enjoy a short orientation of Walvis Bay, which started out as a whaling station and is now the principal port of entry into Namibia and supports a flourishing fishing industry. Before returning to the ship, visit the lagoon and tidal flood plains where magnificent flocks of flamingos, pelicans and other water birds may be seen at certain times of the year. The lagoon is one of Africa's most important wetlands and is a declared International Ramsar Site.

WAL16 CAMPING & STAR-GAZING IN THE DESERT – GROUP B (1400 Saturday, 20 September – Sunday, 21 September) Minimum 31/Maximum 70 (PRICE: \$315.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

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Day 1: Disembark the ship in the late afternoon by 4x4 vehicles and transfer to the Namib-Naukluft Park, passing Dune 7, the Moon Landscape and Goanikontes Oasis en-route to Pajero Camp. Arrive at the campsite where you will be given free time to settle in to your four-bedded tents and freshen up or explore the area before dinner. Enjoy a barbecue dinner, which will be served in a Bedouin tent. During dinner, enjoy live Marimba music provided by a local band. After dinner, relax and enjoy the tranquillity of the desert, chat around the campfire or listen to a fully-trained stargazing expert share knowledge of the stars and planets of this southern sky. A large telescope is available for examining some of the more interesting celestial objects. Retire for the evening to your four-bedded tent. (D; Pajero Camp)

Day 2: After an early breakfast, pack your belongings and begin the return along the coastal road to Walvis Bay. En-route, pass Swakop Valley and the town of Swakopmund.

WAL17 SEAL & DOLPHIN ENCOUNTER – GROUP A (0830-1230 Sunday, 21 September) Minimum 18/Maximum 80 (PRICE: \$95.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

Transfer by motorcoach to a nearby jetty to board an open ski boat for a two-hour trip on the Walvis Bay lagoon. The water in the lagoon is generally very calm and abundant with bird and marine life. Once onboard, journey around the harbor area before proceeding to Bird Island (a huge wooden platform built in the sea to provide coastal birds a place to roost). The guano they drop is collected at intervals and is used to make fertilizer. From here, cut across the lagoon to the moored Russian trawlers, where inquisitive seals will usually swim up to the boat for something to eat. For the more adventurous voyager, there is the opportunity to feed fish to the seals. Continue to Pelican Point, where a large seal colony and schools of dolphins frequent. Bottlenose and Heavyside dolphins frequently swim alongside the boats, providing entertainment to those onboard. For the bird lovers, apart from seeing many flamingos, pelicans and cormorants, there are common sightings of the White Chinned Petrel, Wilson's Storm Petrel, Cape Gannet, Black Oystercatcher and even the Jackass Penguin on this route. Please note: Soft drinks and fresh oysters are served during the boat trip. A selection of open sandwiches is also available at your own expense.

WAL18 SEA, SALT & SAND (0900-1230 Sunday, 21 September) Minimum 4/Maximum 30 (PRICE: \$104.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

The Walvis Bay Lagoon is a sparkling stretch of water where the desert meets the sea. The many flamingos that gather at this rich feeding ground enhance the lagoon's natural beauty. Travel by air-conditioned vehicle directly to this lagoon, which nurtures a wide variety of bird life including the brightly-colored flamingos and the rare white pelicans. From here, continue to the nearby salt field which resembles snow-covered hills in the desert. Massive lagoons are built and flooded with sea water and left to dry in the hot sun; the water turns a beautiful

pink before the salt crystallizes out. The sea-salt mining operations near Walvis Bay and Swakopmund are among the largest in the world. A tour of the salt mine facilities followed by a presentation on the history of salt mining and mining activities is included.

Continue to the Oyster Farm, where oysters are harvested straight from the water. Enjoy some free time to view the abundant aquatic bird life in the surrounding salt pans. After enjoying a very fresh oyster, travel to the highest sand dune in the area, Dune 7 (approximately six miles outside of Walvis Bay). Learn more about the Namibian desert, the shifting of the dunes and then climb Dune 7! The top of the dune provides excellent photo opportunities. Return to the ship after this exhilarating climb and descent.



WAL19 SANDWICH HARBOR – GROUP A (0900-1600 Sunday, 21 September) Minimum 4/Maximum 50 (PRICE: \$175.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

Wedge between the sea and the Namib Dunes, potable water seeping from the underground aquifer sustains the freshwater vegetation at the base of the dunes. North of the freshwater wetlands are the extensive mudflats of Sandwich Harbor. This area is teeming with migratory shorebirds, waders and flamingos. Sandwich Harbor is one of Southern Africa's richest and unique wetlands.

On the way to Sandwich Harbor, view the masses of flamingos and other birds that live in the Walvis Bay Lagoon, one of the biggest natural wetlands in the Southern Hemisphere. The drive down to Sandwich Harbor provides spectacular views. View the Kuseb River Delta, a dry riverbed where the odd springbok may still be seen. Crossing giant sand

dunes and traveling along the beach to Sandwich Harbor is memorable. The drive over the dunes and the sight of thousands of flamingos will certainly make a lasting impression. The route to the ship tests the power of the 4x4 vehicles as they travel on the dunes. The highlight is the 45-meter high Roaring Dune. A light lunch, including a selection of snacks, salad, bread, fresh fruit and soft drinks, is provided. Please note: It is not always possible to reach the actual lagoon at Sandwich Harbor by vehicle due to high tides. If sea conditions are very rough, the time to complete the journey by foot (less than one mile) could take considerably longer than expected.

WAL20 SOSSUS DUNE LODGE – GROUP A (1030 Sunday, 21 September – 1230 Tuesday, 23 September) Minimum 11/Maximum 13 (PRICE: \$1,350.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

Sandwiched between two deserts – the Namib in the west and the Kalahari in the east – Namibia's arid southern region offers poignant and breathtaking landscapes. For most travelling to Namibia, exploring the Namib-Naukluft National Park is essential to understanding the vast desert landscape. Visit Sesriem, Sesriem Canyon, and the Namib-Naukluft National Park during this three-day adventure.

Although Sesriem is considered the gateway to the spectacular sand dunes of Sossuvlei and the Namib-Naukluft National Park, the area is also known for its canyon of the same name. Early pioneers named the canyon "sesriem" (Afrikaans for "six belts") as it took that many belts tied together for a bucket to reach the water at the canyon's base. The Sesriem Canyon is set in a rugged yet picturesque landscape – sand dunes to the west and mountains to the east.

Day 1: Depart Walvis Bay and travel to the Sossus Dune Lodge, located within the majestic Namib-Naukluft National Park. Upon arrival, check-in to your room before enjoying lunch. In the afternoon, accompanied by your guide, walk to Sesriem Canyon. If the water is high enough, enjoy a refreshing swim in the canyon's natural pools. Return to the lodge for dinner and overnight (L, D; Sossus Dune Lodge)

Day 2: After an early morning wake-up call, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee before departing on an early morning drive through Namib-Naukluft Park. The Park is an ecological preserve in the Namib Desert and is considered the largest game park in Africa. Established in 1907 when the German Colonial Administration proclaimed the area between the Swakop River and the Kuiseb River a game reserve, the park has some of the most unusual wildlife and nature reserves in the world, and covers an area of 19,215-square miles (an area approximately the size of Switzerland). The park is home to a surprising collection of creatures that survive in this hyper-arid region, including snakes, geckos, unusual insects, hyenas, and jackals. After exploring the part, return to the lodge for lunch. The rest of the afternoon and evening is at leisure. (Packed B, L, D; Sossus Dune Lodge)

Day 3: After breakfast, check-out of the lodge and return to the ship. (B, Packed L)

WAL21 LÜDERITZ & THE WILD HORSES OF THE NAMIB – GROUP B (1115 Sunday, 21 September – 1400 Tuesday, 23 September) Minimum 24/Maximum 27 (PRICE: \$1,377.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

For a description of this practicum, please see WAL04 Lüderitz & the Wild Horses of the Namib - Group A.

ITINERARY:

Day 1: Transfer to the Walvis Bay Airport for your two-hour chartered flight to Lüderitz. On arrival, meet your local guide and vehicle for the transfer to the Nest Hotel (for more information, visit www.nesthotel.com). All the luxury rooms and suites are sea-facing and have air-conditioning, satellite TV, radio and telephone. The hotel's facilities include a large swimming pool, a wellness center with sea-facing sauna and the Oyster Bar with sundeck serving fresh oysters while enjoying a full view over the Atlantic Ocean. The afternoon is at your leisure to explore the town or enjoy the hotel amenities. The hotel is the ideal place from which to explore the many attractions in and around Lüderitz, such as Diaz Point, the museum, the ghost town of Kolmanskop or the Bogenfels rock arch, and the forsaken mining town of Pomona. Before retiring for the evening, enjoy a three-course set dinner at the hotel. (D; Nest Hotel)

Day 2: After breakfast, travel to the ghost town of Kolmanskop (approximately 1 ½ hour drive). Originally developed after the discovery of diamonds in the area in 1908, the town provided shelter for workers from the harsh environment of the Namib Desert. The village was built like a German town and included facilities such as a hospital, ballroom, power station, school, skittle-alley, theater and sport-hall, casino, ice factory and the first x-ray-station in southern Africa. It also had a railway line to Lüderitz. The town declined after World War I as diamond prices crashed, and operations moved to Oranjemund. It was abandoned in 1956 but has since been partly restored. The geological forces of the desert mean that visitors can now walk through houses knee-deep in sand. After exploring Kolmanskop, head to Klein aus Vista in the Gondwana Sperrgebiet Rand Park for lunch. Afterwards, travel two to three hours into the Namib Naukluft Park to catch a glimpse of the famed wild horses. Sense the solitude, vastness and the freedom of the Namib Desert horses before travelling to the Desert Horse Inn for dinner and overnight. (B, L, D; Desert Horse Inn)

Day 3: After an early morning wake-up call, depart for the Sperrgebiet Rand Park. Early the morning light of the pastel coloured landscape of the Sperrgebiet Rand Park with medium-sized dunes, granite-mountains, succulent Karoo flora and great vistas! Enjoy breakfast at “God's window” overlooking the Sperrgebiet. Return to the lodge for check out and your return transfer to Lüderitz Bay. Then enjoy a scenic flight over the Namibian coastline. Upon arrival, transfer to the pier. (B, Packed L)

WAL22 OVAHIMBA TRIBES & SKELETON COAST PARK (1300 Sunday, 21 September – 1530 Tuesday, 23 September) Minimum 11/Maximum 23 (PRICE: \$1,312.00 + OOPEX) PRE-SALE ONLY

The Ovahimbas are a tribe of semi-nomadic pastoralists who still live and dress according to ancient traditions. They are tall, slender and statuesque people, characterized by their proud yet friendly bearing. The women are noted for their unusual sculptural beauty, enhanced by intricate hairstyles and traditional adornments. The red-tint of their skin is from a red ochre and fat mixture that



is liberally applied. The mixture protects their skin from the scorching Namibia sun.

Located in the northern Namib Desert, the Skeleton Coast Park is over 40 kilometers wide and covers 16,390 square kilometers. The park stretches from the Ugab River in the south to the Kunene River, which forms the northern border with Angola. The Skeleton Coast is littered with whalebones, shipwrecks and remains of sailors and explorers. Desert game such as elephants, rhino's, giraffes and mountain zebras are often spotted along the nearby Uniab Riverbed.

Day 1: Transfer to the Walvis Bay Airport for your two-hour scenic flight to Opuwo. Fly over Brandberg, which is west of the Erongo region. Brandberg is well known for its wealth of rock art, including the famous “White Lady”. The flight continues over the Grootberge (tabletops) in Damaraland. From there, enjoy views of *Bees Vlakte* and other valley of Kaokoland. Arrive at Opuwo in the late afternoon. Check in at the hotel. The evening is at your leisure. (Opuwo Country Hotel)

Day 2: In the morning, visit the Ovahimbas in their *kraal* (village), accompanied by a local guide and translator. Return to the hotel for lunch. The remainder of the day is at leisure. (L; Opuwo Country Hotel)

Day 3: After breakfast, reboard your Cessna 210 and enjoy your return scenic flight along the treacherous Skeleton Coast back to Walvis Bay. This nearly three-hour flight begins along the Uniab Riverbed and travels up to the mouth of the river in search of desert game. Continue south past Torra Bay, Palgrave Point and Toscanini to the Cape Cross Seal Reserve. During the November/December breeding season as many as 200 000 seals gather at Cape Cross. It was also here that the Portuguese navigator, Diego Cao, erected a stone cross in 1486. Upon arrival at the Walvis Bay Airport, return to the ship.

WAL23 CAMPING & STAR-GAZING IN THE DESERT – GROUP C (1400 Sunday, 21 September – Monday, 22 September) Minimum 31/Maximum 70 (PRICE: \$315.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

Imagine camping in one of the oldest and largest deserts in the world while gazing at the evening’s clear cobalt sky. This overnight trip to the Namib-Naukluft Park provides a stellar backdrop for Southern Hemisphere stargazing and is a true Namib desert experience.

ITINERARY:

Day 1: Disembark the ship in the late afternoon by 4x4 vehicles and transfer to the Namib-Naukluft Park, passing Dune 7, the Moon Landscape and Goanikontes Oasis en-route to Pajero Camp. Arrive at the campsite where you will be given free time to settle in to your four-bedded tents, freshen up or explore the area before dinner. Enjoy a barbecue dinner, which will be served in a Bedouin tent. During dinner, enjoy live Marimba music provided by a local band. After dinner, relax and enjoy the tranquillity of the desert, chat around the campfire or listen to a fully-trained stargazing expert share knowledge of the stars and planets of this southern sky. A large telescope is available for examining some of the more interesting celestial objects. Retire for the evening to your four-bedded tent. (D; Pajero Camp)

Day 2: After an early breakfast, pack your belongings and begin the return along the coastal road to Walvis Bay. En-route, pass Swakop Valley and the town of Swakopmund.

WAL24 NATURAL & GEOLOGICAL WONDERS OF THE NAMIB IN 4X4 VEHICLES – GROUP B (0730-1230 Monday, 22 September) Minimum 4/Maximum 50 (PRICE: \$99.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

For a description of this practicum, please see WAL08 Natural & Geological Wonders of the Namib in 4x4 vehicles - Group A.

WAL25 SEAL & DOLPHIN ENCOUNTER – GROUP B (0830-1230 Monday, 22 September) Minimum 18/Maximum 80 (PRICE: \$95.00) PRE-SALE ONLY



For a description of this practicum, please see WAL17 Seal & Dolphin Encounter- Group A.

WAL26 SALT MINE, OYSTERS & FLAMINGOS (0900-1230 Monday, 22 September) Minimum 4/Maximum 30 (PRICE: \$83.00) PRE-SALE ONLY



The Walvis Bay Lagoon is a sparkling stretch of water where the desert meets the sea. The many flamingos that gather at this rich feeding ground enhance the lagoon's natural beauty. Travel by air-conditioned vehicle directly to this lagoon, which nurtures a wide variety of bird life including the brightly-colored flamingos and the rare white pelicans. From here, continue to the nearby salt field which resembles snow-covered hills in the desert. Massive lagoons are built and flooded with sea water and left to dry in the hot sun; the water turns a beautiful pink before the salt crystallizes out. The sea-salt mining operations near Walvis Bay and Swakopmund are among the largest in the world. Tour the salt mine facilities; a presentation on the history of salt mining and mining activities is also included.

Continue to the Oyster Farm, where oysters are harvested straight from the water. Enjoy some free time to view the abundant aquatic bird life in the surrounding salt pans. Before returning to the ship, enjoy a soft drink and a very fresh oyster.

WAL27 SOSSUVLEI BY AIR – GROUP B (0900-1230 Monday, 22 September) Minimum 5/ Maximum 20 (PRICE: \$354.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

For a description of this practicum, please see WAL14 Sossuvlei by Air - Group A.

WAL28 SANDWICH HARBOR – GROUP B (0900-1600 MONDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER) MINIMUM 4/MAXIMUM 50 (PRICE: \$175.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

For a description of this practicum, please see WAL19 Sandwich Harbor - Group A.

WAL29 TOWNSHIP & DIAMOND TOUR – GROUP A (1400-1700 Monday, 22 September) Minimum 4/ Maximum 32 (PRICE: \$122.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

Have you ever tasted Mopani Worms and Oshifima porridge, visited an original *shebeen* (tavern) and drank the local brew? This trip offers a unique view of Walvis Bay and the township Kuisebmond, while illustrating the complex and interesting history of the area.



Drive through the bustling streets of Walvis Bay and stop at the colorful Kuisebmond Market Hall. Small traders offer a variety of traditional crafts, clothing and typical Namibian dishes throughout the hall.

Continue to Nathaniel Maxuilili Street and visit a kindergarten, where the children will present a special show. Then visit the multi-purpose community center. Learn about the various active community health and development projects. Next stop is the Tataleni Village. The Tataleni Relocation project won the Dubai Award for Best Practices. See how problems of overcrowding in Kuisebmond were solved by this innovative housing concept. At the Mola Mola *shebeen* the vibrant atmosphere of the township comes to life. Sample a variety of traditional cuisines such as Mopani Worms, Makaka, Oshifima porridge and beans, which are laid out in a delicious buffet. From Kuisebmond, continue to the Export Processing Zone and visit the diamond cutting and polishing plant. After these glimpses into the lives of Namibians, return to the ship.

WAL30 WALVIS BAY, MOON LANDSCAPE & WELWITSCHIA (0830-1300 Tuesday, 23 September)
Minimum 25/Maximum 800 (PRICE: \$95.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

Travel to Namib-Naukluft Park, passing endless waves of sand dunes along the way. Upon entering the park, turn onto Welwitschia Drive where the landscape is dotted with the extraordinary Welwitschia Mirabilis plant. Unique to Namibia, these prehistoric plants have adapted to their harsh habitat. Resembling a large wilted lettuce, Welwitschias only produce two leaves in their lifetime and have a lifespan of over 500 years. The locals in this area have dubbed the plant “two-leaf can’t die”. After learning about these amazing and resilient desert plants in their dramatic landscape, continue to the ‘lunar landscape’. This vastly eroded valley has an appearance similar to that of the moon’s surface. Different species of lichen grow here, thanks to the sea fog, which rolls up to 20 miles inland and provides moisture for these desert-dwelling plants.

After viewing this barren rocky desert, return to Walvis Bay, passing sand dunes on your left and the sea on your right. Pass Bird Island, a huge wooden platform built in the sea to provide coastal birds a place to roost. The guano they drop is collected at intervals and is used to make fertilizer. Drive through Walvis Bay, visiting the lagoon and tidal flood plains before returning to the ship. Depending on the time of year, a variety of water birds, including flamingos and pelicans may be seen.

WAL31 DESERT 4X4 ADVENTURE – GROUP B (0845-1315 Tuesday, 23 September) Minimum 4/
Maximum 50 (PRICE: \$142.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

For a description of this practicum, please see WAL10 Desert 4x4 Adventure - Group A.

WAL32 SEA & SAND DUNES – GROUP B (0845-1600 Tuesday, 23 September) Minimum 4/Maximum 32
(PRICE: \$203.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

For a description of this practicum, please see WAL13 Sea & Sand Dunes - Group A.

WAL34 SWAKOPMUND – GROUP B (0900-1345 Tuesday, 23 September) Minimum 25/ Maximum 120
(PRICE: \$84.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

For a description of this practicum, please see WAL15 Swakopmund- Group A.

WAL35 TOWNSHIP & DIAMOND TOUR – GROUP B (1000-1300 Tuesday, 23 September) Minimum 4/
Maximum 32 (PRICE: \$122.00) PRE-SALE ONLY

For a description of this practicum, please see WAL29 Township & Diamond Tour - Group A.