



ICONIC IMAGES



**PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION & CHECKLISTS FOR PARTICIPANTS**

**in**

**ICONIC IMAGES INTERNATIONAL'S**

**PHOTO SAFARI**

***"THE VERY BEST OF NAMIBIA WITH ART WOLFE"***

**4 – 14 SEPTEMBER 2013**

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*NAMIBIA is a country of surreal, raw beauty, pristine wilderness and abundant wildlife. For those of us who choose to frame the world through a lens, Namibia's great light, spectacular landscapes and intriguing diversity of people and extraordinary wildlife opens up a world of photographic possibilities.*

Thank you for choosing *Iconic Images International* for your photo tour and I hope you enjoy yourself as you travel with Art Wolfe and myself and photograph in this magnificent, yet still undiscovered region of Africa.

These notes provide helpful information on:

1. Travelling with and looking after photographic equipment in Africa.
2. Downloading and backing-up images every day.
3. Power supply in Namibia & charging batteries, laptop, mobile phone, etc
4. Vehicle etiquette and consideration for fellow passengers and photographers.
5. Keeping healthy in Africa.
6. Money Matters in Namibia.
7. Immigration and Customs at Windhoek International Airport, Namibia.
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9. Travel documents, personal items & clothing checklist
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11. Camera equipment checklist – this is a comprehensive list and you should not be overwhelmed.
12. Summary itinerary.
13. Your Tour Leaders/Assistants
14. Guide to paying gratuities on this photo tour.
15. Denis' choice of lenses and other camera equipment for Namibia.
16. Denis' Musings on Namibia's Photography Opportunities

Perusing the information in this document will undoubtedly enrich your photo tour and help you to return with iconic images, and some wonderful memories.

## **1. Travelling with and looking after photographic equipment in Africa**

As you will frequently be walking and carrying your camera gear, pack the minimum amount of equipment necessary to photograph the subjects which interest you. Pack to avoid placing sensitive camera equipment in your airline check-in luggage. I pack so that if my check-in luggage (clothes, etc.,) for some reason, is delayed or does not arrive, I can still commence photographing, download and store images, and keep all camera batteries fully charged, from the first photo shoot.

The easiest and safest way to transport camera/computer equipment is in soft-sided, well padded, dedicated camera bags whether they are backpack or roll-on types. These come in many shapes and sizes, but I only purchase bags that will fit (without too much squashing) into aircraft overhead lockers. This increases my chances greatly of carrying all of my essential camera and computer equipment on-board. Depending on who is on duty at the airport check-in counter I may be "put through the gauntlet" if I try to carry too many or large-looking bags on-board. I keep it to a maximum of two bags, unless I am travelling Business Class, where the allowance is a little more generous.



In the event my check-in bags do not arrive, I can always purchase some temporary clothes and a toothbrush! Trying to replace expensive camera gear, or a laptop, at short notice, in a strange place (especially in the more remote parts of Namibia), is a nightmare and is guaranteed to spoil the start of the photo tour.

You might like to read the article *“Flying & Travelling with Camera Gear”* which outlines the experience I have accumulated over many years of travel within Australia and internationally. To download and print a copy, click on: [Flying & Travelling with Camera Gear](#).

Currently, I travel with my camera equipment in a Kiboko 30L backpack and a Think Tank Airport Security Roll-on bag. These two bags are brought onto the plane with me and stored in the overhead locker. My tripod goes in the hold, either in my clothes duffle bag or its own tripod bag. You do NOT have to travel with the amount of camera equipment shown in the images here. The camera bodies and lens are included in the photos simply to show the amount of equipment you can fit into specially designed photography backpacks and roll-ons.



Kiboko 30L & typical gear capacity



Canon 800mm Lens in Kiboko 30L



Think Tank Roll-on Bag

When travelling in vehicles I always keep my cameras and lenses on a nearby seat or in a light-weight backpack (possibly hanging over the back of a seat) and **never on the floor of the vehicle**. Some of the roads in Namibia are bumpy, pot-holed or poorly maintained, especially in the game reserves so hold onto your equipment whenever the vehicle is moving. *[Last year I had a brand new Canon 300mm f/2.8 lens and a Canon 1DMkIV camera bounce from the seat of an open Landrover onto the metal side of the vehicle and then onto the ground, because I was not holding it. Luckily we were travelling in sand at the time and no harm was done. A quick dust off and I was up and running again. I may not be so lucky next time!]*.

At the end of each day I clean my camera gear, using a soft bristle brush (e.g. a shaving or artist’s brush) and dry soft cloth to remove the inevitable dust that finds its way into the areas around controls buttons, viewfinder, LCD screen and on carrying straps. I do **not** clean with a damp cloth as the African dust, leaves white unsightly “smears” on black coloured equipment.

Having clean gear available each morning means I can start shooting as soon as first light arrives.

We will generally be departing the lodges/camps for the early morning shoots, whilst it is *still dark*. This is not the best time to think about cleaning lenses or cameras!

## **2. Downloading, backing up images at the end of each day's shooting, is a MUST.**

On safari, one thing is certain in life. When I photograph in Africa, far away from my home base; laptop hard drives fail. Solid-state drives help somewhat in this regard. Murphy's Axe invariably strikes when the laptop hard drive is just about full of the best images and no back-up copies have been made!

To avoid the disappointment of losing even one image whilst on a photographic tour, I use this simple, fool-proof (if followed) 6-step backup strategy. I,

1. Download my images to a laptop at the end of **every** day's shooting.
2. Delete all 'out-of-focus' and all 'less worthy' images; I am ruthless with this first cull; also see #6 below.
3. Back up the retained images to **two** external hard drives on the same day and before I commence dinner.
4. Do not delete images from a memory card or format a card until I have checked there really are two copies of the images I intend to take home, on the external hard drives, as well as the copy on my laptop hard drive. This gives me three copies of every image I have decided to retain.
5. Don't move or delete any of the retained images from my laptop hard drive until it becomes absolutely necessary. External hard drives are compact, easy to pack, come in sizes up to 1.5TB and are quite inexpensive to purchase.
6. However, a time may come, usually towards the end of a very fruitful photographic tour, when the number of images on my laptop starts to affect its operating speed and I am forced to remove some of them. To help avoid getting to this stage it helps if I am quite ruthless in my first cull. I hate removing images from my laptop hard drive, but I am consoled by having the two copies of everything I have decided to retain, on my two external hard drives.

If you use this fast and easy method, you are essentially guaranteed not to lose any of your images. You may also like to read the article, I recently published: [Getting Those Prized Travel Images Home](#). There is some additional information in it.

Some photographers use extra memory cards as their sole form of back up. As long as you don't mix up the cards, do not try to reuse cards holding images, and do not format any cards during the entire trip, this method is reasonably fool proof, if you shoot few images. However, in the middle of some exciting action photography or when photographing in low light and your in-camera card shows full, it is easy to mistakenly format a card on which you have forgotten you have stored images. It is extremely difficult, but not impossible, to recover images from a formatted card! It is not uncommon for tour participants on Iconic Images photo tours, to return home with over 250GB of images – this means you will have to carry lots of cards. I do not use or recommend this method of back-up.

Please note the recommendations in steps 1 – 6 above, are how I do things and are only my suggestions.

***You are free to choose your own method, but BACK UP you must, every evening.***

### 3. Power supply in Namibia & charging batteries, laptop, mobile phone, etc

Recharging of camera batteries becomes an unavoidable part of daily life on all Iconic Images photo safaris in Africa and elsewhere. If the accommodation we use has 240 volt power in the rooms/tents, life is easy and you can recharge batteries overnight or whilst enjoying dinner. Where power is unavailable in the room/tent you will experience one of the “delights of Africa” – the *ubiquitous central charging station*. Here is where everybody’s batteries, laptops, notebooks, mobile phones, iPads, electric shavers, and anything else that requires a recharge, become bedfellows!

Your first sight of this jumble of cables, power boards, battery chargers of all makes and types, and more batteries, iPads, iPhones, and laptops than you can imagine - all seeking new life, will take your breath away! The image below shows one of these infamous charging stations at an up-market lodge in the Okavango Delta, Botswana. Be warned!



**A Typical Central Charging Station!**



**Battery Clearly Marked**



**Charger Clearly Marked**

Most of these central charging stations are located in poorly lit locations and it is easy to make a mistake, when retrieving gear. Items are sometimes inadvertently taken by others (hopefully in your group) and you will not know who this is until you make enquires early the next morning. This just happens!

***To help minimise the possibility of your equipment being mistakenly taken by another person on the tour please ensure, before you depart from home, you mark, with an indelible, brightly coloured marker or other reliable method, each piece of your equipment.***

See above how I labelled a camera battery and charger that I know I will likely be leaving at such a central charging station. Larger labels with your name clearly visible help others avoid picking up the wrong item.

I always travel with an international plug adaptor that fits into the wall outlet and an Australian surge-protected power board with six outlets. This allows me to simultaneously charge camera batteries, laptop, mobile phone, iPad and the like. Your power board will of course suit the plugs of your own equipment country and equipment.

Namibia’s power supply is 230 Volts/50Hz.



The type of electrical plug used in Namibia, is the same as that used in South Africa and is known internationally as Type M. Fig 1 shows the plug type. Fig 2 shows the kind of power adaptor you will need to pack and Fig 3 shows the 6-outlet power board I take with me (with Australian sockets).



Fig 1: Plug Type Used in Namibia



Fig. 2 Type M Adaptor



Fig. 3 6 - Outlet Power Board

#### 4. Vehicle etiquette and consideration for fellow passengers and photographers.

To ensure no one is perceived to have any advantage whilst photographing on game drives, tour participants will be required to rotate seats in the vehicles (unless we have been informed otherwise). I regret that anyone failing to advise us, before the tour, of any limitations to rotation of seats, will be required to participate in the rotation.

A respectful adherence to the additional requirements outlined below, will ensure you and your companions in the vehicle will enjoy participating in this photo safari.

1. Please keep noise levels low at animal sightings. This allows people to enjoy some wonderful scenes of 'nature at play' and listen to sounds that the animals may be making. Often these sounds will alert you to some behaviour and allow you to anticipate any action that may occur.
2. If you are seated in the front of the vehicle, please have consideration for the people behind you. At the start of each photo shoot we will work out how you will be photographing and working around each other. This approach provides a helpful environment and allows everyone to photograph happily in the vehicle. We will speak further about this when we meet at the commencement of the photo safari.
3. When photographing, keep movement to a minimum. If you are going to shift places, then alert others in the vehicle of your intention and do so as swiftly, smoothly and directly as possible.
4. Please do not do anything to effect the behaviour of the animals.
5. Your driver/guide has to adhere to certain park/reserve requirements and etiquette at sightings that you may not be fully aware of. The driver/guide's behaviour is frequently monitored by park rangers and a breach of protocol (forced by a tour participant) can result in the loss of the driver/guide's licence and livelihood. This may mean, on the odd occasion, you cannot stop exactly where you would like. Please bear this in mind at sightings, especially when there are vehicles from other camps around. We have some of the best driver/guides who have worked with and understand the specific needs of photographers. They play a very important part in getting you to the best locations and their ability to find and anticipate animal behaviour will



amaze you. Please treat them as you would your good friends and with respect. You will be rewarded many times over.

## 5. Keeping healthy in Africa

I am not medically qualified and thus refrain from giving specific medical advice or recommendations. The following comments are based on my accumulated experience from many years of international travel, especially in third world countries.

The illness that affects most western people visiting Africa (or Asia) is what I call 'traveller's diarrhea' and is usually caused by bacteria or parasites entering the body via contaminated food or water. In the majority of cases the diarrhea will disappear within a few days, but if I get it, it is guaranteed to spoil my photo tour. There are no 'public toilets' when on game drives in Africa!

Should the dreaded diarrhea visit me, I do the following:

1. *Drink plenty of fluids* - diarrhea carries a risk of dehydration, particularly if it includes vomiting. I ensure I drink plenty of fluids, especially those containing electrolytes such as fruit juices and sports drinks. I avoid alcohol until I am feeling better, perhaps with the exception of a small "G & T", (for the quinine, of course).
2. *Eat as soon as I feel up to it* – mainly foods such as pasta, bread, rice or potatoes, i.e. foods high in carbohydrates and I avoid foods that are high in fat.
3. *Medications* – 'over-the-counter' medicines such as Loperamide, Imodium, Buscopan, Lomotil or Valoid sometimes help to slow down bowel movements.

***Please check with your doctor before you leave for Africa.***

As the temperatures during the day are high (circa 30°C) in Namibia it is important to remain hydrated at all times.

When in Africa, ***I drink only bottled water.*** I also use only bottled water when brushing my teeth. I avoid salads where I think the ingredients may have been washed with local untreated water. This will not be the case in the lodges/camps we have selected.

Although yellow fever is not a disease risk in Namibia, the Namibian immigration officers sometimes require travelers arriving from or transiting through countries with risk of yellow fever virus transmission, to present proof of yellow fever vaccination. As a precaution, I carry a yellow fever vaccination certificate when visiting Africa. On occasions it is requested by immigration officials upon arrival back in Australia. Please check with the requirements in your home country.

Malaria exists in Africa and in certain parts of Namibia, where we will be visiting. There are many types of anti-malaria medicines available and it is recommended you consult your own doctor, or health clinic specialising in travel medicine, as to which brand you should take if you do decide to do so.

On this photo safari, I will be taking prophylaxis against malaria. I will also take measures to avoid mosquito bites, including use of insect repellent, and wearing long, loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing.



If you are on specific medication ensure you *carry it in your hand luggage*. Certain drugs/prescriptions will not be available in the remote areas we will be visiting.

For details on the need for vaccines recommended for Namibia, please consult your own doctor, or visit a specialist travel doctor.

## 6. Money Matters in Namibia

The currency in Namibia is the Namibian Dollar (N\$). AUS\$1 = N\$9.4 and US\$1 = N\$9.1, approximately.

Both US\$ and South African Rands are also readily acceptable throughout Namibia.

As you are on a prepaid photo tour it is not necessary to exchange money immediately upon arrival at Windhoek International Airport. I suggest waiting until you arrive in Galton House Guesthouse and we will provide details of the nearest ATMs and banks.

It is a good idea to bring only newer-dated foreign currency that has no rips, marks, folds, ink marks or holes; notes printed pre-2000 are frequently refused in Africa. I have witnessed this occurring many times and you will never win the debate!

Credit cards and traveller's checks are accepted in most major establishments. You will be able to use your credit cards at the lodges/camps should you wish to purchase gifts, items of clothing, etc.

Store your credit cards on person and *do not let them out of your sight at any time*. ON EVERY OCCASION, INSIST THAT YOU PERSONALLY SWIPE YOUR CREDIT CARD WHEN MAKING A PURCHASE. This is common practice in Africa and such a request will not offend.

Inform your bank of the countries you will be visiting; cancelled cards on an overseas trip are a nuisance.

## 7. Immigration and Customs on arrival at Windhoek International Airport

Before your plane arrives in Namibia, you may receive a Passenger Declaration Form, which must be completed and presented to immigration officials at the airport.

If you are asked for an address where you will be staying in Namibia, you may use the address of the guesthouse we have reserved in Windhoek, namely, **Galton House, 72 Amasoniet Street, Windhoek, Namibia. Tel: +264 (0) 61 230 416.**

Cameras, video cameras, laptops, mobile phones, etc., can be brought into the country for your personal use. I have never declared my camera equipment when entering Namibia. The Customs officials appear to be used to passengers arriving with large lenses and lots of cameras!





## 8. Arrangements to meet you on arrival at Windhoek International Airport

The following arrangements have been made for your arrival at Windhoek International Airport.

All participants will be met on arrival at the airport.

Following immigration/customs and collection of your luggage, as you exit into the public area of the airport keep an eye out for a person holding a placard with your name on it. This person will transport you to the Galton House guesthouse, close to the centre of Windhoek city. Depending on traffic, the journey to the guesthouse will take 35-40 minutes.

*Please ensure you provide complete written details of your flights from and to your home country to Mrs Khush Suntoke, Flightworld, 200 St. George's Terrace, Perth, Western Australia 6000.*

*Khush can be contacted by email: [khush@flightworld.com.au](mailto:khush@flightworld.com.au) or by phone +61 8 9322 2914.*

*This is particularly important if you have not used Flightworld to book your flights and/or you have arranged to arrive in Namibia a day or so early. Khush will be liaising with our on-ground operators in Namibia to ensure they are provided with details of your arrival flight. Provision of these details by each participant is essential to ensure you will be met upon arrival.*

***If you fail to provide these details we CANNOT guarantee you will be met at Windhoek International Airport on your arrival!***

## 9. Travel Documents, Personal Items & Clothing Checklists

I have compiled the check list below and it is a "work-in-progress". I find it helpful as I prepare for each overseas photo trip. Experienced travellers who have their own checklist(s) should continue to use those and perhaps take whatever is thought helpful from my "work-in-progress" list. I am always open to suggestions on how to improve this list and this document.

Important Note: *You are not expected to carry a similar amount of camera equipment as I have listed here and there is no need to go out and buy any special camera equipment for this photographic tour.*

### 9.1 Travel Documents

1. Passport – make a copy of the ID pages and carry separate to the passport. *You will be asked to show your passport at airports and hotels in Namibia.*
2. Visa – Australian, US & German passport holders do NOT require a visa for entry to Namibia. For helpful information on whether you need a visa, please click on this link: [Namibia Visa Requirements](#).
3. ID Documents – e.g. driver's licence or similar.
4. Flight ticket/s and any vouchers arranged for private pre or post tour extensions.
5. Itinerary – leave a copy with a friend/relative at home.



6. Travel Insurance Documentation – ensure you have readily available the relevant emergency contact telephone numbers and email and physical addresses of both insurance companies and next of kin nominated in your application for insurance cover.
7. Vaccination Certificates – as needed.

### 9.2 Personal Items and Clothing

1. Hat – wide brimmed.
2. Sunscreen, lip balm, moisturizer, sun block.
3. Sunglasses – plus spare pair.
4. Cotton shirts, long sleeved – laundry facilities available in all lodges/camps and inexpensive.
5. Cotton shirts, short sleeved.
6. Cotton long pants.
7. Cotton shorts.
8. Warm top/s and jumpers – for early morning and late evening shoots, especially when photographing in Dead Vlei, Sossusvlei.
9. Wind breaker/lightweight rain jacket; we may get a shower or two.
10. Thin gloves – if you have previously found you require them when photographing in colder weather.
11. A light poncho-style plastic rain cover. Warm ponchos will be supplied by the lodges/camps as needed.
12. Walking or hiking shoes.
13. A 'Beanie' – can be cold on early morning shoots or on star shoots.
14. Toiletries.
15. Small alarm clock - if your mobile phone does not have an alarm.
16. Noise cancelling headphones - for use on long haul flights.
17. Journal & pens (or iPad).
18. Mobile phone – coverage is good to excellent throughout most of Namibia, except when we are in Serra Cafema, in the far North West. Mobile phone must be set to "International Roaming" before leaving home country if you intend to use it overseas. However be aware, data usage costs overseas are horrendously expensive. *As a general rule I turn off "International Data Roaming" on my iPhone, before I leave Australia.*

### 10. Personal Medical Items Checklist

1. Copy of medical prescriptions.
2. Sufficient quantity of personal medicines to last the entire trip.
3. Spare pair of prescription/reading glasses (if normally used).
4. Details of any allergies to any medication.
5. Anti diarrhea tablets.
6. Aspirin/Paracetamol.
7. Antihistamine – for insect bites.
8. Multipurpose antiseptic.
9. Painkillers.
10. Insect repellent – preferably not containing DEET (will damage camera bodies).
11. Malaria prophylactics.



**11. Camera Equipment Checklist** – *do not be overwhelmed; it is just my checklist.*

1. Camera bodies – I always take two and frequently three.
2. Camera manuals – also place electronic copies on your laptop.
3. Spare batteries for cameras.
4. Battery charger(s) and power leads for same, including some spare power leads.
5. Power adaptor. See #3 above for details of type.
6. Australian/home country power board with at least 4 outlets.
7. Memory cards – I use 32GB size and carry at least 4 cards, which I format at the end of each day.
8. Wallet for holding memory cards; handy but not essential.
9. Lens cleaning cloth/s – take along plenty.
10. Lenses – wide angle and telephoto; see Sec. 15 below re possible choice of lenses for photography in Namibia.
11. Wimberley Head – for very large (>400mm) telephoto lenses.
12. Filters - polariser and neutral density filter for all lenses.
13. Graduated ND filters and holder.
14. Tele-converter(s).
15. Spare camera body and lens caps – to replace those lost on tour.
16. Flash – if you generally use it, but it is not essential for wildlife photography.
17. Spare batteries for flash.
18. Cable or electronic remote shutter release.
19. Large blower brush – the extent of the dust will surprise you.
20. Sensor cleaning set & fluid – you will get dust on the sensor, if you change lenses in vehicles or open spaces!
21. Laptop & power cables – lightest laptop possible.
22. Rechargeable batteries and charger – if you normally use these.
23. External hard drives – I travel with three, the smallest of which is 750 GB.
24. Power/transfer cables for external hard drives.
25. Monopod – can be useful and easy to pack with clothes.
26. Tripod – essential for landscape photography and necessary for low light/star photography.
27. Tripod head and quick release plate.
28. Beanbag – I always travel with my own. We will arrange to get beans or rice in Namibia.
29. Camera vest – with greatest number of large pockets.
30. Soft sided duffle bag with wheels – for all the non-camera stuff that goes into the aircraft hold.
31. Camera bag – a light backpack is good for using on short walks and/or in vehicles.
32. Plastic zip lock bags – useful for protecting spare memory cards or lens caps.
33. Cable ties – useful for locking backpacks that you might wish to leave alone.
34. Binoculars, especially for non-photographing spouses/partners.
35. Torch (& spare batteries) and LED headlamp, preferably with a red light incorporated in it.
36. A few strips of old bicycle tube cut approx. 25mm wide and 500mm long – for tying/securing a monopod if you decide to rest it in the outside step of the vehicle for shooting wildlife.
37. Jeweller's screwdrivers – *always packed in check-in luggage.*
38. Swiss army knife – *always packed in check-in luggage.*
39. Leatherman multitool with pliers – *always packed in check-in luggage.*



### 12. Summary Itinerary for Photo Safari



Fig 4: Map of Namibia Showing the 4 Charter Flights & Location of Lodges/Camps.

DATE	TRANSFER	ACCOMMODATION
4 Sept	Arrive Windhoek – start of photo safari	<a href="#">Galton House.</a>
5 Sept	Fly Windhoek/Sossusvlei – charter flight	<a href="#">Sossus Dune Lodge</a> – 4 nights
9 Sept	Transfer to Serra Cafema – charter flight	<a href="#">Serra Cafema Lodge</a> – 2 nights
11 Sept	Transfer to Ongava – charter flight	<a href="#">Ongava Lodge</a> – 3 nights
14 Sept	Transfer to Windhoek – charter flight	N/A

You can visit the website of each of the lodges/camps we are using on the photo safari by clicking on the individual links in the table above. I encourage you to visit the websites, lingering on each one and appreciate the standard of accommodation and special locations we have selected for you on this tour.



### 13. Tour Leaders

You will be assisted throughout the tour by Art Wolfe, Denis Glennon AO and local C4 Images guides.

#### 13.1 Art Wolfe

Art Wolfe needs no introduction to photographers.

His remarkable images and his generosity of teaching set him apart from other professional photographers.

Wolfe's astonishing images are a window into a world most of us might otherwise never see.

Over a lifetime creating these images Art has transformed nature and wildlife photography into an art form and has devoted his life to photographing, preserving and recording wildlife, nature, remote cultures and the environment.

He has travelled to the edges of the earth to capture his signature images. These images are instantly recognisable for their mastery of composition, perspective and artistic expression. Looking at them you can sense the connection he makes with his subjects as his lens seems to seek their very soul.

He has produced more than 80 exquisite books and appeared in and produced dozens of TV programs and documentaries, all with the purpose of promoting conservation, and increasing our appreciation of the natural world, knowing these will have a direct effect on our stewardship of the planet's disappearing wildlife, fragile ecosystems and native cultures.

Long before the genre of 'conservation photography' was conceived, Art Wolfe was practicing it. He was away ahead of his time and he is still pushing these boundaries.

Art's latest work, [Human Canvas](#), is a bold step in an entirely new direction into the world of fine art photography.

The son of commercial artists, Art was born in Seattle and still calls the city home. He spends nearly nine months a year traveling, carefully researching the locations as well as pre-visualizing the photographs he wants to take.

He is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society and a Fellow of the International League of Conservation Photographers. He donates performances and work to environmental and educational groups every year; his lecture series is also in demand for corporate conventions and trade shows

#### 13.2 Denis Glennon AO

Denis is the owner of Iconic Images International and one of the 70+ million Irish diaspora scattered around the planet.

He has made Western Australia his new home place. Married to Una for 45 years, together they have travelled the globe since leaving Ireland in the late sixties to reside and work in Africa.

A seven year stint in Zambia ignited a passion for Africa's wildlife, landscapes and cultures that has stayed with him ever since.

His greatest pleasure now is introducing others to the magic of Africa, particularly through the lens of a camera.

Photographing in Africa is unpredictable. Perhaps that's why he enjoys it so much. His message to newcomers on Iconic Images' photographic safari is to find their own rhythm and come to know Africa's beat, because how they show curiosity and patience, kindness and respect, to Africa's wildlife and people, needs to be authentic.

On safari, above all, he constantly tells participants to look for a moment, as in the best images of animals or people it is the moment itself that reveals the soul of the piece of Africa they are photographing.

He believes the sincerity of our interaction with Africa's subjects can nurture these moments or it can inhibit them and prevent them from happening, especially when photographing people.

When pushed for an answer on how best to do this, he simply says *"There is no technique, just concentrate on honing the ability to connect with the beauty of what Africa is telling you and you will be rewarded with many iconic photographs"*.

He firmly believes the Iconic Images team he has assembled is as good as you will find on any photo safari. All are passionate and respected photographers. All are generous with their knowledge. It is a sheer pleasure travelling and working with them.

For a further insight to Denis' values on photography you might like to visit: [About](#) and view the videos at [Balm for Soul](#) and [Iconic Namibia](#).

### 13.3 C4 Images & Safaris

Shem Compion is the founder and owner of *C4 Images and Safaris*. Iconic Images International engages Shem's company, C4 Images & Safaris for all its on-ground operations in Africa. C4's high standards of service and respect for clients match those of Iconic Images'. The partnership grows stronger each year.

Shem and his team use their extensive knowledge of Africa, its wildlife and the best photographic locations to assist Iconic Images deliver the best photographic safari experience possible.

Shem grew up roaming the wilds of South Africa and this interest in nature led to him completing a National Diploma in Nature Conservation and Wildlife Management. With over 20 years of bush experience it was quite logical he was going to end up working in the natural world.

Like Denis, Shem is self-taught wildlife photographer who has established himself as one of the best wildlife photographers in Southern Africa. His work is regularly published worldwide in magazines, calendars and books. In 2010, he supplied all 72 images to the extremely popular Africa Geographic calendar. It sold out within 4 months – the first time ever.

He published his first book “*A Landscape of Insects*” in 2009. His very popular second and third books are part of the “*Insider’s Guide*” series covering the top wildlife photography spots in South Africa, Botswana and Namibia, published in 2010 and 2012 respectively. He is releasing his latest book “*The Truth about Trees*” in April 2013.

Shem is a regular speaker at photo events and has presented photo workshops for organisations such as National Geographic and has been a keynote speaker at international photographic conventions.

Whilst Shem will not be personally joining us in Namibia, two of his team will assist.

I am confident you will be “in good hands” whilst in Namibia.

#### **14. Guide to paying gratuities in Namibia**

Payments of tips/gratuities are not required on this tour as an amount has been included in your photo safari cost and Iconic Images will pay an appropriate amount to all drivers and guides.

However, if you believe you have received extra levels of service from lodge/camp staff you are free to tip them, at the end of your stay at each lodge/camp; there is no obligation to do so.

#### **15. Denis’ Choice of Lenses & Other Camera Equipment for Namibia.**

I will pack my camera gear for flying from one location to the next, which we will be doing in Namibia. This discipline forces me to pack my individual pieces of equipment in the spaces allocated to them in my backpack and/or roll-on bag. From the first day in Namibia we will be moving around pretty much continuously, carrying our own camera gear, everywhere.

*I cannot over emphasize the need to ensure secure packing of each piece of camera equipment, after every shoot. This applies particularly to telephoto lens. If one of your cameras or lenses gets damaged on this tour there is absolutely no facility readily available to repair or replace it. The same precaution applies to your laptop.*

*I emphasise you can capture the beauty of Namibia’s culture, buildings, people and surprisingly beautiful landscapes with lesser equipment and Art and I look forward to showing how to do this.*

My choice of lenses in particular is dictated by my focus on specific images I hope to capture on this trip. The focus will be on landscape, some of the most magical sunrises/sunsets on earth, gigantic panoramas, Dead Vlei at three different times of the day, aerial shots from the optional, magical balloon flight over Sossusvlei, the moonscape-like landscapes of Kaokoland, the nomadic Himba people and of course the amazing wildlife at Ongava and Etosha.

I plan to pack the following equipment for Namibia.



1. Two camera bodies – 2 x Canon 1DX.
2. A video camera to augment the still photography. In the past I have found it too difficult to keep changing settings on the DSLR when I wish to capture some video footage, hence the dedicated video camera.
3. Three Wide Angle Lenses – Canon 16-35mm, f/2.8, Canon 24-105mm, f/4 and a Zeiss Distagon T 21mm, f/2.8.
4. Telephoto – Canon 70-200mm, f/2.8, Mk II - for landscapes and portraits of people.
5. Telephoto – Canon 300mm, f/2.8, Mk II - for wildlife.
6. 1.4 X Converter, in case I require a longer focal than 300mm; normally I travel with a 800mm lens in Africa but I will not take it along on this trip.
7. If the new Canon 200-400mm f/4, with the built-in 1.4 X converter is available in Sept, I will probably take it instead of the 300mm lens.
8. Gitzo tripod – essential for landscapes and a must for the internal low light photography in monasteries.
9. Monopod, for street photography, especially with the video camera.
10. Tripod ball head – will use this all the time on the tripod.
11. Fluid head for use on tripod/monopod with video camera.
12. Polariser filters for all the lenses – I leave the polariser filter on the lens most of the time.
13. Graduated Neutral Density filters – for landscapes.
14. Remote control cable – essential for capturing sharp images especially in weaker light.
15. The usual collection of chargers, cables, etc. referred to in Section #10 above.

If you have any queries on equipment choice I would be happy to give you whatever advice and suggestions I can.

### **16. Denis' Musings on Namibia's Photography Opportunities**

Namibia offers a boundless blend of landscape, culture and wildlife photography, like no other country in Africa.

Sand, solitude and wind - these are the three elements that make up Sossusvlei. Every photographer dreams of photographing these dunes. Every photographer on the planet probably knows about these dunes- they have been photographed millions of times. When you get in amongst them you feel a presence that will challenge every creative nerve you own. A hint - wander away from the group; look for the hidden art in the sands, the shadows, lines, 'S'-curves, textures, lighting, patterns and compositions, all of which appear to flow quite naturally. The photography here will leave you spellbound by the immensity of the dunes and the various patterns that are created by the rising and setting sun. This will be truly a great photographic (and personal) experience.

Kolmanskop, for those on the pre-safari extension – it is now an uninhabited, derelict town that is slowly being taken over by the encroaching sand dunes. We have arranged a special photography permit that grants us access to the town for all the hours between sunrise and sunset. We plan to enter well before sunrise. What transpires over the next few hours will be like trying to relive the past. Capturing images of times gone by can be quite difficult and the place makes you work for your photographs. The results will be worth it, the place is littered with excellent opportunities. Look for converging verticals, especially with



wider angle lenses and expect exposure “conundrums” from the huge dynamic range from the dark rooms and the bright windows.

The best part about a having the permit is that we will (fingers crossed) have the place to yourself for a few hours. This means fewer footprints in the sand, nor any people walking through your carefully composed images. By the time the tourists come in at 9.30am we hope to be drinking coffee in the café, our work done for the morning.

Serra Cafema is situated on the banks of the Kunene River in the extreme north-west of Namibia and has to be the most remote camp in Southern Africa. The Okavango Delta in Botswana is closer to Windhoek than Serra Cafema is to Windhoek. Under big, shady Albida trees you will find a small, rustic and peaceful camp with all the comforts.

Its Portuguese name comes from the mountains to the north that dominates the skyline. The camp shares this austere region with the wonderful Himba people who are some of the last true nomadic people in Africa. Crocodiles and waterbirds seem out of place in this surreal, lunar-like infinity of the Namib Desert. Be spellbound as we spend time in the breath-taking landscape scenes in the Hartmann Valley, to the south of Serra Cafema Camp, with herds of springbok, ostrich and even leopard.

Due to its remoteness, Serra Cafema is only reachable by plane, but I drove there in 2012. It took six days during which we did not come across another human being or vehicle! There are no roads to this remote camp, only tracks and dried river beds! It is an astounding place to experience, at least once in a lifetime. An oasis in the heart of one of Africa’s wildest and least explored corners, a journey to Serra Cafema is a journey into the soul.

The Himba people – descendants of a group of Herero herders who fled into the remote north west of the country are a tribe of nomadic pastoralists. The Himba have clung to their traditions and the beautiful Himba women are noted for their intricate hairstyles and traditional jewelry. Himba men and women wear few clothes apart from a loin cloth or goat skinned mini-skirt and they rub their bodies with red ochre and fat to protect them from the sun. This gives their appearance a rich red colour; they are a striking people to photograph.

Etosha – known as the “great white place”. This is a wildlife paradise. The procession of animals coming to drink at the waterholes is literally that: a procession. Try taking a book along with you to read whilst waiting at the waterholes. You will never read a page. Every time you think you should pick up the book, some new animal will come out of the bush to drink, or another bird species will appear. It is great! That is the main advantage of Etosha in the dry season; the concentration of wildlife at the waterholes.

For many photographers, the search for a truly rewarding photographic adventure ends when they discover Namibia. It is a country of surreal raw beauty, pristine wilderness and abundant wildlife. As I said at the beginning, for those who chose to frame the world through a lens, Namibia’s optimum light, spectacular landscapes and intriguing diversity of animals and people, opens up a wide world of photographic possibilities.

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