



**NAMIBIA | TO SAVE THE CHEETAH**

Welcome to Namibia, the cheetah capitol of the world and home to ¼ of the world’s cheetah population. Her raw beauty and sweeping plains will surely bewitch even our most seasoned travelers. Save the cheetah and enjoy a full-on romantic African fantasy.

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**DAY 1**

**IN TRANSIT**

08:00

Arrive Windhoek

*Transfer from  
Windhoek to the*

*Babson House, located in the Otjiwarongo district of north central Namibia.  
The Cheetah Conservation Fund will schedule your transportation.*

13:00

Lunch

*Enjoy lunch on the veranda, to be prepared by your personal chef upon arrival.*

Sunset

Sip a lemon infused cocktail as you watch the sky change colors above the spectacular  
Waterberg  
Plateau.

19:00

Dinner

Meet your fellow travelers and enjoy a gourmet meal.

STAY

THE BABSON HOUSE

*Intimate colonial style elegance amid a wildlife haven with personal attention,  
spectacular surroundings and exceptional cuisine*

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**SUGGESTED ROUTE**

New York [JFK] — Dusseldorf [DUS]

Dusseldorf [DUS] — Windhoek Hosea Kutako [WDH]

**DAY 2**

**NAMIBIA**

08:30

Breakfast on your veranda

09:30

Visit the Hilker Education Center

*Learn the importance of the CCF and the history of the cheetah. Visit the genetics lab or  
sit in on a class at the education centre.*

12:00

Picnic lunch on the Waterberg Plateau, packed & prepared by your chef.

14:00

Bellebeno Safari

*Enjoy a three-hour private safari on CCF’s little Serengeti.*

17:30

Return from Safari

19:00 Dinner  
*Share your day's stories with your fellow guests and enjoy lunch in the Out-Of-Africa styled living room.*

STAY THE BABSON HOUSE

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**DAY 3 NAMIBIA**

07:00 Breakfast

08:00 Cheetah Run

*Watch the world's fastest animal run like the wind during their daily "cheetah sprint," and have the opportunity to pet and play with the cheetahs!*

09:00 Join a researcher on various cheetah tracking & monitoring projects. Get out in the field and see exactly what CCF does.

12:00 Enjoy a selection of light dishes at "The Cheetah Restaurant."

19:00 Dinner

STAY THE BABSON HOUSE

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**DAY 4 NAMIBIA**

07:00 Breakfast

08:00 Cheetah Run

11:00 Transfer to Ongava Tented Camp

*Welcome to one Namibia's best-kept secrets. Enjoy the seductive call of the wild from the bar or enjoy the pool while herds of wildlife teem around.*

18:00 Enjoy gourmet cuisine & African wines around the campfire

20:00 Night Safari

*Spot lions, elephants, gemsboks & springboks while hunting the white and black rhinos on foot.*

STAY ONGAVA TENTED CAMP

*Tucked away at the foot of a dolomite hill in the Ongava Game Reserve, which borders the Etosha National Park to the north, Ongava Tented Camp offers exclusivity, great company, delicious food and an original African wildlife experience without the crowds. Meru-style, luxury tents constructed from stone & canvas all include en-suite facilities, open air showers and private verandas.*

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**DAY 5**

**NAMIBIA**

09:00

Breakfast @ Ongava Camp

*Sleep-in after a late night & prepare for an incredible last day.*

10:00

Transfer to the Babson House

11:00

Meet with Laurie Marker, Executive Director of CCF.

*Learn the importance of the CCF and the history of the cheetah. Tour the model farm and witness first hand the fund's infamous guard dog training. This CCF-certified program trains dogs to help and protect cheetahs.*

13:00

Lunch on the Veranda

14:00

Visit The Sanctuary

*Meet some of Namibia's orphaned cheetahs and help nurse these little guys back to health.*

19:00

Dinner

*Toast your accomplishment with something special from an expansive collection of South Africa's finest wines.*

STAY

THE BABSON HOUSE



**DAY 6**

**IN TRANSIT**



**to: get ready**

U.S. citizens need a passport and visa (obtained at the border). Currency is the Namibian dollar (the South African rand is widely accepted); ATMs are countrywide. English is the official language. CCF volunteers, who usually stay for two or four weeks, must complete an application and make a donation, which is usually done through CCF directly ([www.cheetah.org](http://www.cheetah.org)) or through Earthwatch Institute (1-800-776-0188; [www.earthwatch.org](http://www.earthwatch.org)). CCF also welcomes day visitors to the Museum and Education Centre; cheetah runs, safari drives and other day activities must be booked ahead ([Nuevas-ideas@mweb.com.na](mailto:Nuevas-ideas@mweb.com.na) for information and bookings).

**to: pack**

Namibia is largely desert and quite arid, so prepare accordingly with shorts, sandals, brimmed hat, and sunscreen; sturdy hiking boots for bush walking; swimsuit (for the pool at Halili in Etosha National Park); robe or cover-up for walks to showers; and fleece for the chill of early morning or night game drives. CCF is very casual, but there is usually a dinner or event in town (Otjiwarongo) for which it wouldn't hurt to dress up a notch, in long pants and skirts.

**to: get there**

Several international carriers serve Windhoek, Namibia's capital city, but all routes from the U.S. require one or more layovers. I chose LTU (1-866-266-5588; [www.ltu.com](http://www.ltu.com)), which has several U.S. gateways and overnight direct flights from Dusseldorf, Germany—and made the best of the awkward downtime. LTU flights conveniently arrive and depart Windhoek in the mornings, and I rented a car for the four-hour drive to and from CCF (Namibia has excellent highways), although CCF schedules airport pickups/drop-offs for groups of volunteers.

**to: stay there**

Accommodations at CCF are simple twin-shared rondavals or dorm rooms, with unisex showers and toilets. At Halili in Etosha, twin-shared rooms and baths are en suite. Activities rotate and tend to fall into half days, assigned according to expertise and interests. A lawyer reviews contracts. Someone who is bilingual translates documents. Others do office tasks, physical labor, census counts, animal care, and research support. Everyone has turns feeding and caring for captive cheetahs. And all are invited to attend research presentations and other lectures.

**to: see and do**

Most volunteers add on another week or two of safari travel within Namibia. Be sure to take in the desert experience here that is without rival. An ideal itinerary includes stays (three to four days each, flying by small charter) at Sossusvlei Wilderness Camp or Sossusvlei Mountain Lodge, surrounded by dunes within Namib-Naukluft Park; Damaraland Camp in the Torra Conservancy, where rare desert-adapted elephants and lions often roam; and Skeleton Coast Camp in the northern part of Skeleton Coast Park, one of the most remote and haunting places on earth. Access to the national parks is extremely limited due to the fragile environment, and each of these properties hosts only a dozen or so guests at a time.

Accommodations are comfortable, double-occupancy private bungalows, or luxury tents with real beds, flush toilets, and hot showers. It is essential to book an itinerary well ahead of travel.

**to: eat and drink**

You prepare your own breakfast at CCF. The kitchen is stocked with cereals, milk, fruit, eggs, etc. The staff cooks lunch and dinner—basic and hearty—served buffet-style. The Etosha trip includes a breakfast stop in Outjo for excellent German-style pastries at Outjo Backerei. There are reminders all over Namibia that it was colonized by Germany in the 19th century.

**to: take home**

Buy from the semi-nomadic Himba and at craft shops in Outjo, on the way to Etosha. Also, I found baskets woven by women of Caprivi Strip tribes at Otjiwarongo Arms & Ammo in Otjiwarongo.

**to: learn more**

Read *Tears of the Cheetah* by Stephen O'Brien (who lectured at an event in Otjiwarongo the week I was at CCF). Check the CCF Web site ([www.cheetah.org](http://www.cheetah.org)) for newsletters, program information, and links to related sites.

**to: do more**

Namibia has a high level of income disparity (50 percent of the population survives on 10 percent of the national income). Not only do community-based lodges such as Damaraland support those employed at the property, a percentage of the proceeds goes directly to communitywide projects. AIDS has scarred the country, causing half of all deaths among those ages 15-49 and leaving over 100,000 children orphaned. New Start Centre, located in many communities, has helped reduce mother-to-infant transmission. Among private institutions, Okanona and House of Safety in Swakopmund provide housing and schooling for children who have lost parents. All welcome monetary contributions and often school supplies and books.