

Clare & Hubie Conway



NAMIBIA HONEYMOON

Tent Journal 15/9/10 9pm

**A giant, red land of mysterious rocks, dune seas, desolate desert and scorched mountains.
River beds create sandy roads to the horizon.**

Caves conceal ancient paintings, and petrified forests line once flooded valleys.

Atlantic breakers taunt and batter the arid coast, lost in a ghostly mist of wrecks.

Lava, strata, huge cracks and canyons echo memories of the world, times long gone.

The tiny traveller feels transient and in awe of this vast, extreme expanse of worn earth.

Survival under a relentless sun:

Porcupines, dassies and lizards emerge from the stones, and oryx scatter across the plains.

Baboons argue and hyena howl in the pink dusk.

Giraffe skim the treetops, elephants lumber and leopards prowl, elusive in the wilderness.

Camp fires at night lift the soul, and open skies bring peaceful dreams.

A tent is the only home you need here: Not lonely, but free.

We went on a "Safari Drive" self-drive, 12 night honeymoon trip in a Landrover Defender. We opted for a £60 2 hour course in 4WD skills in Windhoek, which boosted our driving confidence and ability for the trip. The vehicle was loaded with excellent camping provisions, leaving us only the arduous task of stocking the fridge with beer.

We travelled from Windhoek (the Olive Grove guesthouse - cool surroundings and tasty home-cooked food) to Sesriem campsite / the massive Sossusvlei dunes, hiking to the eerie Dead Vlei. We then drove north through the desert to the coastal town of Swakopmund via the beautiful Agama River camp and famous bakery at Solitaire.

After a refreshing night at the quirky "Stiltz" we enjoyed sandboarding (£25 for half day inc. lunch and DVD), before setting off for Damaraland and the "White Lady" of Brandberg (rock art).

Camping 3 nights in this stunning region, we then continued our journey to the delightful Erongo Wilderness Lodge, Omaruru, to spoil ourselves with luxury tented accommodation, great BBQs and fascinating walks (even a much needed dip in the pool).

Our last night was spent at Spitzkoppe community camp, amongst the huge rocks at sunset. Couldn't imagine a more romantic and memorable adventure. The perfect honeymoon - sand everywhere but no beach boredom. Thank you very much to everyone from the Safari Drive team.