

Grand Voyage Mathilde et Antoine

21/09/15, Newsletter 17

IN A NUTSHELL :

Date: September 21st 2015 (512th day)

Location: Windhoek, Namibia

Driven km up to date: 50 750.



PHOTOS



VIDEO

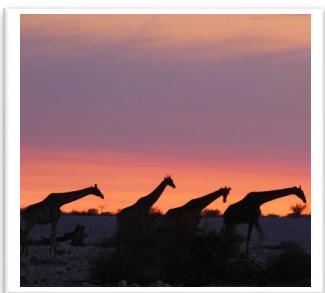


NEWS

After the wonderful **wedding** of our friends **Aurélie and Jonathan**, in the East of Paris, we flew back to Namibia where we started a 3-week family tour with Alain, Monique, Sandrine, Anne and Yann, leaving again Pavan for a rest. We drove 4200 km and visited some of the most beautiful sites: **Etosha Park, Kaokoland, Epupa falls, Swakopmund, Namib Desert and Sosusvlei**. Split into two 4-wheel drives, we went wild camping in very remote and beautiful places and slept in fantastic lodges. We also went "riding" on sand dunes with 4-wheel drives in a Paris-Dakar rally style; we flew over the Namib desert; we went hiking in sublime places and learned a lot about the fauna and flora. Examples: the scorpion is 450M years old, the desert elephant can live three days without drinking water whereas the savannah one needs to drink 120L per day, a mother sea lion can recognize the voice of its puppy among thousands, an acacia tree may be 2000 years old, desert euphorbias (which look like trees, but are not trees!) can store water in their leaves, the endemic plant Welwitschia can as well.

Namibia is one of the oldest lands on Earth. The Bushmen, a population of hunter-gatherers, were the first inhabitants. Namibia is the 2nd least populated country in the world and is made of arid plains and rugged landscapes. Its rich and diversified geology has been a source of external envy (uranium, diamonds, etc.). The population is essentially black, among which can be found the stunning Himba and Herero tribes. As for the white population, it is either of German origin (Namibia was a German colony in the early 19thc) or Afrikaans (used to be a South African Protectorate).

FUNNY PICTURE



Grand Voyage Mathilde et Antoine



INTENSIVE MOMENTS :

- Jokes via our radio between our two cars;
- Impressive approach of elephants near the vehicle;
- Refreshing jumps into swimming pools and great sleeps in superb lodges;
- Flying over the Namib desert;
- Morning hiking up the red-sand dune Big Daddy in Sossusvlei.



CURRENT MOOD : We are slightly sad and tired after a very intensive month and a half with our relatives, but happy to find our home on wheels "Pavan" back and to start again our adventure.



COUNTRIES VISITED : Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia, FR

COMING : Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania, Rwanda, Congo (maybe), Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, Israël, Europe.



MAP - ITINERARY :

since the last newsletter

✈ Departure

✦ Arrival



1. Etosha park (NA)
2. Epupa falls (NA)
3. Opuwo (NA)
4. Swakopmund (NA)
5. Sossusvlei (NA)

