



# Composing The Dunes

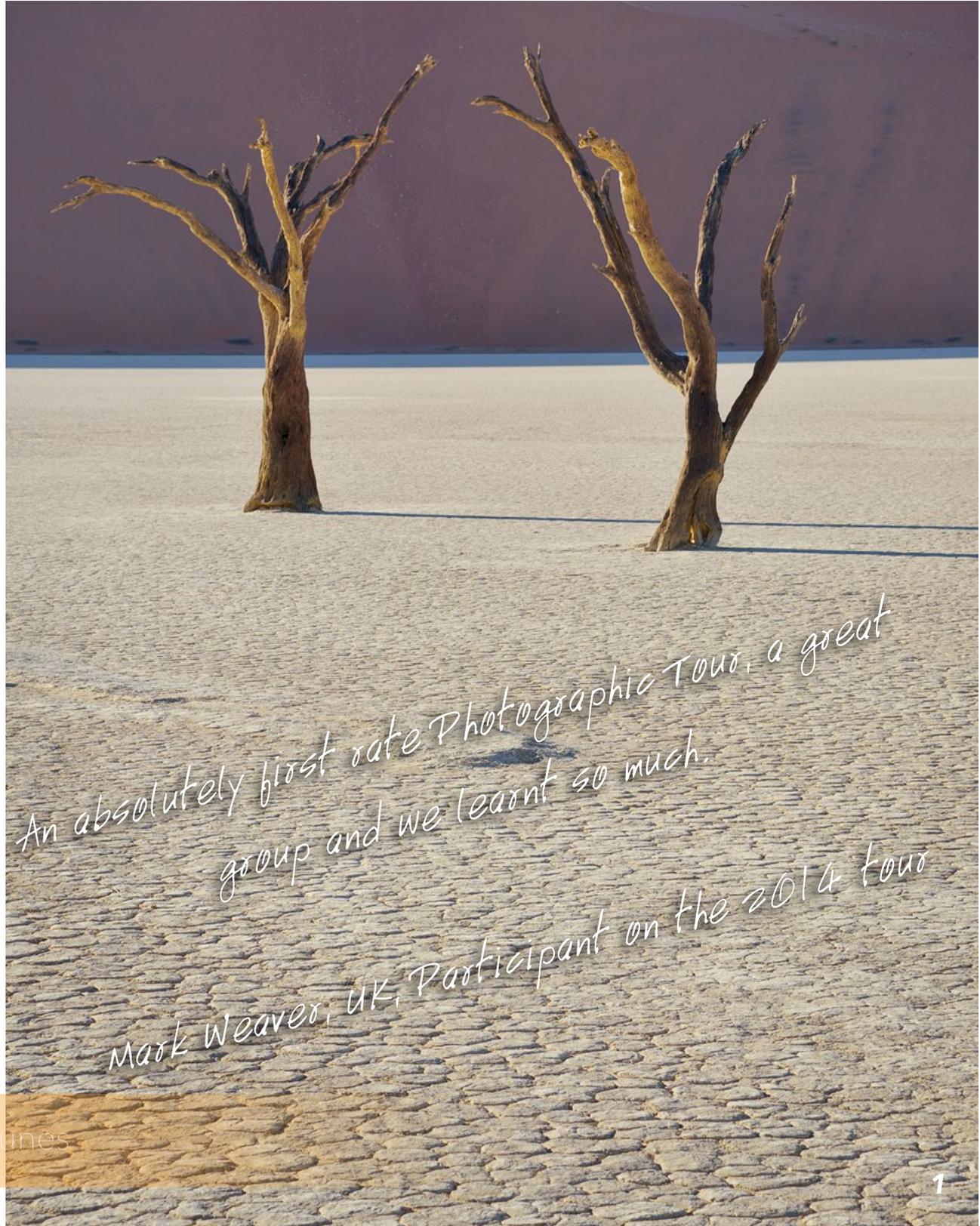
Nature's Light  
Photography Tours and Workshops

A photographic journey and  
masterclass with Emil von Maltitz  
and Nick van de Wiel

29th October - 10th November 2016

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*An absolutely first rate Photographic Tour, a great group and we learnt so much.  
Mark Weaver, UK, Participant on the 2014 tour*



## Summary

The Namibian desert is high on the bucket list for any landscape photographer: Stark desert sands, an endless sky studded with the Milky Way, stretching out over marching desert dunes. The country beckons with incredible landscape opportunities around virtually every corner! Emil von Maltitz and Nick van de Wiel will for the fourth time be leading a 13 day landscape photography workshop and tour to five of the most spectacular of Namibia's scenic icons. We take you to the magical Quiver Tree Forest, have you shoot the Fish River Canyon and the abandoned Kolmanskop Mining Town, then we Compose The Dunes at the world renowned Sossus & Dead Vlei in the Namib Desert, and close off by photographing the iconic Spitzkoppe Mountains.

Please note that this tour is not a traditional relaxing holiday! It is a serious photographic workshop with teaching sessions/lectures at locations, and photography guidance in the field. It is for those photographers/photography enthusiasts who want to take their photography to the next level, with a steep learning curve, visiting iconic destinations with a tutor on hand to help create masterful images.

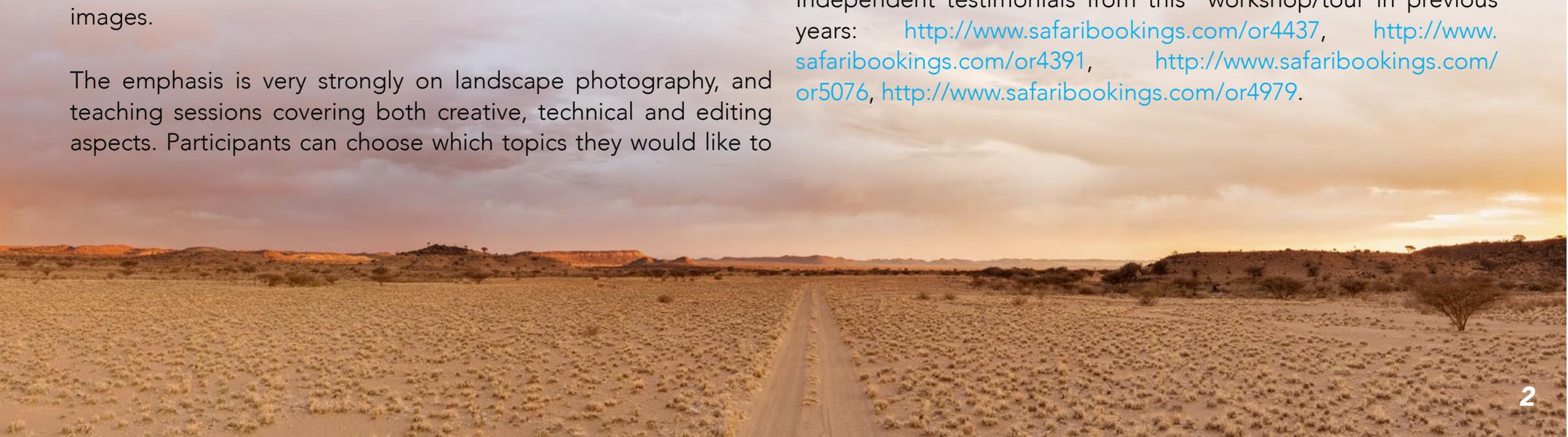
The emphasis is very strongly on landscape photography, and teaching sessions covering both creative, technical and editing aspects. Participants can choose which topics they would like to

cover during the workshop. In doing so, teaching requirements can be assessed during the workshop and tailor made to suit individuals needs. Therefore, this workshop is suitable for both beginners and experienced photographers. When required the group can be split so that the two instructors and their assistant can each teach different topics or for different abilities.

To offer maximum versatility and flexibility we use three four wheel drive vehicles (each taking 3 or 4 people) to tour the country. Accommodation varies from rustic chalets to 4 star lodges, all ensuring the best possible access to the photographic locations. Having 3 staff to 7 participants ensures the best teacher-student ratio available on the market. Best of all: The tour is pretty much all inclusive so you will have very little extra expenses! The workshop can also be extended with a safari holiday visiting the famous wildlife reserves of Namibia and surrounding countries. Talk to us for more details.

Read on to see why we are confident that you will want to book this workshop with us!

Independent testimonials from this workshop/tour in previous years: <http://www.safaribookings.com/or4437>, <http://www.safaribookings.com/or4391>, <http://www.safaribookings.com/or5076>, <http://www.safaribookings.com/or4979>.



## **Key Highlights:**

### **Photograph:**

- The magical Quiver Tree Forest
- The breathtaking Fish River Canyon
- The deserted Kolmanskop Mining Town & coastal town of Luderitz
- Sossus Vlei & Dead Vlei
- Namib Desert
- Spitzkoppe Mountains

### **Enjoy:**

- Probably the world's best instructor to participant ratio, maximizing your learning
- Having highly experienced tutors watching over your shoulders and helping you on the spot as you craft your image of Namibia's most iconic destinations
- A (optional) scenic flight over the Namib Dessert, Sossus Vlei & Dead Vlei, allowing you to take truly unique images of this spectacular scenery!





### **Learn about:**

- Creative Composition: The basics and beyond, such as The Element Approach, Balancing Composition etc.
- Basics to advanced techniques in digital landscape photography. With three instructors all levels of ability can be catered for.
- Workflow & digital asset management.
- How to create awe-inspiring astrophotography and star trail images.
- Painting with light.
- How to create panoramic images.
- How to create time lapses (optional)
- Post-production using Lightroom and Photo Shop

Emil regularly runs workshops and classes on Lightroom, Photoshop layers and masking and luminosity masking. These sessions will be included in the travel itinerary for those who want to spend more time on these aspects.



## Reasons to Join Us

Imagine having only one afternoon and one morning at an iconic location such as Dead Vlei? Having one chance only, and no time for scouting for the best spot and angle, you'll feel lost and stressed from the moment you arrive! And what if something goes wrong? Wrong camera setting, accidentally bumping your tripod during a long exposure, someone walks into your frame? If this is your once in a lifetime trip to Namibia, and your photos don't come out the way you wanted, that would be devastating! Unlike other tours, we spend **multiple days in each location** (except Fish River Canyon), allowing time for scouting, experimenting with different techniques and angles, asking for advice beforehand, so by the time the golden light has arrived you are there where you want to be to create the shot you envisaged! Even if something goes wrong, we can try again the following day! And if you have, after the comment and critique session with your instructors and fellow participants of your photos from day one, learned something new or gotten a new creative idea, you can try it out on day two at the same location.

Staying multiple nights at one destination also allows for a much more relaxed tour, without the hassle of packing all of your things up every night, plus our shooting to traveling ratio is by far the best available on the market. You came to spend time shooting instead of spending time traveling in a car right?

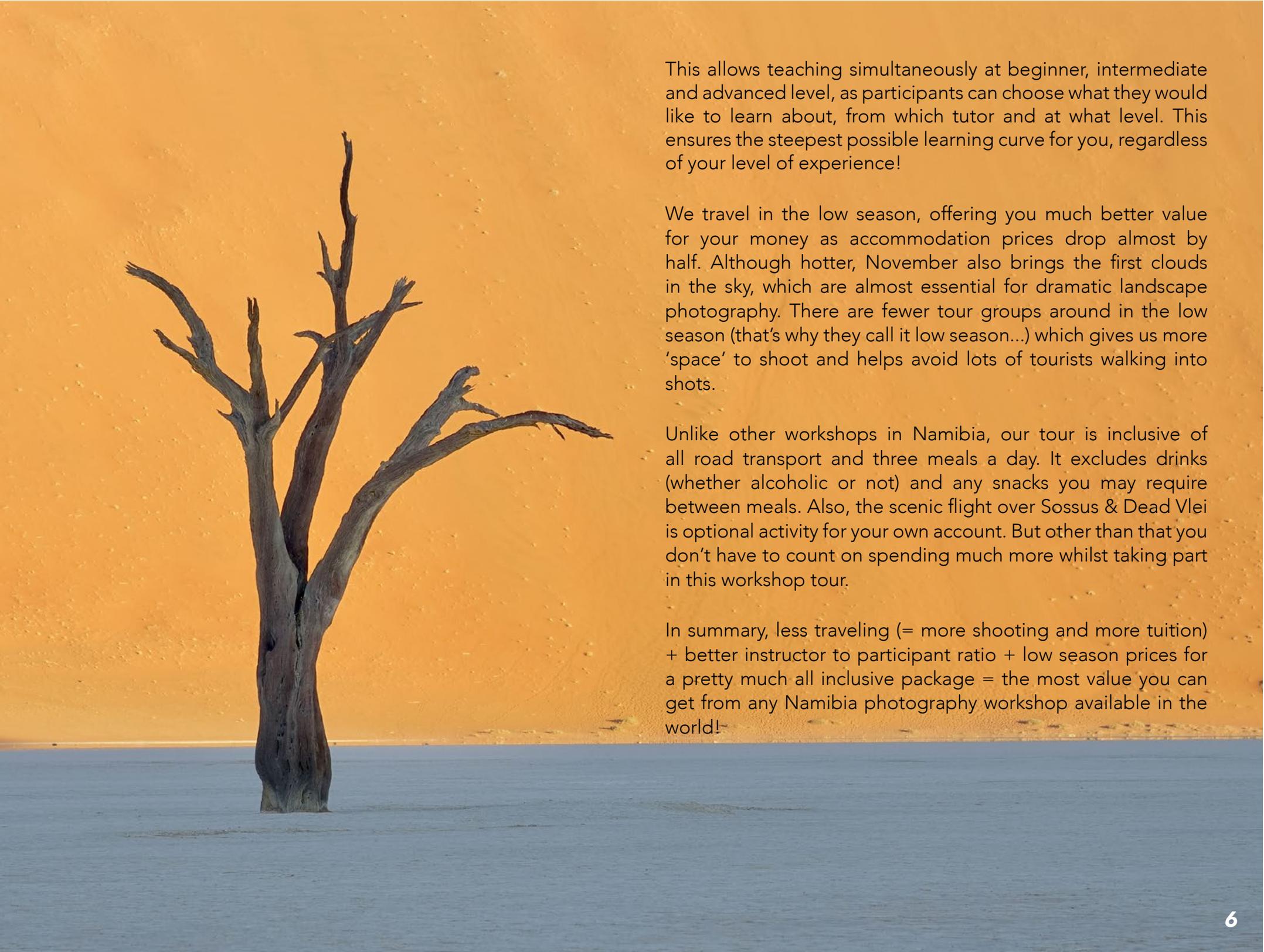
As we are not rushed to travel every day, we have plenty of time to include lots of tuition, comment & critique sessions etc.

No big buses, but 4x4 vehicles taking 4 passengers. This allows for true versatility and flexibility. This way we can split groups and have only a handful of fellow photographers around your photo shoot area, to avoid 'tripod-rage' (where you get so fed up with fellow photographers walking into your shot, using their flash or torch whilst you attempt astro-photography, or planting their tripod in front of yours, that you start to consider to use your tripod as a blunt weapon for mass destruction...)

Landscape only. Tuition and photo shoots on this tour focus on landscape photography only, which is the only way to hone that particular skill. There is no point in trying to learn and master different types of photography in one workshop, as the types (landscape, wildlife, macro, people portraiture) are so different and require different techniques. Note that of course we will stop and make some time for those types if an excellent or unique opportunity arises. For those that want, a self-drive or guided wildlife itinerary visiting Etosha can be added to this tour towards the end. Contact us for the options.

With a maximum of 7 guests and 2 instructors plus an assistant we offer one of the best instructor-participant ratios available on the market, as others typically take 5 to 8 participants per instructor.





This allows teaching simultaneously at beginner, intermediate and advanced level, as participants can choose what they would like to learn about, from which tutor and at what level. This ensures the steepest possible learning curve for you, regardless of your level of experience!

We travel in the low season, offering you much better value for your money as accommodation prices drop almost by half. Although hotter, November also brings the first clouds in the sky, which are almost essential for dramatic landscape photography. There are fewer tour groups around in the low season (that's why they call it low season...) which gives us more 'space' to shoot and helps avoid lots of tourists walking into shots.

Unlike other workshops in Namibia, our tour is inclusive of all road transport and three meals a day. It excludes drinks (whether alcoholic or not) and any snacks you may require between meals. Also, the scenic flight over Sossus & Dead Vlei is optional activity for your own account. But other than that you don't have to count on spending much more whilst taking part in this workshop tour.

In summary, less traveling (= more shooting and more tuition) + better instructor to participant ratio + low season prices for a pretty much all inclusive package = the most value you can get from any Namibia photography workshop available in the world!

## About us, description of tour leaders

**Emil von Maltitz** is an internationally recognized South African landscape photographer and member of the International Environmental Photographers Association. He has been involved in photography for the better part of the last two decades. After completing his post graduate degree in Anthropology, he opted to pursue his dream and turn his passion for photography into his career. Along with freelance commercial and assignment photography, Emil spends time running a number of photographic workshops. Well-versed and knowledgeable in the Adobe suites, Emil will be able to help and guide in photo-editing and several advanced photographic techniques during the workshop. A particular interest of Emil's is the theory and practical application of advanced composition in landscape photography, which will be discussed at length during the workshop.

More about Emil can be found on the following websites. His commercial work can be seen on [www.limephoto.co.za](http://www.limephoto.co.za), and his fine art landscape work on [www.emilvonmaltitz.com](http://www.emilvonmaltitz.com).



**Claire Forster** is Emil's professional assistant and second shooter. Having worked together for four years, she is now responsible for several clients that work with Limephoto. Claire is an excellent photography instructor, running several Limephoto workshops, and a miracle worker when it comes to 'getting things done'.

**Nick van de Wiel** is a specialist nature and photographic guide based in St. Lucia, South Africa. Trained as a biologist as well as safari guide, Nick revels being in the bush, and if possible, with a camera in hand! Although he started off as a Wildlife Photographer, as his photography matured he moved more and more towards Landscape Photography. Although technically very able, both 'in camera' as well as with post processing, Nick is very focussed on the creative as well as meditative aspect of photography. Especially with landscape work, it is all about 'seeing & recognising beauty' and the only way one will 'find it', is by being in the present moment. Then 'crafting the image', trying to capture the emotion of the moment in the available light, in order to create a most beautiful still photograph that speaks for itself, and that has the eyes of viewers linger on for a while. As a teacher, he is well known for his inventive teaching methods and ways of explaining difficult or abstract concepts in layman's terms, so that they are easier to understand.

More about Nick on [www.nickvandewiel.com](http://www.nickvandewiel.com) and [www.tailormadesafaris.co.za](http://www.tailormadesafaris.co.za).



## What you will learn

You don't become a better photographer by buying more and more equipment, better cameras or bigger lenses. That you probably know. Better equipment doesn't mean better technique! There is no better way to improve your photography skills than to be taught by someone who has more experience than you in the field. What better way to learn more than at some of the world's most iconic landscapes, together with a group of like-minded people! Technique and equipment can only get you so far, after that it is 'creativity' that will set you apart. Creativity is what allows someone to create captivating images, rather than an ordinary photo of a beautiful landscape. It is hard to learn to be creative yourself, and you don't learn to think out of the box from an online course. Creativity develops when someone pushes you out of your comfort zone, while giving you practical tips and hints as to what options you have from a compositional point of view. And this is exactly what we do with you in the field. We wish to inspire you so that you go home with great images and better photographic knowledge!

Not only do we try to develop your creativity, (pre)visualisation skills and composition whilst in the field, we also spend time in 'classroom sessions' where we are able to view images and discuss the philosophy and technique behind the image. At the start of the workshop the tutors will sit with each participant to find out individual wishes and expectations, and to see at what level they are. In between the morning, afternoon and evening/night shoots there will be lectures on topics of the participants' choice. There will also be guided photo-editing sessions, and every second day we have informal comment & critique presentations where we

discuss each others photos in a constructive and fun manner.

The big benefits of the Composing The Dunes workshop is that we're staying at the very best locations possible for accessing the desired photogenic locations, regardless of their star rating or accommodation prices. This means that sometimes we have to stay in rustic chalets in the middle of the nature reserve, but on other days we stay in 5 star lodges as they might be the closest (or only) accommodation that will give us access to the locations to photograph during the right times with the right light. We also organise permits to enable photographic shoots at the best possible time of the day.



## Daily Itinerary

Once again, this tour is not a traditional, relaxed, holiday. Although joining photo shoots and/or teaching sessions is of course optional and you may skip some of them if you want, be prepared for some early mornings and some late nights. A typical daily itinerary looks like:

Wake up around 5:00am for a sunrise shoot (some days are even earlier)

Return for breakfast around 8:00am

Four options (or a combination of them) depending on the day:

- A few hours private time where you can relax, get a nap, download photos
- Lessons or guided editing time
- Comment & Critique sessions
- Traveling to the next destination if a traveling day.

Lunch around 13:00

Three options depending on the day:

- A few hours private time where you can relax, get a nap, download photos
- Lessons or guided editing time
- Comment & Critique sessions

Afternoons shoot from 15:30 to about 18:00

Dinner around 18:30

Possible night shoot from 20:00 onwards.

We cannot stress enough that this is not a typical lazy holiday. Some days are very long, but the rewards of joining this workshop are phenomenal. Incredible locations, wonderful camaraderie, excellent photographic guidance and unique photography opportunities make for a sensational thirteen days in the desert that you will be talking about for years to come.





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## ***Itinerary in full***

### ***Day 1 – All guests arrive in Windhoek - 29 October 2016***

Guests arrive and are transferred to the guest house where there is time to spend the rest of the day relaxing by the pool and resting after the long journey.

One of the photography leaders will be there to meet the guests and can familiarize everyone with the plan for the next exciting two weeks!

### ***Day 2 - Drive to Keetmanshoop and afternoon photo shoot.***

After breakfast in Windhoek, our small group will start the journey through this beautiful country to Keetmanshoop where we will meet up with the other photography leader and his assistant. This afternoon we will have a short introductory lecture and a photo-shoot amongst the famous Quiver trees and dolomite rock formations.

There are multiple locations at this phenomenal site. The advantage of multiple vehicles means that we will have ample space in which to photograph.



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### **Day 3 – Shooting at Quiver Tree Forest in Keetmanshoop**

On day 3 we will be up early for a dawn shoot, some relaxation time and a teaching session will follow. We will also have some guided editing time in the afternoon and of course, more photo-shoots in the evening; with an optional star-trail shoot to end the exciting day.

### **Day 4 – Fish River Canyon**

We start our day with an optional dawn shoot followed by breakfast and our departure. We travel to the amazing Fish River Canyon. After lunch at the lodge we will have some time to relax. In the evening we will be doing a photo-shoot of the Canyon itself. We will arrive in time to watch the light settle on the horizon and cast shadows through this giant's playground of erosion. We watch the last of the light before heading to dinner and a well-deserved rest.

### **Day 5 and 6 - Luderitz and Kolmanskop**

We leave the magnificent Fish River Canyon after a critique session and travel to the coastal town of Luderitz. To break up the drive we will stop at an old railway house to have a short photo shoot.

The amazing and hauntingly beautiful abandoned mining town of Kolmanskop has to be one of the highlights of your visit. We will be staying at the comfortable Luderitz Nest Hotel (with its own tidal beach and walk-on jetty).

As photographers we are able to arrange for a special permit to enter Kolmanskop prior to dawn. This allows for a fantastic opportunity to walk through these old buildings and homes, which the desert has been slowly encroaching upon. We spend the full morning here photographing the desert and its captive buildings



before returning to the Nest hotel for lunch. We return again in the late afternoon to shoot the dying light as well as spend an evening photographing the stars.

### **Day 7, 8 and 9 - Namib-Naukluft National Park - Sossus Dunes & Dead Vlei**

On the seventh day we have a relatively long travel day driving towards Sesriem Canyon and the Namib-Naukluft National Park. Although long, there will be opportunities to stop to take shots of the rust coloured sands of the Namib-Naukluft Desert . In the evening we have dinner and relax at the lodge as it overlooks the start of the 'red dunes' into the desert.

On day eight we are up early to get early morning shots of the famous Sossusvlei. Guests have the option to book a helicopter or plane flight over the dunes! This offers a great way to see and photograph the famous dunes from a different perspective. In previous years we captured some great and unique images this way, and would recommend it to anyone! If all guests wish to book

a flight some will take the early morning flight while the others will take the following days late afternoon flight. After our photo shoot of Sossusvlei, or your exciting flight, we return to the lodge for a rest followed by some teaching and guided editing time. This evening we will complete a photo-shoot of Deadvlei with its iconic trees. There is time enough for trying out compositions, ask for guidance from the instructors and taking test shots etc.,.

Day nine sees a super early start to create star trail images over the stark skeletal tree forms of Dead Vlei followed by a morning shoot in the same location. The stars are spectacular and well worth the lack of sleep! After our morning shoot it is back to the lodge for a rest. In the afternoon we will have another critique session followed by another opportunity to photograph Sossusvlei. Those who have not taken their scenic flight yet will do so in the late afternoon/evening (NB the helicopter or plane flight will be dependent upon availability and the weather).





### ***Day 10 -Rostock Ritz at edge of Namib Desert***

Pre dawn of day 10 we travel towards the dunes to be there in time for the rising sun. Allowing more time to create compelling images of the dead trees. When the sun is up and the light has become harsh, we return to the lodge for breakfast, after which we check out and travel to Rostock Ritz, an oasis of luxury overlooking the vast grass plains to the east of the Namib Naukluft Desert.

In the afternoon we will hold more teaching workshops and then spend the rest of the evening relaxing at this lovely lodge.

### ***Day 11 and 12 - Spitzkoppe***

After an optional morning game drive we depart Rostock and travel to the incredible and surreal landscape of Spitzkoppe. This is a large sandstone mountain in the middle of the desert with some of the most amazing arches and rock features. Rustic bungalows situated directly under the mountain affords the opportunity to photograph arches and rock features against the stars, as well as be in place for the early morning light as the sun bursts over the horizon. With the luxury of a small group and multiple vehicles we are able to split shooting groups over the 2 and a bit days of shooting at this location. Shooting will be mixed with time for guided editing and advanced editing workshops.

### ***Day 13 – Windhoek 10 November 2016***

This morning we finish our wonderful tour with a last dawn photo-shoot at this magnificent location in Spitzkoppe. Finally we make our way back to Windhoek where photographers can opt to fly out immediately or organize to stay near to the airport for a more leisurely departure the following day.



<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Plan of Day</b>	<b>Accommodation</b>
1	29 October 2016	Nick flies to Windhoek, Emil and Claire arrive in Keetmanshoop, all guests arrive in Windhoek. Welcome session.	Windhoek
2	30 October 2016	Breakfast at 7:00, departure at 8:30. Nick drives with all guests to Keetmanshoop (540 km / 6 hours), Introduction guests with Emil and assistant, introduction lecture, afternoon photo shoot.	Keetmanshoop
3	31 October 2016	Dawn shoot at 6:00, breakfast at 9:00, private time at 10:00. Teaching session 'Composition' (& Lightroom basics for beginners)' at 11:00 followed by private time, lunch at 14:00 followed by guided editing time. Afternoon shoot at 17:00 followed by snacks/painting with light session with Emil. Optional star trails at 20:00. Day ends 22:00.	Keetmanshoop
4	01 November 2016	Optional dawn shoot at 6:00, breakfast at 9:00, departure at 10:00. Arrive at Gondwana Lodge at 14:00 latest (160 km / 3 hours). Lunch at lodge, private time till 17:00. Photoshoot Fish River Canyon till 19:45. Dinner in lodge at 20:30. Day ends 22:00.	Gondwana Lodge
5	02 November 2016	Sleep in till 7:00, breakfast at 7:30. Crit session followed by departure at 10:00. Take lunch packs to eat in car. Break journey with photo shoot at old railway house. Aim to arrive at Luderitz at 16:00 latest (400 km / 6 hours). Private time till 18:00. Dinner in restaurant, with short teaching session on Kolmanskop in restaurant. Day ends 22:00	Luderitz Nest Hotel
6	03 November 2016	Dawn shoot Kolmanskop at 6:00, breakfast at 9:00, private time at 10:00. Teaching session at 12:00, pre-ordered restaurant lunch at 14:00. Leave for Kolmanskop at 15:30. Afternoon shoot followed by snacks. Optional star trails at 20:00. Day ends 22:30.	Luderitz Nest Hotel
7	04 November 2016	Up at 7:00, Breakfast at 7:30, leave at 9:00. Take lunch packs to eat along the road. Arrive at Sossus Dune Lodge at 18:00 latest (500 km / 8,5 hours) Dinner, day ends at 21:30.	Sossus Dune Lodge
8	05 November 2016	Up at 5:00, leave at 5:45 for Sossus Vlei. Part of group goes on scenic flight. Have breakfast packs made. Back at lodge around 10:00. Private time till 11:00. Teaching session till 12:30, then lunch. Guided editing time till 15:30, followed by photo shoot Dead Vlei till 19:00. Back in lodge at 20:30 for dinner. Day ends 22:00.	Sossus Dune Lodge



<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Plan of Day</b>	<b>Accommodation</b>
9	06 November 2016	Up at 1:40am for departure at 2:00. Star trails in Dead Vlei at 3:30 followed by morning shoot. Depart back to lodge at 7:00, breakfast at 8:30. Private time till 12:30, lunch at 13:00. Crit session from 14:45 till 15:45. Leave for Sossus Vlei at 16:00. Others have scenic flight and leave at 17:00 for check in at 17:15 for flight at 17:45. Meet up at lodge for dinner at 20:30. Day ends 22:00.	Sossus Dune Lodge
10	07 November 2016	Departure for optional dawn shoot Dead Vlei at 4:30. Shoot till 7:00, breakfast at lodge at 8:30. Leave lodge at 10:00. Arrive Rostock Ritz Lodge at 14:00 latest (140 km / 3 hours). Teaching from 15:00 till 17:00. Then drinks, dinner and relaxing evening.	Rostock Ritz Desert Lodge
11	08 November 2016	Optional morning game drive. Breakfast at 8:30. Departure at 10:00. Prebooked lunch at Etusis Lodge and Game Reserve. Arrive Spitzkoppe at 16:00 (350 km / 6 hours). Private time or guided editing till 17:00. Sunset Shoot departure at 17:30. Dinner at 20:00 at veranda of camp. Day ends 22:00.	Spitzkoppe Camp
12	09 November 2016	Dawn shoot at 6:00 in two groups, one at arch and others at sugarloaf. Breakfast at camp at 7:30. 9:00 till 11:00 private time. 11:00 till 13:00 workshop advanced editing techniques. Then lunch followed by 14:00 till 17:15 guided editing. Sunset shoot at herero chat area 17:30. Bush dinner and crit session afterwards. Goodbye drinks.	Spitzkoppe Camp
13	10 November 2016	Dawn shoot at 6:00 in two groups again. Breakfast at 7:30. Leave for Windhoek at 10:00. Arrive Windhoek at 14:30 (300 km / 4,5 hours). Guests may book flights that leave no earlier than 18:00 that day. Rental vehicles returned.	Windhoek

Note: As mentioned, the daily plan is flexible and will be tailor made around clients' needs and wishes. Estimated driving times are rough estimates taking into account stopping along the way for taking photos. Topics for teaching sessions will be determined during the tour after consultation with the participants, so you get to learn what you want to learn about.



## Accommodation and Logistics

All accommodation, food and transport to and from Windhoek Airport where the tour starts and ends is included in the fee. The tour will be conducted in three 4x4 vehicles each taking 3-4 people and their luggage. We do count on some of you to share the driving, as distances can be long. At destinations, having three vehicles allows us to go to different shooting locations, so that each participant has an opportunity to take unique shots, and so have plenty of space to move around without having to worry about getting into someone else's shot, or have someone else walking in their shot.

The table below describes the accommodation at each location:

Windhoek	We will stay in a 4 star guest house/lodge situated in between the airport and the town of Windhoek.
Keetmanshoop	We booked out the entire Mesosaurus Camp, consisting of 4 chalets, each with individual bathroom, with 3 to 4 beds per chalet. Depending on the group composition, you'll share with 1 or 2 others of the same sex. The camp has one communal kitchen/dining hall, which will also be the venue for teaching. The camp is situated right in the park that contains the quiver tree forest, which are a 3 minutes drive away. Although 'rustic', beds are good, showers are hot, and the food is great. The camp runs on Solar Power but there are options to charge batteries and laptops.
Fish River Canyon	We hope to stay in the Canyon Gondwana Lodge, a 4 star lodge set amongst boulders, close to the iconic Fish River Canyon.
Luderitz/ Kolmanskop	We will stay in the 4 star Luderitz Nest Hotel, situated right on the coast. From there it is a 20 minute drive to the abandoned mining town of Kolmanskop.
Namib Desert	There is only one lodge inside the park, and it happens to be a posh one! We stay three nights in the renowned 4 star Sossus Dune Lodge.
Namib Desert	To bridge the long distance between Sossus Vlei and Spitzkoppe, we stay at the superb 4 star Rostock Ritz Desert Lodge, in comfortable suites with magnificent views over the endless plains.
Spitzkoppe	Here we booked out the entire Spitzkoppe camp consisting of three rustic chalets, each with 3-4 beds. We make use of communal ablution facilities. Once again, although rustic, accommodation is comfortable, there is power, hot water and flushing toilets - and we're right inside the nature reserve so we have access to all the incredible photographic destinations at any time of day (or night!)
Windhoek	We stay in the same accommodation as on the first night, a 4 star guest house/lodge close to the airport.





## **Price**

R64,960 per person (approximately US\$4135 as of 15 December 2015). Minimum 4 participants, maximum 7 participants. (If under 6 participants, only one photographic leader with an assistant will conduct the tour)

Discounts: R10.000 off if booked and deposit paid before 1 April 2016. R5.000 off if you make yourself available to share driving the vehicles during the tour.

Single Supplement: R4.500, subject to availability

## **Why so expensive?**

Admittedly, R64.960 (which for 12 nights comes to R5.400 per night), is for many a lot of money. But, albeit a lot of money, it is not expensive if you look at other photography workshops.

Accommodation, food, the vehicles, fuel and the salaries and transport for three staff as well as their food and accommodation during the tour, and it is easy to see why the basic costs of running the tour are in fact very high.

## **Why so affordable?**

We indeed feel the tour is very competitively priced. Just Google “Namibia photographic workshop” and see what prices you get, and what you get for those prices. Cheaper options are few, and they invariably use cheap accommodation that may not be the best location for your photo shoot, or exclude transport for example. We are confident in our best value for money approach, where we don’t cut on quality, offer a pretty much all-inclusive tour at a fair price. Given that the tour leaders are South Africans and that South African salaries and taxes are considerably lower than their European counterparts, we are able to pass this saving on as a rather more competitive price.



<b>What is included</b>	<b>What is not included</b>
All lodging (based upon sharing)	Airfares to and from Windhoek Hosea Kutako International Airport
Pickup and drop off from Windhoek Hosea Kutako International Airport	Single room supplement (R4.500,-)
Dinner day 1, breakfast, lunch, dinner day 2-12, breakfast & lunch day 13	Drinks and non-meal time snacks
Local tips for guides and for restaurants	Optional helicopter or Cessna flight over Sossus Vlei (± R1800-4500 pp)
Photography guidance by two professional photographers and an assistant	Possible extra excursions/ activities and/or additional days
All tuition including teaching material and hand-outs	Travel insurances (mandatory!)
All road transport in comfortable 4x4 vehicles	Photographic gear rental (if required)
All entrance fees and photography permits	
All toll and parking fees	

### **Extensions**

Please talk to us for possible extensions. We can organise guided and self drive tours to Etosha, Chobe, Caprivi Strip, Okavango Delta etc.



## What to bring

Upon booking, we will send you a detailed list of what to bring, but below we list the essentials in terms of photographic equipment.

### Photography Equipment

- A digital SLR camera, Emil and Nick both shoot with Full-Frame cameras, but any interchangeable lens camera will work perfectly on the workshop including, crop-sensor DSLRs, the new breed of mirrorless cameras and Micro Four Thirds cameras will also work perfectly well. We don't recommend using compact cameras because of their serious limitations or the 1" sensor cameras which don't have the same tolerances for landscape photography that M4/3s and larger sensor cameras have.
- A good quality tripod, preferably one not made of plastic. We can help you choose a suitable one if you don't already have a tripod.
- A wide angle lens (Emil and Nick use wide and ultra-wide angle lens as a matter of preference).
- A telephoto zoom lens, such as a 70-200 or 70-300.
- A camera remote (cable release) or intervalometer.
- For anyone serious about getting into landscape



photography, a filter set consisting out of graduated Neutral Density filters and a polarizer, is indispensable. We strongly recommend investing in a set before arrival. Let us know if you need help choosing the right set.

- A laptop with editing software already loaded. Emil and Nick personally use Lightroom and Adobe Photoshop with Nik plugins.
- A backup hard-drive for backing up images (it would be terrible to travel to Namibia only to lose all the images if a laptop hard-drive crashes).



## Frequently asked questions

- **Do I have to do anything?** Yes please! We do count on (some of) you to help with driving and some camp chores. Camp chores are very limited as we have organised catering pretty much everywhere. Your help with packing and unloading vehicles etc. every now and again will be much appreciated! In our experience, running the logistics of a workshop as a team effort is fun and keeps the spirits high!
- **Do I get a discount if I bring my own vehicle?** Those who prefer to drive with their own vehicle can count on a discount, provided that they are willing to make their vehicle available to take some of the other guests as passengers. Your vehicle must be a high clearance 4x4 vehicle, and have at least 4 seats available (including driver-you). Fuel will be provided from the starting point of the tour in Windhoek, to the last day in Windhoek again. Any other fuel (getting to Windhoek before the tour and from Windhoek after the tour) will be for your own account. Costs of towing, tyres, breakdowns, replacement vehicle rental etc. will be entirely for your own account.
- **Can I have a room to myself?** Sometimes. This tour and its price is based upon sharing accommodation with other participants of the same sex. At some locations (Spitzkoppe, Keetmanshoop) there are simply no other rooms/chalets available as we have booked out the entire camp, so there you will have to share. At the other locations you could potentially have a private room, if available. The costs for the single supplement is, once again, subject to availability.

- **Can you cater for special dietary requirements?** To a limited degree, yes. Please do let us know of any dietary requirement you have and we can see what we can do. Please note that Namibia is a desert country and fresh vegetables or meat substitutes are often hard to find, so if you are vegetarian we can cater for you, but meals might be rather 'plain'. Moreover, where we eat in restaurants, menu choice is often limited, and where we cook in the field we have very few cooking pots.

You are welcome to suggest options during the tour, or join the shopping moments to ensure we can cater properly for your needs.

- **Is Namibia safe?** Namibia is one of the most stable and safe countries on the African continent. Although crime exists, it is comparable to any first world country in Europe or North America. We have traveled throughout Namibia and have yet to experience any issues. Still, a basic awareness of your valuables is still required.
- **Do the tour leaders take photos themselves?** Yes they do. However, the emphasis is on teaching and guiding you throughout the course. Our experience has taught us that most participants enjoy teaching sessions interspersed with 'try-out-alone' time, where they put the taught techniques into practice. Moreover, landscape photography is all about seeing the beauty in the land, which for each individual is different, and then to be creative with it. To have a teacher talking you through every step along the way in the field will hinder the development of your creativity, as you are not 'pushed' to try things for yourself. Hence, our teachers will be there when you need them in the field, give tips and directions, regularly checking on each individual

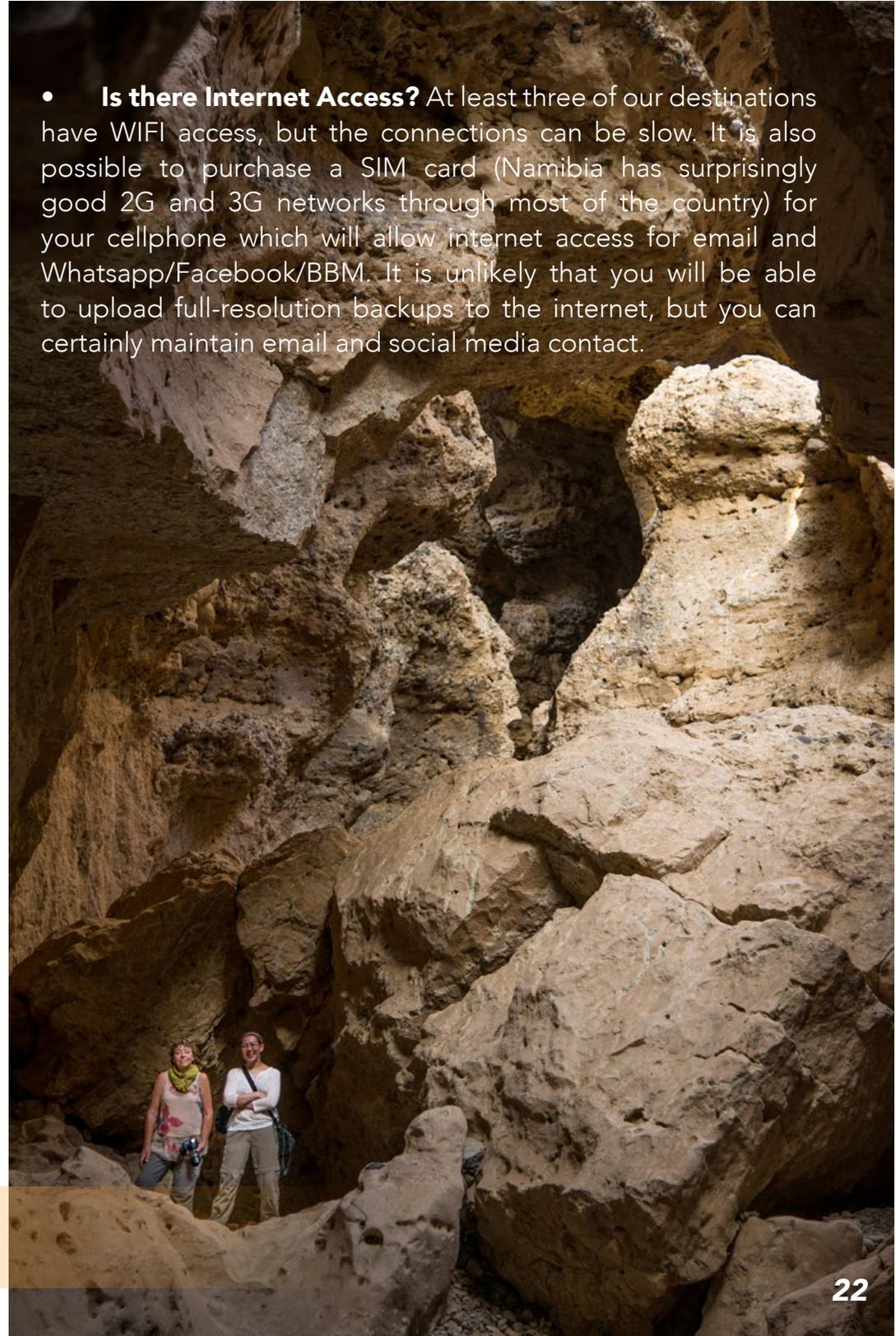


participant to see if they need advise, but don't be surprised if you see them taking photos themselves in between helping other participants - Also, there are three dedicated instructors on the workshop and a maximum of seven participants, so you are guaranteed to get assistance with your photography when you need it!

- **How fit do I have to be?** Relatively fit. Physical difficulty for this tour is rated as intermediate. There will be some climbing of dunes and/or rocks, and walking through soft sand at high temperatures can prove to be strenuous. The walk to Dead Vlei, even though only being 1,5 km, can be relatively strenuous. Obviously, it is up to you to decide when you want a rest, need some help with carrying your photography gear, or opt to miss a particular shoot altogether.

- **Should I be concerned about the water or any other health issues?** The water is potable almost everywhere in Namibia. Where it isn't we will provide bottled water for consumption. Namibia is also well-versed in catering to tourists, and bottled water is available everywhere we travel. In terms of health concerns, if you are concerned please consult with your GP or travel doctor. The south of Namibia is largely disease free and is also malaria free. The extremely low population of the country also means that communicable diseases are extremely rare compared to just about any other country on the continent. It is still advisable to bring your own personal medications. Antihistamine, pain-killers, insect repellent, sun-tan lotion (NB!), antiseptic cream and plasters are always a good idea.

- **Is there Internet Access?** At least three of our destinations have WIFI access, but the connections can be slow. It is also possible to purchase a SIM card (Namibia has surprisingly good 2G and 3G networks through most of the country) for your cellphone which will allow internet access for email and Whatsapp/Facebook/BBM. It is unlikely that you will be able to upload full-resolution backups to the internet, but you can certainly maintain email and social media contact.



## Contact and Bookings

If you would like to join for Composing The Dunes, you can make a booking by contacting Nature's Light at:

email: [info@nareslight.co.za](mailto:info@nareslight.co.za)

phone: +27(0)845849959

Fax: +27(0)865631530

Terms and Conditions are available on:

[www.natureslight.co.za/termsandconditions](http://www.natureslight.co.za/termsandconditions)



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