



## BLACK RHINO IN NAMIBIA

Namibia has a total of about 700 black rhino – some of these are to be found in Damaraland, which is desert surrounded by spectacular mountain scenery. These desert rhino and also elephant live here outside the National Parks in a unique habitat.

The black rhino survive on the leaves of small bushes like euphobia and virosa. During the heat of the day they shelter under a mopani tree or a milk bush. Rhino need to drink water every three or four days and will walk up to 30 kms from their feeding place to find a water hole, often in a dried up river bed. Despite the arid conditions, the desert rhino appeared in excellent body condition and are breeding well.

In 1984, Blythe Loutit founded the Save The Rhino Trust in Namibia, for the conservation of the desert black rhino. This Trust has five patrol teams with 25 field staff of community game guards, rangers and trackers, who monitor the rhino and patrol their vast rugged home range of 20,000sq kms. There is a strong involvement of local people in their active conservation and education awareness programme, which has been instrumental in the sharp decline of poaching.



Sand dunes in early morning sun



Rhino rubbing stone



Male desert rhino

Wildlife tourism is flourishing in Namibia, but there is an increasing concern about damage to dry riverbeds, which are being turned into speedway circuits by the uncontrolled use of 4 x 4's and quad bikes.

Eco-tourism is provided for the visitor by Bicornis Safaris, which is a company formed by Desert Adventure Safaris and Save the Rhino Trust. They have set up a bush camp in the conservancy area. As well as desert rhino and elephant you may see oryx, giraffe, steenbok, mountain zebra, kudu, springbok, dik-dik, ostrich and if you are lucky, you may also see cheetah lion and leopard. Further details can be obtained from Bicornis Safaris, Box 339, Swakopmund, Namibia.

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