

The Desert Fine Art Nude

A Photographic Tour and Workshop in Namibia

"Combining awe-inspiring Namibian landscape with the grace of Namibian models, creating truly unique photographic opportunities and allowing an intimate glimpse into Namibian culture"

March 01 – 14, 2011 (partial attendance possible)

With

Christian Goltz, kiss-of-light, Photographer, Namibia

Werner Pfeifer, Bush Culture Experience, Tour Guide, Namibia

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Introduction

Two years in the making, we are glad and proud to be able to offer the *Desert Fine Art Nude* photographic tour and workshop.

Namibia's landscapes are known to many by now. They are known for their harsh beauty and vastness. Travelers and photographers tend to fall in love with Namibia, Africa's last true wilderness. Yet there is so much more than its obvious attractions. Some say that God created Namibia in anger. They cannot possibly mean its gentle and cheerful people.

During this event we travel to some of the most scenic locations (Sossusvlei, Brandberg and Kaokoland) and *combine the beauty of the landscape with the beauty of female Namibian models*, creating *truly unique photographic opportunities* and allowing an *intimate glimpse into Namibian culture*, modern and ancient.

It is possible for you to join us at only one of the locations or, recommended, you travel with us – guide, photographic leader and models - for the whole duration (in Kaokoland, we will work with local Himba models). If you travel with us - all of us are Namibians - you will have ample opportunity to sample modern Namibian culture. The ancient part comes in not only in Kaokoland but also when we *re-enact pre-historic rock art*: the Brandberg is home to more than a thousand rock art sites, roughly 50.000 paintings have been documented so far. Some of the paintings are of mysterious figures, probably representing shamans and spiritual, transitional beings. By using our custom body painting techniques we will recreate this old African heritage for the first time in millenia, at original locations!

There will be no formal lectures on photography, emphasis is on image critique, learning by doing. Your questions, however, will not go unanswered, be they technical, artistic or cultural.



The Contents

This is not a 'photo safari'. We do not attempt to cover as many locations as possible but rather concentrate on three outstanding ones: Sossusvlei, Brandberg and Kaokoland. You may also join us at only one of them. The locations are selected to be great settings for the artistic fine art nude: Sossusvlei/Deadvlei with its red dunes and dead trees, the Brandberg with its harsh desert beauty and magnificent granite boulders, Kaokoland for its unique landscape and vegetation.

Artistic nude photography is a broad field. This workshop is about outdoor nude photography using natural light, possibly modified by reflectors/diffusers. Fill flash may be employed. In Sossusvlei we will do *classic nudes*, at the Brandberg we will use *body painting* techniques and fitting accessories to recreate the ancient rock paintings found there (*ancient nudes*). Finally, the work in Kaokoland will be *semi-nudes (traditional nudes)*, Ovahimba in their traditional dress (and ochre smear). Whether you go abstract, realistic, impressionistic, ..., is up to you. Please note that we know all models personally (or more importantly: they know us) so that you may expect a relaxed atmosphere of trust and friendship from the very beginning. Our models are proud of their beauty and have the confidence and talent to present it to you.

There will be no formal lectures. We will have image reviews, very much fun and most instructive. Please bring 3 – 5 of your images (good or bad) and we will use these to get to know each other and possibly identify things to work on. Extensive knowledge and advice on landscape as well as nude photography, technical issues and on Namibia will of course be available.

Some subjects that will definitely arise, however, include:

- etiquette
- how to relax and make your subject (and yourself) feel comfortable
- working outdoors, on location
- natural light and light modification
- how to shoot flattering images of models
- adding depths (meaning) to your images
- ...



It will be good if you know your gear, otherwise bring your camera manual and show us how to break the rules. Emphasis is not on technical aspects of photography. Technical issues will be discussed when they arise, during image critique, for example. Frequently, beginners are more free in their approach and can produce very strong images. Thus, all levels of photographers are welcome. Workshop language will be English but obviously German is spoken as well. Non-photographers are welcome too but please note that there is no program but photography!

You will return from this workshop with a new and broader view, with great images and with new friends. We explicitly encourage women to participate.



The People



Dr. Christian Goltz grew up in Namibia, left to pursue an international career as a geoscientist (Germany, Japan, USA) and finally returned to his African roots in 2008 to be a full-time photographer and writer. He worked with digital imagery long before digital cameras became commercially available and started taking pictures when he was ten years old (Agfa Optima). His photographic teachers include Jock Sturges and Frans Lanting. Somewhere along the way he graduated from the New York Institute of Photography. Since his return he's been surprisingly busy working for, e.g., the Namibian Government and the UN. He runs his own fine art photo gallery and studio in Windhoek. He also regularly leads workshops and does photographic consulting.



Werner Pfeifer is a 4th generation Namibian and one of Namibia's leading tour guides, a "white bushman". He co-owns Bush Culture Experience, a company specialized in bush craft and survival courses, team building and adventure travel. He has formal training as a leather tailor and school teacher and has worked as a nature conservation officer in the past. He is a founding member of the Living Culture Foundation Namibia (LCFN), a non-profit organization focusing on cultural cooperation in rural areas in Namibia. Werner is also an avid amateur photographer with a special interest in cultural nude photography. He developed his own materials and techniques for body painting in the Namibian bush.

The models are young Namibian women, usually university students, with a keen interest in (fashion) modeling. Beauty and grace traditionally loom large in Africa, this is no different in Namibia. Sadly, opportunities for (gainful) modeling in Namibia are rare. Subsequently, most of the existing outstanding talent goes untapped. Nudity does not automatically imply something sexual as it would in, e.g., the US. Rather, it is perceived as something naturally beautiful. In our work we make very sure not to violate this perception. The models have an orderly contract and receive appropriate remuneration. The situation is necessarily different with the local Himba models but equivalent arrangements have been made and we will be accompanied by an additional local Himba guide. Please note that, for their protection, the models cannot sign model releases so that you may use your images for your own, non-commercial purposes only. Commercial photography can be arranged.



The Itinerary

Participants may attend the whole course (14 days) or join us at one or two of the locations only (4 days each, so-called modules). We offer this flexibility mainly for self-driving participants with limited time in Namibia. Modules are only available if the whole workshop is attended by 8 or more people – otherwise the modules would have to be outrageously expensive. Please book as early as possible to make this unique experience happen! We strongly encourage women to participate.

Whole Workshop Itinerary (March 1 – 14, 2011; min. 8 participants, max. 12):

Day	Description	Km	Basis	Lodge/Hotel
1. Mar. 2011	Arrival at Windhoek International Airport. Transfer to a Hotel in Windhoek. Day available for resting. Lunch and dinner on clients account.	100	BB	Safari Court Hotel
2. Mar. 2011	Depart with models for <i>Sossusvlei</i> early in the morning, arrive in time for lunch at the lodge. Introductory presentation/ice breaker in the afternoon, possibly first shoot. Dinner and overnight at the lodge. All costs, like park fees, except personal drinks are included.	375	LDBB	Sossus Dune Lodge
3. Mar. 2011	Photo shoots (classic nude) with the models in the dunes around <i>Sossusvlei/Deadvlei</i> in the early morning and in the late afternoon. Time in-between and in the evening for image processing/ review/ questions/rest. Lunch, dinner and overnight at the lodge (park entry fees included).	180	LDBB	Sossus Dune Lodge
4. Mar. 2011	As Day 3	180	LDBB	Sossus Dune Lodge
5. Mar. 2011	After breakfast at the lodge in the early morning we will drive to <i>Uis</i> via Solitaire - Kuiseb Pass - Walvis Bay – Swakopmund - Henties Bay. Lunchpack and transport in the same overlander with the models. Dinner and overnight at hotel/lodge in Uis.	540	Lunchpack + DBB	Brandberg Rest Camp
6. Mar. 2011	Morning at the hotel/lodge for relaxing and image editing/processing/review. In the afternoon presentations/shoot at lodge or nearby. Lunch, dinner and overnight at the hotel/lodge in Uis.	100	LDBB	Brandberg Rest Camp

Day	Description	Km	Basis	Lodge/Hotel
7. Mar. 2011	In the early morning, after breakfast, walk to the "White Lady" Rock painting site (without the models) to study and photograph some original ancient rock paintings. Return to the lodge for lunch break. In the afternoon return to the Brandberg to photograph the models which by then have been <i>body painted</i> according to the original paintings seen earlier. Dinner and overnight at the hotel/lodge in Uis.	130	LDBB	Brandberg Rest Camp
8. Mar. 2011	Photo shoots with the models in the granite hills around Brandberg Mountain in the early morning (without body paint) and in the late afternoon (with body paint). Lunch, dinner and overnight at the hotel/lodge in Uis.	80	LDBB	Brandberg Rest Camp
9. Mar. 2011	After breakfast at the hotel/lodge in the early morning we say good-bye to our models from Windhoek and drive to Opuwo via Khorixas-Kamanjab. Lunchpack along the road. Dinner and overnight at hotel/lodge in Opuwo.	463	Lunchpack + DBB	Opuwo Country Lodge
10. Mar. 2011	Morning at the lodge for relaxing and image editing/processing/review. Presentations and image critique, optionally scouting <i>Himba village</i> in the afternoon.	120	LDBB	Opuwo Country Lodge
11. Mar. 2011	After an early breakfast we drive to the Himba village and photograph the Himba models (traditional semi-nude) . Return to the lodge for lunch. As soon as the photographic light becomes good, we visit the Himba again. Lunch, dinner and overnight at the lodge in Opuwo. Local Himba guide included.	120	LDBB	Opuwo Country Lodge
12. Mar. 2011	As Day 11. You will benefit greatly from the fact that the models will know you by now and you will be able to improve on/add to yesterday's images.	120	LDBB	Opuwo Country Lodge
13. Mar. 2011	After breakfast at the lodge in the early morning we will drive to Windhoek via Kamanjab-Outjo-Otjiwarongo-Okahandja. Lunchpack along the road. Dinner and overnight in Windhoek.	717	Lunchpack + DBB	Safari Court Hotel

Day	Description	Km	Basis	Lodge/Hotel
14. Mar. 2011	After breakfast at the hotel participants will be transferred to the International Airport. If you depart in the afternoon you may visit Windhoek (lunch on your own). End of experience!	100		
		3325		

BB – Bed and Breakfast; DBB - Dinner, Bed and Breakfast; LDBB – Full Board

Please note:

- Accommodation type is standard double.
- Similar Lodges/Hotels may be substituted, depending on availability.
- We travel by luxury overlander.
- Even if not explicitly mentioned in the itinerary, there will be nightly image critique sessions and there is always time for questions/discussions, also during transfer.
- Additional shooting sessions may be improvised.
- Usually, there will be one model per three participants, except for group shots.
- Work with the Himba will be semi-nude.



Module Itinerary (Between March 2 – 13, 2011):

Please note that the modules can only happen if the whole workshop is attended by at least 8 participants – otherwise the modules would have to be too expensive.

Module 1 (Sossusvlei/Deadvlei, classic nude, March 2 – 5)

Day	Description	Lodge/Hotel
2. Mar. 2011	Participants attending only Module 1 should arrive on their own at the lodge in Sossusvlei in the late morning so that they can have lunch (included) with the photographers attending the whole course. Introductory presentation/ice breaker in the afternoon, possibly first shoot. Dinner and overnight at the lodge. All costs, like park fees, except personal drinks are included.	Sossus Dune Lodge
3. Mar. 2011	Photo shoots (classic nude) with the models in the dunes around Sossusvlei/Deadvlei in the early morning and in the late afternoon. Time in-between and in the evening for image processing/review/questions/rest. Lunch, dinner and overnight at the lodge (park entry fees included).	Sossus Dune Lodge
4. Mar. 2011	As yesterday.	Sossus Dune Lodge
5. Mar. 2011	Good-Bye after breakfast.	

Module 2 (Uis/Brandberg, classic & ancient nude, March 6 – 9)

Day	Description	Lodge/Hotel
6. Mar. 2011	Participants attending only Module 2 should arrive on their own at the lodge in Uis in the late morning so that they can have lunch (included) with the photographers attending the whole course. Introductory presentation/ice breaker in the afternoon, possibly first shoot. Dinner and overnight at the lodge. All costs except personal drinks are included.	Brandberg Rest Camp
7. Mar. 2011	In the early morning, after breakfast, walk to the "White Lady" Rock painting site (without the models) to study and photograph some original ancient rock paintings. Return to the lodge for lunch break. In the afternoon return to the Brandberg to photograph the models which by then have been <i>body painted</i> according to the original paintings seen earlier. Dinner and overnight at the hotel/lodge in Uis.	Brandberg Rest Camp

8. Mar. 2011	Photo shoots with the models in the granite hills around Brandberg Mountain in the early morning (without body paint) and in the late afternoon (with body paint). Lunch, dinner and overnight at the hotel/lodge in Uis.	Brandberg Rest Camp
9. Mar. 2011	Good-Bye after breakfast.	

Module 3 (Opuwo/Kaokoland, traditional semi-nude, March 10 – 13)

Day	Description	Lodge/Hotel
10. Mar. 2011	Participants attending only Module 3 should arrive on their own at the lodge in Opuwo in the late morning so that they can have lunch (included) with the photographers attending the whole course. Introductory presentation/ice breaker in the afternoon, optionally scouting Himba village. Dinner and overnight at the lodge. All costs except personal drinks are included.	Opuwo Country Lodge
11. Mar. 2011	After an early breakfast we drive to the Himba village and photograph the Himba models (traditional semi-nude) . Return to the lodge for lunch. As soon as the photographic light becomes good, we visit the Himba again. Lunch, dinner and overnight at the lodge in Opuwo. Local Himba guide included.	Opuwo Country Lodge
12. Mar. 2011	As yesterday.	Opuwo Country Lodge
13. Mar. 2011	Good-Bye after breakfast.	



Please note:

- Accommodation basis is Full Board, type is standard double.
- Similar Lodges/Hotels may be substituted, depending on availability.
- Even if not explicitly mentioned in the itinerary, there will be nightly image critique sessions and there is always time for questions/discussions.
- Additional shooting sessions may be improvised.
- Usually, there will be one model per three participants, except for group shots.
- Work with the Himba will be semi-nude.

The weather will be warm to hot with a slight possibility of short rainfall (which would be great, at least the clouds). The sun will hopefully rise at about 7 am and disappear around 7 pm local time. The moon is not full during the workshop but will rise conveniently on some days. We can expect moderate winds, so some dust may be flying.

Your physical condition should be reasonably good – shooting days are long, the warm weather may take its toll. We will take some small walks.



The Prices etc.

Whole Workshop (min. 8 participants, max. 12)

Number of Participants	N\$	EUR (as of October 2010, indicative)	US\$ (as of October 2010, indicative)
8	41.633,00	4.080,00	5.670,00
9	39.829,00	3.900,00	5.420,00
10	38.277,00	3.745,00	5.210,00
11	37.300,00	3.650,00	5.080,00
12	36.400,00	3.560,00	4.955,00

Rates are per person in double accommodation sharing.
Supplement for single accommodation: 3,000.00 N\$

Modules

	N\$	EUR (as of October 2010, indicative)	US\$ (as of October 2010, indicative)
<i>Module 1</i>			
Double sharing	14.200,00	1.390,00	1.930,00
single	15.086,00	1.480,00	2.050,00
<i>Module 2</i>			
Double sharing	6.883,00	675,00	935,00
single	7.247,00	710,00	985,00
<i>Module 3</i>			
Double sharing	7.387,00	720,00	1.005,00
single	9.329,00	910,00	1.270,00



The prices include:

- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Meals as specified
- Pick up/drop off from International Airport (whole workshop only)
- Vehicle for the transport (fuel included, whole workshop only)
- Entrance fees to places of interest as mentioned
- Activities as mentioned incl. fees for models, body painting, etc., as per program
- English/German speaking tour guide (Werner Pfeifer)
- All services by professional photographer Dr. Christian Goltz as per program
- VAT 15% & Tourism bed levy

The prices do not include:

- All items of a personal nature
- Gratuities
- Extra Meals
- Drinks
- Excursions / activities not in the program
- Personal Insurances (note: medical insurance is compulsory)
- Visa requirements, for the countries being visited
- Any flights
- All items not specified above

All rates are in Namibian Dollar per person and are inclusive of local taxes. The value of the Namibian Dollar (NAD) is the same of the South African Rand (ZAR), and all payments will be requested in this currency.

This is a quotation only and is subject to the availability of accommodation, vehicles and guides at the time of making th reservation.



Comparing our prices to those of international operators you may find them quite low – we pass on our advantages of being local: No travel and gear transportation costs for instructor, no expensive international insurance for gear etc., being friends with service and accommodation providers.

Booking terms and conditions:

Only written reservation requests will be accepted (email OK).

Acceptance of offer is to be confirmed with a 25% non-refundable deposit on the full booking value.

Balance payments become due 90 days prior to the commencement of services.

Reservations made within 90 days prior to commencement of service are to be paid in full upon receipt of confirmation.

Cancellations of services in part or in full become valid on the day of receipt of the written notification by us and attract the following cancellation charges:

- up to 90 days prior to commencement of services : 25%
- up to 60 days prior: 40%
- up to 30 days & 'no-show': 100%

Please make sure that you have *adequate insurance* (e.g., accident, health).

There are no plans to change the program. We reserve the right for changes in case of force majeure, changes due to operators and sickness, however.

Should we be unable to meet the minimum number of participants for the whole workshop (8), we will inform those booked for the workshop/modules no less than six weeks prior to the start of the workshop. We will then refund all monies paid save bank transfer fee.



Resources

www.kiss-of-light.com kiss-of-light Photography (check "Workshop/Safari" for updates)

www.bushculture.com Bush Culture Experience

www.lcfn.info Living Culture Foundation Namibia

some recommended reading/viewing:

Benjamin, Louis: *The Naked And The Lens*, Focal Press, 2010

- Inspiring and comprehensive overview of artistic nude photography.

Ommer, Uwe: *Black Ladies*, Taschen, 2004

- Beautiful outdoor portraits of (semi-nude) African ladies.

Lenssen-Erz, Tilman: *Brandberg, Der Bilderberg Namibias*, Thorbecke, 2000

- In-depth discussion of the Brandberg rock art with many photographs (in German).

Campion, David: *Where Fire Speaks*, Parallax, 2002

- Himba and their (threatened) culture with great b/w photographs.

Pack, Peter & Lydia: *Namibia*, DUMONT Reiseverlag, 2008

- The only Namibia guide written by Namibians in Namibia and the best (in German).

Contact

Please email or call Christian for any questions you may have and of course to book a spot:

christian@kiss-of-light.com

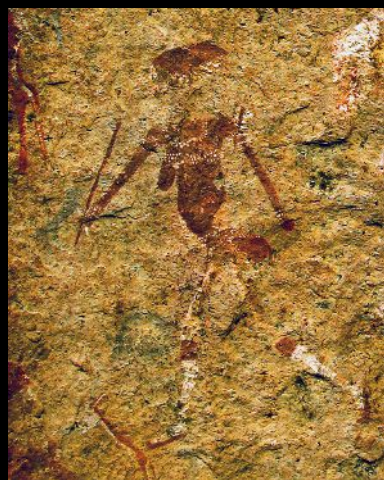
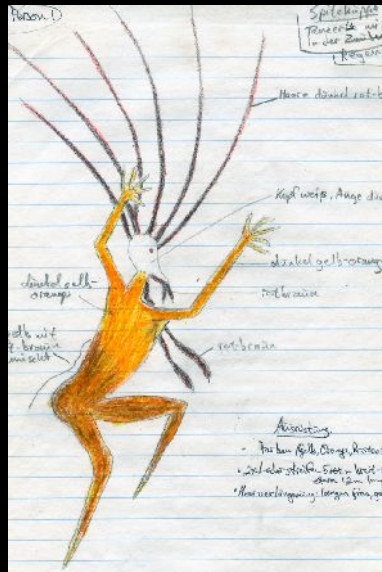
Tel (+264) (0)61-309102 (land), (+264) (0)81-3923761 (cell)

Fax (+264) (0)88625056

You may of course also contact Werner at Tel (+264) (0)81-2799278.



Re-creating ancient rock art



Workshop Impressions





All photographs © Christian Goltz except p. 5, top; 13; 16; 17, top row; 18: Werner Pfeifer

