



Pelican Pouch

Official Newsletter of TAN, Swakopmund

Vol 16, October 2013

Editor's Note

A new year, new ideas, a workload of New Year resolutions.

Government is looking into our great concerns of NAMLISH TRAFFIC RULES, a horror for each of us being on the road. Let's hope that our Traffic police come to a solution to cope with the ever-increasing number of car accidents due to human error.

Dr Hage Geingob, our Prime Minister, recently invited

international investors to invest in our tourism sector. We trust that his suggestions recently made in the USA do not fall on deaf ears.

Kurt Schlenther, president of TAN, is presently compiling rules and regulations for tourist guides to better understand the YES's and the NO's of our profession. Let's hope that every guide working in Namibia becomes a member of the TOURIST GUIDES

ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA.

Let's see what the new year of 2014 will bring us. I certainly wish you all a very successful working year, keeping professional tourism high on your agenda.

Greetings in guiding
~ Gaby

Unknown Photographer, Swakop Dunes after the Rains

Want To Learn More About Our Beautiful Country?

Easy - simply become a member of the **Scientific Society Of Swakopmund or Windhoek!**

Scientific Society of Swakopmund

Contact Brigitte on 064 402695
www.scientificsocietyswakopmund.com
swksociety@iway.na

Scientific Society of Windhoek

Contact Waldi Fritsche on 061 225 372
www.kuiseb-verlag.com | nwgooffice@iway.na

Code of Conduct and Ethics

1) When acting as a tour guide and conducting any tour guide activity a tour guide shall:

- (i) act ethically;
- (ii) behave politely;
- (iii) act friendly and approachable;
- (iv) have respect for the religious beliefs of any tourist;
- (v) have respect for the ethical customs of any tourist;
- (vi) be conscientious to the individual needs of any tourist;
- (vii) be conscientious to the safety of any tourist;
- (viii) be punctual;
- (ix) maintain acceptable personal hygiene;
- (x) dress appropriately; and
- (xi) ensure that the privacy of every tourist is respected

2. When acting as a tour guide, a tour guide shall be prohibited from selling any goods to, or buying any goods from, any tourist or from seeking to make any profit from a tourist, monetary or otherwise, directly or indirectly, which may be addition to the commission or income which the tour guide receives from conducting the tour guide activity.

3. A tour guide shall endeavour to always be mindful of potentially dangerous situations and to acquaint himself or herself with any security risks inherent to any area in Namibia prior to a tour or tour guide activity in that area, which shall include biological security risks such as diseases. A tour guide shall act responsibly at all times, shall always have regard for the personal safety of the tourists under his or her supervision or guidance, which shall include, but not be limited to, not being under the influence of alcohol or other prohibited substances.

4. A tour guide shall at all times, whether it is within the course and scope of his or her duty as a tour guide or otherwise, respect the culture, historical and environmental heritage of Namibia and shall endeavour, if it is within the tour guide's knowledge, to educate any tourist who partakes in a tourist activity of Namibia's cultural, historical and environmental heritage.

5. If a tour guide contemplates cancelling a tour, notification of this cancellation must be made as far in advance as is reasonably possible, either to the tour operator or to the tourists concerned, as the case may be.

6. If a tour-guide operates in accordance with an itinerary set by a tour operator or the tour guide personally, the tour guide shall, as far as is reasonably possible, follow that itinerary and act in accordance with both the contents of the itinerary and the time frames set by the itinerary.

7. Tour guides shall co-operate with each other in a professional and respectful manner and shall endeavor to cultivate a positive relationship with all professional persons involved in a tour guide activity out of mutual respect and with the aim of promoting the cultural, historical and environmental heritage of Namibia.

8. A tour guide shall not discriminate in any way from rendering tour guide services to any tourist, whether this be on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, physical challenges or age.

9. A tour guide may be required by the board to attend training courses, seminars or other informative activities organised by the board, or any person or institution acting on instructions from the board, for the purpose of continued professional development in the tour guiding industry. All tour guides shall be required to attend such courses, seminars or activities unless compelling circumstances justify their absence from these events. In the event that a tour guide is absent from such a training course, seminar or activity he or she shall be required to provide a written explanation for his or her absence, which shall be sent to the board by no later than 14 days after the training course, seminar or activity takes place.



Africa Cat North Foundation

AFRICA CAT NORTH FOUNDATION has come to the conclusion that medium to long term solutions to the ever-present Human-wildlife conflict are imperative to the success of Namibia's Wildlife Conservation programmes as well as to poverty reduction amongst a large number of communal farmers.

Livestock farmers obviously wish to farm efficiently with maximum yield, without regular losses due to predation. At the same time conservancies are concerned that the wildlife needed to attract tourists to the community lodges, may be destroyed as a result of conflict with farmers.

AfriCat's initiatives will effectively educate communal farmers on how best to improve their livestock protection methods, thereby minimising predation. With the conflict situations reduced, fewer farmers will insist on the lions being destroyed; thus the Namibian lion population will be better protected.

The Lion Management Unit/s will be well-positioned to provide regular and reliable feedback to the AfriCat North Research and Monitoring teams, as well as to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. This data will not only support research and much-needed information on the lions of Namibia, but also support the development of the National Lion Management Policy.

With the Lions Conservation Strategy draft proposal awaiting approval, the development of the Lion Management Policy will soon follow. The long term survival of the Namibian lion depends on sound management of our valuable lion population, but workable solutions to the Human/wildlife conflict, especially the farmer-lion conflict, should first be in place.





Bird's Eye View

When I asked Dr Hu Berry about the possibility of birds seeing colours he replied : “Gaby I do not know. I am colour blind.” so much for the help of my professor!

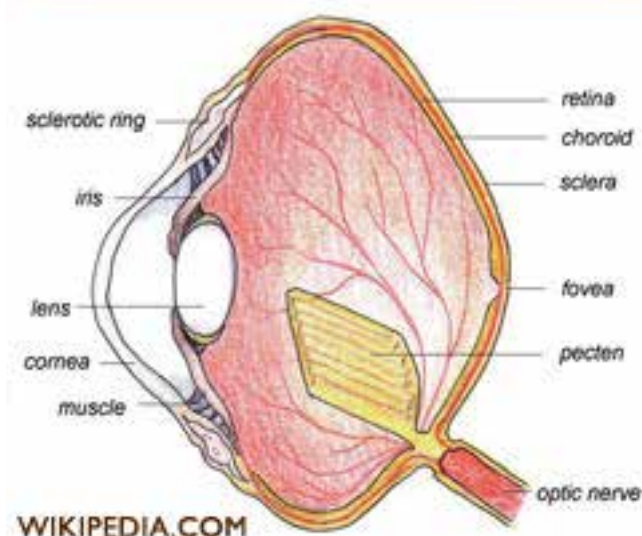
Well apparently we human beings are colour-blind in comparison to birds. Birds in fact can see double the amount of colours than we can, because birds can recognise light in ultra violet rays.

Birds can see a kaleidoscope of colours - not imaginable in our human dreams - because birds do not have a UV filter in the eye which we humans have. Human eyes have three different color receptors, or cones, that are sensitive to light of different wavelengths and they mix together to reveal all the colors we see. Birds, by contrast, have four cones, so they see potentially more colors than humans do. In addition, they have oil drops which filter the UV light, something not found in any mammal. With this filter birds see colours much better than humans. They can localise the sun and its position despite a thick cloud cover.

Men and monkeys have three cones, birds have four. Most mammals have only two cones.

UV light increases brightness for birds. It helps to get a contrast of the foliage of trees and bushes, which helps with the search of food as well as with finding a partner. Ripe berries for instance, reflect UV light; worms can be seen, and falcons, for instance, can find mice as mouse urine reflects UV light!

THE AVIAN EYE



When it comes to mating, birds have a real ‘all-colour guide to sex.’ Take the ostrich : a male in mating mood presents red legs, white wings and black plumage. The healthier he is, and the stronger his immune system, the more shinier and brighter his red, white and black colours stand out and he has the best chance of females wanting to mate with him. He is an alpha bird with whom females choose to have offspring. A diseased/ injured ostrich would have less shiny colours, signaling that he is not in the best of condition and might therefore produce offspring of second class rating.

Take our flamingo: With his handsome pink feathers he signals that he has eaten well and is consequently healthy and strong. He aims to intimidate rivals while wowing the ladies with his potential as a provider. In fact he goes even further - he applies rouge! (This applies to Greater and Lesser Flamingos) Using their heads male



flamongoes pick up a colour pigment - or carotenoid - from the preen gland. This applies colouring to their necks, breast and back feathers. The more pigment they rub on, the brighter and the more eye-catching they appear. Those who are the most colourful start nesting the earliest.

It is thus understandable that the female goes for the most colourful male, whilst she herself, is the reverse. She has to start breeding and has to conceal herself, so her colours are dull and camouflaged. The male bird loses his bright colours soon after mating too, as in his colourful condition he is more prone to predation.

In the next edition I will elaborate on which colours of attire bird watchers should use to blend into their surroundings.

Gaby Tirronen with the help of:

AFRICA BIRDS AND BIRDING Vol 15 /16

AFRICA GEOGRAPHIC April 2011

Ann Marie Ackermann So sehen uns Voegel





How to Save Fuel

With increasing fuel prices, people are beginning to think twice before taking their vehicles out for a drive. Here are some tips on how you can save on fuel.

- Keep your tyres properly inflated. If a range is recommended by the manufacturer, the higher pressure should be used to maximise fuel efficiency. Deflated tyres run hot, jeopardise safety, and hurt the fuel economy by increasing the rolling resistance.
- The tyres should be checked at least once a month.
- Avoid high speeds for better fuel economy. In highway driving, over 50% of the power produced by the engine is used to overcome aerodynamic drag. Drag and thus fuel consumption increases rapidly at speeds above 90km per hour. On average, a car uses about 15% more fuel at 100km/h, and 25% more at 110km/h compared to when it is doing only 90km/h. However, the fuel consumption of an average car increases sharply at speeds below 50km/h.
- Clogged air-filters increase fuel consumption by restricting airflow to the engine, and thus should be cleaned or replaced when necessary.
- When starting modern cars allow the car to idle no more than 30 seconds. Avoid sudden acceleration before the engine has warmed up sufficiently.
- The engine runs most efficiently between around 1500rpm and 2500rpm. To maintain these low revs gear changes should be done as soon as practical.
- Avoid carrying any unnecessary weight. On average, every 50kg added load will increase fuel consumption by 2%. Anticipate traffic conditions ahead and adjust speed accordingly to avoid unnecessary braking and acceleration which waste fuel. Do not follow too closely and slow down gradually when approaching a red light. It takes up to six times as much fuel to move a car from a dead stop for one moving at just a few km/h
- Stop the engine whenever your car is stationary for an extended period of time. Idling more than a minute consumes much more fuel than restarting the engine.
- Air conditioners can use about 10% extra fuel. However, at speeds over 80km/h use of air conditioning is better for fuel economy than an open window.

Flamingo Magazine Collection

Hi there, I am looking for the April 2011, May 2011 and December 2011 edition of the Flamingo magazine to complete my collection. Who would be kind enough to lend me theirs so that I may photocopy them? Gaby Tirronen | 081 127 5442 | holiday@mweb.com.na

Know Your Field Guiding

When field guiding, use the following indicators as the North-West / South-East axis :

RED BILLED BUFFALO WEAVERS

build their nests on the **NORTH-WEST** corner of large trees.

LICHEN

grows on a tree's **SOUTHERN** side.

MONGOUSES

defecate on the **NORTH-EAST** side of a termite mound.

TERMITE MOUNDS

usually lean in a **NORTHERLY** direction.

Some Interesting Facts...

A young elephant feeding on the dung of a passing adult is called **COPROPHAGY**.
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This type of feeding enables him to obtain microbes necessary to help digestion.

AFRICA GEOGRAPHICAL November 2012

ELEPHANTS....

are very sensitive to CAPSAICIN the molecule that makes chillies hot, and farmers can repel the animals by mixing it with grease and smearing it on fences or burying it.

BOTSWANA....

will not issue any more HUNTING LICENCES.

CAPE FOXES:

The female is termed a **VIXEN**.
She **WHELPS**, and has **CUBS**.

A GIRAFFE'S BLOOD SUPPLY....

can weigh up to 10 kg.

KALAHARI....

means "a dry place."

(Origin from the Tswana word **KGALA : THE GREAT THIRST.**)



Amazing!

Sonja is an unusual russian cat. She had only one of her own babies but a big hart of motherlove to adopt porcupine baby orphans. They had been only a few days old, eyes still closed.



Interesting Tourism Facts

- An unusual aloe species, *Aloe viridiflora*, which is endemic to Namibia, is found in the central region of the country and in the mountains around Windhoek. The plant flowers in August and in September.
- The Gibeon Meteorite shower is the largest ever discovered in 1838 by the explorer Sir J. Alexander.
- Arnhem Cave is the longest cave system in Namibia. It is situated on the farm Arnhem, 120 km east of Windhoek. There are six bat species in the cave, including the giant leaf-nosed bat.
- The Tsumeb mine which was once the richest source of lead and zinc in Africa is up and running again. More than 200 different minerals have been found in and around Tsumeb.
- Dragon's Breath is the largest underground lake in the world and is situated on the farm Hariseb, 46 km north - west from Grootfontein off the road C42 to Tsumeb.
- Hoba Meteorite, discovered in the 1920s, is the largest known meteorite in the world and situated 20 km from Grootfontein. The meteorite is approximately 80 000 years old and its weight is more than 50 tons.
- Namibia has the largest free-roaming cheetah population in the world - an estimated 2 500.
- The major export product in the southern part of Namibia is karakul pelts. The karakul sheep was brought from Asia and introduced in Namibia in 1907.
- The word "safari" means "travel" in Swahili.
- The first railway line in the country was built at Cape Cross by the Damaraland Guano Company in 1895.

Have You Seen an Elephant in the Swakop River Lately?

No, not one of those which grazed here some 200 years ago, but recently. You can see the elephant from the new military course of the stables, near the SFC and SPCA.

At least, from far it looks like an elephant.

As you see from my photo, it is a hollow cement block. It was used as a water reservoir during earlier German settlement times, about 1890. I am not sure whether there was a windmill to extract the water via a Lister pump (perhaps one of the readers can enlighten us on that). This water was used by the residents of Swakopmund. According to my grandmother it was a very unreliable source of water as sometimes they had water - and sometimes not! There was an iron pipeline from the "elephant" towards the centre of town, starting at the breweries (!) and then to the bakery and the harbour, passing Prinz Rupprecht Heim, Hotel Europa Hof, Hotel Bismarck and other establishments too.

Drinking water came from Germany by boat, and later by ship from Cape Town. There was great concern about the possibility of a ship coming in late! According to my grandmother a water supplier from Cape Town was caught in a storm and was late by 4 days. At that stage my Grandmother had water left for only a few more hours.

The quality of the water extracted from the Swakop River was, according to reports from the Schutztruppenzeit, "not to be used for drinking by either men or animals." It caused diarrhea and tasted awful. From this came the term: 'SWAKOPMUNDER' which was an upset stomach which lasted for at least three days.

We children of those times (I am talking of those who were born around the thirties and forties) became immune against the side effects of Swakop River water and drank the water straight out of the taps.

During the sixties the German Lutheran Church received a new Pastor from Germany to attend to the needs of the German Lutheran Community. The Pastor was warned about drinking water from the tap. He was advised to buy 1 gallon of water from the railway station where the drinking water was tapped from a tank railed from Walvis Bay, costing a ticky at the time. However he watched us children drinking water from the tap and wondered why he had been warned against drinking tap water. On the 2nd day after his arrival he had to conduct a funeral ceremony at the Swakopmund cemetery. In those days the cemetery was not as green and filled with flowers, bushes and trees as it is today. In fact the bushes were scarce and small. As the Pastor was preaching and singing, and the coffin was being lowered into the grave, the prayer spoken by the Pastor increased in velocity. All of a sudden he started running, lifting his black priestly robes. Mumbling AMEN from a distance, he disappeared behind the only bush nearby and then the mourners heard the unmistakable noises of a SWAKOPMUNDER.

This story is taken from the book "Schmunzeln mit ner Prise Sand," written by Gaby Tirronen, published by Peter's Antiques, Swakopmund.



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