

## 19.12.2021 Windhoek

After deboarding the aircraft in Windhoek the sun is shining and we are glad we made the decision to fly back to Africa. Immigration and health check are finalized swiftly, after only 20 minutes we collect our luggage, manage to buy the last available MTC SIM



card and call Manfred to pick us up. Manfred brings us directly to our Unimog. The good news is: The engine starts immediately. The bad news is, that we have a flat tire, again the back right one. There is no other option than changing into the overall to try to get the flat tire back on the rim and inflate it. After several attempts with a lot of dishwashing liquid and finally using our own built-in tire inflation system as well as an additional compressor we are successful. From here we can go without any further hick-up to Urban Camp.

## 22.12.2021 Windhoek, Otjiwarongo

The first days in Windhoek are filled with the usual preparations. Stowing away items, finding everything again, re-installing our tire pressure control system, changing the oil of the hub gears, shopping, meeting friends and acquaintances, visiting our favourite café the 'Wilde Eend'. At Urban Camp we get to know Angela and Frank – next to their MAN CAT 6x6 we look tiny, don't we?



On Wednesday afternoon we leave Windhoek and still drive to the Horse Riding Club in Otjiwarongo.



En route to Otjiwarongo there are usually many warthogs beside the road, but this year we do not see a single warthog. Later we learn that 90% of the warthog population has not survived the last drought. Also grazing farm animals, such as cattle, sheep and goats have been reduced to 30% as there was too little to eat. Finally, last winter there was sufficient rainfall, the grass is growing plenty on the paddocks, but now there are not enough animals left to graze the vast areas. This is leading to an increased risk of bush fires. Only around Windhoek more than 21 grass and paddock fires happened last winter.

### 23.12.2021 Tsumeb

We continue to drive to Tsumeb, at the „Kupferquelle“ campsite we want to spend Christmas together with a few other Overlanders. About 10km before Tsumeb is a Mitsubishi van parked on the opposite side of the road. We recognize this van. It belongs to Patrik, a Swiss whom we have met several times in Urban Camp. We turn around and see if we can assist him. The cooling hose to the turbo charger is broken - although he already visited a workshop this morning for the same problem. Werner can fix the problem. Patrik also did not have enough water with him to refill the lost cooling water in the radiator. We have enough water to help him out. In Africa we are always carrying more than enough water for emergencies.



## 24.12.2021 Kupferquelle, Tsumeb

Merry Christmas! We spent quiet holidays with Neil and Julie as well as David and Francine and cook our christmas dinner on the open fire pit.



The Kupferquelle camp is renowned for its huge outdoor pool. However, the ducks also love to splash in the pool... Huge trees provide plenty of shade, it is a relaxed place.



The coin operated washing machines at Kupferquelle are very welcomed by us, as very few campsites in Namibia provide a washing machine.

Werner is using the time to install daytime driving lights, as daytime driving lights are now mandatory in Namibia outside city limits.



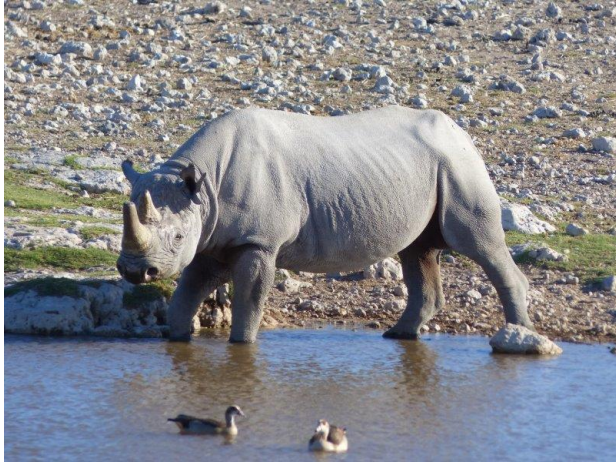
A few of the local campers arrive with a lot of luggage and huge loud speakers. Soon not so christmassy African beats entertain the campsite.



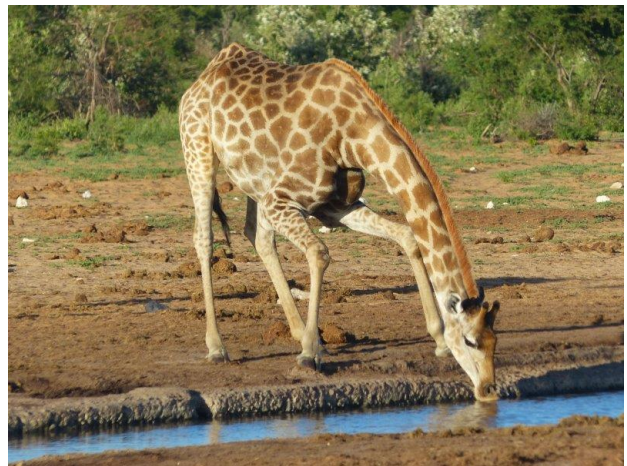
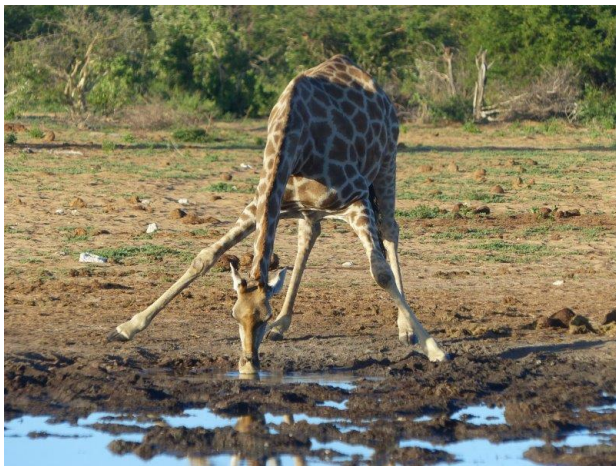
## 26.12.2021 Namutoni, Etosha Nationalpark

We have rested enough and are ready for some adventures in the Etosha Nationalpark. The mining town of Tsumeb is more or less the “Gateway to Etosha“, as it is the closest city to Etosha. Fueled up and with enough supplies we only have 112 km ahead of us to reach our first Camp Namutoni.

Already on our first game drive we see a rhino, seven giraffes and a heard of elephants.



Giraffes always take a long time to approach the waterhole and finally drink, they are very careful and check their surroundings a thousand times. It is understandable as they have to drink in a very defenseless position. Obviously, giraffes have two different ways to drink, they either spread their stretched out front legs wide enough so their head can reach the water or they bend their knees. Both positions look quite uncomfortable.





**27.12.2021 Okaukuejo, Etosha Nationalpark**

This morning the alarm goes off quite early, today's drive to the next camp is at the same time our morning game drive. The waterholes we visit carry names such as Chudko, Kalkheuwel, Goas or Salvadora.



It is Werner's birthday and by chance we camp at the same campsite as last year in Okaukuejo. For the occasion of his birthday eleven rhinos are visiting the water hole of the camp in the evening.





## 28.12.2021 Okaukuejo, Etosha Nationalpark

Our early morning game drive leads us to the Olifantes waterhole. We drive eastbound into the rising sun – and can hardly see anything. Luckily, a few kilometers down the road we turn into another direction. There are hardly any animals, only two ostriches in quite some distance away.

At the Olifantes waterhole we are finally rewarded for our early start. Directly in front of us we discover a lion. He is so close that we did not immediately see him. After a while a second lion appears, he is limping, it looks like something is stuck in his foot. The two male lions greet each other, move under a bush into the shade before finally trotting or rather limping away in two different directions. Soon they disappear back into the bush.

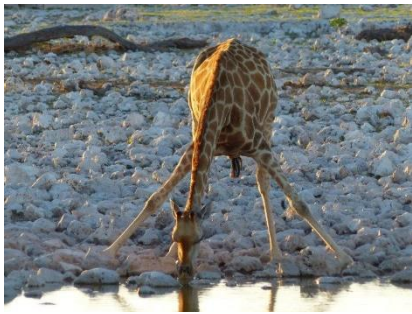
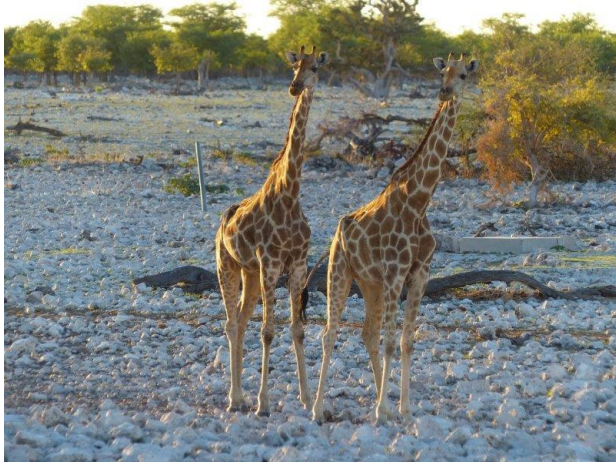






The evening game drive leads us to the two waterholes “Wolvesnes” and “Okondeka”. Wolvesnes seems dried-out since a long time and Okondeka seems to not be frequently visited by animals anymore. It is a short game drive, as we decide that we are better off at the waterhole of the camp. There indeed, giraffes and rhinos are showing up for a drink.





## 29.12.2021 Olifantrus, Etosha Nationalpark

Again, we get out of bed early to drive towards our next camp Olifantrus in the Western section of the park. A good 200 km of gravel pad are ahead of us.



We arrive just in time to witness a herd of wildebeest chasing two hyenas who try to prey a young one. Again and again the herd forms a close group and storms together towards the hyenas, who finally give up. The hyenas are leaving passing our truck, one of them is very interested and sniffs for a while at our Unimog.



Right next to the road we find the remains of an elephant. The white bones are becoming a tourist attraction. Unfortunately, in the park one is not allowed to leave the car.





At the “Teespoet” waterhole we encounter a large herd of elephants with two tiny young ones. The waterhole is very busy, elephants are coming and going, having a drink, playing in the water, fighting or having a nap.



It is so much fun to watch the elephants. The small ones are always very close to mama, preferably standing under her belly in the shade.



One of the small ones is so tired that it keeps lying down. Finally, it gets up but can hardly keep its eyes open. The herd wants to move on, but the little one refuses to walk. The mother and aunties are trying with their trunks to motivate the little one to walk. Even his older sibling gets involved. At some stage, the little one is literally dragged along in the herd.

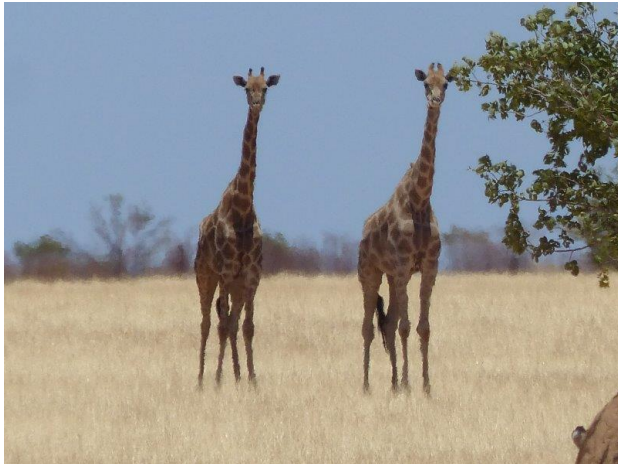


There are several new elephants approaching, but the single bulls are not always welcomed very friendly by the other bulls already at the waterhole.

They have small fights as one big bull does not let any other bull close to the water hole. The big one gets veery excited.



We stay at the waterhole until the last elephant has left.



We are not long at the camp Olifantrus, when we get a surprise visit by Marita and Robert, whom we have met 2018 in Windhoek. Our plan is to spent new year's together at Oppi-Koppi in Kamanjab. Now we have one more night together around the campfire.



### 30.12.2021 Olifantrus, Etosha Nationalpark

In the camp we hear about lion sightings and circling vultures about only 15 km away. We go for a game drive to see if we can find them, but unfortunately are not successful, they must have moved on already. Only the vultures are still sitting around the "Nomeb" waterhole. Looks like we were too late for the party.



Soon it's time to prepare dinner. But not before our camp neighbor gets his photo, he asked very politely for. He especially parks his 4Runner next to our Unimog.



### 31.12.2021 Kamanjab Oppi-Koppi

It is our last early morning game drive where we see plenty of zebras at the “Dolomite” waterhole. At the “Renostervlei” waterhole there are giraffes, oryx, a secretary bird and two eland antelopes. For the first time we see elands jump really high, we never thought these heavy big animals are able to jump so high.







Finally, it is time to leave the park. At the exit gate is at the same time the veterinary check point. It is not allowed to carry meat or animal products from the North to the South through the “Vet fence”. This time, they do not even want to look into our fridge, the guard is searching our truck for weapons and he is looking everywhere. In the end it must be pure curiosity – a whole weapon would definitely not fit into one of our drawers, little cupboards or small bags.



Late afternoon, we arrive at the Oppi-Koppi camp in Kamanjab. Here we will spend New Year's eve together with Marita and Robert as well as Chris & Detlef.

