



Kaokoveld
Skeleton Coast



NAMIBIA

This journal informs on important topics, new models and events around

ACTION MOBIL
BUILT IN AUSTRIA
DRIVEN IN THE WORLD

GLOBETROTTER
VEHICLES OF THE
PRIME CLASS

TRAVEL REPORT PART 1



After a successful year of hard work, time was ripe for another adventure holiday, cut out for Daniela and Stephan Wirths, the managing directors of ACTION MOBIL, who are constantly in search of spectacular destinations for their customers.

...along the Skeleton Coast to the Kaokoveld in the northwest of Namibia

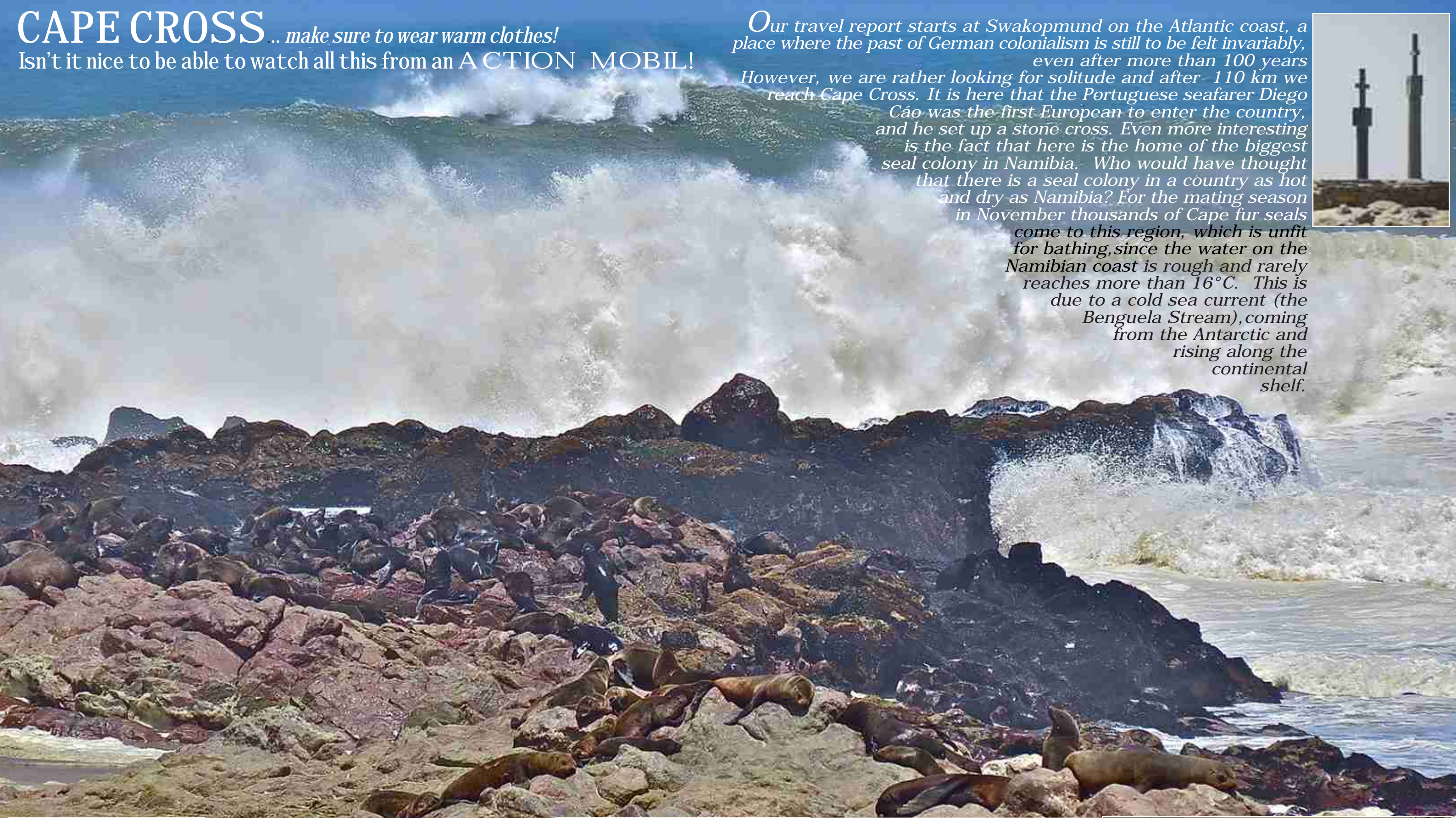
There is hardly another country in the world that offers so many different kinds of landscape, animals and plants within short distances.



CAPE CROSS... make sure to wear warm clothes!

Isn't it nice to be able to watch all this from an ACTION MOBIL!

Our travel report starts at Swakopmund on the Atlantic coast, a place where the past of German colonialism is still to be felt invariably, even after more than 100 years. However, we are rather looking for solitude and after 110 km we reach Cape Cross. It is here that the Portuguese seafarer Diego Cáo was the first European to enter the country, and he set up a stone cross. Even more interesting is the fact that here is the home of the biggest seal colony in Namibia. Who would have thought that there is a seal colony in a country as hot and dry as Namibia? For the mating season in November thousands of Cape fur seals come to this region, which is unfit for bathing, since the water on the Namibian coast is rough and rarely reaches more than 16°C. This is due to a cold sea current (the Benguela Stream), coming from the Antarctic and rising along the continental shelf.





The ominous **SKELETON COAST**

Whoever gets stranded here has little chance to survive. Shipwrecks of the past bear witness to numerous tragedies. Even ships of our times have fallen victim to the treacherous currents and shallows.

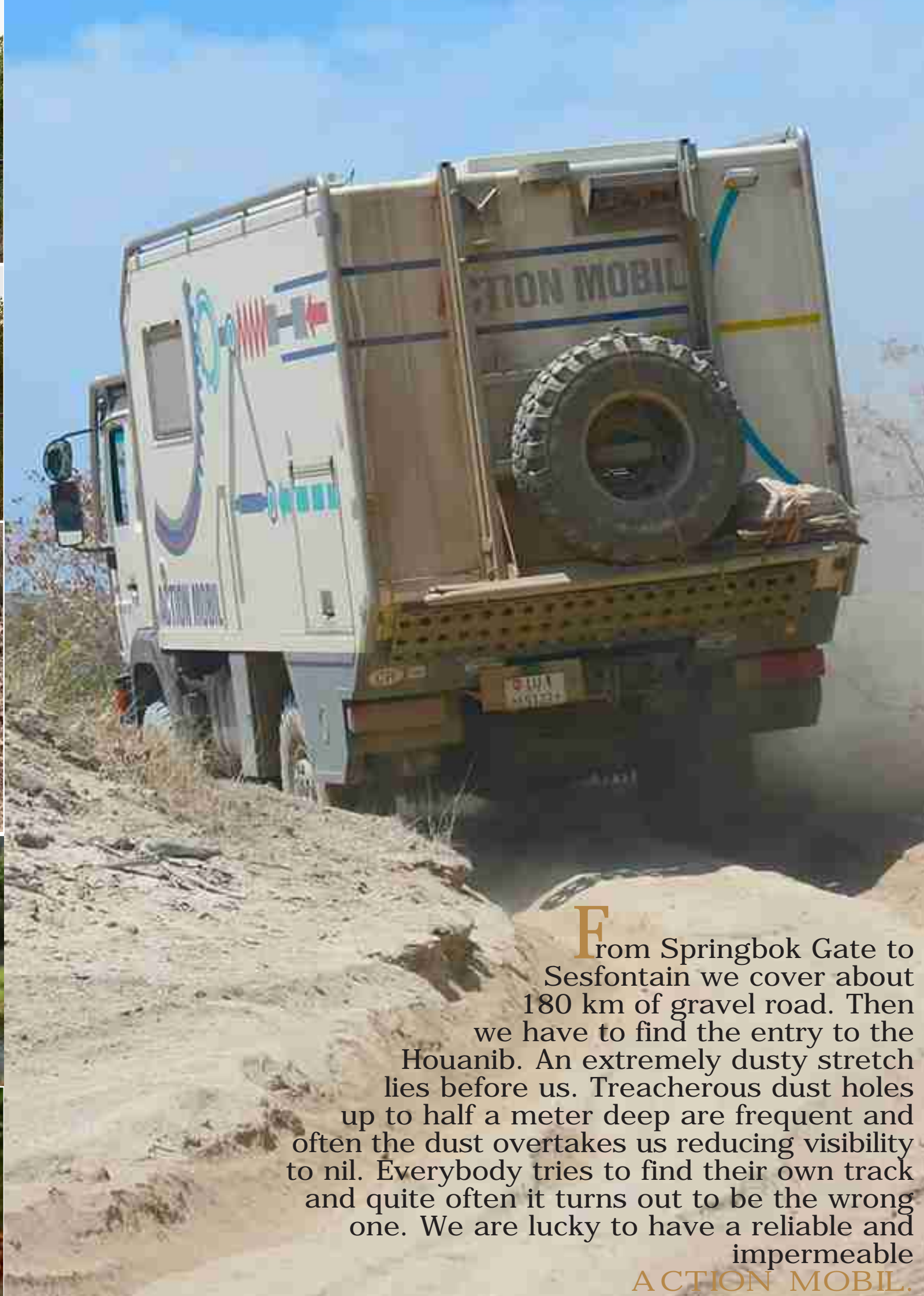
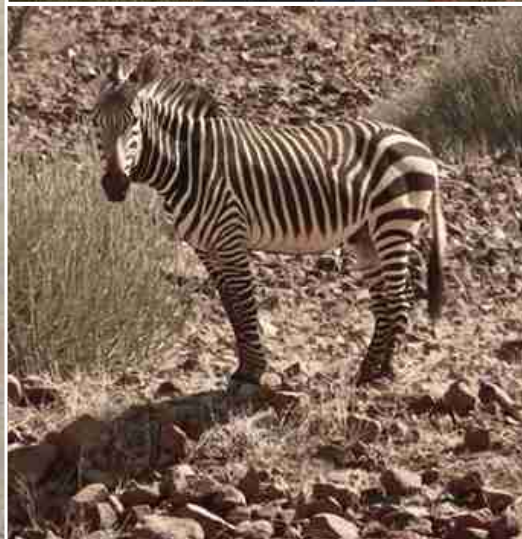


The entrance gate to Skeleton Coast Park looks spooky. You need a permit for going along this lonesome coast. For 270 km we drive on sand lanes and on gravel until we arrive at the Springbok Gate. Only the south of the park is open for tourists. The rest of the 16,000 km² of park land is closed for the public. It is a unique nature reserve that is used exclusively for research purposes. Along this stretch of our trip we met one single car – unspoilt solitude and at the same time singular phenomena of nature.



A lonesome jackal looking out for stranded seals.

Cold water, shimmering heat, deserted landscape, incredible contrasts! This section of the coast is said to be the world's largest graveyard of ships.



4x4 and more!

*The last possibilities for shopping
A flat tire on the gravel road and from
here off into impassable
terrain. Once more the
landscape is turning
greener and mountainous.
We have reached Damara Land.
We see the first mountain zebras
turning up direct next to the road.
This is a kind of zebra you only find in
the northwest of Namibia.*



*Palmwag and the Kowarib Gorge
are places worth seeing.
Africa at its finest. If there is the
possibility, we prefer communal
camping grounds. In most cases
they are designed fancifully; the
flair of Africa is noticeable.
Another positive aspect is that
the Kowarib Gorge holds water
almost throughout the year.*

From Springbok Gate to
Sesfontain we cover about
180 km of gravel road. Then
we have to find the entry to the
Houanib. An extremely dusty stretch
lies before us. Treacherous dust holes
up to half a meter deep are frequent and
often the dust overtakes us reducing visibility
to nil. Everybody tries to find their own track
and quite often it turns out to be the wrong
one. We are lucky to have a reliable and
impermeable

ACTION MOBIL.

The HOUANIB and the desert elephants –unique adventure in an incredibly impressive landscape. We nearly brush skins with the pachyderms. Although smaller than the other members of their species in the north, they are more aggressive and irascible.

The entry to the Houanib is moist and swampy. We will be following the course of the river for 60 km.



When these animals are so close to the road you'd better be careful. Otti and Steffi Reitz have been travelling through the Houanib on several occasions. This time an elephant is attacking their car. And yet they are lucky because the cow elephant with its young, in the picture on the left, seemed to be quite harmless. However, when Otti and Steffi had come within 4 metres, the cow elephant stormed to the car and they managed a narrow escape by turning off to the right.