

STEP BACK IN TIME

A UNIQUE COMMEMORATION

5 Sept 1909 – 5 Sept 2009



THE EDUARD BOHLEN - A NAMIB DESERT ICON

2 – 7 SEPTEMBER 2009

(This adventure has been developed as a joint venture between Live the Journey and URI Adventures Namibia)

The Namib is one of the greatest and most unique natural creations on earth. It is the world's smallest desert, but also the oldest (80 million years) with the highest dunes offering an exceptional ecology. The coastline of the Namib is harsh and often referred to as the Skeleton Coast. One of the many skeletons along this coastline is the well-known wreck of the Eduard Bohlen.

On 5 September 1909 the Eduard Bohlen, a 2 272 ton passenger / cargo ship, was on a voyage from Swakopmund to Table Bay. On the day the sea and coast was covered in thick fog. The 310.6 ft ship lost its way and ran aground at Conception Bay about 150 km from Swakopmund. On 5 September 2009, exactly a century ago, this tragic drama occurred. The wreck of the Eduard Bohlen is a desert icon and one of the most photographed shipwrecks.

We believe that "touring should be a life-enriching experience". With this in mind we have planned a unique expedition to commemorate the Eduard Bohlen's 100th year on dry ground. A special 4 x 4 overland trip through concession areas and the Sperrgebiet was designed to ensure that you will be able to lift your glasses in the shade of the Eduard Bohlen on 5 Sept 2009 and to let your imagination run freely on what happened on the doomed day 100 years ago. We would also like to hear your theory on why the shipwreck is nearly 800 meter from the coast.

The Trail

Day 0: (2 September)

Plan your itinerary to arrive in Walvis Bay no later than 17h00. The group will have an informal briefing over dinner at Anchors Restaurant, Walvis Bay starting at 18h30. **(Participants have to organize their own accommodation in Walvis Bay for this night).**



Day 1: (3 September)

We meet each other at 09h00 at the Walvis Bay circle. Each car receives a two-way radio for the duration of the trip.

From Walvis Bay the trail enters at Sandwich Harbour, over a series of very high dunes not only giving the participants a thrilling experience but also offering breathtaking views of Sandwich Harbour.

On our way we will be retracing the route of the paymaster who lost the pay of 500 workers in the sea at Langewand. The story reads that in 1929 Mr. Jan Gaerdes went to Walvis Bay to collect

the monthly payroll of the workers on the diamond fields. On his way to Sandwich Harbour he got involved in a good party with some guano workers stationed temporarily at the outpost. Ignoring the warnings of his friends Mr Gaerdes continued travelling along the beach and high water caught up with him resulting the loss of his cart as well as the sealed steel trunks with the monthly payroll.

Overnight: beach camping Langewand

Day 2: (4 September)

We continue with the journey and places to visit on the way include Conception Bay and the 'police office' at Conception Water.

Conception Bay

Foundations are still visible of the old trolley station, large storage room and the police and customs office. This office was opened in 1909, which was moved to Conception Water. During 1912 a light railway from Conception Bay to Conception Water were constructed.

At Conception Water the ruins of pre-fabricated buildings are still visible. In 1910 it was decided to move the police station from Conception Bay to Conception Water. Unfortunately this hut did not give enough space to accommodate the staff. After several complaints it was decided to move the morgue from Swakopmund to Conception Water, which would serve a better purpose there. Officials had to use the structure for accommodation and duty purposes.

The Bohlen

Transporting of supplies and mine equipment was effected mainly from Swakopmund by ship and the cutter Viking via Sandwich Harbour, Conception Bay and Meob Bay. Various shipping casualties occurred, such as when the Eduard Bohlen intend to off-load mining equipment, It was consequently lost at Conception Bay (1909).

The EDUARD BOHLEN was a 2,272 gross ton passenger / cargo ship, length 310.6ft x beam 38.1ft, single screw, speeds 10.5 knots. Accommodation for 32 -1st and 14-2nd class passengers. Completed Jan.1891 by Blohm & Voss, Hamburg (Yard No.75) for Die Africanische Dampschiffs AG (managed by Woermann Line), Hamburg and used on the Hamburg - West Africa service. 1895 sold to Cie. Maritime Belge du Congo, Antwerp. 1898 purchased by Woermann Line, Hamburg. 5th Sep.1909 ran aground in thick fog and wrecked at Conception Bay while on voyage from Swakopmund to Table Bay with general cargo.

Overnight: camping in the dunes



Day 3 (5 September)

Today we continue with our Journey direction Meob Bay.

In the area between Conception Bay and Meob Bay the mining settlements of Holsatia, Charlottenfelder and Grillenberger were established and no form of engine-driven transport was available during the first 15 years. An example of an ox wagon fitted with special wide iron bands to ease transportation in sandy areas is visible north off Grillenberger. This wagon and surfboats at Meob Bay are examples of pre-World War I historical relicts depicting the immense difficult pioneering days in those inhospitable desert conditions.

Tonight, it 's time to "celebrate" - indeed a historical moment as we will camp at the Eduard Bohlen shipwreck. We will lift the glasses in the shade of the Eduard Bohlen - trying to imagine what happened a century ago!

Overnight: camping at the Eduard Bohlen shipwreck



Day 4 (6 September)

After breakfast we depart for Lauberville camp, which is situated on the banks of the Kuiseb River 35-km southeast of Walvis Bay. It will be quit an exciting 'dune driving' day, crossing the coastal dune belt and linear dunes navigating our way towards the Kuiseb River.

The night is spent at Lauberville Camp a former police training camp.

Day 5 (7 September)

After breakfast, you can start your journey back home!

GPS – Points

Description/Waypoint Name

Langewand
Lauberville
Conception Bay
Conception Water
Meob
Eduard Bohlen
Shawnee
Walvis Bay

Waypoint

S23 34.359 E14 29.512
S23 11.615 E14 39.617
S23 55.799 E14 29.738
S24 00 853 E14 33 226
S24 30.500 E14 37.000
S23 59.757 E14 27.464
S23 40.378 E14 30.173
S22 57.223 E14 30.097

Essentials

The following items is mandatory for each participation vehicle:

- Spade
- 60 liters water in total of which 20 liters will be used by the kitchen and the remainder will be for showering
- bottled water for drinking
- Tyre pressure gauge
- Toilet paper & matches
- Plastic bags to carry waste (e.g. empty cool drink tins, etc)
- Brake fluid
- Gear oil
- Engine oil
- Fuses
- Spare V- Belt set
- Sufficient Petrol/Diesel to cover the distance of 300km – **(600km of normal fuel consumption)**
Heavy sand driving conditions (+/- 3 km/litre and +/- 5 km/litrer consumption for larger petrol and diesel engines respectively) will be experienced.
- **Vehicle to be fitted with points to attach tow ropes both in front and at the rear. NB!!**
- All equipment and luggage must be strapped in and securely fastened
- Vehicle must be loaded in such a way to ensure that the vehicle is not “Top Heavy” – e.g. only light items, camping gear on roof carriers
- **2 Large bags of firewood per vehicle.**
- The trail passes through heavy dune area, which requires high flotation tyres ("fat takkies").

Optionally:

Hi lift Jack & Q20 Spray
Extra Spare wheel (no 6)
Small broom & Small spade

We supply:

- Communication radios for all participating vehicles
- Meals (Only Tea/Coffee and fruit juices supplied with meals)
- “Communal” camping equipment (e.g. braai grid, cooking facilities & equipment, tables, wash-up facilities shower, toilet etc.)

All you need:

- Tent, folding chair & sleepwear (bedroll, tent etc.)
- Eating utensils (cutlery, plate, bowl, glass & mug)
- Own snacks & refreshments (alcoholic beverages, cool drinks etc.)
- Torch & batteries
- Camera (extra films & battery)
- Sunglasses & sun tan lotion
- Clothing (very hot and very cold), toiletries & towels.
- Prescribed medicine
- Small bowl or collapsible wash basin

PRICES

Days / Nights	Adults	0 – 5 Years	6 – 11 Years	12 – 17 Years
5/4	Adults = R5250/p 12 minimum	-	-	-

The above prices include concession fees, levies and accommodation per person.

We can arrange 4x4 and camping equipment rental on your behalf.

Travel insurance and medical evacuation:

In case of a motor vehicle accident your medical evacuation is included in the price. You need your own travel insurance and medical evacuation service in case of a heart attack or any other medical emergency etc. **Please supply detail of this information that we know whom to contact in case of an emergency.**

Emergency Contact number:

Should anybody wishes to contact you whilst on the trip – we will be out of range of any cell phone reception or normal telephone services. We will however be in regular contact with our office in Walvis Bay. Anybody that needs to get hold of you urgently should contact our office + 264 64 220 571. We will then return the call soonest.

Tour Leader: Jurgens Schoeman will be the tour leader on this trip

To make a booking for this special experience, please contact Live the Journey on t +27 (0)21 912 4090, f +27 (0)21 912 4099, e info@livethejourney.co.za



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