

Namtastic!

There's something about Namibia – that magic combination of light and dust, of landscapes and people – that makes it one of the best places in the world for photography. Think endless desert plains strung together by a ribbon of a dirt road; primordial mountains; red dunes nearly 300 m high; the Kunene, Okavango and Kwando rivers; a canyon as spectacular as that one in Arizona...

And let's not forget about the elephants of Damaraland; the lions of Etosha; the forgotten diamond town of Kolmanskop; thousand-year-old rock engravings; the misty shipwrecks that litter the Skeleton Coast and the granite spires of Spitzkoppe.

Our readers obviously love Namibia as much as we do – each month we receive dozens of letters and photographs. Now here's some good news for keen

photographers: In September, you can join *go!* and Mpafa Tours on a guided photographic safari to our northern neighbour. Not only will you get to experience mind-blowing destinations like Sossusvlei and Damaraland, pro photographer Dale Morris will be on hand to help you take some killer photographs. Turn to page 76 for more information.

To whet your appetite, this month we've chosen to showcase some of our favourite shots from Namibia, including one by our very own picture editor and gravel-road addict, Sam Reinders. Sam's tip for a successful Namibian photo safari? Take a can of Dust-Off along – it will quickly become a very dear friend!

The 2013 edition of our popular *go!* Namibia guide will be on shelf from the end of March. Or you can order a copy directly from gomag.co.za/shop

▶ TREE OF LIFE

Jay Roode

"I took this picture from a light aircraft while we were flying above the Namib-Naukluft National Park. This camel thorn tree, which could be up to 1 000 years old, stands rooted in the earth at the end of a river that once flowed through this ancient place of sand and wind. I like how its shadow is reaching in defiance towards a life that could have been."

HOW? Canon 7D, 100 – 400 mm lens, shutter speed 1/2 500 second, aperture f5.6, ISO 250, aperture priority mode.

