



## Capt. Daley's Sea Stories

### Namibia Expedition Swakopmund, 2 of 2

28 March 2011



Swakopmund is a very upscale beach resort. The town buildings are an example of German colonial architecture. The “beach houses” are of a grandiose scale similar to Malibu, California. It was founded in 1892 as the main harbor for German South-West Africa

The majority of towns and villages in Namibia have grown out of indigenous settlements and very often were located close to sources of water. Names of places given by original inhabitants were very descriptive and in many cases those names were retained by European settlers who sometimes simplified pronunciations of the names. The Nama word "Tsoakhaub" can be translated as "excrement opening" which was an offensive but accurate description of the waters of the Swakop River when it flooded, carrying masses of mud, sand, pieces of vegetation and animal corpses to the Atlantic Ocean. The Nama name was changed to "Swachaub" by German settlers and with the proclamation of Swakopmund as an independent district of German South-West Africa in 1896, the present way of writing Swakopmund (meaning Estuary of the Swakop in German) came into use.



Swakopmund is a very clean town.



You can see the German influence in the architecture.



The Krystal Museum is a multi-story complex exhibiting the vast array of gems and crystals found in Namibia. There is also a very pricey store there if you wish to buy one of their creations.



This lady is one of the Herero People belonging to the Bantu Group. There are about 240,000 of them left in southern Africa. Many were killed by the Germans by mass genocide in Lüderitz prior to World War II. They used no clothing at all until they were forced to wear the Elizabethan gowns with distinctive hats. We saw about 50 Herero people.



There were hundreds of large displays in the museum. This geode stands about three feet tall.



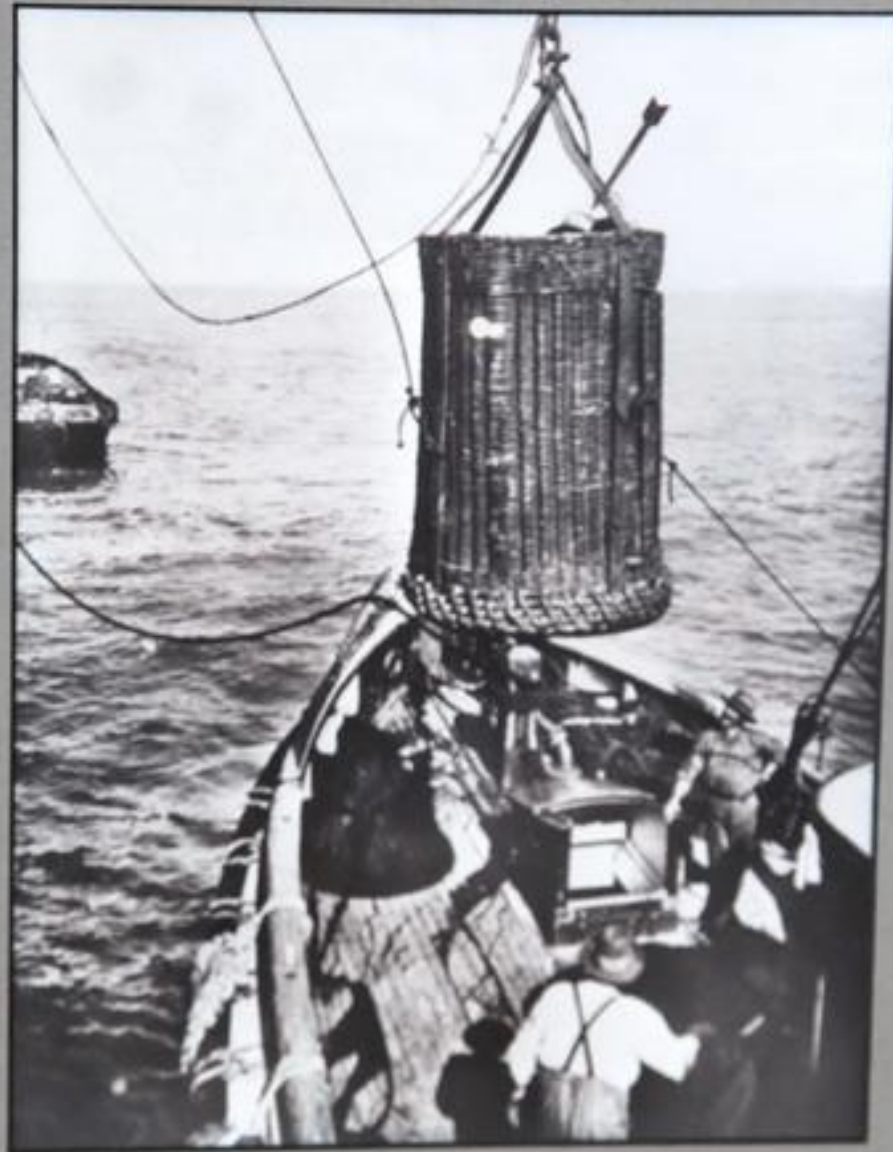
In the end, it was about buying jewelry. They did not allow photos in the store, as they had many very unique designs. This display was outside the shop.



The Swakopmund Museum was built in 1951. It was large and had some unique displays, but it was hot and not air conditioned. I found this display of purse seining particularly interesting.



A Namibian personnel basket from the 1800's shows they had this technology before the oil industry began.



Landungskorb für Passagiere  
Basket for disembarking passengers  
Mandje om passasiers aan wal te silt

This photo shows the basket being used to transfer people to and from boats near shore. The waters may not have been protected enough to tie to a dock and use a gangway.



It looks a bit more comfortable than today's baskets, but a lot more dangerous.



Closely related to the Herero people, the Himba people refused to adapt to the ways of the Europeans. They dress today in the same way they have for hundreds of years, using red tree resin on their skin and mud in their hair to protect them from the sun. These folks were a bit south of the Kunene Region where they live in order to sell their wares to tourists.



The lighthouse of Swakopmund has been a landmark for many years. It is now a restaurant. On 4 August 1892 the crew of a gunboat named Hyäne (German for Hyena) erected two beacons on a large dune, probably in the vicinity of the present lighthouse. This is regarded as the founding date of Swakopmund. The first settlers were 120 Schutztruppe with equipment and 40 settlers who offloaded from the Marie Woermann using four landing boats. The settlers had to build caves on the beach to protect themselves against hostile weather. Before a breakwater was built in 1898, which later became known as the Mole, all offloading was done with special boats that could only be handled by Kroo men from Liberia.



Diane, sporting one of our new African safari hats, is bargaining with the locals over souvenirs. It is the largest collection of souvenirs I've seen yet in Africa. The photo shows less than 10% of the market. They are serious about selling their goods and will stalk you until you buy something.



The furniture in the dining room of the Stiltz Hotel is rustic. But of particular interest is the ebony wood. Notice how only the inner core of the wood is dark. The outer part of the wood is a light color.



Cape Cross Reserve is situated 120km north of Swakopmund on the west coast of Namibia. The reserve is the home of one of the largest colonies of Cape Fur Seals in the world. The name refers to the large stone cross erected in the area by Portuguese explorers in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.



This is only 20% of the seals here. They are spread out everywhere you can see.



The coast is very rocky and the surge very treacherous. Good location to keep the sharks away, their main predator.



Yes, the smell was over-powering, but you get used to it, sort of.



On the drive to the Cape we saw 50 or more road side stands like the one above selling mineral crystals by the honor system. The prices are given on the board. Take your crystal and leave your money in the jar. You know there is little crime in a country when people can make money using the honor system!