

# Namibia Tour Report 2024 Part 2



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oday, I've selected ten images from the last three days of my 2024 Complete Namibia Tour, all from the Etosha National Park. Etosha is a very special African National Park in that, for most of the year, it

isn't a lush green oasis for the wildlife. It's an excellent representation of Namibia as a country, as it's mostly arid, dry land, and the animals have all adapted to harsh conditions. This has become ever more so over the last few years as Namibia continues to be in the grip of a drought that doesn't look set to ease up soon.



## Elephant Approach

We start today with a photo from Okaukuejo water hole, at which a herd of zebra to pay their seems respects approaching elephant. A strange dynamic always comes into play when an elephant arrives at a waterhole, with many animals sitting back, waiting to see how good the elephant's mood is before they venture back to the water to drink. Some animals will stay away entirely until the elephant leaves again.

#### Friendly Kick

Speaking of moods, it was hard to tell if this pair of zebra were friends or foes. The one at the back in this shot continued to chase the

other around for a few minutes, and a couple of times, that hoof caught the jaw of the pursuing zebra and bent its face out of shape for a moment, but it didn't dampen the spirit of the chaser. I chose this shot over the facial

blow shot because it sums up the interaction much better, with the chasing zebra almost looking like it's smiling as the other tries to kick it. See following page.



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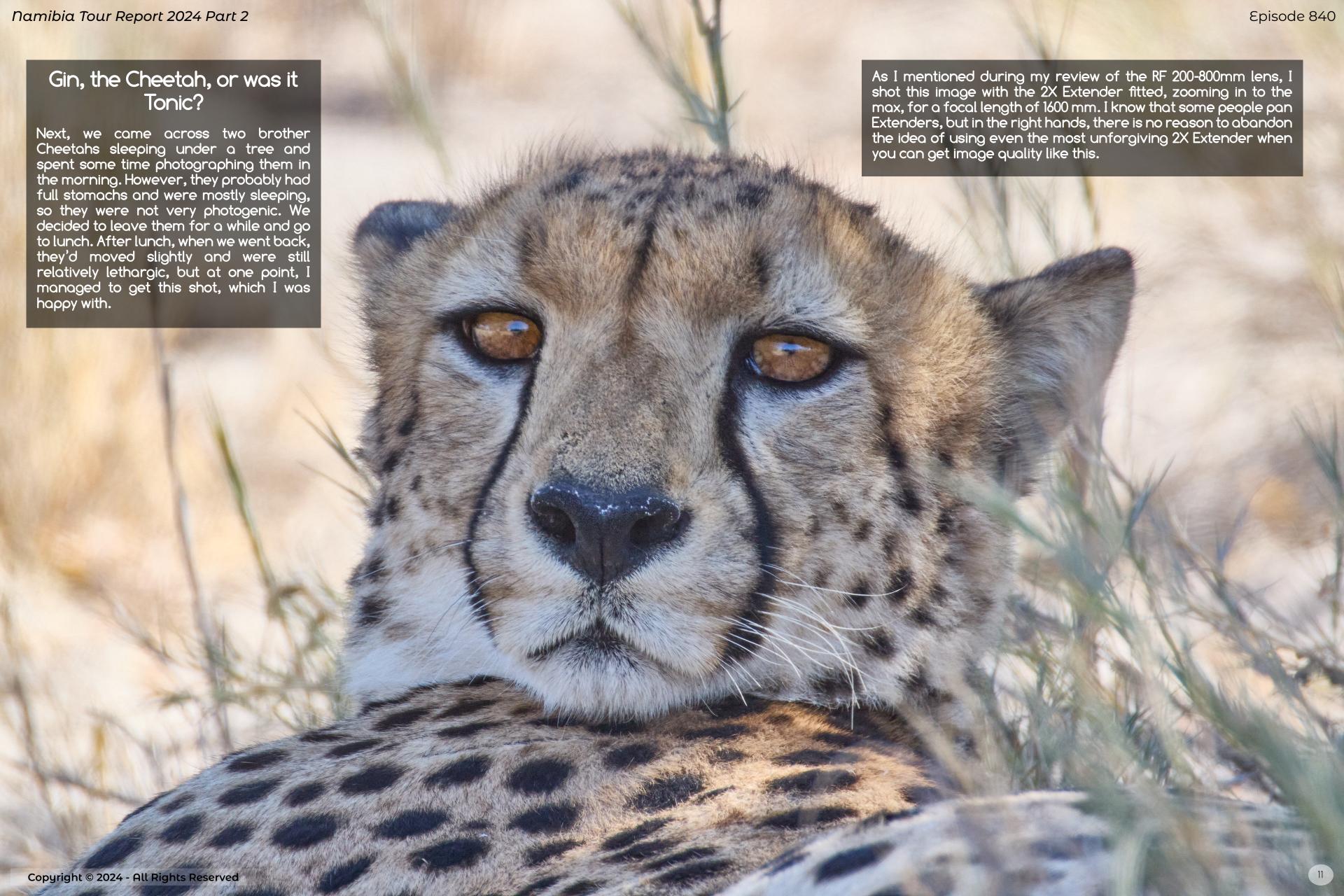


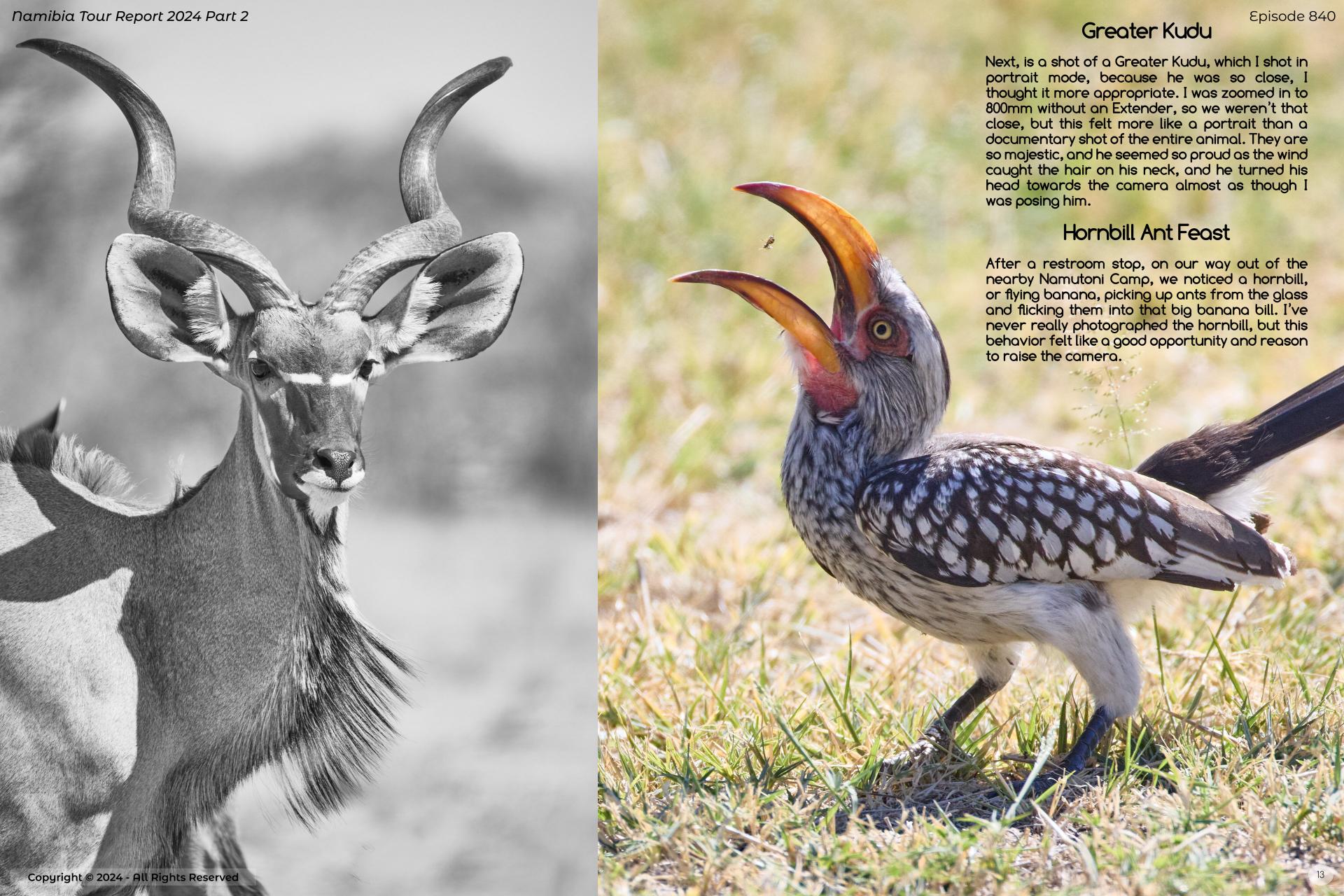


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### Patient Elephants

Finally, we have three elephant photos to look at. This was a fantastic shoot that I won't forget in a hurry. There was a group of probably forty elephants at the waterhole and three or four smaller groups waiting around the edges of the clearing surrounding the waterhole. There was an obvious pecking order, or simply a respect for the group already there, and when they left, another group went to the waterhole, and the rest stayed where they were, and continued waiting.



#### Persecuted Elderly Elephant Mother

Despite the respect shown among the groups, I was somewhat disappointed by the way the groups treated this elderly mother with a teenage child. They stood waiting until all of the larger groups had visited the waterhole, but when around half of the last group had moved on, they approached the waterhole while there was still half a group there and were promptly driven away.

There was room for them at the waterhole,

because they broke the protocol. I couldn't help but wonder why these two elephants were all alone. The mother was older than most mothers with teenage children, and I wondered if that had been a problem in elephant society. Maybe they frown upon elderly females with children rather than

mothers with their children instead. It's pure speculation, of course, but it didn't feel like this was just about the waiting protocol. They both just looked so sad, and it was saddening to watch.







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