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Namib fairy circles
Here's what causes them – p22

Namibia

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COVER PICTURE
JOHAN WAHL

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NAMIBIA BY BIKE

After 3 000 km and 10 weeks, the Wahls reached the Kunene River. Read about their travel philosophy on page 32.

Have you seen Horseshoe Bend in Bwabwata National Park? The Messum Crater? The Palmwag Concession? Be inspired by this compilation of our favourite hidden gems in Namibia on page 40.

HP Steyn and his wife Christa return to Brandberg 55 years after their first visit. Read about their adventures on page 18.

UGAB TERRACE

The Ugab Terrace is a great place to overnight before you head into Damaraland or the Kaokoveld. Why? There are views galore! – p 112

Five things to do in Namibia's biggest harbour town. – p 86

KUISEB CANYON

Pierre Steyn and a team of explorers head out to determine if a hike through the canyon is possible. Did they make it? Find out on page 26.

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See how this coastal town has changed since Bartolomeu Dias first sailed past in 1487. – p 80

Aus, Helmeringhausen and Bethanie are tiny villages with a rich history. – p 66

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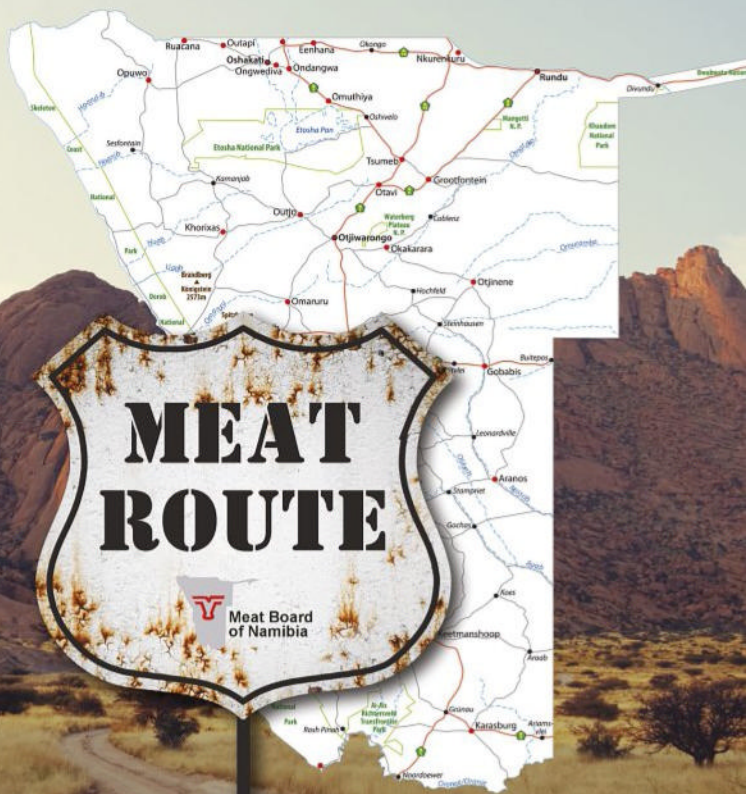
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OUR STORY

Namibia is an arid country with agriculture at the heart of Namibia's economy and of her people.

Meat is produced naturally without the use of growth promoters. Animals are raised on natural pastures with supplement feeding provided to ensure all production needs of the animals are met.

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The **MEAT ROUTE** was developed by the Meat Board of Namibia to showcase Namibia's finest produced meat and to provide our visitors with a guide of where to find the BEST Namibia has to offer.

Participating butchers and stores are located along the most popular Namibian routes and were carefully selected to supply Namibian produced meat in a unique Namibian setting to introduce visitors to our Namibian culture.

Enjoy your stay in Namibia, but most of all,
ENJOY OUR MEAT!





SHELLEY CHRISTIANS

The tonic of wildness...

Namibia has many incredible places I would love to return to again and again, like Spitzkoppe, the Fish River Canyon and Möwe Bay.

But if I had to choose only one, it would be the Skeleton Coast. (Turn to page 40 for more of our favourite destinations.) A few years ago, I interviewed Emsie Verwey, who researches brown hyenas and works at the Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp.

We departed from Doro Nawas lodge about 80 km west of Khorixas in a light aircraft and landed in the desert an hour later.

That afternoon, Emsie took us to a scenic spot for sundowners (pictured). I would never be able to find it again on my own, but it's one of those places where you feel at one with nature, where the scenery overwhelms you and you are content.

In Matt Haig's novel *The Midnight Library*, the main character is spotting for polar bears while on a research excursion in Svalbard. She reflects: "The lonely mind in the busy city yearns for connection because it thinks human-to-human connection is the point of everything. But amid pure nature (or the 'tonic of wildness' as Thoreau called it) solitude took on a different character. It became in itself a kind of connection. A connection between herself and the world. And between her and herself."

I think this quote best captures that distinctive feeling you experience in a truly wild place. Namibia has no shortage of wild places. I hope this guide inspires you to revisit your old favourites – and discover new ones, too.

Emsie
esma.marnewick@weg.co.za

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go! Namibia

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FOR THE DIGITAL MAGAZINE: ✉ zinio.com ✉ magzter.com

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CAPE TOWN POSTAL ADDRESS: PO Box 740, Cape Town, 8000
JOHANNESBURG POSTAL ADDRESS: PO Box 785266,
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Published by Media24, a division of Naspers, 40 Heerengracht, Cape Town, 8001



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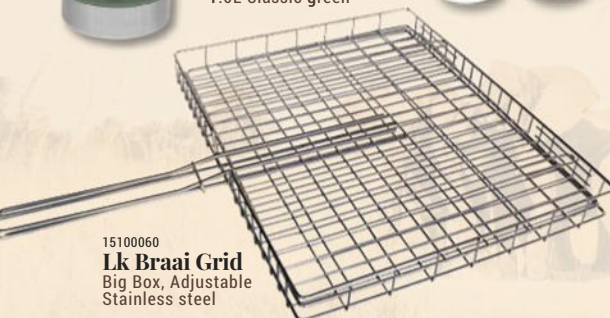
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BEHIND THE SCENES

Photojournalist **Le Roux van Schalkwyk** was born and raised in Windhoek. He studied viticulture at Stellenbosch University, but after a few years in the wine industry he switched to pursuing photography full-time. He works for Venture Media in Windhoek and often visits some of the most scenic places in Namibia, like the Ugab Terrace – read his story on page 112.



Favourite watering hole in Windhoek? The beer garden at UrbanCamp, on the banks of the Klein-Windhoek River. You're in the city but it feels like you're in the bush.

Favourite eatery in the city? Goodfellas Pizza & Pub is always a good option for a burger or a pizza – I usually bump into someone I know there.

Best place for coffee? The Village Garden has a peaceful atmosphere in the heart of the capital.

Best place to escape from the city? I often take my dog Sweet Dee for a walk in the Avis Dam Nature Reserve on the outskirts of Windhoek. There are hiking trails and the dam attracts lots of birds.

Why do people love Namibia so much? You get a feeling of freedom that you don't get in many other places, and it's safe. The road infrastructure is good and most of the scenic spots are fairly accessible.

Any tips for readers planning a holiday to Namibia? Take your time. The country is much bigger than you think. Don't try to see everything in one visit. Plan your tour around a specific region and spend enough time there to experience the place, otherwise you'll spend most of your trip behind the wheel.

Your favourite place? The Kaokoveld.

Next holiday destination? Malawi has always fascinated me – maybe because of all that water in the lake while I live in a desert!

What's always in your travel bag? My Leatherman. It has saved me many times.

Follow Le Roux on Instagram: @lerouxvs



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Photojournalist **Ndinelao Shikemeni** was born in the village of Omatunda in northern Namibia and went to school in Windhoek, where she currently resides. She's the Marketing and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer at Gondwana Collection Namibia. She writes about her favourite places on page 46.

Insider tips for a visit to Windhoek? Go to Single Quarters (also known as the Oshetu Community Market) in the Katutura township for a local delicacy called *kapana* – braaied beef cut into strips and then into smaller pieces.

Your favourite eatery in the city? E.A.T @ boasts a variety of healthy food options.

Best place for coffee? I prefer a chai latte! But coffee drinkers should go to Shema Coffee Roasters, right across from my office – they have some quality roasts.

Your favourite thing to do? I love to hike in the mountains – nature centres me when I feel unbalanced. I often walk in the mountains around Döbra, a settlement about 38 km outside Windhoek on the road to Okahandja.

Best place to escape from the city? My family home in the village of Ongha. It's next to the B1 north of Ondangwa, in the Ohangwena district. It brings me peace and reminds me of my childhood.

Why do you think people love Namibia so much? They appreciate the contrasting landscapes: the arid Namib and the lush landscapes around the rivers in the north-west. Namibia has cultural diversity, too, and the people are so friendly.

Your favourite place? Anywhere close to the Chobe River – there's something special about looking at Botswana from Chobe River Camp. You can hear lions roaring at night from the comfort of your tented chalet.

Your next holiday destination? Lamu Island off the coast of Kenya. I'm captivated by the local culture.

What's always in your travel bag? Vaseline to avoid dry lips, and my camera to capture moments to cherish forever.

Visit linktr.ee/Ndinelao for more of her work.



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PARK FEES

The daily park fee for SADC residents is R100 per adult and R50 per child under 16, plus R50 per vehicle. This is for |Ai-|Ais, Etosha, Namib-Naukluft, Dorob, the Waterberg Plateau, Skeleton Coast, Sperrgebiet and Cape Cross.

Entrance to the other parks costs R70 per adult and R30 per child, plus R50 per vehicle (or more, depending on vehicle size). Remember to budget for park fees if you plan to stay over in a national park.

GET DISCOUNTS WITH THESE CARDS

NamLeisure. With a NamLeisure Card in your wallet, you get 25% discount on all formal accommodation (excluding camping), meals and activities at NWR. A solo card costs R500 per person; a family card (two parents and two children aged 13 – 17) costs R1 400. The card is valid for 12 months. These are SADC rates; other packages are available. Apply at nwr.com.na or contact ct.bookings@nwr.com.na. It's cheaper to pay via EFT than by credit card.

Note: The NWR rates listed in this guide are discounts for local visitors and SADC residents and are valid until 31 October. (Card holders will get a further discount on the lower rates, but it's not quite 25%.) The rates will increase on 1 November. At the time of going to print, a possible SADC discount on the new rates was in the works – enquire when you book.

Gondwana Card. SADC residents and Namibians get discounts on all accommodation at the Gondwana Collection's network of lodges. Even if you just stay for one night, it's worthwhile getting the card: R300 per adult; R150 per child aged 6 – 13; free for children under 6. SADC travellers receive a 40% discount on accommodation – camping and Camping2Go tented camps included, except for the campsite and the Geisterschlucht Cabin at Klein-Aus Vista. You also get 25% off dinner and other activities. The card is valid for five years.

☎ 00 264 61 427 200; gondwana-card.com

MAPS

We've divided Namibia into three sections: South (p 56), Central (p 74) and North (p 106). Each section includes a map, highlights in the area, and accommodation options.

Rates. The accommodation entries give an overview of the kind of options on offer, as well as the price range. Rates and other prices were correct at the time of going to print and are subject to change without notice. Use them as a guideline – always call or e-mail to check beforehand. Some of the owners were hesitant to provide set rates due to fluctuating fuel prices and currencies. Rates often go up on 1 July or 1 November. We publish a new version of this guide every year. Please don't turn up at a place with a 2013 Namibia guide and insist on that price!

Discounts. When you book accommodation, be sure to mention you're South African. Residents of SADC countries – 16 African nations, including South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Angola and Mozambique – sometimes get a discount. (Some of the rates in this guide already reflect this discount.) Also enquire about discounts for children, off-peak rates, and specials.

Children. We haven't included rates for children. Most places charge half-price for children aged 3 – 12, and children younger than 3 often stay for free. Check with the place you want to stay at.



Affordable. This icon indicates that the place listed has at least one budget option, not including camping. In our books, "budget" means formal accommodation like a chalet or permanent safari tent for R500 per person or less. (Note: The icon doesn't mean *all* the options at a particular establishment are budget!)

Money. We've listed all rates in rand: R1 is equal to N\$1, and you can use South African currency anywhere.

Telephone numbers. If you're calling from South Africa, dial 00 264 before every number. Our contact details are listed this way – put the number in as it's published and you should get through. Keep in mind that some numbers are for farms – it's best to call in the early evening.

Websites. Some websites require you to type "www" into the address bar, others don't.

GPS location. We've only listed the GPS location of a particular place if you can't find that place on Google Maps. We've used the decimal degree format for GPS co-ordinates: Set your GPS to the same format to avoid confusion. We checked all the co-ordinates using Google Earth, but there might be small discrepancies.

Guides and maps. This guide is best used in conjunction with other quality guides and maps. We recommend the Tracks4Africa GPS Namibia map and guide (tracks4africa.co.za). Get at least two different maps so you can compare them.



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PASSPORT. It needs to be valid for six months or more from the date you plan to leave Namibia, and it should have at least two blank pages.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES. All children under 18 need an unabridged birth certificate to cross the border unless they have a passport with their parents' names listed in the back.

DRIVING LICENCE. Your South African licence is valid in Namibia – keep it at hand.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS. Bring the original or certified copies of these documents. Remember the papers for the trailer or caravan.

LETTER OF AUTHORISATION. If you're still paying off your car, you need a letter of authorisation from the bank. If the car you're travelling in doesn't belong to you, you need a letter written by the owner giving you permission to take it across the border.

The letter should include the vehicle registration number, the owner's full name, ID number and physical address. The dates that you will be in the country also need to be specified.

EMERGENCY GEAR. You need at least one emergency triangle per vehicle.

ZA STICKER. Required. Stick it to the back of your vehicle. Border officials didn't pay much attention to this sticker in the past, but our sources in Namibia say police officers now pull visitors over and you can get a fine of R500 if you don't have one.

PEN. Not compulsory, but having your own ballpoint pen will speed up the paperwork process!

A SMILE AND PATIENCE. The customs official behind the counter can end your holiday before it even begins – be friendly.

BORDER FEES

Have enough cash on hand. The current border fee is R371 per vehicle (including double-cab bakkies and kombis) and R236 per trailer and motorbike. You can pay in rand (R1 = N\$1), but bear in mind that prices may go up unexpectedly. See the maps for border post times (South p 60; Central p 78; North p 110).

STAY IN TOUCH

Most places to stay have Wi-Fi (often free), but it's convenient to have a prepaid MTC SIM card in Namibia. To get a card, you have to go to a cellphone shop, register and show your ID. Pack extra patience for this task.

HELLO, BOT

Do you need the latest Covid-19 regulations or visa requirements in Namibia? Send a WhatsApp message to the Namibia Travel & Tourism Forum's InfoBot. Send your question to 00 264 85 626 4242 and the bot will respond with a menu. Follow the prompts until you have your answer. You can also send specific questions to info@travel.na



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SA High Commission in Windhoek

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Namibian High Commission in Pretoria

☎ 012 481 9100; ✉ secretary@namibia.org.za

Meat Board of Namibia

☎ 00 264 61 275 830 (Windhoek)

✉ nammic.com.na

Namibian Consulate

☎ 021 419 2810 (Cape Town)

Road Fund Administration

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Ministry of Internal Affairs

☎ 00 264 61 292 2111

Namibia Tourism Board

☎ 00 264 61 290 6000; ✉ visitnamibia.com.na

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TOAST COETZER



RUACANA EHA LODGE

COVID-19

There are currently no regulations in place.

VISA & MEDICAL

VISA. South Africans may visit for 90 days without a visa.

VACCINATIONS OTHER THAN COVID. Not compulsory, but it's a good idea to be up to date with your yellow fever, hepatitis A and anti-tetanus shots.

MALARIA. Take precautions if you're visiting the north.

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FOOD & CUSTOMS RESTRICTIONS

MEAT. At the time of going to print, South Africans were not allowed to take meat of cloven-hoofed animals (including dried meat like droëwors and biltong) across the border into Namibia due to a local foot-and-mouth outbreak. Buy your meat in Namibia. The ban might be lifted at any time. Contact the Meat Board of Namibia for updates ☎ 00 264 61 275 830. The board has launched a new Meat Route – turn to page 6 to see where you can buy quality chops.

Normally, if you're travelling from SA to Namibia, each person is allowed to bring in 25 kg of meat (beef, mutton, venison, chicken – a maximum of 75 kg per vehicle). All meat should preferably be vacuum-packed – and keep the receipts. Returning to SA, you can take back 10 kg of biltong/droëwors and 25 kg of red meat per person. (You must be older than 12 to "carry" meat and no more than three people per vehicle may transport meat.)

FISH. You need to buy a Recreational Import Permit (R505) from the SA Department of Fisheries to bring up to 30 fish per angler back into SA. There is a limit of 10 fish on the following species: kabeljou, steenbras, galjoen and white seabream. The fish should be frozen and in polystyrene containers. ✉ CSCenquiries@dffe.gov.za; ☎ callcentre@environment.gov.za

GIFTS, ALCOHOL & CIGARETTES. Gifts worth up to R1 250 and personal items are duty-free. Each person may bring into Namibia: two cartons of cigarettes; 50 cigars and 250 g tobacco; 2 ℓ wine and 1 ℓ spirits; 50 ml perfume and 250 ml eau de toilette. You may not take braai wood or maize meal across the border. You're not allowed to pick up stones in Namibia and smuggle them back across the border.

DECLARE YOUR VALUABLES. Write down the serial numbers of your camera, lenses, cellphone and GPS devices beforehand, to make them easier to declare. Make sure you leave nothing out – sometimes you run into an official hell-bent on giving you trouble.

REMEMBER! The above regulations may change at short notice.

KEEP IN MIND

- Expect delays at border posts – add two hours to your itinerary for every border crossing, even if it normally only takes 45 minutes. Smaller border posts are usually much faster than those on busier routes.
- Even if a town has a filling station, it might not always have fuel. Fill your tank wherever you can.
- Travel with a variety of debit and credit cards, such as MasterCard, Visa and Maestro, as some ATMs and pay points don't accept certain cards. Travel with cash in remote regions where electronic pay points are scarce.



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HP next to their tent and VW Kombi at Brandberg in the 1970s.

Fifty not out!

He's lost count of how many times he's been to Namibia since his first visit in 1966. **HP Steyn** shares half a century's worth of adventures.

On a cold winter morning in July 2022, my wife Christa and I were shivering in Pretoria and we decided we urgently had to find a warmer place to spend our time. We chose Brandberg in Namibia, which we'd visited for the first time as an engaged couple 55 years previously, in 1967.

The first 4x4 vehicle I owned was a small Jeep and that's what we set off in, all those years ago. We wanted to see the north-western parts of the country, mainly Damaraland – a place that would draw us back many times in the future.

I had lived in Namibia as a child, but it was Christa's first time in the country. My first time back under my own steam had been in 1966, when my Namibian friend Hennie Mynhardt and I drove to Windhoek in a Volkswagen Beetle. I remember my parents paying R1 360 for the Beetle and the trip from Cape Town cost about R10 in fuel. Still, money was tight and we didn't have enough to pay for accommodation, so we slept on the ground next to the car.

I haven't kept count of my visits to Namibia. After 1966, however, there were very few years when I *didn't* go there. I've travelled as a student, as an anthropological researcher, as a tourist, angler and desert enthusiast. I even wrote a book in 1984 called *Die Namib en die Kalahari Dorslande van Suider-Afrika*.

Comparing modern-day Namibian highways with those in the 1960s has a way of making you feel like a time traveller. Then, most were still untarred or still being built; the tourism industry was in its infancy and things like supermarkets, restaurants, lodges and guesthouses didn't exist. Luckily most big towns had a German bakery where you could enjoy coffee and brötchen.

Our vehicles were also fairly primitive – as was our gear. When you ran into trouble, you had to sort it out yourself. Emergency equipment like satellite phones were the stuff of science fiction. Of course, it was also possible to keep vehicles on the road with pliers, wire and duct tape back then.

Luxuries like air conditioning were unheard of. If you wanted to brave a 45°C day in the south, you had two options: either drive

with your windows down and a scorching dust wind in your face, or keep your windows closed and simmer in a pool of sweat. No wonder a beer in the next town tasted much better than it does today!

Camping gear was basically from the Stone Age. Off-road caravans, rooftop tents, camping fridges, inflatable mattresses, solar panels... Dream on! Our idea of luxury was to put a few sheets of newspaper between your sleeping bag and the stretcher bed to stave off the worst of the cold. That's if you got a stretcher bed. Our young daughters slept on top of the supply trunks. Tents didn't have built-in ground sheets and we had many unpleasant encounters with scorpions.

That's not to say we were unwilling to try out new innovations. In the 1980s, a day before we departed on a winter tour of Etosha and Sossusvlei with friends, one of those friends showed up with a 5-litre box of wine. He declared we'd no longer need to travel with wine bottles – this new container would supply enough wine for two weeks. At our first stop in Ai-Ais, he tried to lift the tap out with a knife and punctured the bag. Crisis! He poured the contents into a big plastic basin and we filled our tin mugs whenever we wished. This wine-drinking method was much too easy and led to increased consumption. The two-week supply barely lasted until the third night.

Speaking of thirst... You should never travel without drinking water in Namibia. In my younger days, every bakkie and car had a water bag hanging from the bumper. People would hang it on a hook so it could swing around without damaging the paintwork. On a dirt road, the bag would soon be covered in a layer of dust and mud, which gave the water an earthy taste that bottled water will never match.

But I digress. In that winter of 2022, we set off from Pretoria in our heavily laden Suzuki Jimny, along the Trans-Kalahari Highway through Botswana. The tar road

was a dream to drive, but in the 1960s it was a challenging track and you'd often pass trucks broken down or bogged in the sand.

The railway line from Windhoek ended in Gobabis. From there, trucks transported big loads to north-western Botswana. The sand would often give old trucks their deathblow, especially in summer.

*Camping gear was
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*We scrambled to get
to the safety of the
car as the elephant
tossed our camping
chairs around.*

They were repaired in the middle of the road and sometimes it took three or four days. The driver and anyone else travelling with him would get branches and make an awning against the truck for shade. They'd camp under the chassis. The blinding heat meant they could only work from dawn until 11 am, and from 4 pm until sundown.

There were no roadworks back then, either. The sand tracks were graded every once in a while, by a tractor pulling a fallen tree.

We reached Brandberg in one piece. There were no facilities in the old days. You could camp anywhere and explore the kloofs freely. Now we camped at Brandberg White Lady Lodge, next to the Ugab River. Our camping stand had a braai and washing-up sink. Little did we know it would attract other visitors as well...

The desert elephants arrived the next morning. They'd figured out how to open the taps with their trunks. The elephant that visited our tap was irritated when there was only a thin stream of water, and it ripped the tap from the wall.

We scrambled to get to the safety of the car as the elephant tossed our camping chairs around. Thank goodness it eventually decided to leave us in peace.

That's the thing about Namibia: It's a country where you can still experience true adventure. This wasn't my first encounter with elephants. In 1970, I travelled with a local missionary called Sarel Visser. One night we camped at Sanitatis in the Kaokoveld. Sarel knew about a black rhino and her calf that roamed the area; we wanted to get a closer look. We left our vehicles in a dry riverbed and climbed a koppie for a better view. We waited. Darkness fell and just as we were dozing off, the rhino snorted nearby. In the dim light of a sickle moon, we could make out the horn and we scrambled for higher ground with speed and agility we didn't know we possessed. Catching our breath high on a rock, we heard stones scattering as the rhino rushed around in the dark.

Our interest in rhinos had evaporated. We checked to see if the coast was clear and hastily made our way back to the vehicles. But Sarel realised that he'd left his prized leather jacket behind during our evacuation! We had to go back or hyenas would gnaw on it during the night.

Sarel needed his hands to feel around in the dark

for the jacket. I was appointed as his bodyguard. I carried his rifle, which only had one bullet – not a reassuring thought. I had absolutely no desire to shoot a rhino, but I also didn't want to be trampled by one. We scuffled down the koppie in the darkness and retrieved the jacket without incident or loss of life. Elated, we set off for the

vehicles again, but we'd only progressed a few steps when Sarel came to a sudden stop. "Elephants," he whispered. "I can hear their stomachs rumbling."

We inched along and I mentally prepared myself for another frenzied escape, but luckily my worries were for naught. We reached the vehicles at a brisk jog, made camp and threw some logs onto the fire just in case.

The next morning, the only signs of the previous night's excitement were rhino and elephants tracks in the sand.

After Brandberg, Christa and I drove to the coast. I wanted to try and catch a galjoen. Because we were travelling alone, we stuck to the main roads. It can be lonely if something happens to you or your vehicle on one of Namibia's quiet back roads...

In 1989, I was travelling with my friend Niel Matthee and his teenage sons. On the way to the Kuiseb River, the rear wheel of Niel's Land Cruiser fell off. The wheel bolts had sheared and the spare wheel was useless. We made camp and waited for another vehicle to pass, but after waiting for three days we realised we'd have to make another plan. Niel's sons Johan and Fanie set out on foot in the cool of night and reached the research station at Gobabeb the next morning. From there, they could order the necessary parts from Walvis Bay.

Sometimes, pure luck can save the day. In the late 1990s, a man camped next to us at Ai-Ais and told us he and his wife had just returned from the Kaokoveld. In a convoy of one, they'd driven as far as the Hartmann Mountains, surely one of the most remote places in Namibia. One morning in the wilderness, the man was shocked to find that both of the vehicle's batteries had died during the night. There was no way to start the diesel engine in the dunes. He described how he walked away into the landscape – not to think up a plan, but to figure out how he'd give his wife the bad news! Discouraged, he sat down and couldn't believe his ears when he heard

a vehicle engine in the distance. He ran to the sand road and waited. It was two German tourists who had lost their way and who were just as happy to find someone to lead them out of the bundu!

Three weeks later, Christa and I arrived back home in Pretoria. More than 50 years of travelling in Namibia has brought us many highlights. A short list of my favourites would include the Gaub and Kuiseb rivers in flood; the blue-green grass plains of the Marienfluss Valley after good rain; and Brandberg's rock art. Above all, the charm and authenticity of the people of Namibia.

Have I seen everything there is to see? Definitely not. I turn 80 this year and Christa is 76. Our daughters will protest, but if life allows it, we'll head north again next year. We wouldn't have it any other way.

From the top: This sand road in the Ghanzi district of Botswana – photographed in the late 1960s – was part of the road that is now known as the Trans-Kalahari Highway.

HP and Christa in front of their first Land Rover, near Etosha in 1969.

Christa often baked pot bread on their camping holidays.

The Steyns and their Jimny at home in Pretoria this year.

HP, Niel Matthee and his sons were forced to pitch their tent when they were left stranded in the Namib Desert in 1989.





Namibia's greatest unsolved mystery

For as long as anyone can remember, strange circular blemishes have pockmarked the Namib Desert. On campuses and in campsites, from Hamburg to Henties, scientists and road trippers have argued about what causes Namibia's fairy circles. Now the debate has been whittled down to two theories, and both sides insist that they're right. . .

BY NICK DALL

"On the eastern edge of the Namib Desert, millions of ochre-coloured bare patches in the grass have created landscapes of unique beauty that are often regarded as one of the greatest mysteries in ecology," writes Norbert Jürgens, head of the Biodiversity Working Group in the Department of Biology at the University of Hamburg, in a recent book entitled *Fairy Circles of the Namib Desert*. Sometimes, tall grasses grow on the perimeter of these barren patches – forming what are known as "fairy rings".

Until the 1970s, nobody gave the fairy circles, which range from 3 m to 20 m in diameter, much thought. The local Himba people will tell you they've always been there – and that they make great animal kraals. If myths ever existed about the fairy circles, they've long since been lost to history. The first known mention of the bare patches of land comes in a 1971 paper on the Kaokoveld by ecologist Ken Tinley (of Londolozi fame), and the first person to report the local Namibian use of the term "fairy rings" was Eugene Moll in 1994.

Fairy circles occur from north-western South Africa to south-western Angola and are best seen in the Namib Desert. The only other place where fairy circles also appear is in the deserts of Australia.

Over the years there have been quite a few theories about what causes fairy circles. Some say – half-jokingly, we hope – that they’re old UFO landing spots. (That’s a lot of UFOs!) Others have suggested they’re the sleeping places of Namibia’s national animal, the gemsbok.

Jokes aside, there are actually four credible theories as to the origins of the fairy circles:

1 The sand termite hypothesis

This hypothesis is championed by Norbert Jürgens and it goes something like this: Sand termites of the genus *Psammotermes*, which live underground in a fragile tunnel system, create bare patches by killing the grasses in a circular area. According to Jürgens, this allows “rainwater to rapidly percolate into the deeper soil where the moisture remains stored for years”. The unique ecosystem allows rich flora to live on the fringes of the water-storing fairy circles.

2 The self-regulation hypothesis

This theory was inspired by the work of legendary English mathematician Alan Turing. “Plants [specifically *Stipagrostis* grasses] are forced to create these circles to redistribute water to maximise their chances of survival,” says Stephan Getzin, a desert ecologist at the University of Göttingen, who has published around a dozen papers in support of the theory. “We call it ecosystem engineering.”

3 The Euphorbia toxicity hypothesis

In 2008, Angelique Joubert, a postgraduate student at the University of Pretoria, was the first to propose that a milky, toxic sap produced by *Euphorbia* plants might be killing the grass in places where it once grew. Her theory has since been taken up by plant and soil scientist Marion Meyer, also at the University of Pretoria.

4 The geochemical gas hypothesis

This position argues that micro-seepage of gases and hydrocarbons from deep within the earth inhibits plant germination and growth, causing the fairy circles.

The first two theories have dominated scientific debate, with Jürgens on one side and Getzin on the other. In November 2022, Getzin wrote a paper none-too-subtly titled, *Plant water stress, not termite herbivory, causes Namibia’s fairy circles*. After examining five different plots of land in four Namibian regions over a period of three years, Getzin and his colleagues wrote: “While the mechanistic simplicity of this termite theory enjoys popularity, it has been questioned over the years



for several reasons. Most researchers have shown with extensive excavations of fairy circles that termites or their nests are largely absent and that termite correlation with some fairy circles does not imply causation.”

A month later, Jürgens released his 376-page book *Fairy Circles of the Namib Desert* – the culmination of 42 years of work in all corners of the Namib Desert. The book seeks to be “the first comprehensive compilation of all the facts, arguments and observations about the Namib Fairy Circles”.

The book is thorough, and it acknowledges that “the debate on the origins of the fairy circles is far from being settled”, but it’s not unbiased either. Of the self-regulation hypothesis, Jürgens writes: “Competition and feedback processes among plants cannot explain the absence of plants in the moistest compartment in the landscape, i.e. the bare patch of fairy circles. The proposed cumulative water scarcity patterns across the field cannot explain the death of grass in the bare patch.”

As UCT ecophysiologist Michael Cramer told *The New York Times*: “The to and fro between opposing camps has often been nothing less than vitriolic.” Cramer added: “Each publication has been hailed as having finally



NORBERT JÜRGENS

‘solved’ the fairy circle ‘mystery’ in the popular media ... [this] is not the norm for science.”

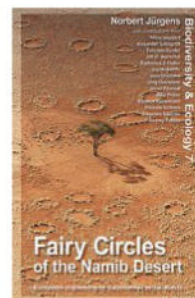
As a humble journalist, I don’t know nearly enough to suggest which side is more likely to be right. But it’s not all bad. If you ever find yourself arguing about the origin of the fairy circles over a six pack of Tafel Lagers in the campsite at Sesriem, at least you’ll know you’re in good company. Not even people with doctorates and decades of experience can agree to disagree about them!

You can find Getzin’s paper *Plant water stress, not termite herbivory, causes Namibia’s fairy circles* on [sciencedirect.com](https://www.sciencedirect.com).

WHERE TO FIND FAIRY CIRCLES

Jürgens and his colleagues have identified 1 850 spots containing fairy circles, ranging from north-western South Africa to south-western Angola. Many of the best locations are found in the Namib Desert, between 50 and 100 km from the Atlantic coast. Here are two of our favourites:

- NamibRand Nature Reserve, south of Sossusvlei
- The Hartmann and Marienfluss (pictured) valleys in the Kaokoveld (4x4 only)



GET THE BOOK

While there’s no denying that Fairy Circles of the Namib Desert is a manifesto of sorts, it’s still a valuable resource for anyone who wants to find out (much) more about the fairy circles. You’ll learn about the different types of circles, where they typically occur, and you’ll be treated to a deep dive into the work that Jürgens and his colleagues have done over decades. With more than 800 photographs, diagrams and maps, it’s a much easier read than your average academic tome; and it’s handily arranged in such a way that all the information for lay readers is contained in the first five chapters.

R830 at namibiabooks.com

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Explorers of the Kuiseb

When you're invited to be one of the first people to explore a wild canyon for seven days on foot, you say yes! And only later do you wonder why nobody else has ever done this...

WORDS & PICTURES **PIERRE STEYN**





On paper, the mission looks simple: Walk through the Kuisieb Canyon from east to west over the course of a week, to see whether it can be a safe and “official” hiking trail.

The canyon is not completely untouched – there have been people here before. During World War II, two young German geologists, Henno Martin and Hermann Korn, hid out here with their dog Otto for two years. They were afraid that the government would lock them up. Martin wrote about their hardships in *The Sheltering Desert*, a Namibian classic.

Our entrance into the canyon is about 140 km east of Walvis Bay, near the C14. A cave in which Martin and Korn lived is close to the road and open to the public. Not far from this cave, the Kuisieb River runs through an imposing gorge all the way to Homeb, a Topnaar settlement.

South of this 160 km-long slash in the landscape are the red dunes of the Namib; to the north are sheer, sunburnt cliffs. There are no humans in sight. The Kuisieb is only known to leopards, zebra, gemsbok, jackals, baboons and brown hyenas.

There is a surprising amount of water in the Kuisieb Canyon – even though you’re in the middle of the desert. You’ll get more than just your feet wet.

Remember, it's a recce

"We don't know how far you'll hike each day, where you'll be able to climb out of the canyon or where you'll camp. It's a recce, after all," says Jurgens Schoeman, owner of the tour company Live the Journey, to our group of 20 guinea pigs, not assuaging our nerves one bit.

The group mostly consists of hikers who have met Jurgens over the years. We're gathered at the Walvis Bay Yacht Club for dinner. Jurgens has been dreaming of a hike in this pristine section of the Namib-Naukluft National Park for a long time. It's June 2022 and after years of negotiations with the Namibian authorities, he has finally received permission to do a recce in the Kuiseb Canyon. Banie Erasmus and Cobus Steenkamp, two friends who hiked a section of the canyon under their own steam more than a decade ago, are the only ones who know what to expect.

Every day, the hikers will tackle the canyon wearing daypacks; Jurgens and his team of seven 4x4 vehicles will drive to suitable places to camp along the southern plateau. These sites should preferably be close to a ravine or a game track that leads to the canyon floor – escape routes, if you will. The support team has already identified camping sites on the plateau; now we have to find out whether the hikers will be able to reach them.

The hiking group is armed with two-way radios, satellite phones and a thirst for adventure. We'll know whether that's enough by tomorrow night...

A bit of a scramble

The drive from Walvis Bay to the cave takes about two hours – enough time to realise that Cobus will be the comedian on the trail. He's dressed in trousers with suspenders, a formal shirt, a hat he found in a pawn shop, and worn-out boots. He cut the soles for his boots from old rubber car mats. His daypack belongs in a hiking museum. "I'm the spitting image of a German geologist from the 1940s who wants to go hide in the desert," he says.

(Cobus will soon grow to regret his outfit – that night he has sore muscles and an impressive collection of blisters on almost every toe. Fortunately, he did pack more suitable attire and his historical outfit doesn't make another appearance.)

It's a sunny, windless morning next to the C14, and a 10-minute walk to the cave. Martin and Korn sought shelter here and cooked under the rock overhang many years ago.

From the cave, it's a two-hour hike to the canyon along a tributary. We check the co-ordinates on our GPS from time to time. Any sign of a path has been wiped away by

the wind – we follow the contours of the landscape like the animals that come to the river to drink.

Early on, we come across the first of many natural obstacles – a 10m cliff with a pool of water at its base. We have to get down the rock face somehow. A waterfall clearly flows here after rain. We can make out a faint path used by zebras to get down the side and we follow it at a shuffle.

It's a relief to step out of the narrow, claustrophobic ravine and into the spacious canyon. The dry riverbed, filled with white sand and grey pebbles, unfolds in front of us. We turn right and head towards Homeb, which is seven days away. Cliffs tower on both sides, growing higher every day.

The Kuiseb is a seasonal river that only flows for two or three weeks a year – usually in January, February or March – before it disappears into the sand dunes near Walvis Bay.

"You wouldn't expect to find water here, but just wait. We're going to swim a lot," says Cobus. "There are big pools in the narrow sections. Some are so big you will find fully grown carp in there, even in the middle of winter."

It's about 10km to the planned exit route near the GPS co-ordinates for the first campsite on the plateau. The group soon falls into a rhythm that will remain consistent for the rest of the week: An experienced hiking guide, equipped with a two-way radio and GPS, takes the lead and another brings up the rear; the other hikers concertina in the middle. The first day is filled with small talk but as the canyon takes hold of our thoughts, we all fall silent. It's a good silence.

One of the biggest challenges we'd face on the entire hike occurs on the first day. We reach the GPS co-ordinates in the late afternoon; now to find the exit route... Problem is, there are six or seven small ravines within a 1 km stretch and they all look promising. We scramble up one for 20 minutes until we reach an impassable cliff and have to turn around. Okay, next one. Ugh, no, the next one maybe?

Thank goodness for Banie. The landscape architect from Middelburg in Mpumalanga is quickly dubbed the human mountain goat. He's a keen trail runner, able to complete a half-hour-slog up a ravine in 10 minutes.

On the third try, he finds a ravine that goes to the top. It's a steep climb and we have to watch where we step.

A hot bucket shower awaits at camp. After we've pitched our tents, we sit around the campfire with a beer and a plate of braai meat. The big talking point is how difficult it is to get into and out of the canyon. Jurgens and his team take out their laptops to study Google Maps.

"There might be an easier route down tomorrow morning," he says.

Opposite page, clockwise from top left: The escape routes from the canyon floor to the plateau required careful navigation. The rewards at the top included a hot shower, braai and the comfort of a tent. On the morning descent into the canyon, the recce team were greeted by incredible views. There are deep rock pools, full of fish, where the Kuiseb is at its narrowest.



ADVENTURE KUISEB CANYON

Days in the canyon

There isn't an easier route down. What seemed doable on a satellite photo ends in a chasm after half an hour. We can see the white sand of the canyon floor below, but there's no way to reach it without ropes and rock-climbing gear.

The best route is the one we followed out of the canyon yesterday. Pfft.

Things continue in the same vein for the next few days. The canyon becomes steeper, narrower, more spectacular. It feels like we're the last people on earth. We walk long distances in silence and when we do talk, it's to say what a privilege it is to be here. There not a piece of paper or plastic in sight. No sign of human anything. Lots of leopard tracks; the occasional skeleton of a zebra; the skull of a gemsbok.

Near a big pool below a cliff, we see baboon spoor intersecting with leopard tracks. They kicked up sand. I feel like a forensic investigator trying to make sense of a crime scene.

We swim when it gets too hot and doze off after lunch under ana trees or rock overhangs.

Late in the afternoon, tension fills the air. "Exit anxiety" someone names the feeling. Where will we exit the canyon today? Will it be difficult? Will we get to the camp before dark?

On the third day we reach the plateau relatively quickly, but still have to hike 5 km to get to the campsite. Several smaller ravines follow and only then am I handed a cold beer.

On the fourth day it takes us more than nine hours to hike 30 km. The canyon is at its narrowest. In places, we have to swim through deep, dark pools with our daypacks held aloft. I feel as if I can touch the cliffs on both sides if I stretch out my arms. We climb over giants blocks of rock that have tumbled into the canyon over centuries. They're several storeys high and covered in tree debris – evidence of the power of the Kuiseb in flood.

I'm amazed, but also a little worried: If someone gets hurt, no rescue vehicle or helicopter will be able to reach us here. We'd have to carry the injured hiker out. I can't help but think to myself that humans don't belong in this part of the canyon.

The promised land

After four days, the idea of an official hiking trail in the canyon seems unattainable, hampered by logistical challenges and exit anxiety.

But after 80 unforgettable kilometres, the Kuiseb meets Jurgens halfway. It will be easier for the hikers and the support team to reach each other between here and Homeb. On the sixth day, we set up camp inside the canyon because the vehicles can drive up the course of the river to get to the site.

That's not to say the canyon becomes any tamer or less scenic. On one side, the dunes of the Namib push their sandy feet against the edge; on the other, cliffs reach into the sky, so high you get a crick in your neck if you look up. It's like a scene from a children's Bible when the Israelites roamed the desert for 40 years as they made their way to the promised land. Trees become more abundant: Namaqua rock figs push their roots into crevices and Inara fruit lies scattered on the ground like balls forgotten in a sandpit. The only splashes of colour are the yellow flowers of the *toingbossies* that grow on patches of moist sand.

On the last day, we leave the path of the canyon for the first time and loop into a 20 km side ravine that branches off the Kuiseb. We pass centuries-old welwitschias and the burrow of a brown hyena scattered with animal skulls and bones. When we join up with the Kuiseb River again, it's more of a floodplain than a canyon.

Mission completed. The eastern section of the canyon, where it's at its narrowest, won't see human tracks again soon. It's better that way. But in the western section, you can experience an adventure in one of the last true wildernesses on earth.





Left, from the top: Nadja Payne photographs a Namaqua rock fig tree with its roots burrowed deep into the rock. The hikers take a lunch break in the shadow of the Kuiseb cliffs. On the last evening the logistics team made camp on the wide canyon floor.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The Kuiseb90 is based on this recce – the hike follows the last 90 km of the 160 km route we did. The hiking group is supported by a logistics team of 10 people and up to seven 4x4 vehicles, plus guides who communicate using two-way radios and satellite phones. All your meals and drinks, drinking water, hot water for your shower, and transport to and from the Walvis Bay Airport are included. You bring your own tent (and pitch it yourself), sleeping bag, mattress and pillow – overnight gear is transported from camp to camp; you don't have to carry it.

When? This year's hike will take place from 23 – 28 August. (There's a R3 000 p.p. discount on this one.) The trail is 90 km in total, over four days and five nights. Three hikes are planned for 2024: 29 May – 3 June, 24 – 29 July and 10 – 15 August.

Cost: Live the Journey is the only concession holder that offers an overnight hiking trail in the canyon. The logistical challenges of the concession area are reflected in the cost of R28 870 per person. If you can afford it, we highly recommend it.

Contact: ☎ 021 863 6400; 📧 livethejourney.co.za

Second prize? The Kuiseb Canyon is in the Namib-Naukluft National Park. As a day visitor, you can explore the eastern and western entrances to the canyon, or drive the D1983 along the course of the Kuiseb River – there are viewpoints overlooking the canyon and you can walk to the cave where Henno Martin and Hermann Korn stayed. A day permit costs R100 per person and R50 per vehicle. You can also camp wild in the park – see #45 on page 95.

IN OTHER WORDS



Pieter van der Walt

"It's a wild, unique place. I'll always remember the peace and quiet, and the animal spoor in the middle of the canyon. I wish I could hike here every year."

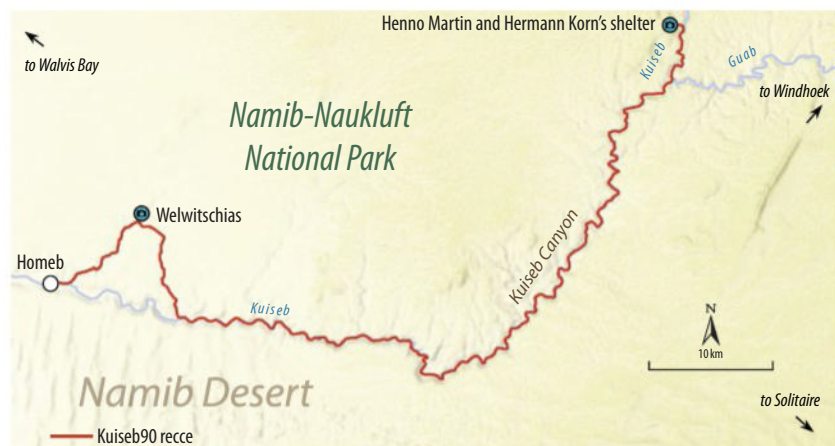
Erma Muller

"What a privilege to be a part of the recce team to hike this unique canyon. I've done many hikes in my time and this one was the best!"



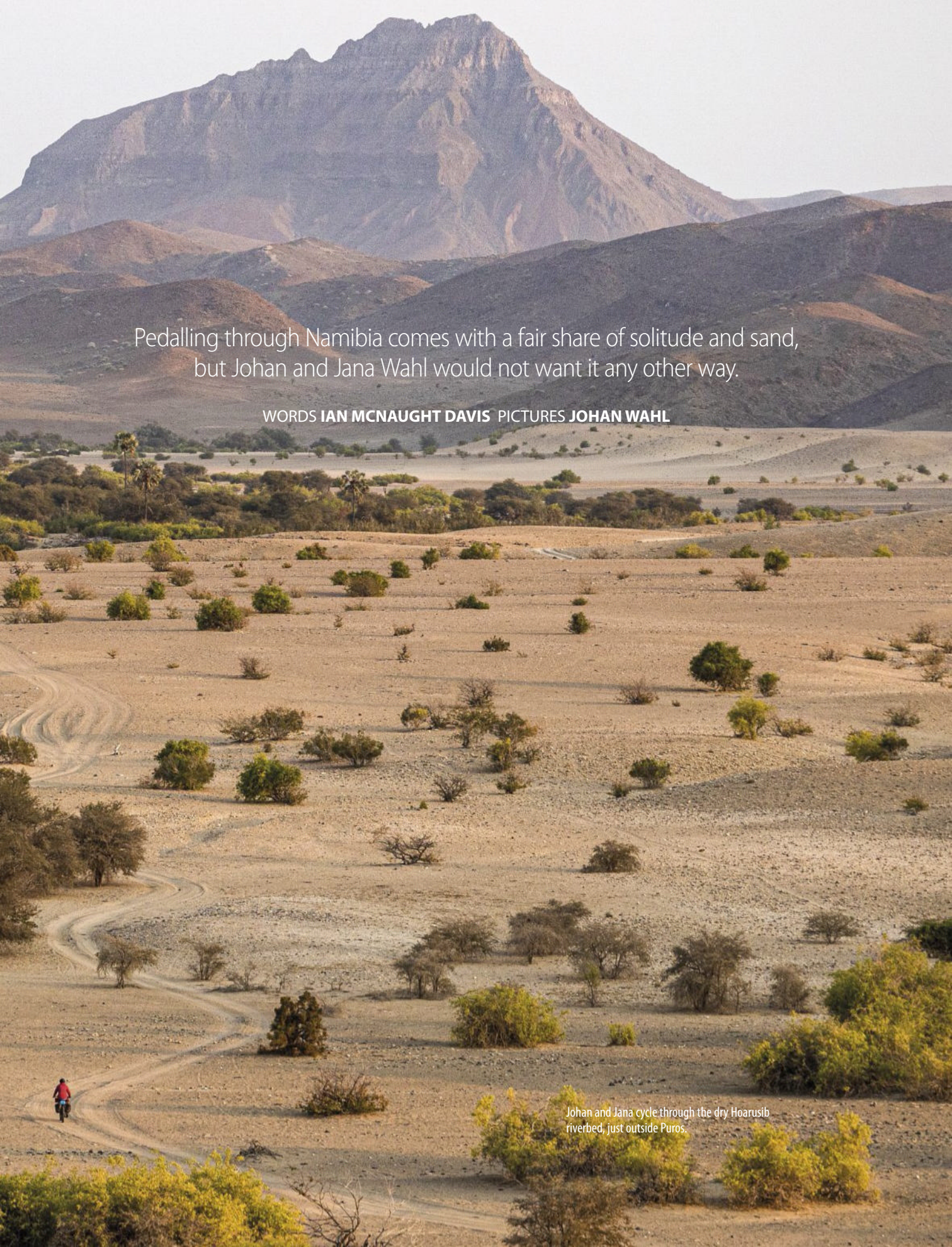
Erns Grundling

"It was a sacred experience to hike in the tracks of leopards and hyenas, knowing that very few people have ever been here."



The lone riders





Pedalling through Namibia comes with a fair share of solitude and sand,
but Johan and Jana Wahl would not want it any other way.

WORDS **IAN MCNAUGHT DAVIS** PICTURES **JOHAN WAHL**

Johan and Jana cycle through the dry Hoarusib
riverbed, just outside Puros.

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, Namibia was the first of South Africa's neighbouring countries to open its borders. Johan and Jana saw the opportunity for an adventure. Months of meticulous planning and mapping ensued before they saddled up and left Cape Town for the Kunene River.

They crossed the border at Vioolsdrif in August 2021 and after 10 weeks of pedalling (including rest days), they reached their final destination, Epupa Falls. From there, they hitchhiked home.

They traversed 3000km of Namibian soil on their epic journey to the Angolan border without any significant mechanical woes. Here's how they did it and what they learnt along the way.

What inspired the trip?

Johan: I had some spots I'd always dreamt of going to and I thought: "Let's make this trip about connecting those different places."

Jana: Experiencing the Kaokoveld was going to be the main thing. We wanted to do Van Zyl's Pass because it's got a reputation for being hardcore, so that was going to be the end bit.

Johan: We're not planning on buying a 4x4 any time soon, but we do like the adventure of it, so we figured: "Let's find Namibia's most challenging off-road areas that we can ride on bikes."

Namibia is famous for long, beautiful and empty gravel roads like the D707 and the C27. For many people, that's the dream: You can just cruise along on your own in this desert. There are other roads, though. We wanted to see if we could get off the main routes and explore some properly remote areas.

Jana: Namibia has a lot of private land in the south, and there are the national parks that you can't enter without a permit, so we ran into some red tape there.

For the first part, we were on the "main" gravel roads like the C13, C37 and the D707, but it was still nice – we went to tourist attractions like the Fish River Canyon and Sossusvlei. From Sossus, most people go straight to Walvis Bay, but we stuck to the desert. There's an alternative road (the D1983) that runs along the Kuiseb River. It's in the Namib-Naukluft Park so we got a permit at the park office at Sossusvlei (R100 each).

The trip got properly remote after we left Walvis Bay. From there, it was all community land, not private farms. We went to Spitzkoppe, passing through the

Moon Landscape and some dry riverbeds. From Spitzkoppe, we cycled north to Brandberg, then through Palmwag to Sesfontein.

What level of fitness do you need for a tour like this?

Jana: It depends on how long the trip is. We took the approach of not training before the time. We're quite fit but we're not cyclists. We knew we would suffer during the first week and after that it would get better.

If you don't have a lot of time – if you're going to do a two-week trip, for example – I would definitely recommend some training. But if you've got lots of time, like we did, then just get fit on the job. By the third month, nothing was too hard!

Johan: A lot depends on what you want to get from the experience and what style of riding you enjoy. For us, cycling is purely a mode of travel; the bicycle is our transportation so we go slowly. I stop frequently to take photos.

Speaking of photos, where does photography fit in with your cycling?

Johan: It's a symbiotic relationship – the travel lures me into photography and the photography lures me into travelling, and the two thrive on each other. On the bike, you're always alert, always interacting. You're never going too fast to capture a moment.

Jana: And it's a good ice-breaker. If you're on a bicycle, people want to talk to you.

How did you pack?

Jana: It helps to travel as a couple because you can share the tent and the cooking utensils. It took us about a month of planning: laying out everything, weighing every piece and trying to narrow it down. We tried not to exceed 40 kg each.

What was your food strategy?

Johan: You have to look at your route and make a guess about where you might find a shop. We had long sections with no supply points – these varied between two to five days – and we had to make sure we packed enough.

We also asked a lot of questions when we met locals, about where we might be able to stock up.

Jana: The nice thing is there are South African products in Namibia – you know you can get an Ina Paarman *sousie* somewhere; you can get your oats and you can always get baked beans and pilchards. We became good at knowing how much we ate and how much we could

Opposite page, from the top: The couple camped wild on most nights, like this spot outside Solitaire. They used an MSR Elixir two-person tent that weighed 2,77 kg. After five days of cycling from Sesfontein towards Van Zyl's Pass, Johan and Jana reached Orupembe Shop 1 where they treated themselves to an ice-cold beer.



NAMIBIA BY BIKE

survive on. I was in charge of rationing – we always had an extra bag of Smash; we never ate it though!

How did you manage with water?

Johan: We made sure that we didn't go into places completely blind – we knew if there was a good chance of finding water and if we were unsure, we carried extra. We were carrying 25 litres between the two of us at one stage.

We had been on the road long enough to know what our daily consumption was and we also adapted to not using much water.

Jana: You plan your campsites; if there are tourist spots you must go there.

Johan: And local people have water. If you see signs of domestic animals – a kraal or livestock – there must be water.

Jana: We made a really good contact in Sesfontein who knew that area well. He said there was a place called Rooidrom (Red Drum) and there was a Himba village nearby where they'd have water. After that village would be another one with water, and so on.

Johan: But the fact remains, that area is so remote... If you do run out of water, or if you get heatstroke, you'll be in big trouble. There's no cellphone reception and we didn't travel with a satellite phone. Ultimately, you must be able to carry more water than you think you'll need. It takes careful planning and a lot of interaction – make sure you speak to everyone to get the right information. We ended up tying plastic bottles to places we never imagined would carry water.

Jana: I had a rack on the back of my bike with two panniers on either side. I put a 5-litre bottle on top of the rack, and a 2-litre bottle behind my seat. On the handlebars I ended up carrying three litres. We didn't have fancy bottles – we just got Coke bottles and strapped them to the bikes with pieces of rubber. We always had a litre to spare.

How did you navigate?

Johan: I mapped out the route electronically (you can use Google Maps or Strava to do this) and loaded it onto my phone to view using Maps.me while we were riding. The Maps.me app is like Google Maps, but it uses open-source data and it works offline. It shows most of the tracks in the area. Navigating was actually quite easy – we seldom didn't know where we were. And when that happened, we had a good paper map as back-up.



What about power?

We carried two large battery banks (20 000 mAh) between us. We could easily go 10 days without Eskom power.

What were the biggest challenges?

Johan: Some days it was upward of 40°C and then you can't do anything. We usually cycled from sunrise until about an hour before sunset, often taking long breaks at midday to wait out the worst of the heat. The wind was also a challenge, especially in the south around Lüderitz. There was wildlife, too, but those encounters were more fun than life-threatening.

Jana: Once we'd passed Walvis Bay and we started going north through community conservancies like Tsiseb and Torra where there are no fences, it was basically one big game park. That's what makes Namibia such an attraction: You can see wildlife on ordinary roads. We spent every day looking at tracks in the sand. We had to learn the difference between hyena, leopard and lion...

Clockwise from above left: Jana pedals towards the large granite dome of Mirabib in the Namib-Naukluft National Park, about 150 km south-east from Walvis Bay. One of the hardest parts of their journey was struggling up Van Zyl's Pass in the north of the Kaokoveld. Jana and Johan rode steel-frame bikes made by Surly, a US-based manufacturer, with 2,6-inch-wide mountain-bike tyres on 27,5-inch wheels. They made most of their packing system themselves, including the racks and bags.





Jana on the beautiful but windy D707 that runs between the Tirasberg and the Namib Desert west of Helmeringhausen.

What were your favourite places?

Jana: Everything north of Spitzkoppe, which itself was amazing. So, Damaraland, the Kaokoveld...

Johan: The Kaokoveld is extremely remote – you feel like you're on a different planet. You can hardly see the impact of people. It's so dry and striking, with the scattered trees and dark hills.

Jana: It's crazy because there would be no trees, and then suddenly there's a dry riverbed and the most enormous trees. The unexpected nature of the landscape makes it beautiful.

Why do you choose to travel this way?

Johan: The slow pace and being close to the ground. You experience everything at a natural tempo – fast enough to feel like you're moving, but slow enough that you can stop at any opportunity.

We've found that since we started travelling on bicycles, the amount of interaction we have with people along the way has gone up exponentially.

Jana: It's the best way to get off the beaten track. It's great to get a 4x4 and go everywhere, but you won't get to camp at the amazing places where we camped because we could push our bikes through sand and pitch a tent behind a dune and nobody would know we were there.

Johan: Travelling by bike lets you experience a place in such an intimate way.

IN SHORT

Most useful resource?

Tracks4Africa maps of Namibia.

Most useful tool/gear item?

Fold-up foam pads to lie on for midday naps.

Best recharge spot?

Omenye Campsite near Puros (#23, p 120).

Most scenic spot?

Spitzkoppe

Hardest road?

Van Zyl's Pass (up)

Best cold beer?

Orupembe Shop 1

Johan and Jana have also cycled and hiked through Lesotho, Mozambique, Bolivia, Peru, India and the Himalayas, among others. Follow their adventures on Instagram: @a.whale.away

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Namibia's hidden gems

We asked our contributors to share their favourite spots in Namibia – not the major tourist attractions but the places where you feel like giving yourself a pat on the back for deciding to come here. Make sure to include these 14 hidden gems on your itinerary – you won't be disappointed!



CENTRAL

NamibRand Nature Reserve

This huge reserve (2 250 km²) is blessed with countless surreal landscapes, an abundance of plants and animals, and unrivalled photo opportunities. Whether you hike, self-drive or do a guided tour, you'll be mesmerised by the plains, dunes and valleys on the edge of the Namib.

There are a few accommodation options in the reserve. The Family Hideout (#111, p 104) is an affordable choice. It's a tastefully renovated farmhouse that's perfect for small groups. There are also three private campsites with flush toilets and hot water, for the adventurous traveller who also likes a bit of luxury.

– *Phil Sturgess & Carina de Klerk*



CENTRAL

Gamsberg Pass

The Khomas Hochland is a high plateau in central Namibia. To get to the desert below, you have to drive down a mountain, and the most scenic way to do it is on the C26 dirt road from Windhoek via Gamsberg Pass. Gamsberg is the longest and highest pass in Namibia: It's 2 347 m above sea level at the summit and you lose 1 100 m in altitude as you descend.

The bends will take you past grazing kudu, zebra and klipspringers, through a comparatively lush landscape that's so beautiful it has been nicknamed the Garden Route of Namibia.

Give yourself enough time to take it slow – there are lots of places to pull over and look out over the mountains and the desert. If you want to experience even more of the area, stay over at Namib's Valley of a Thousand Hills (#74, p 99) at the bottom of the pass.

– Willem van der Berg



CENTRAL**Camp Rooiklip**

Situated at the foot of Gamsberg on the C26, this guest farm is in a magnificently rugged landscape. Camp Rooiklip (#72, p 99) has three unique stands under a large rock overhang at a site called Felsen Camp. The camp is thoughtfully planned out to offer ample privacy for each site, with ablutions (hot water and a flush toilet) integrated into the rock face. Do one of the hiking trails in the coolness of the early morning to appreciate the plant and animal life adapted to survive in these seemingly inhospitable conditions.

At sunset, everything is enveloped in a soft red glow, the kind that makes keen photographers salivate. And naturally, this is the ideal time to bid farewell to a scorching day in the desert with a well-deserved sundowner.

— *Le Roux van Schalkwyk*



**CENTRAL****Tsauchab River Camp**

A holiday in Namibia can easily turn into a very long drive. That's why it's a good idea to stay at a place where you can stretch your legs.

Tsauchab River Camp (#97 p 103) has five trails, from a 1 km stroll to a 21 km hike. They're all clearly marked and take you through interesting landscapes.

On the full-day Mountain Zebra Hike (21 km), you head into the Tsaris Mountains where you sometimes follow riverbeds full of trees and natural springs. Two other trails take you through quiver tree and wild fig forests; and the Namib Desert View Walk offers exactly what it promises.

Day visitors (R100 p.p.) are welcome. The trails are free to hike for overnight guests.

– Willem van der Berg



NORTH

Baobab Campsite

In the shade of a massive baobab tree, close to yet completely hidden from the C44 gravel road, is the perfect departure point to explore the Nyae Nyae Conservancy. (GPS: S19.962618 E20.72971)

There are signs that more infrastructure might be coming, like a borehole for running water and ablutions, but at the moment this camping spot is for self-sufficient adventurers only. You have to bring everything you'll need, including water.

Since it's in the conservancy, wildlife moves through freely. Don't be surprised if you wake from an afternoon nap surrounded by a herd of elephants, or hear a roaring lion at night.

Camping here is on a first come, first served basis. A member of the local San village will make their rounds to collect payment of R70 per person.

– *Le Roux van Schalkwyk*



NORTH

Nakambale Museum

This museum is in a former Finnish mission station where Martti Rautanen once lived – he was one of the first Finnish missionaries in northern Namibia and renowned for his Bible translations into Oshindonga, which he began working on in 1885. The New Testament was published in 1902 and the Old Testament in 1924.

The museum shows the method Rautanen used during the translation process, and various instruments and household items from the missionary period. There are also some Oshiwambo cultural artefacts on display.

There's a traditional homestead adjacent to the museum and you can see the graves of Rautanen and his family members in the cemetery next to the old church.

Where? In Olukonda, on the outskirts of the town of Ondangwa.

Opening times: Daily from 8 am to 5 pm.

Cost: R30 per person. Book beforehand.

☎ 00 264 65 245 668; ☎ 00 264 81 249 3108

– Ndinela Shikemeni

**NORTH****Mbunza Living Museum**

The Mbunza people who live in the Kavango East Region have a rich cultural heritage. This museum offers an interactive experience with Mbunza people – a way to preserve the culture and encourage economic independence for the local community at the same time.

The tour begins with an introduction to the traditional attire of the Mbunza people. Visitors learn about the process of making tanned leather, refined with manketti nut oil, and pottery items that are baked in the fireplace. The guide also explains traditional hunting techniques... The men use two kinds of musical instruments to draw the animals closer: a mouth bow and a thumb piano.

Where? About 15 km from Rundu via the B18.

Opening times: Daily from 8 am to 5 pm.

Cost: R200 per person.

☎ 00 264 81 215 2496; 🌐 lcfn.info/mbunza

– Ndinelaio Shikemeni

**CENTRAL****Uncle Spike's**

Uncle Spike's Book Exchange is an unassuming second-hand bookstore on the corner of Garten and Tal streets near the Windhoek CBD. You could easily walk past and miss out on the wonders within. Don't do it! Tell Google Maps to take you there when you arrive in Windhoek so you can load up on books for all the hours you plan to laze around the swimming pool during your Namibian holiday.

The original "Uncle Spike" was Neville Edgar Bauser and his slender physique earned him this nickname in the army. He ran several businesses in Windhoek and was a keen reader. When his family grew weary of the stacks of books at home, he moved them to his toy shop, which became Uncle Spike's Toy Shop and Book Exchange.

The bookstore changed owners twice before George Yates bought and ran it for 40 years until his death last year at the age of 82. His son Clifford is at the helm these days and will help you navigate the labyrinth of shelves to find what you're looking for.

Uncle Spike's has everything: crime thrillers, literary novels, children's books, guidebooks, biographies, Africana and more. I picked up a copy of Tim Winton's *The Riders* and Faansie Peacock's unmatched guide, *Faansie's Bird Book*. The prices are reasonable, and if you've read everything in your backpack they also accept exchanges.

Opening times: Monday to Friday from 8 am to 5.30 pm; Saturday from 8 am to 1 pm; closed on Sundays.

☎ 00 264 61 226 722

– Jon Minster

Source: 🌐 gondwana-collection.com

TRAVEL

NORTH

Brandberg

The campsite at Brandberg White Lady Lodge (#77, p 127) is on the northern side of the mountain – the sunrise from there is beautiful, often a deep red. This is how the mountain got its name: It's as if the sunlight sets the mountain on fire.

One of my favourite activities is to visit the waterhole at the lodge. Namaqua sandgrouse come to drink every day at around 8.30 am. You can set your watch by their arrival – they're seldom late! They arrive in flocks of what seem to be thousands of birds. They're everywhere you look.

– *Jermanneke Havemann*





NORTH

Kunene River

When you reach the Kunene River, it feels like you deserve a cold Savanna. The road to get there is long, dusty and nerve-wracking. Treat yourself to a relaxing few days at one of the campsites or lodges near Epupa Falls – it's the most scenic spot on the river. Then spend at least two days driving slowly upstream on the D3700 dirt road, past Swartbooisdrif (look for the Dorsland trekkers memorial) to Ruacana.

As you travel, you'll see all the different moods of the Kunene. At midday the river seems merciless, but it shows its softer side in the late afternoon. Don't stand too close to the water – there are crocodiles here!

Birders can look for rare species like grey kestrel, Cinderella waxbill and rufous-tailed palm-thrush.

The road from Epupa to Swartbooisdrif can be rugged after rain – call the lodge where you'll be staying to check the condition. It's better to travel in a 4x4, just in case.

See page 118 for accommodation options next to the river.

– *Toast Coetzer*



NORTH

Horseshoe Bend

Of all the rivers that cut through the old Caprivi Strip, the Kwando is the most mysterious. Unlike the big and bold Kavango and Zambezi, the Kwando flows through the landscape in lazy loops, faking one direction then doubling back, revealing something new around every corner: a water monitor here, a pod of snorting hippos there; collared pratincoles erupting from a sandbank; an African jacana with its long foot poised above a water lily.

There's one place where the Kwando is simply spectacular: Horseshoe Bend in Bwabwata National Park. Here, the river makes a particular graceful arc, flanked along one side by a

white beach. In winter, hundreds of elephants come down to drink. In summer, thunderclouds are reflected in the water and everything is so green it hurts your eyes.

If you have the time – and a proper 4x4 – this is one of the wildest places in Africa. The closest accommodation to Horseshoe Bend is Nambwa Campsite (#91, p 130) on the banks of the river.

Where? Horseshoe Bend (S17.90016 E23.28878) is about 20 km south of the reserve entrance on the B8. The road is deep sand – you might need to use low-range in places, depending on the season.

Entrance fee: R70 per person; R50 per vehicle.

– Jon Minster

NORTH**Palmwag Concession**

The Palmwag Concession is a pristine wilderness between the C43 dirt road and the western border of the Skeleton Coast National Park. It's only traversable in a 4x4 and the terrain varies from rocky ridges to dusty plains and sandy riverbeds. You need three to four days to explore it properly.

It's hard work, but the landscape is incredibly scenic. Big ana and camel thorn trees grow in the riverbeds and you might see desert elephant, giraffe, gemsbok, springbok and even lion.

There are a handful of official campsites but there are no facilities. You have to dig your own hole for a toilet, remove all your rubbish and bring everything from drinking to washing water. The stars will sing you to sleep at night, and come morning, your coffee pot will whistle on the campfire.

You can enter the concession from the Sesfontein or Palmwag side – there's a manned gate at both entrances. The campsites can't be booked in advance. The concession office is at Palmwag Lodge (#30, p 120). Report there and pay your fees: R50 per person for day visitors; R100 per person for overnight visitors; R150 per vehicle.

– *Toast Coetzer*





NORTH**Messum Crater**

Did you know that there was once a big volcano on the Skeleton Coast? Look at a satellite image of the area between Brandberg and the Atlantic Ocean and you'll see a faint circle next to the dry bed of the Messum River. It's the remains of the crater rim, more than 20 km in diameter, which is estimated to be about 130 million years old. The Messum Crater is much too big to see the rim when you're standing in it, but the desolation here is something to experience.

It's a day outing (4x4 only) on a circular route from the C34. Along the way you'll see lichen fields and welwitschias. The circular route starts 2 km north of Cape Cross. The Messum Crater is in Dorob National Park – get a free permit at the MEFT offices in Swakopmund ☎ 00 264 64 404 576. There are no accommodation options.

– Evan Naudé



**CENTRAL****Erongo Mountains**

About 130 million years ago, when Africa and South America separated into two continents, this part of Namibia experienced many volcanic eruptions. (It was touch and go or Usakos ended up in Argentina...) The geological action resulted in rock formations like Spitzkoppe, Brandberg and the Erongo Mountains. Of the three, Spitzkoppe is the best known. The White Lady rock painting at Brandberg also attracts tourists, but most of its treasures remain hidden.

The Erongo Mountains are more generous: There's rock art on several guest farms and the landscape photos you can take here will get you plenty of Instagram likes. You can also see black rhino and the endemic black-faced impala, drive good dirt roads and walk among giant boulders at Bull's Party. It's a place where you could easily spend a whole week.

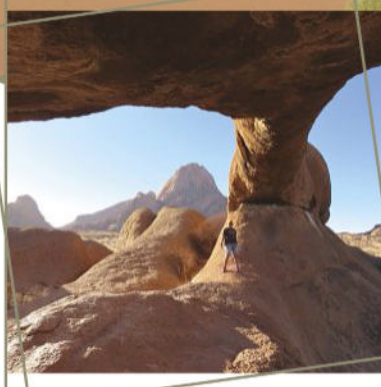
Omandumba Guest Farm & Bush Camp (#22, p 92) is on the north-western tip of the Erongo Mountains – reach it by driving either left or right around the mountain. You can stay in the neat rooms, but the camping stands steal the limelight. You sleep among the rocks and wake like a dassie at first light. Hike one of the short trails to see rock art – there's even a painting that shows Bushmen being chased by a swarm of bees!

– Toast Coetzer

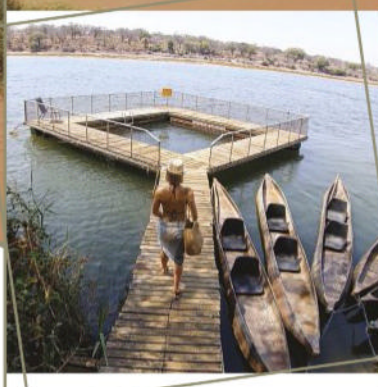


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SOUTH

LE ROUX VAN SCHALKWYK

The C13 between Helmeringhausen and
Aus: A quiet, dusty but neat gravel road
cutting through a wide open landscape.
Thanks Namibia!

Many South Africans have family albums with sepia-tinged photos of the Fish River Canyon, the deserted houses of Kolmanskop and the quiver trees around Keetmanshoop. Do you? Then it's about time you visit – or revisit – southern Namibia!





1 Look for wild horses

See the famous wild horses of the Namib at the Garub waterhole, next to the B4 about 20 km west of Aus.

2 Visit the Bogenfels rock arch

This spectacular rock arch is in the Sperrgebiet, a restricted area, and you can only get there on an official tour from Lüderitz. Bogenfels is the main attraction, but there are many other surprises in the Sperrgebiet, including the deserted mining town of Pomona, and Fairytale Valley, named after a field of diamonds that once lay glinting in the sun.

A tour costs R4 950 per person

(minimum four people) and it includes drinks and snacks. You have to supply a copy of your ID (if you're Namibian) or passport (if you're a visitor) to gain entry to the Sperrgebiet – send it to Sandwich Harbour 4x4 at least 10 days before your outing. ☎ 00 264 81 147 3933

📍 sandwich-harbour.com

3 Drop your jaw at the Fish River Canyon

There are three viewpoints overlooking the canyon – all are about 10 km from Hobas rest camp. Park fee R100 per person; R50 per vehicle. Hiking the Fish River Canyon wilderness trail (about 85 km) costs R535 per person, plus a one-off R100 park fee. The trail is open from 1 May to

15 September. Transport to the trailhead costs R400 per person. Take note: The water level in the canyon is currently low but there are water points along the way.

✉ ct.bookings@nwr.com.na

4 Explore a quiver tree forest

There are a few quiver tree “forests” in southern Namibia. Visit these camps for access to a unique desert attraction: Quivertree Forest Rest Camp near Keetmanshoop (entrance fee R110 per person); Garas Park Camp (entrance fee R90 per person); and Mesosaurus Fossil Camp (entrance fee R130 per person). Mesosaurus offers two tours per day, at 9.30 am and 4.30 pm. Turn to page 64 for contact details.



1

5 Take photos at Kolmanskop

This diamond-mining ghost town is just inland from Lüderitz. Get a permit at the gate to Kolmanskop itself, or in town at the Desert Deli & Info Centre (☎ 00 264 63 204 060). A normal permit costs R130 per adult; R50 per child aged 6 to 14 years. A photography permit costs R330 per person – this allows you to visit at sunrise and sunset for the best light. All permits include a guided tour. Opening times: Monday to Saturday from 8 am to 1 pm. Tour times: Monday to Saturday at 9.30 am and 11 am; Sunday at 10 am.

☎ 00 264 63 204 031

✉ kolmans@iafrica.com.na

Turn to page 60 for a map of the highlights.



3



5

SOUTH

Continues on page 78

Namib-Naukluft
National Park

Climb the rock behind the
Felsenkirche at sunset for a great
view of town. Bring your camera.

Lüderitz
16-21

Kolmanskop

5

Once you're over the border, the campsite at Klein-
Aus Vista is the first place where you can sit with
your toes in dune sand.

Aus

22-24

One of the most scenic roads in the country.

Sperrgebiet

Permit needed!

Aus, Helmeringhausen
and Bethanie might
be small towns but
turn off and learn
something new about
Namibia's platteland.
p 66

See the biggest collection of lithops in
Namibia at Alte Kalköfen Lodge.

Plan your day so that you get to the
main Fish River Canyon viewpoint
at sunrise – it's the best time to take
photos because the sun will be
behind you.

Ai-Ais/Richtersveld
Transfrontier Park

Rosh Pinah – Sendelingsdrift

8 am – 4.30 pm
00 27 831 1506

Rosh Pinah

33

Sendelingsdrift

41

Ai-Ais

Aussenkehr

40

Kuboes

Eksteenfontein

Lekkersing

Oranjemund

32

Alexander Bay

Oranjemund – Alexander Bay

6 am – 10 pm
00 264 63 233 552
027 831 1662



Atlantic
Ocean

NAMIBIA

KALAHARI

Kgalagadi
Transfrontier Park

Mata-Mata – Welverdiend

8 am – 4.30 pm

☎ 00 264 63 252 063

A minimum stay of two nights in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park is required if you want to use this border post. Get your passport stamped at Twee Rivieren when you enter the park, 115 km south-east of Mata-Mata.

Klein-Menasie – Rietfontein

8 am – 4.30 pm

☎ 054 531 0084

☎ 00 264 63 280 680

Ariamsvlei – Nakop

24 hours

☎ 054 571 008

☎ 00 264 63 280 929

Noordoewer – Vioolsdrif

24 hours

☎ 00 264 63 297 147

☎ 027 761 8760

Velloorsdrif – Onseepkans

8 am – 5 pm

☎ 00 264 63 269 008

☎ 054 951 0014

RSA

Continues on page 79

4 A large quiver tree forest and Giant's Playground are about 5 km apart along the C17.

Go see the big globe just above the dam wall, next to the D545.

Enjoy a variety of mutton dishes at the White House.

to Springbok

to Upington

to Gochas

to Mariental/Windhoek



KWELANGA RIVER LODGE #34



AFFORDABLE OPTION

(See page 12.)

HELMERINGHAUSEN & TIRASBERG

1 Namtib Biosphere Reserve

This reserve is next to the D707, which is billed as the most scenic road in Namibia. The campsite – Little Hunter's Rest – is 3 km from the main lodge. You have a view of the Tirasberg and the red dunes of the Namib Desert to the west. Camping R250 p.p. (braai, solar-heated showers, communal wind shelter, no power). Lodge rooms from R1 400 p.p. sharing B&B. Guests must book in advance. You can hike a variety of trails or climb one of the koppies (free).

📞 00 264 63 683 055

🌐 namtib.net



2 Ranch Koiimasis

Only accessible from the D707. Activities range from hiking to guided horse rides. Camping R250 p.p. (five private stands, each with a braai and clean drinking water; shared ablutions). Chalet Virosa has two single beds and shares the campsite ablution block. It has its own outside braai area

but no kitchen: R700 p.n, minimum stay two nights. Schwalbennest is a private self-catering chalet that sleeps two: R1 500 p.n, minimum two nights. Luxury rooms at Fest Inn Fels Farm Lodge R2 145 p.p. B&B.

📞 00 264 63 683 052

🌐 namibia-farm-lodge.com

3 Kanaan N/a'an ku sê Desert Retreat

This is a destination tailor-made for landscape photographers. Camping (eight stands with private bathrooms) from R225 p.p. Luxury en suite safari tent from R3 950 p.p. sharing DB&B (SADC special).

📞 00 264 61 228 869

🌐 naankusecollection.com

4 Aubures Camp

About 55 km north-west of Helmeringhausen, on the C27. They have guided rock art excursions, walking trails and MTB routes that start at the campsite. There are six stands under camel thorn trees (no electricity, but hot water for showers). Camping R330 p.n. for two guests.

📞 00 264 84 000 6014

📞 00 264 81 424 9888

(WhatsApp only)

🌐 amiller@iway.na

5 Landsberg Campsites

Four large campsites (each accommodates 10 people) with private ablutions, shade, patio and braai: R245 p.p. SADC rate. Each campsite has a view over the plains in the foothills of the Tirasberg; campsite #3 also looks out over a waterhole. The sites are far apart from each other, so you won't accidentally catch your neighbour in his pyjamas and stokies.

📞 00 264 83 783 7037

📞 00 264 81 235 1815 (WhatsApp)

🌐 farmlandsberg.com

6 Mount D'Urban Campsite

Campsite on the farm Kosos with 10 stands, each with a private bathroom and power point, with views of the Swarttrandberg and a peak called Mount D'Urban. Rates from R180 for SADC residents (max four adults per stand). Relax at the pool, explore the veld around the campsite or

hike 4 km up to Mount D'Urban. Bring your mountain bike – there are 50 km of trails on the farm. Or put your bakkie to the test on a 50 km 4x4 trail (there are stone benches where you can enjoy the view). You can buy firewood, braai meat, ice, jam, chutney, seasonal produce and farm bread (order beforehand). There's a playground for the kids.

📞 00 264 81 547 3532

📧 mountdurban.com.na

7 Helmeringhausen Hotel

The hotel is in Helmeringhausen's only street. Camping R220 p.p. (hot showers, no power). Double room R1 360 p.p. sharing DB&B.

📞 00 264 63 283 307

📧 helmeringhausennamibia.com

KOËS & KALAHARI



8 Koës Hotel

Camping on grass R120 p.p. Room in the hotel from R400 p.p. B&B. Meals are available and there's a cash bar. It's in Fontein Street.

📞 00 264 63 252 716

📧 koeshotel@gmail.com



9 DuneSong Breathers

One of the best places to stay in the area. Bush camp (minimum two nights) R175 p.p. if you use your own tent. You can also stay in a twin-sleeper safari tent – R275 p.p. You book the whole camp for your group. The three chalets overlook the first red dune of the Kalahari and each sleeps four people. They are stylishly furnished and well equipped if you want to cook for yourself. From R660 p.p.

GPS: S25.69084 E19.17559

📞 00 264 81 122 0175

📞 00 264 81 777 6333

📧 dunesong.net

10 Terra-Rouge Guest Farm

Kalahari hospitality at its finest. Camping R120 p.p. There are three chalets near the farmhouse (each sleeps two; R1 300 p.n.). Firewood and meat for sale.

📞 00 264 63 252 031

📞 00 264 81 129 0280 (WhatsApp)

📧 terrarouge@iway.na

11 Kalahari Sunset Game Farm

This farm is 48 km from Mata-Mata. There are four camping stands with power points and ablution facilities: R130 p.p. Three self-catering units with air conditioning: R550 p.p. Guided game drive R250 p.p. (bring your own drinks). The farm sells meat and firewood.

GPS: S25.52869 E19.66714

📞 00 264 63 252 005

📧 kalaharisunsetgamefarm.com

12 Kalahari Game Lodge

The lodge is situated on the C15, 18 km from the Mata-Mata border post. The lodge has six camping stands spread out along the dry Auob riverbed. Each stand has its own ablution facilities with a donkey boiler for hot water, no power points: R250 p.p. (max four people). There are also eight twin-sleeper chalets: rates from R1 600 p.p. sharing B&B or R1 980 p.p. DB&B. Guided game drive from R800 p.p. (min two people). Enquire about SADC specials. There's a swimming pool and restaurant.

📞 00 264 63 252 052

📧 kalaharigamelodge.com



13 Kalahari Farmstall & Accommodation

Come for a meal or stay over. Camping R100 p.p. (Choose one of six stands.) The stands have electricity and shade trees. There are also three self-catering units (sleep four each) with air conditioning and Wi-Fi. Units from R950 p.n. for two people. There's also a coffee shop and a farm stall.

📞 00 264 81 235 1859

📧 kalaharifarmstall.com

14 Torgos Lodge

The lodge is only 7 km from Mata-Mata and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, along the C15. There are 10 en suite luxury units (some equipped for self-catering): six luxury stone

chalets and four luxury tented chalets. Tented chalets from R903 p.p. sharing (self-catering); stone chalets from R1 274 p.p. sharing (B&B). They also have two newly built luxury campsites, each with a private bathroom, electricity and hot water: R250 p.p. All meals are available but must be prebooked. The lodge has a swimming pool, a boma and a waterhole that is illuminated at night. Sundowner game drive R350 p.p.; sunrise game drive R350 p.p.; walking trails and stargazing on the dune.

📧 res@torgoslodgenam.com

📧 torgoslodgenam.com

15 Sitzas Campsite

Situated only 150 m from the Mata-Mata border post. Two campsites with lights and power points, shared ablution facilities and hot water provided by a donkey boiler. Camping R170 p.p.

📧 res@torgoslodgenam.com

📧 torgoslodgenam.com

LÜDERITZ



16 Kairos Cottage

In Kreplin Street on Shark Island (more of a peninsula now) with an excellent view of the sea. En suite double room R1 100 p.n. (breakfast included); single room R800 p.n. (breakfast included).

📞 00 264 81 818 6727

📞 00 264 63 203 080

📧 christo.b@iway.na

17 Island Cottage

Also in Kreplin Street on Shark Island. Self-catering units from R1 100 p.n. for two people. There's also a spa (booking is essential).

📞 00 264 63 203 626

📞 00 264 81 292 2984 (Retha)

📧 retha.c@afol.com.na

📧 booking.com

18 Haus Sandrose

Look for the bright yellow building at 15 Bismarck Street. The guesthouse has a courtyard surrounded by four self-catering units. Three of the units

have twin beds and a kitchenette: R565 p.p. One of the units (Grosse Bucht) has a fully equipped kitchen and an interleading door to one of the other units, for a family – enquire for rates.

📞 00 264 63 202 630

📧 haussandrose.com



19 Kratzplatz

Centrally located at 5 Nachtigal Street. Barrels Restaurant is part of this enterprise. Double room R930 p.n. B&B. Triple room R1 090 p.n. B&B; five-sleeper family room (self-catering) R1 350 p.n. Breakfast R100 p.p.

📞 00 264 63 202 458

📧 kratzmr@iway.na



20 Obelix Guesthouse

In Old Bayview Road, near the entrance to Lüderitz. Double room from R1 180 p.n. Family rooms (sleep four and five) from R1 600 p.n. Rates include breakfast. There's a restaurant and bar, free Wi-Fi, air conditioning and laundry services.

📞 00 264 63 203 456

📧 obelixguesthouse.com

21 Lüderitz Nest Hotel

At the top of Diaz Street, next to the sea with its own private beach and jetty. The hotel has free Wi-Fi, a swimming pool and a restaurant. You can also book boat trips from here. The rooms have air conditioning. Double room from R3 450 p.n. Family unit (two adults, two children) R5 600 p.n. All rates include breakfast.

📞 00 264 63 204 000

📧 nesthotel.com

AUS



22 Klein-Aus Vista

About 3 km north-west of Aus, on the B4. It's part of the Gondwana Collection Namibia. The Desert Horse Inn Campsite is about 2 km from the lodge. Each of the 10 campsites has a tap, a table and braai facilities. You can buy firewood, ice and braai packs, and also book meals at the

SOUTH PLACES TO STAY

Desert Horse Inn restaurant. Campers may use the swimming pool and bar at the inn. Camping from R175 p.p. (no electricity). Geisterschlucht self-catering cabin from R455 p.p.; min rate from R1 365 p.n. (max eight people). Double room at the inn from R1 560 p.p. sharing B&B. Eagle's Nest luxury self-catering chalets (each sleeps two) from R2 095 p.p. sharing B&B.

☎ 00 264 61 427 200

✉ klein-aus-vista.com



23 Bahnhof Hotel

This is a fixture in the tiny town of Aus. Drop in! Family and double rooms from R990 p.p. B&B. Self-catering units: Aloe Rock Cottage (sleeps three), Orange House (sleeps four), Aloe Rock House (sleeps six) – rates from R510 p.p. Full-day visits to the Tsau //Khaeb Park (Sperrgebiet) and impact site of the Roter Kamm crater: R3 330 p.p. (minimum four guests).

☎ 00 264 63 258 091 (reception)

☎ 00 264 67 240 901/2 (reservations)

✉ hotel-aus.com



24 Aus Guest Rooms

Opposite the filling station. Camping with shared ablutions R125 p.p. Campsite with private bathroom R180 p.p. Self-catering double room R700 p.n. Organise in advance if you want a packed lunch for the road (from R120 p.p.). Dinner, bar facilities, and breakfast for groups of 15 or more (request when booking).

GPS: S26.66674 E16.26068

☎ 00 264 63 258 029 (Karin)

☎ 00 264 81 298 1495 (Steve)

✉ namiba.us@afol.com.na

BETHANIE

25 Bethanie Hotel & Guesthouse

Camping R250 p.p. (power available). Double room R1 820 p.n. Family room (two adults and two kids under 16) from R2 320 p.n. Rooms have aircon; breakfast is included. Dinner R85–R250. Restaurant, beer garden, coffee shop, swimming pool, info centre, farm stall, free Wi-Fi, MTB

trails, game viewing and stargazing.

Enquire about SADC discounts.

☎ 00 264 63 283 013

☎ 00 264 81 398 8813

✉ bethaniehotel.com

GOAGEB

26 Alte Kalköfen Lodge

History is kept alive at this guest farm. Camping R190 p.p. sharing. Self-catering units R575 p.p. sharing. Bungalows (not self-catering) R750 p.p. sharing B&B. Breakfast R175 p.p.; lunch R155 p.p.; four-course dinner R400 p.p. Treat yourself, it's delicious. All units have air conditioning. Hike (ask for directions to the barn owl roost site), laze at pool, look at their collection of lithops or go for a scenic nature drive (2–3 hours; R470 p.p.).

☎ 00 264 81 170 0004

✉ altekalkofen.com

SEEHEIM

27 Seeheim Hotel

The hotel is Seeheim. Camping R290 p.p. Double room from R2 780 p.n. B&B. Family room for four from R4 000 p.n. B&B. Swimming pool, restaurant and bar. Free Wi-Fi.

☎ 00 264 81 128 0349

☎ 00 264 81 129 1073

✉ seeheimhotel.com

KEETMANSHOOP



28 Quiver Inn Guesthouse

Ten en suite rooms. Each room has a kitchenette, aircon and Wi-Fi. Double room R1 050 p.n.; family room R1 400 p.n. (sleeps four). Breakfast R120 p.p. ☎ 00 264 81 855 3835

✉ quiverinnguesthouse.com

29 Garas Park Camp/ Quiver Tree Park Camp

About 20 km north of Keetmans, near the B1 – a good spot to overnight and take sunset photos of the quiver trees. Camping (nine stands) R180 p.p.; R40 extra with power. Entrance to the quiver trees R90 p.p. You can order toasted sarmies or a light picnic before arrival.

☎ 00 264 81 491 3863 (Marian)

✉ marian.hulme.z@gmail.com

30 Quivertree Forest Rest Camp

This place is 13 km north-east of Keetmans, on the M29. Camping R290 p.p. (includes entrance fee to the quiver tree forest). Self-catering rooms from R1 100 p.n. for two people. Double room with breakfast from R1 530 p.n. Visit the quiver tree forest and the Giant's Playground rock formations. Day visitors are welcome. Entrance fee: R110 p.p.

☎ 00 264 63 683 421

✉ quivertreeforest.com



31 Mesosaurus Fossil Camp

About 42 km east of Keetmans. The Bush Camp is 3 km into the veld among quiver trees and dolerite boulders. There are basic ablution facilities with a donkey boiler, but the real drawcard is the mesosaurus fossil – book a tour with owner Giel Steenkamp to see it. Also visit the quiver tree forest. Bush Camp R140 p.p.; self-catering chalet R350 p.p. sharing. Fossil tour R130 p.p. every day at 9.30 am and 4.30 pm. The chalets are closed from December to February. (Too hot!)

☎ 00 264 83 700 0012

✉ mesosaurus.com

ORANJEMUND



32 Op My Stoep Lodge

Near the Oranjemund-Alexander Bay border post. Double room from R1 175 p.n. Self-catering unit R1 265 p.n. (sleeps four). There's a restaurant on site.

☎ 00 264 81 750 1716

☎ 00 264 63 234 223

✉ opmystoep.com

ROSH PINAH



33 Four Seasons Lodge

B&B accommodation. Double room R1 050 p.n. Family room (two adults, two children) R1 280 p.n. Self-catering chalet (sleeps two)

R1 150 p.n. Pool, bar, restaurant. Take a guided tour of a concession area in the Tsau //Khaeb National Park (Sperrgebiet) where you can stand on the rim of Roter Kamm crater.

☎ 00 264 63 274 416

✉ rosh-pinah-accommodation.com

VIOOLSDRIF



34 Kwelanga River Lodge

The campsite is on two levels. The 10 stands in Fish Eagle Camp on the top level are next to each other, with high reed fences for privacy. Each stand has a braai and power. They share a modern ablution block with washing-up facilities. Each of the five private stands in Riverside Camp has power, a private bathroom, washing-up area and a braai.

There are seven chalets: Four double and three family chalets about 200 m from the communal social area. Each has a coffee station, fridge, kettle, crockery, cutlery, glasses, pan and tongs. There's also a big swimming pool, plus a bar that serves pizzas and burgers. Fish Eagle Camp from R150 p.p.; Riverside Camp R250 p.p. Family chalet (sleeps five) R1 500 p.n. for four people, double chalet R1 200 p.n.

☎ 083 288 9496 (Cathy)

☎ 071 613 5159 (Brendan)

✉ admin@rapidadventures.co.za



35 The Growcery

Each of the spacious, shaded camping stands on the riverbank has a braai, kitchen area with bins (please recycle), and power. Hip-high reed fences separate the stands from each other. There are also bigger stands away from the water for caravans and large vehicles, each with a sink and a braai; as well as three wild campsites without any facilities. All the camping stands share a communal bathroom.

If you don't want to camp, stay in the basic but neat Chic Shacks – they have a communal bathroom and kitchen. There are meals on offer, but the menu depends on what's

Continues on page 72

GEARED UP READY TO GO

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SOUTH STOP HERE AUS



Wilhelmina Shimbashike (left) and Cecile Pofadder

Believe it or not, Aus was once the epicentre of southern Namibia...

Aus is the best place to stay if you want to photograph the wild horses at Garub. The waterhole is about 20 km west of the village, next to the B4. Drive there early in the morning or late in the afternoon for soft light, and return for a meal at the Bahnhof Hotel (#23, p64).

It's almost time for lunch when I stroll in. The staff are busy but everyone greets me warmly. I soon see the reason for the buzz – half an hour later and the restaurant stoep is packed with hungry tourists...

The old bar counter catches my eye. The wooden surface has a beautiful finish and I imagine I can see hollows left by many elbows over the years. It's the original bar counter, installed in 1949 when the hotel was rebuilt, says Dieter Curschmann. He and Bernd Roemer are the co-owners of the hotel – they bought it in 2005.

The Bahnhof was constructed in 1903 and burnt down in 1948, after which it was rebuilt. Two rooms built with clay bricks survived the fire and are still in use today.

"Most people think 'Aus' is from the German word for 'the end' or 'out', but in Nama it means 'place of the big snake' or 'spring of the snake,'" Dieter explains.

Indeed, ox wagons outspanned at Aus (thanks to the spring) after a 100 km journey through the Namib from Lüderitz. From here, goods were distributed to Helmeringhausen, Keetmanshoop and Gibeon. In 1906, a railway line was completed that connected Aus to the harbour in Lüderitz, and the village became an important distribution point. Lüderitz was the only harbour owned by the German colony because Walvis Bay had been claimed by Britain and later South Africa.

During and after World War I, between 1915 and 1919, about 1 500 German prisoners of war were held in a camp outside the village. If you're interested in history, go see the ruins of this camp, plus the ruins of German military forts and the graves of Commonwealth soldiers. The sign to the prisoner camp is about 3 km east along the C13, and the sign to the graves is about 1 km east along the B4. Overnight guests can go see the old fort at Klein-Aus Vista (#22, p63).

After the Germans left the country and Walvis Bay became Namibia's primary harbour, Aus quietened down. Development in the south largely came to a standstill. Officials had trouble keeping sand off the railway tracks and Aus and Lüderitz became time-capsule towns.

Even though the Bahnhof has been modernised, it still feels like an old-world hotel, with history captured inside its walls. Dieter grew up in the area and remembers the years when the hotel was a popular gathering place. The local community travelled to Aus on Fridays to collect their post and supplies, and to socialise.

Legend has it that someone once lost a bet, which led to a horse being made to stand on the bar counter! (*The original wild horse of Aus.* – Ed.)

– Le Roux van Schalkwyk

Source: ausnamibia.co/about_aus.htm



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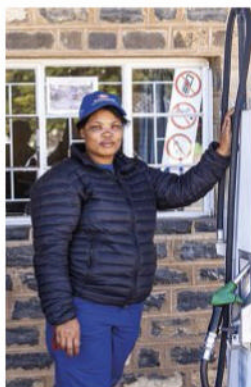
info@nambush.com

+264 61 258 760



Helmering Winkel is a real farm shop with a little bit of everything, from fresh produce to Swakop Vellies.

Helmeringhausen can almost be mistaken for a town – it has a shop, filling station, hotel, farmers' association hall and even a tennis court. Even though it's tiny, it's one of the most popular pit stops in the deep south of Namibia.



**Penina Windstaan,
Helmering filling station**

"It's a small and quiet place, but a good one. You don't have as many problems here as you do in other places."

"It was Tommy and Annemarie Lambert's place. Lovely people – you always felt at home there," my father told me about the Helmeringhausen Hotel (#7, p63). As a young geologist in the early 1980s, he often stayed there for a night or two.

These days the hotel is owned by Björn and Katja Basler – they bought it 13 years ago. Katja emerges from the kitchen, still in her apron. I wonder if she was baking one of Helmering's famous apple tarts? According to the sign in the street, it's the best in Namibia.

"That's what the people say," Katja says with a smile. She goes on to tell me how a friendly rivalry developed between herself and the late Moose McGregor from Solitaire over who could bake the best apple tart.

The hotel is a popular spot. Tourists pull in for a slice of tart and other treats. The stoep is a great place to take a break from the monotonous dirt roads of the south. And it's fun to have a look around the village.

When Hubert Hester, a member of the German Schutztruppe, finished his conscription, he bought a 11 000 ha farm called Brons. He renamed it

Helmeringhausen, after his home town in Germany.

Hester built the hotel in 1934. The filling station, original shop, post office, residential houses and the current general store followed later. It's believed that Hester constructed every building in the village himself.

The Baslers have planted a garden with shade trees and a lawn that attracts tired tourists – as well as many small birds who have made it their home. Katja is also originally from Germany and the garden is her pride and joy. The small vineyard near the campsite reminds her of home, she says.

Over the years, many gatherings and dances have been held at the hotel. Jörg Gaugler, owner of the farm Dabis outside Helmeringhausen, recalls a funny incident: "A farmer and his wife drove home after a night out at the hotel. He stopped at the first farm gate so she could get out to open it. She opened the gate and he drove through. When he stopped at the next gate, he waited patiently for her to open it, but no one got out... Luckily his neighbour had been right behind them and he'd picked up the wife at the first gate where she'd been forgotten!"

– Le Roux van Schalkwyk

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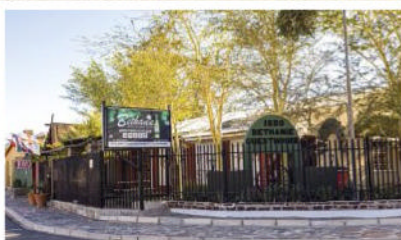


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FREDERIK HOUSE



SCHMELEN HAUS
MUSEUM



LUTHERAN CHURCH



Bethanie doesn't look like much when you drive through, but it's one of the oldest villages in Namibia. It has a rich history and is the home of the !Aman people of the Nama nation.

Depending on who you ask, Bethanie was initially named Klipfontein or Ui#gandes. The latter was the name used by the Boois, an Oorlam family who settled here in 1804.

In many respects, Bethanie is a village of firsts. In 1814, the London Missionary Society established the first mission station in Namibia here. Missionaries from the station, Johann Heinrich Schmelen and later Hans Christian Knudsen, made one of the first attempts to transcribe the Nama language.

Schmelen built what is considered the second-oldest European house in the country. The churches built by the missionary societies are also some of the oldest in the country. And in 1883, the first purchase deed negotiation took place here in the house of Nama chief Josef Frederik. A representative of Adolf Lüderitz had come to buy the land on which the eponymous harbour town would later be established. Then, in the mid 1990s, Bethanie was the karakul capital of Namibia during the boom period of this industry.

Like many other villages in the Karas region, development in Bethanie has stalled and infrastructure is in decline. But it's still interesting to walk around the historical village. The people are friendly and always up for a chat. You can fill your fuel tank and there are two shops where you can buy essentials.

Keep your eyes open for irrigation furrows when you're at Schmelen Haus and imagine the vegetables and orchards that once grew here...

PLACES TO VISIT

• Schmelen Haus Museum.

This small house, built with clay bricks and stone, was constructed by missionary Johann Heinrich Schmelen. Schmelen named Bethanie after the town in the Bible where Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

The museum has information and photos of the development of the village. Get the key from the caretaker Willem Frederick (00 264 81 726 1626), who lives on the property. Look for the sign opposite the old Lutheran church in Quellen Street.

• Rhenish mission church.

A few metres from Schmelen Haus, built in 1859 by Hermann Heinrich Kreft from the Rhenish Missionary Society.

• **Lutheran church.** Built in 1899, this church is across the road from the Rhenish church.

• **Frederik House.** Situated on the corner of Quellen Street and Chief C Fredericks Avenue. The house was built in 1883 and belonged to Nama chief Josef Frederik, who lived here until his death in 1893. The ceiling is covered with reeds

in the traditional style.

The building now houses the !Aman Traditional Authority. Lucy Bok is the secretary. The dead tree next door was used as gallows by the Germans and the !Aman people have put stones under the tree. Lucy explains: "!Aman means nation and refers to everyone born in the area. It doesn't matter which race you are, if you were born here, you're a child of the !Aman."

• **Bethanie Hotel & Guesthouse** (#25, p 64). The hotel next to the C14 was built in 1880 and is considered the oldest hotel in

the country. The thatched roof of the lapa obscures the facade of the old building somewhat, but inside it feels like a farm kitchen with black pots in the fireplace, ready to cook the next meal.

Their food sets them apart from other guesthouses, according to one of the owners, Dorette Vos. "We braai, make pot bread and serve gemsbok pie with pumpkin fritters. Once people have stayed here, they keep coming back. They love the home-made meals," she says.

– Le Roux van Schalkwyk

Sources: [britannica.com/place/Bethanie](https://www.britannica.com/place/Bethanie); [namibweb.com](https://www.namibweb.com)



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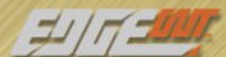
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WHITE HOUSE #46

available and bookings are essential. Day visitors are also welcome. Camping from R200 p.p. for the wild campsites to R250 p.p. for the private campsites, plus a camping fee of R150 per night. Chic Shacks from R280 p.p. for bed only, to R550 p.p. with three meals included.
☎ 027 761 8007
📧 thegrowcery.co.za

36 Richtersveld Wilderness Camp

Each of the 12 spacious and private camping stands has a braai, sink (bring your own plug), table, reed shelter and power. The stands share an ablution block. Kingfisher (#1) in the corner has its own shower and toilet; Weaverbird and Nightjar (#10 and #11) share a hot shower. From R200 p.p.
☎ 021 671 7051
📧 richtersveld.co.za

NOORDOEWER

37 Amanzi River Camp

Amanzi is for campers. Although big groups sometimes arrive to go on paddling trips, it's quiet at night. Music and quad bikes aren't allowed. There are 20 spacious stands, each with a braai, awning, sink, bin, and power. Bee-eater is in the furthest corner. It's private and a nice spot if you want to spend a few days. There

are two communal bathrooms, a bar with cold beer, and a shop that sells firewood, meat and boerewors. No day visitors are allowed. From R190 p.p.
☎ 021 559 1573 (bookings)
☎ 072 229 4672 (bookings)
☎ 00 264 63 297 255 (river camp)
📧 amanzitrails.co.za

38 Noordoewer Guesthouse

Perfect for when you need to overnight at the border post: 14 rooms, plus safe parking and braai facilities. Double room R1 330 p.n. B&B. Family room for three R1 725 p.n. B&B – ask for an extra mattress if you need one (R100).
☎ 00 264 63 297 108
☎ 00 264 81 379 5958
📧 noordoewerguesthouse.com

39 Felix Unite Camp Provenance

This is home base for Felix Unite's Orange River paddling trips, but they also have great riverside cabanas. There are 17 en suite cabanas that sleep two people each; two family units that sleep four; and one honeymoon suite with the best view. Rates from R1 375 per night for a twin-sleeper cabana; R2 330 for a family unit. The communal pool is huge, and there's a restaurant and bar. Camping also available on arrival

depending on how busy it is – no prebookings for camping.

☎ 087 354 0578
📧 accommodationsouthern
namibia.co.za
📧 felixunite.com

40 Norotshama River Resort

This resort offers the swankiest accommodation on the river. The campsite is far from the water without any views, but it's fine if you just want a place to sleep – R180 p.p. There are several en suite rooms (Wi-Fi, air conditioning, microwave, kettle). The more affordable rooms are built around a shallow dam while the more expensive rooms overlook the river. Rates from R1 376 p.p. sharing in a Standard Lake View room to R2 120 p.p. sharing for a Luxury Lake View room. Day visitors are welcome: The gardens are lush and the restaurant is affordable.
☎ 00 264 81 128 6247
📧 norotshamaresort.com

41 /Ai-/Ais Hot Springs Spa (NWR)

This resort has seen better days but the pool is big, blue and warm. And you can hike into the Fish River Canyon. The camping facilities have been renovated. Camping R450 p.n. for four people, R85 per extra person

(max eight people per stand). Double room at the spa from R1 250 p.p. sharing DB&B. Self-catering family unit (sleeps four) R860 p.p. sharing B&B.
📧 ct.bookings@nwr.com.na
📧 nwr.com.na

42 Canyon Roadhouse

About 20 km north-east of Hobas, next to the C37. Camping from R287 p.p. The stands are big but sandy, and there's some shade. The ablution facilities are great and the swimming pool will be your best friend. Double or family room from R1 918 p.p. sharing B&B. There's also a lekker restaurant, plus a bar, a filling station and an ATM.
☎ 00 264 61 427 200
📧 gondwana-collection.com

43 Canyon Village & Canyon Lodge

About 8 km south of Hobas. The Gondwana Collection Namibia has several accommodation options in the area. These two upmarket places are situated close to each other. Canyon Village has more affordable units: double room from R1 827 p.p. sharing B&B. There's a swimming pool, restaurant and bar. The luxury lodge units are built around a historical farmhouse (now the reception office and restaurant). Double room from R2 482 p.p. sharing B&B.
☎ 00 264 61 427 200
📧 gondwana-collection.com

44 Hobas Lodge (NWR)

The rest camp is about 10 km from the Fish River Canyon viewpoint. The campsite has 14 stands under trees. Camping R450 p.n. for four people; R85 per extra person (max eight people per stand). Each stand has a braai and a power point (generator power until 10 pm). The communal ablution facilities are neat and tidy. Restaurant, swimming pool and a small shop where you can buy the basics.

If you're not kitted out for camping, or if you want to sleep in a bed the night before hiking the Fish River Canyon Trail, consider the

open-plan Bush Chalets. They're more luxurious than the name suggests! Each sleeps two people: R1 250 p.p. sharing DB&B.

✉ ct.bookings@nwr.com.na

🌐 nwr.com.na

GRÜNAU



45 Grünau Country Hotel

This popular hotel has been in service for decades. Camping R175 p.p. Budget room from R500 p.n. for two (shared ablution facilities with campsite). Double room R820 p.n.; family room for four from R980 p.n. There's a restaurant with an à la carte menu, a swimming pool and a play park for kids. Ideal stayover to visit the Fish River Canyon.

☎ 00 264 81 230 9804

🌐 grunaucountryhotel.com



46 White House

This guest farm is just north of Grünau. Camping R150 p.p. Tents, mattresses and bedding available to hire in winter: R250 p.p. Guest rooms and chalets R440 p.p. sharing. Family room R950 p.n. (three people); R1 020 (four people). Small student room with two single beds R600 p.n. Dinner/braai pack R200 p.p.; breakfast R90 p.p. They have a swimming pool, a jungle gym, mountain-bike trails and a 2,5 km hiking trail.

☎ 00 264 63 262 061

☎ 00 264 81 285 6484

🌐 withuis.net



47 Vastrap Guest Farm

Only 5 km from Grünau, next to the B3. Hike, see quiver trees, or cool off in the swimming pool. Double room R880 p.n. Self-catering chalets: four-sleeper R1 300 p.n.; six-sleeper R1 450 p.n. Two-bedroom apartment R1 700 p.n. Breakfast R180 p.p.; dinner or braai pack R220 p.p.

☎ 00 264 81 127 7142 (Hettie)

🌐 vastrapguestfarm.com



48 Savanna Guest Farm

About 40 km north of Grünau, next to the B1. Camping: R120 p.p.

(electricity, hot water, braai). Double room from R800 p.n.; family room (sleeps four) from R900 p.n. plus R50 p.p. Dinner R180 p.p.; breakfast R90. The farm has a swimming pool.

☎ 00 264 81 124 5269

☎ 00 264 81 128 0975

🌐 savanna-guestfarm.com

49 Goibib Mountain Lodge

This lodge is 50 km north of Grünau. Camping R185 p.p. The stands have power points. Three of them have a cement floor and a roof. Shared kitchen and bathroom. Hire a three-sleeper tent for R200 p.n., plus R160 p.p. (includes mattresses). Double room R1 200 p.n. B&B; R1 700 p.n. DB&B.

☎ 00 264 63 250 704 (lodge)

☎ 00 264 61 250 725 (bookings)

🌐 goibibmountainlodge.net

KARASBURG & AROAB



50 Sunset Chalets

Just outside Karasburg with a great view. Luxury self-catering chalets with air conditioning from R400 p.p. Enquire about discounts for large groups.

☎ 00 264 81 148 7802

🌐 sunsetchalets.wixsite.com/sunsetchalets



51 Karas Inn B&B

(previously Hoon's Self-catering)

Five self-catering units in Karasburg, with air conditioning, Wi-Fi and DSTV. Rates from R650 p.n. for two people. Breakfast R100 p.p. extra.

☎ 00 264 63 270 200

🌐 karasinn270200.wixsite.com/karasinn



52 Oas Guest Farm

Off the C11 dirt road between Karasburg (80 km) and Aroab (100 km). Secluded, with a farm atmosphere. Self-catering rooms sleep nine people in total: R350 per adult; R150 per child under 16. Camping (no power) R100 p.p. Neat ablutions with a donkey boiler. You can recharge a device at the house. Hike or go on a 4x4 drive.

GPS: S27.49480 E19.21417

☎ 00 264 81 284 9934 (WhatsApp)

🌐 oasstaal@iway.na

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CENTRAL





In Central Namibia, you get to experience higher-lying parts of the country like the Khomas Hochland with its sinuous mountain passes, and also the ginormous plains of the Namib Desert. And when you reach the coast, the icy blue Atlantic awaits...

At 2 000 km² the NamibRand Nature Reserve, south of Sossusvlei, is probably one of the largest private nature reserves in southern Africa. The latest game census indicated that there were 3 200 gemsbok and 12 400 springbok in the reserve.

7 things to do



1 Visit Sossusvlei and Dead Vlei

If you want to take photos of this spectacular desert landscape, stay at Sesriem or Oshana campsite. These campsites are inside the Namib-Naukluft National Park, which means you're allowed to drive to Sossus and Dead Vlei an hour earlier and stay an hour later than visitors who stay outside the park.

There's a tarred section of road for about 50 km from Sesriem to the Sossusvlei parking area; from there you can catch a ride in a Namibia Wildlife Resorts (NWR) 4x4 taxi (R180 per person return) or drive the final 4 km sandy section in your own 4x4.

Park fee R100 per person, plus R50 per vehicle.

2 Feel small at Spitzkoppe

You need at least two days to explore around this magnificent inselberg, so book a night or three at the Spitzkoppe community camp. Walk around, climb the huge boulders, look at rock art and

take photos of the rock arch.
Day visitors pay R120 per adult;
R80 per child aged 6–12.

3 Look for desert creatures

There are lots of guided tours out of Swakopmund that can show you the reptiles, birds and insects that live in the dunes of the Namib. Tommy Collard's Living Desert Tour is one of the best. He's been doing it for decades. Tour price R850 per adult; half-price for kids under 12.

☎ 00 264 81 1281 038

📍 livingdeserttours.com.na

4 Say cheers at Joe's Beerhouse

Book a table at this Windhoek institution. There are plenty of beers on the menu, from Tafel Lager to Erdinger Weissbier, and all kinds of venison: kudu, gemsbok, zebra and more...

☎ 00 264 61 232 457

📍 joesbeerhouse.com

5 Swim in a desert pool

The eastern tip of the Namib-Naukluft National Park extends into a mountainous landscape, and one of the best ways to explore this part of the park is on the Waterkluft Trail (17 km). After about 2 km, you'll reach a kloof full of cool, clear river pools. Strip off and jump in! Park fee R100 per person; R50 per vehicle.

6 Drive to a lagoon in the dunes

Sandwich Harbour is an unusual body of water in the Namib-Naukluft National Park, about 50 km south of Walvis Bay. Many operators offer tours, like Desert, Dunes & Dust (📞 desertdunesdust-tours.com) and Sandwich Harbour 4x4 (📞 sandwich-harbour.com): rates from R2 250 per person for a half day to R2 550 for a full day. All rates include transport, park fees, a light lunch and drinks.

Get a permit (R100 per person; R50 per vehicle) from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism in Walvis Bay if you want to drive there in your own 4x4. You'll mostly travel on the beach so check the tide table beforehand. Desert, Dunes & Dust also has a self-drive tour – they'll accompany you and you'll get a radio to communicate with them: R3 500 for two people (snacks, drinks and park fees included).

7 See dolphins in Walvis Bay

Read more about this activity on page 86.

Turn to page 78 for a map of the highlights.





CENTRAL



NAMIBIA

BOTSWANA

KALAHARI

RSA

to Okakarara

Continues on page 111

to Ghanzi

Buitepos - Mamuno

24 hours
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Walk through the longest
cave (4,5 km) in Namibia!

Even Sherlock
Holmes won't
find you here.

Continues on page 61

to Koës

to Mata-Mata

to Keetmanshoop

The bay of whales

A landmark for seafarers for nearly 500 years, these days Walvis Bay attracts tourists from far and wide. Sail back in time to the days of whaling boats and explorers.

BY EVAN NAUDÉ



Using notes made by Bartolomeu Dias, German cartographer Henricus Martellus was the first to write down a name for the deserted bay on the coast of south-west Africa: “Praia dos Sardinha”, which means Sardine Beach. That was in 1489. Two years before, Dias had given the same place a different name – “O Golfo de Santa Maria da Conceição” – when he’d stopped here on his historical journey to India. It had been 8 December, Immaculate Conception Day as celebrated by the Catholic Church.

The next name you see on Portuguese maps dating from the 16th century is “Bahia das Bahleas”, which means Whale Bay – a name inspired by the great number of these marine mammals that seafarers encountered.

The Nama and Topnaars were the first people to explore the area around Walvis Bay. Their permanent settlements were further south, closer to freshwater springs in the Kuiseb River and at Sandwich Harbour. There is evidence that they visited the bay regularly,

long before the first Europeans set foot there.

In 1793, Dutch settlers – then in control of the Cape colony – set up an official trading post. When Britain annexed the Cape in the early 1800s, they quickly realised that this bay was the best natural harbour on the Namibian coast. It was also rich in fish and guano, so it was officially added to the colony in 1884.

In 1910, the town was handed over to South Africa as part of the newly formed Union of South Africa, and for the next 84 years Walvis Bay was a South African enclave in South West Africa. In 1994, four years after Namibia gained independence, Walvis Bay once again became a part of the country.

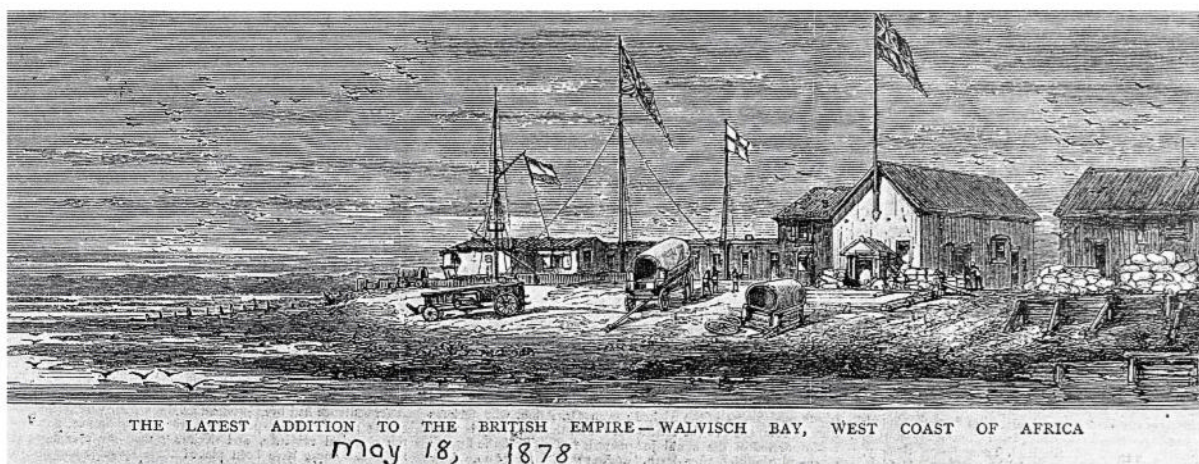
From as early as 1726, even before the trading post in Walvis Bay was established, whalers came here to hunt humpback and southern right whales for food, oil and gelatine. First came the whaling ships of the Dutch East India Company; later they came from America,

France and Norway. Whaling pushed both species to the brink of extinction.

The first whaling station was built in Walvis Bay in 1912: the Walfish Bay Whaling Company Ltd. Another whaling outfit – the Durban Whaling Company Ltd – operated a factory ship in the bay. Whale numbers plummeted and the industry grew too competitive; in 1930 both companies were forced to stop processing. They still did repair work on ships, however: Norwegian whalers in particular used the harbour as a rest stop and resupply point after the whaling season ended in the southern hemisphere.

The factory (pictured in the background in the photo) was destroyed by fire in 1950 and the industry came to a standstill in 1986 when the International Whaling Commission decreed a global moratorium on whaling.

Over time, whale numbers have started to increase again. Now whales and other marine life like fur seals, dolphins and sunfish attract tourists to the town.



The birth of a town

This illustration dates from 1878 – it's the earliest depiction of Walvis Bay. The name of the artist is not known, but commander Richard Cossentine Dyer of the *HMS Industry* brought the drawing to the Cape colony. He had been sent to annex Walvis Bay by his superiors in Britain. Dyer arrived on 6 March 1878; six days later, he officially announced that an area of about 300 square miles around Walvis Bay would belong to Britain from then on.



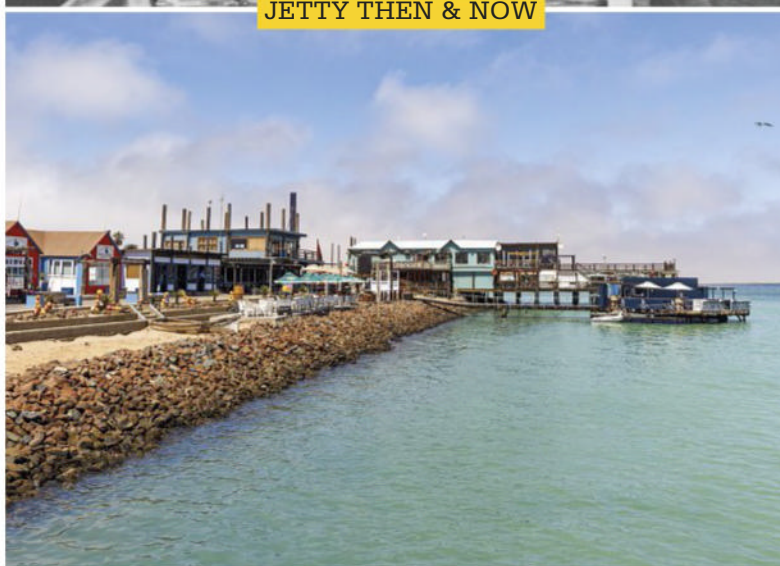
JETTY THEN & NOW

WALVIS BAY DOWN MEMORY LANE

From jetty to harbour

The first wooden jetty was built in 1898 to load and offload supplies onto ships. In those years, guano (harvested from islands along the Namibian coast) was used as a fertiliser in Europe and was a popular export. To make it easier to load cargo, a narrow-gauge railway was built on the jetty.

Later, a much bigger harbour was built to the north of the jetty and taken into use on 3 August 1927. The Walvis Bay Waterfront is where the original jetty was located. It's still as busy as it was back then, but the workers loading guano have been replaced with tourists eating seafood, buying curios and waiting to board cruise boats.





Astrid Deetlefs (far right) with her husband Fred and their daughter Daniela Jansen van Vuuren with her husband Marko – they run the Willi Probst Boulevard Café.

It's an institution!

Ask any local where you can find the best “brötchen” in town and they'll point you to Willi Probst Boulevard Café on the corner of Theo Ben Guribab Street and 12th Road. This bakery, deli and restaurant has been serving freshly baked goods since 1957. “Walvis Bay has always been a harbour town,” says Astrid Deetlefs, one of the owners, who grew up here. “The first houses were built around the lagoon. The harbour and yacht club came later. The fish factories were always on this side.”

Astrid tells of the origins of “the Probst”, as it's known colloquially: “Walvis Bay was still a small town when I was in school. Back then, the bakery delivered its bread by bicycle. Each loaf was in a bag with the person's name on it because everyone knew each other. There were sand dunes outside the building. At the back, where the municipal buildings are now, there used to be a soccer field among the dunes. We were right on the outskirts of town.”

Astrid and her husband Fred are the third-generation owners. They run the business with their daughter Daniela Jansen van Vuuren and her husband Marko.

“I can still remember all the German shops – the German butchery, about five German bakeries, and all the shops that sold imported German goods to provide for all the Germans who moved here,” Astrid says.

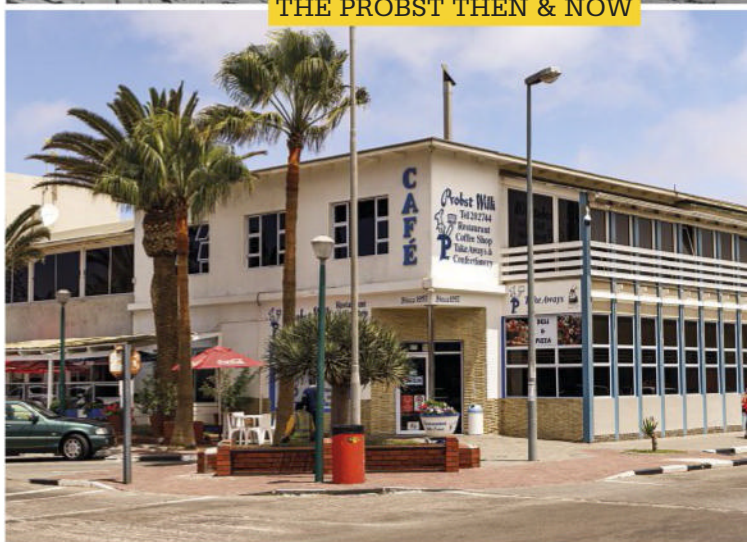
When supermarkets started to open in town in the 1970s and 1980s, most of the bakeries closed down, but the Probst survived and later expanded to include a restaurant and deli. Now it's an institution in town where residents order brötchen, schnitzel and eisbein with sauerkraut for lunch.

Opening times: Weekdays from 6 am to 5 pm; Saturday from 7.30 am to 12.45 pm.

Contact: ☎ 00 264 64 202 744



THE PROBST THEN & NOW



"When I was younger, there was a train that ran along the beach between Walvis Bay and Swakopmund. In the 1980s, the railway line was moved behind the dunes because the high tide and sand often covered the tracks. When we went to the beach and heard the train approach, we would wave at the army guys as they made their way north. There was nothing between Walvis and Swakop. Langstrand was just a stretch of beach. You had to park next to the road because we didn't have 4x4s to drive over the sand. We would run down to the beach and hop along on our towels because the sand was too hot to walk on!" – Astrid Deetlefs, co-owner of Willi Probst Boulevard Café

This photo of the Langstrand Holiday Resort was taken in 1993. The resort opened with great fanfare on 6 December 1986. There was a dance performance on the jetty and a big braai for all the guests.



MAIN ROAD THEN & NOW



Busy, busier, business centre!

Walvis Bay officially became a municipality in 1931. By then, it already had a harbour complex, shipping operations, preserving factories, the Pelican Point lighthouse and all the things you'd expect to find in a town, like a post office, police station and church.

The "street" in the old photo used to run next to the lagoon. In 1934, there was a flood and the water almost reached the doors of the buildings. It was later renamed 7th Street and it's now Sam Nujoma Avenue. It's about six streets from the lagoon and it's the town's business centre, packed with supermarkets, car dealerships, banks, filling stations and restaurants.

Thanks to Pelican Studios in Walvis Bay for the use of the Langstrand picture. The studio has a variety of landscape photos. Contact them on 00 264 81 270 4134.



GODENFANG THEN & NOW



Lindi Dreyer, owner of Godenfang Restaurant

Eat in a historical house

The oldest house in Walvis Bay is still standing in Atlantic Street, largely still in its original state – it's now the Godenfang Restaurant.

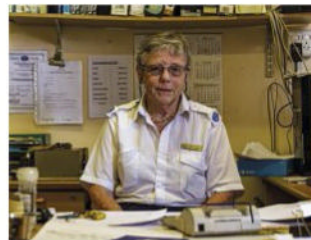
"When the Beug family built the house in 1930, there was nothing in the vicinity, only the beach right in front of the house," says current owner Lindi Dreyer. "We also have photos from the 1950s, and there was still nothing around. The house stayed in the Beug family until we bought it from them in 2018 – I grew up in the house next door. The place still looked like it did in the photos. It was a four-bedroom house and we turned it into a restaurant – the facade and the name remained unchanged. *Godenfang* means "good catch" because everyone who lived here was a fisherman. The remaining Beugs and their grandchildren still visit regularly."

Opening times: Tuesday to Saturday from 9 am to 10 pm; Sunday from 9 am to 3 pm.

Contact: ☎ 00 264 81 719 8981



THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS THEN & NOW



Gail Wearne, manager of The Mission to Seafarers

Welcome, seafarers!

The Mission to Seafarers is an Anglican welfare organisation that has been supporting ship crews in Walvis Bay since 1957. Their office is in 3rd Street, at the entrance to the harbour.

"In the beginning, the office was basically a hut," says manager Gail Wearne. Over the years, it expanded to include a restaurant, bar, shop, library, swimming pool and chapel. This is a home for seafarers, who often can't speak the local language and who have no friends or family nearby.

"I've been working here for 20 years. We look after about 500 seafarers from across the world every month. They're mainly from Russia and the Philippines, but also from Germany and Ukraine. It's not always about their physical welfare; we also provide recreation. There are usually no facilities on the ships so where else can they go? Here they can socialise, call their family and get something to eat before boarding a ship again for months."

Sources: Walvis Bay Museum; *The history of the port and settlement of Walvis Bay 1878-1978* by JJJ Wilken and GJ Fox; *Gondwana geskiedenis: Grepe uit die verlede*, fifth edition; 📞 klausdierks.com



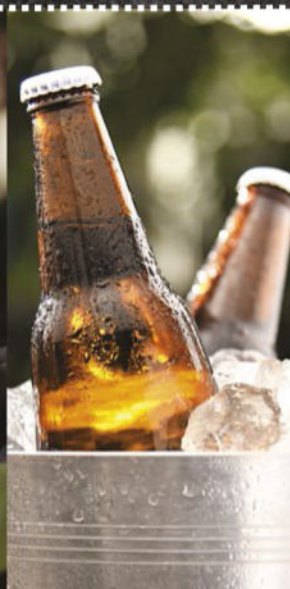
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5 things to do

Namibia's busiest harbour offers loads of fun outings. Paddle with seals or take a tour of the bay while sipping sparkling wine. Here are five ways to get to know Walvis Bay better.

WORDS & PICTURES **EVAN NAUDÉ**



1 Set sail on the bay

The “bay of whales” is huge – it’s about 10km from the harbour to Pelican Point, the furthest tip of the peninsula that curls around like a protective arm – and the best way to experience it is aboard a yacht. The Walvis Bay Lagoon is to the south – a haven for thousands of birds including big flocks of flamingos – and the bay itself is rich in marine life: seals, dolphins (Heaviside’s, bottlenose and dusky), sunfish, whales and even leatherback turtles are often seen. A pelican might perch on the boat to rest. At Pelican Point, you’ll see (and smell) the colony of about 60 000 Cape fur seals. Between July and November, southern right whales and humpback whales swing by.

If the marine life isn’t enough of a draw, you can also channel your inner Hollywood star on the yacht while enjoying oysters and sparkling wine.

Where? Walvis Bay Waterfront

Cost: Catamaran Charters has a Sundowner Sailing Cruise – it costs R550 per adult for 2½ hours or R1 100 per adult for half a day (R600 per child aged 4 – 12). The Mola Mola Marine Dolphin Cruise costs R1 150 per adult; R715 per child aged 4 – 12.

Contact: Catamaran Charters ☎ 00 264 81 129 5393; 🌐 namibiancharters.com
Mola Mola ☎ 00 264 81 127 2522; 🌐 mola-namibia.com

2 Paddle a kayak

You can see the marine life in the bay up close in a kayak. You’ll meet your guide at the waterfront and you’ll be taken to Pelican Point in a 4x4. Along the way, you’ll pull over at the saltworks next to the lagoon to take photos of thousands of flamingos.

At Pelican Point, you’ll push the kayaks into the water and paddle among fur seals for about an hour and a half. You’ll feel the swell without getting wet and watch the seals playing in the water around you. They’re very curious and will get close enough for you to count their whiskers!

Where? Walvis Bay Waterfront (above The Jetty Shoppe)

Cost: R990 per adult; R680 per child under 12.

Contact: ☎ 00 264 81 1 432 452; 🌐 pelican-point-kayaking.com





3 Visit the museum

A town museum is a wonderful thing. Walvis Bay's is tiny – it's basically just one room – but it's packed with info. Google won't be able to tell you all the uses the Topnaar people have for the !nara plant, for example.

One of the most fascinating exhibits is a series of old photos that shows how Walvis Bay grew from a small trading post to the biggest commercial harbour town in Namibia. You can also see exhibits about the geology, plants and animals of the Namib Desert; homeware and antiques used by residents in the past; and a collection of war memorabilia. You won't believe how frilly clothes used to be, or how big a marlin really is...

Where? Ground floor of the public library in Nangolo Mbumba Drive.

Opening times: Weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm.

Cost: Entrance is free but donations are welcome.

Contact: ☎ 00 246 64 2013 273

✉ museum@walvisbaycc.org.na

4 Head to the beach

Langstrand is about 18 km north of town – it has a long, wide beach where you can lounge in the sun, throw a frisbee, go for a walk or even swim if you're willing to brave the cold Atlantic Ocean. You can fish anywhere between Walvis Bay and Swakopmund, or wet your line south of Walvis down to the border of the Namib-Naukluft National Park (look for the entrance sign). You need a 4x4 to get to the water's edge because the hard road peters out near the saltworks. You also need an angling permit – buy one at the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources in 1st Street.

Cost: Angling permit R14 per month or R168 per year.

Contact: ☎ 00 264 64 2016 111





5 Take photos of waterbirds

The lagoon and salt pans on the southern outskirts of town attract thousands of greater and lesser flamingos. The pans are about 7 km from town along the D1986. You can also see birds like ruddy turnstone, little stint, curlew sandpiper, Damara tern, cormorant and pelican. You're not allowed to walk on and around the salt pans (it's an operating salt factory, after all), but you can park and take photos from next to the road.

There's also a conservation area behind Dunes Mall on the eastern edge of town where you can get great shots of flamingos in the wetlands among the dunes. You can see them from the M36 road. There's a spot to pull over if you want to park and walk closer, but don't leave valuables in your car. There are also jeep tracks deeper into the dunes but be careful of the mud – you can get stuck.

Birding tour? For a birding outing in the area, contact The Naturalist Collection
 ☎ 00 264 81 639 1775

🌐 thenaturalistcollection.com

BEST PLACE FOR...

Coffee

Slowtown Coffee Roasters, Sam Nujoma Avenue. Weekdays from 7 am to 4.30 pm; Saturday from 8 am to 1 pm.

☎ 00 264 81 864 3788

Breakfast

Dolphins Coffee Shoppe, corner of Atlantic and Esplanade streets. Weekdays from 7 am to 3 pm; Saturday from 7 am to 2 pm; Sunday from 9 am to 1 pm. ☎ 00 264 81 442 7544

Fish & chips and sundowners

Anchors Waterfront Restaurant, Walvis Bay Waterfront. Daily from 7.30 am to 10 pm.
 ☎ 00 264 64 205 762

WALVIS BAY TOURISM OFFICE

There are many more fun things to do in Walvis and nearby Swakopmund, like horse riding, sandboarding, quad biking, skydiving and a tour of a Topnaar settlement. Pop into the tourism office for ideas.

Where? Corner of Union Street and 5th Road.

Opening times: Weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm; Saturday from 8 am to 1 pm.

Contact: ☎ 00 264 64 207 444

🌐 walvisbaytourism.com



DESERT CAMP #93



AFFORDABLE OPTION

(See page 12.)

SKELETON COAST & HENTIES BAY



1 St Nowhere Spa and Campsite

This popular fishing spot is 110 km north of Henties Bay. Camping from R525 p.n. for five people and R105 per extra person p.n. A stand close to the sea with a private bathroom from R600 for five people. Self-catering bungalow from R1 490 p.n. for up to four people; R248 per extra person – the units sleep 5–9 people. Groups of up to 13 people can book the big house – from R2 980 p.n. for eight people; R248 per extra person. Rates exclude 2% tourism levy and bedding (R40 p.p.). The kiosk sells basics and there's a small restaurant open during the summer holidays.

☎ 00 264 81 124 0879

☎ 00 264 81 252 9422

✉ bookings@stnowhere.com



2 Mile 108 Campsite (NWR)

About 90 km north of Henties Bay. Campsite with a long drop and no electricity R150 p.p. (max eight people). You pay for water: R1,25 per litre of fresh water; R10 per shower. Self-contained campsite (own shower and toilet, no nearby braai): R250 p.p. (max eight people).

Campsite with private ablutions and a donkey boiler, braai, stoep with solar lights and basin: R600 p.n. (max four people). Basic fisherman's cabin R400 p.n. (sleeps two). Open year-round; gets crowded in December and January. The kiosk sells ice, beer, bait and firewood.

✉ ct.bookings@nwr.com.na

✉ nwr.com.na

3 Cape Cross Seal Reserve

About 1 km north of the seal colony – there are five platforms with

shelter against the wind. It's very basic – bring your own drinking and washing water. No power. Camping R100 p.p. Entrance fee to reserve R100 p.p. (SADC rate), plus R50 per vehicle.

☎ 00 264 81 256 4400



4 Cape Cross Lodge

This lodge is next to the Cape Cross Seal Reserve, about 60 km north of Henties Bay. The campsite has 21 sheltered stands (R190 p.p.) with power points, a scullery and a braai. Maximum six people per stand. Whalers self-catering cottage (sleeps four) from R750 p.n. Double room from R1 440 p.p. sharing, dinner and breakfast included. There's also a restaurant, bar, gift shop and a small museum.

☎ 00 264 64 694 012/7

☎ 00 264 81 268 7767

✉ capecross.org

**5 Mile 72 Campsite (NWR)**

This campsite is 36 km north of Henties Bay. Camping R150 p.p. (max eight per stand). Campsite has a long drop, no electricity and you have to buy water: R1,25 per litre; R10 per shower. Basic fisherman chalet R400 p.n. (sleeps two). Only open in December and January.

✉ ct.bookings@nwr.com.na

🌐 nwr.com.na

**6 De Duine Hotel**

Next to the sea in Duine Street. Single room R458 p.n. Double room R610 p.n., plus R150 per child aged 6–12 on a mattress in their parents' room. They have braai and conference facilities, a restaurant and bar. There's a swimming pool and a squash court.

☎ 00 264 64 500 001

✉ deduinehotel.com

🌐 reservations@deduine.com

7 Ietsiemeer Beach House

This luxury self-catering house has great sea views. There are 12 bedrooms and the house sleeps 24 people, so it's ideal for bigger groups who want to stay together. Rent three of the en suite double rooms (six people in total) for R5 980 p.n. (additional rooms available from R1 035 p.n.). If you're only staying for one night, it costs 25% more. Enquire about the 10% SADC discount.

☎ 00 264 81 124 4847

✉ mariannel@scsi.com.na

🌐 ietsiemeer.com

8 Buck's Camping Lodge

In Henties, 10 minutes from the sea. The campsite has 45 stands and it's a great place to pitch a tent. Each stand has electricity and a private bathroom. There's a wall to protect you from the wind. Camping R350 p.n. (December/January R400) for up to four people, plus R50 per extra person (max six people per stand).

GPS: S22.111858 E14.281178

☎ 00 264 64 501 039

☎ 00 264 81 270 2959



✉ buckcamp@mweb.com.na

✉ buckcamp@afol.com.na

**9 Namib Shore**

Rental agents for eight houses dotted around town. Reception is at 159 Kabeljou Street. Self-catering three-bedroom house R180–R300 p.p. sharing. Bigger houses are also available.

☎ 00 264 64 500 182

☎ 00 264 81 127 5663

☎ 00 264 81 221 5886

🌐 namibshore.com

10 Jakkalsputz (NWR)

This place is 9 km south of Henties. Camping R150 p.p. (max eight per stand). Long drop, no electricity and you pay for water: R1,25 per litre; R10 per shower. Only open in December and January.

✉ ct.bookings@nwr.com.na

🌐 nwr.com.na

SPITZKOPPE**11 Spitzkoppe Rest Camp**

The campsite has 31 stands among the boulders, set far apart from each other. Each stand has its own long drop toilet. There are communal showers with hot water and flush toilets at the reception office. There's also a bar and a restaurant. Braai packs are available. Camping R210 p.p. Day visitors R120 p.p. A guided outing to rock art sites in Bushman's Paradise is included in the price and takes about two hours.

☎ 00 264 64 464 144

✉ reservations@logufa.com

🌐 spitzkoppe.com

12 Spitzkoppe Tented Camp

The camp is only a kilometre from Spitzkoppe. Six private campsites (R200 p.p.) each with a bathroom, a braai and power. There are also 19 en suite safari tents: R970 p.p. Ten luxury bush wagons have en suite bathrooms and solar power: R1 560 p.p. Donkey boilers supply hot water from 6 am to 9 am, and from 7 pm to 9 pm. Cool off in the swimming pool or sip a beer at the Bush Bar. The bar

has Wi-Fi and you can order food.

☎ 00 264 81 805 3178

✉ spitzkoppemountaincamp.com

USAKOS**13 Achab**

This campsite is 9,5 km west of Usakos. Five private campsites (space for 2–3 tents) far apart from each other, under trees: R180 p.p. Each campsite has a braai, toilet and shower (no power, donkey boiler). There's a variety of tented accommodation, from a dome tent with bedding for two (R750 p.n.) to a self-catering tent (sleeps four people) with an en suite bathroom and a kitchenette (R900 p.n. for two people, R300 per extra person). A new self-catering eco-cabin sleeps four people (R1 300 p.n. for two people). There's a swimming pool and you can also swim in rock pools and walk or drive in the veld to see springbok, zebra and kudu.

☎ 00 264 81 243 3412

☎ 00 264 81 363 8318

✉ achabcamp.com

**14 Ameib Guesthouse & Camping**

The location is scenic and the meals are lekker. Camping R220 p.p. Twin-sleeper cabin (in campsite) from R500 p.p. A new, exclusive campsite for up to eight people is now open, with private ablutions – R260 p.p. En suite double room R1 590 p.p. DB&B. Family rooms (sleep three or four) R1 350 p.p. DB&B. Explore Philipp's Cave (a heritage site) and check out the huge boulders at a place called Bull's Party. Day visitors welcome: R100 p.p. Overnight guests can do a sunrise or sunset drive.

☎ 00 264 81 803 6103

✉ ameib.com

OMARURU**15 River Guesthouse**

This guesthouse might have the lushest garden in town. When you arrive, it feels like you're stepping

into a forest. There's also a swimming pool. The campsite has six stands (max 10 people per stand) and big ana trees for shade. Camping R170 p.p. plus R45 for a power point. Double room R860 p.n. B&B. Family room from R1 050 p.n. B&B. Dinner available from R160 p.p. – book before 4 pm. On the last Friday of the month, the guesthouse hosts a pizza night in a boma.

☎ 00 264 81 124 5365

✉ river-guesthouse.com

**16 Omaruru Guesthouse**

This neat spot reminds you of a boarding house. The staff are friendly and there's a swimming pool area with deck chairs and free Wi-Fi. En suite rooms with air conditioning. Double room from R970 p.n.; family room (sleeps four) R1 550 p.n. Rates include breakfast.

☎ 00 264 64 570 035

✉ omaruru-guesthouse.com

17 Eins Studios

Three arty self-catering apartments around a lush green courtyard with a swimming pool. The apartments are open-plan, so the sleeping and cooking areas are in the same space. The decor is bright and playful. Resident artist Stefanie Eins's gallery is open for viewing. Rosenberg Studio is private with a double bed, a braai and patio. Tower Studio sleeps three people max, double bed upstairs – the bathroom is not en suite. Tree Studio sleeps four people (1 double bed, 1 single bed, 1 sleeper couch). Rates for Rosenberg, Tower and Tree R750 p.p. or R1 200 per couple. Secure parking, free Wi-Fi, laundry service (on request), walking distance from town centre.

☎ 00 264 81 251 5023

☎ 00 264 81 614 9666

✉ einsartstudios@gmail.com

18 Evening Shade

Five self-catering units that sleep two, five and six people respectively,



LE ROUX VAN SCHALKWYK

ERONGO PLATEAU CAMP #21

in a building that was once the Omaruru Dampf Bakery. (In family room #2, the door is made from two big baking trays.) The units are modern and spacious, with white linen, mosquito nets and air conditioning. Rates from R550 p.p. sharing (self-catering). Guests can have meals at Main Street Café, also on the premises.
 ☎ 00 264 64 570 303
 ☎ 00 264 81 1246 184
 📍 evening-shade.com

19 Camp Mara

Do you want to take a photo of a rosy-faced lovebird, Rüppell's parrot, violet wood-hoopoe or hornbill? Head to this resort about 13 km west from Omaruru in the Erongo Mountains. Camp on the banks of the dry Omaruru River (R250 p.p., private braai, communal ablutions) or walk the bird-watching trail. Solar power and wood available. Luxury self-catering family room (sleeps five) from R720 p.p. Double room from R1 080 p.p. DB&B. Meals available with prior booking. SADC rates are available.
 ☎ 00 264 64 571 190
 ☎ 00 264 81 4558180
 📍 campmara.com

20 Erongo Rocks Farmhouse & Camping

This privately owned farm in the Erongo Mountains has four campsites (R260 p.p.). Camp Granite and Camp Dik-Dik are the most popular as they are set among huge granite boulders. All campsites have a braai, shaded areas, a gas cooker, tables and chairs. The self-catering farmhouse (R575 p.p.) sleeps up to eight people and the self-catering cottage (R680 p.p.) can sleep two adults and two small children. Minimum stay of two nights on weekends. Well-marked hiking trails, scenic roads and viewpoints. Three-hour guided hike to see rock art, from R500 p.p.
 ☎ 00 264 81 210 2047
 📍 erongorocks.com

21 Erongo Plateau Camp

Stunning views! The four private camping stands (no power) are on the edge of a plateau overlooking a waterhole. You can sit in your camping chair and watch the animals. There are walking trails into the mountain. Each stand has a tap and a roof for shade. Two campsites share a communal bathroom with flush toilets and showers (a donkey boiler

supplies hot water). Two stands have their own bathrooms; one is wheelchair-friendly. R180 p.p. Pets are welcome.

☎ 00 264 81 277 1668 (WhatsApp)
 📍 erongo.iway.na

22 Omandumba Guest Farm & Bush Camp

There are five camping areas far apart from each other and sheltered by the rocks – from R200 p.p. The Cave is high up and has a view of the ancient landscape. Each camping area has a braai, scullery, flush toilet and shower (donkey boiler). There's a great view of the Erongo Mountains from the stoep of your guest room – all the rooms are neat and cool. There's also a bush camp surrounded by boulders about 4 km from the guest farm. The camp has 10 luxury en suite safari tents and a communal living area. Both R1 610 p.p. including dinner and breakfast.

☎ 00 264 81 444 3716 (bookings)
 ☎ 00 264 81 217 0879 (Harald & Deike Rust, owners)
 📍 omandumba.de

KARIBIB

23 Kaliombo Safari Camp

This camp is 42 km east of Karibib and 69 km from Okahandja. Camping with power R275 p.p.

Groups of 15 or more have exclusive use of the campsite. There are five en suite safari tents: R770 p.p. sharing self-catering. B&B and dinner options available on request. Tents 1 and 2 have the best view of the waterhole. A nature drive costs R230 p.p.

GPS: S21.96335 E16.23974

☎ 00 264 64 404 561

☎ 00 264 81 247 4825

📍 sunrisetours@iafrica.com.na

24 Etusis Lodge & Campsite

South-west of Karibib, along the C32: an out-of-the-way place with tidy grounds. There's a campsite 22 km from the lodge that has running water, toilet and shower facilities and shade (no electricity): R175 p.p. The lodge offers several options: The self-catering farmhouse (accommodation for 2–7 people), minimum two nights R1 050 p.p. sharing. Luxury tent with mountain views R1 385 p.p. sharing and twin-sleeper bungalows R1 990 p.p. sharing. Both DB&B. Sunset drives and horse rides are available. Enquire about SADC discounts.

☎ 00 264 64 550 826 (lodge)

📍 etusis.de

25 Donkerhuk West

In the Witwatersberg along the C28. Two exclusive campsites – Andi's



We know what our customers expect –
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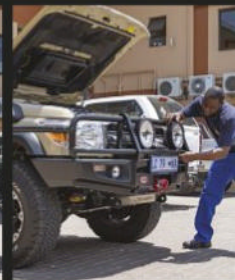


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14 Diehl St, Southern Industrial, Windhoek, Namibia



CENTRAL PLACES TO STAY

Camp (max 20 adults) and Duiker's Den (max eight adults) – amid big camel thorns, no power but each with its own bathroom. Camping: R220 p.p. Duiker's Den has its own kitchenette. Barbarossa Tented Camp has three self-catering units with en suite bathrooms R600 p.p. Both prices are for SADC members. Two USB power points available in the central kitchen lapa. If you want tasty farm meals, order two weeks in advance. Wood for sale at R100 per 20 kg crate. It's best to visit in a 4x4 as the roads to the campsites are sandy. Scenic farm drive is 4x4 only (R70 p.p. in your own vehicle) and hiking and mountain biking (own bike) is free.
📞 00 264 81 217 5757 (Christian, WhatsApp only)
🌐 donkerhuk.com.na

OKAHANDJA

26 Omatozu Lodge
About 25 km north of Okahandja, near the B1. The campsite has four stands with power – each with a private bathroom. Camping R200 p.p. Meals are available (arrange in advance). Braai wood available (R50). Luxury safari tents from R1 500 p.p. sharing DB&B (R1 100 per extra bed, up to four people). There's a swimming pool, a lapa and a bar. Self-drive game route (R400 per vehicle per day). There's one 4x4 trail, one 4x2 trail and a hiking trail (7 km).
📞 00 264 81 643 7100
🌐 omatozu.com

27 Tungeni Von Bach Dam Resort

This resort is 7 km south-east of Okahandja, on the banks of the Von Bach Dam. The 20 stands look out over the water, with braais, shared bathrooms and a slipway for your boat. Camping from R180 p.p. (max six people per stand). Twin-sleeper deluxe bungalow R1 450 p.n. B&B. Current special: Deluxe bungalow R1 750 p.n. for two people, or R2 980 for two nights; DB&B, plus afternoon tea and cake. Luxury family chalet

R1 850 p.n. for two people, plus R700 per extra adult, B&B. The restaurant also serves lunch and dinner. Activities: walking trails, birdwatching and fishing. Hire a double canoe (R150) or go on a sundowner boat cruise (R195 p.p.; drinks included; min 10 guests).
📞 00 264 81 341 9180
🌐 tungeni.com

SWAKOPMUND

28 Alte Brücke
Popular resort near the beach. Camping (with power) R480 p.n. for the first two people, plus R100 per extra person (max six people per stand). Twin-sleeper chalet from R1 700 p.n. B&B.
📞 00 264 64 404 918
🌐 altebrucke.com

29 Tiger Reef

Close to the beach. The campsite has a lawn; each stand has a braai, power, water, and Wi-Fi. Communal ablutions. From R195 p.p., plus R100 per extra vehicle parked; R165 p.n. extra per stand during December/January, over Easter and during the June school holidays.
📞 00 264 81 450 1797
🌐 lighthousegroup.com.na

30 Beach Lodge

In Vogelstrand, in the northern part of town. Double room from R1 458 p.p. sharing. Family room (two adults and two kids under 12) from R3 905 p.n. Rates include breakfast. Enquire about specials. The Vreck restaurant at the lodge is a great place to have dinner and watch the sunset.
📞 00 264 64 414 500
🌐 beachlodge.com.na

31 Atlantic Villa

In Vogelstrand. The complex is within walking distance of the sea and the Platz am Meer shopping centre. Standard double room from R1 000 p.p. sharing B&B. Not all of the rooms have aircon so ask when you book. Safe parking, Wi-Fi, wine cellar.
📞 00 264 64 463 511
🌐 atlantic-villa.com



32 Hennika's Townhouse

This self-catering flat – in a small complex about a kilometre from the beach and town centre – sleeps two adults and two children. It's an Airbnb flat so there's everything you need, from free Wi-Fi and Netflix to a washing machine. Rate from R570 p.n. plus Airbnb fees (minimum stay of three nights).
🌐 airbnb.co.za

33 Strand Hotel

On the Mole by the seaside. Double room from R6 409 p.n. B&B. Check their website for luxury options.
📞 00 264 64 411 4308
🌐 strandhotelswakopmund.com

34 Stay@Swakop Guesthouse

This guesthouse with its beautiful garden is on the edge of town. Double room from R1 560 p.n. B&B. There's parking and security.
📞 00 264 81 634 5212
🌐 stay-at-swakop.com

35 Hotel Pension Rapmund

This small, family-run hotel offers safe parking and it's an easy walk to the town centre, or to the beach. Double room from R850 p.p. sharing. Family room (sleeps five) from R2 340 p.n. Luxury flat with private patio and a sea view from R2 575 p.n. (sleeps five). Rates include breakfast.
📞 00 264 64 402 035
🌐 hotelpensionrapmund.com

36 Swakopmund Luxury Suites

A stylish place near the lighthouse. Double room from R2 470 p.n.
📞 00 264 64 463 298
🌐 swakopmundluxurysuites.com

37 The Delight Swakopmund

This boutique hotel is part of the Gondwana Collection Namibia. It's on the corner of Theo-Ben Gurirab and Nathaniel Maxuiliili streets, a few blocks from the town centre

and the Mole. Rooms from R1 579 p.p. sharing B&B.

📞 00 264 61 427 200

🌐 gondwana-collection.com



38 Hansa Hotel

Treat yourself to a night out at this stately hotel – one of the oldest in Swakopmund. Self-catering flatlet from R850 p.n. Double room from R1 120 p.p. sharing with breakfast.
📞 00 264 64 414 200
🌐 hansahotel.com.na



39 Footprints

Sixteen rooms, plus a rooftop deck with a communal braai area and a bar with sea views. Rooms from R1 197 p.n. for two people sharing. Family room (sleeps four) from R1 800 p.n. These are self-catering rates; B&B rates are also available. They give discount to large groups and long stays.
📞 00 264 64 403 042 (Charlotte)
🌐 footprints2swakop.com

40 Windpomp 14

This campsite is at the popular Mole 14 fishing spot: Turn at the windmill next to the road, 25 km north of Swakopmund. Each of the 21 camping units (from R205 p.p.) has a private bathroom, a kitchen and a sheltered braai. There's also a restaurant and a bar.
📞 00 264 83 323 2393
🌐 camp@windpomp14.com
🌐 sunkarros.com



41 Skeleton Beach Backpackers

At 14 Moses Garoeb Street, 200 m from the sea. Camping R180 p.p. Dorm room R250 p.p. (shared bathroom); en suite double room from R600 p.n.; family room R720 for two people. Rates include breakfast. There's also a communal kitchen.
📞 00 264 81 287 0420
🌐 skeletonbeachbackpackers.com



42 Sophia Dale Base Camp

On a farm about 12 km from Swakop, along the B2 on the Swakop River

plots. Camping R170 p.p. Double room with a bathroom in the Royal House from R700 p.n.; self-catering rondavel from R850 p.n. for two people, R1 000 p.n. for four; self-catering bungalow from R1 200 p.n. for two people, R1 500 p.n. for four. Breakfast R150 p.p. The restaurant serves dinner Monday to Saturday. ☎ 00 264 81 413 0504
🌐sophiadale.org



43 Goanikontes Oasis

About 35 km east of Swakop. Stay here if you want to visit the Moon Landscape or the welwitschias early in the morning. Camping R175 p.p. or R200 p.p. with a private bathroom. Family room for four people from R1 485 p.n. The bungalow has braai facilities but no kitchen. Bungalow from R1 045 p.n. for two people; four-sleeper double-storey unit R1 760 p.n. Bungalow rates do not include breakfast. There are bigger houses (12–20 people) with a fridge and

stove; bring your own cutlery; from R4 675 p.n. to R5 575 p.n. Activities: bicycle hire (from R200), hiking trails, stargazing, and looking for scorpions with a guide. Wood available. The restaurant is open daily – order dinner in advance.

☎ 00 264 64 405 976

🌐goanikontesoasis.com

WALVIS BAY



44 Lagoon Chalets and Campsite

Just 500 m from the Walvis Bay lagoon. The campsites are sandy or paved, with electricity. From R500 p.n. per stand (max six per stand). Shared ablutions with hot water. En suite backpacker-style double room from R800 p.n. (four people). Self-catering chalets (sleep 2–8), rates from R1 600 p.n. There's a play area for the kids, and a restaurant.

☎ 00 264 81 128 7151

🌐lagoonchaletswb.com

NAMIB-NAUKLUFT NATIONAL PARK

45 Campsites

These are all in the northern part of the park – the desert flats, in other words, that you drive through on the C14, C28 or D1982 to get to Walvis or Swakop from the interior. Although you can reach some of the sites in a 4x2, it's best to drive a 4x4 in the park. Facilities at the campsites – except for long drops – are non-existent. Bring your own water and take your rubbish away when you leave. Buy a permit at any Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) office (e.g. Swakopmund or Windhoek). Camping R80 per stand for four people; R90 per stand for five people. Daily park fee R100 p.p. for SADC residents, plus R50 per vehicle per day.

Husab Mountain

GPS: S22.64515 E14.99598

Bloedkoppie

GPS: S22.84721 E15.37940

Groot Tinkas

GPS: S22.85407 E15.47502

Vogelfederberg

GPS: S23.05381 E14.98920

Ganab

GPS: S23.09685 E15.51271

Homeb

GPS: S23.63744 E15.18209

Mirabib

GPS: S23.45265 E15.36020

Kries se Rus

GPS: S23.30433 E15.49396

Aruvlei

GPS: S23.33918 E15.67557

Kuiseb Canyon (viewpoint only)

GPS: S23.34193 E15.74477

☎ 00 264 64 404 576 (Swakop MEFT office, ask to be put through to permits.)

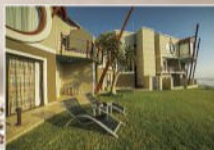
WINDHOEK

46 Düsternbrook Safari Guest Farm

About 30 km north-west of Windhoek, off the A1/B1 highway, exit Okapuka/D1499. Pioneer camping with shared ablutions



BEACH LODGE
Swakopmund



You can't get any closer to the sea than this lodge! Enjoy the magnificent view from your room, listen to the waves and smell the tangy sea air. We are about 5km from the Swakopmund town centre.

THE WRECK RESTAURANT

- elegant dining in a relaxed atmosphere

This stylish and modern restaurant seats 74, and offers a comfortable bar as well. The chef's love of food is evident in each perfectly presented meal. Reservations are a must at this signature restaurant.



Operating Hours:

Open Monday to Saturday - 17h30 until 23h00 for dinner
Open Monday to Saturday - 12h00 to 14h30 for lunch

BEACH LODGE Tel: +264 64 414 500 | Fax: +264 64 414 501 | 1 Stint Street, Swakopmund |
reservations@beachlodge.com.na

THE WRECK RESTAURANT Tel: +264 64 414528 | res@the-wreck.com

www.beachlodge.com.na | www.the-wreck.com

CENTRAL PLACES TO STAY

(no electricity): R319 p.p. Bush camping with shade, electricity and shared ablutions: R349 p.p. Davidsdraai chalets R910 p.p. (self-catering). Safari tents and chalets from R1 160 B&B or from R1 835 p.p. DB&B plus one activity (sleep two each; total 12 beds). Bring your own firewood. Other accommodation from R1 270 p.p. for B&B only, to R1 670 for a luxurious double room with aircon B&B, to R2 519 p.p. in the same room DB&B with one activity. Activities include game drives, leopard drive and hippo drive, scenic mountain drives, horse riding. Lots of hiking opportunities. Slackpacking options available. Day visitors welcome: entrance R150 p.p. Restaurant on site. Namibians and SADC residents can contact the farm directly for a 20% discount.
☎ 00 264 61 232 572
☎ 00 264 81 864 3000
📧 duesternbrook.net

47 Sun Karros Daan Viljoen

In the Daan Viljoen Game Reserve, about 20 km west of Windhoek via the C28. Seven luxury campsites, each with their own toilet, shower, kitchenette and built-in braai. Campers have access to the Boma restaurant, swimming pool and walking trails. Camping from R480 p.n. for two people. Chalet (sleeps two) from R1 045 p.p. sharing B&B. The chalets are not self-catering, but there are braai facilities.
☎ 00 264 61 232 393
📧 sunkarros.com



48 Krumhuk Farm

An organic farm 25 km south of Windhoek. The four self-catering units are away from the farmhouse. Each has an open-plan kitchen and living area, plus a stoep and braai facilities. From R1 000 p.n. for two people (units sleep up to four). Enjoy a buffet braai under the stars (book in advance). On Sundays they serve coffee and cake in the garden from 3 pm.
☎ 00 264 81 334 5178
📧 krumhuk.de



49 Monteiro

About 10 km south of Windhoek, next to the B1 in the direction of Rehoboth. This small resort is peaceful and well maintained. The gardens are beautiful. The campsite stands (R150 p.p.) have power and share an ablution block and bush kitchen. Each safari tent (from R280 p.p.) has its own deck. The tents sleep up to four people and you get power, water, a braai drum, linen and basics like cutlery, plates and a kettle. Tents share a bathroom. Two luxury apartments from R790 p.n. for two people, R250 per extra person (maximum six people).
☎ 00 264 81 734 8855
☎ 00 264 81 129 1172
📧 monteironamibia.com

50 Hotel Thule

This classy hotel has the best view in Windhoek, perched on a hill overlooking the CBD. Even if you don't stay over, go for sundowners on the terrace. All en suite rooms have aircon, a tea and coffee station, satellite TV and Wi-Fi. Double room from R2 766 p.n. B&B. There's also a restaurant.
☎ 00 264 61 371 950
📧 hotelthule.com

51 The Elegant Guesthouse

Within walking distance of Joe's Beerhouse. Seventeen en suite double rooms from R1 700 p.n. B&B for SADC residents. Secure parking, swimming pool, free Wi-Fi.
☎ 00 264 61 301 934
📧 the-elegant-collection.com



52 Klein Windhoek Guesthouse

Double room R1 300 p.n. Family room (sleeps four) R1 600 p.n. B&B. Self-catering units from R1 350 p.n. for two people. Swimming pool, restaurant, Wi-Fi.
☎ 00 264 61 239 401
📧 kleinwindhoekguesthouse.com



53 Hotel Pension Christoph

At 33 Heinitzburg Street, a 10-minute walk from the CBD. Swimming pool, shaded parking, Wi-Fi. All rooms open onto the garden. Double room R1 000 p.n. B&B.
☎ 00 264 61 240 777
☎ 00 264 81 237 7644
📧 christoph@afol.com.na



54 Urban Camp

In the heart of Windhoek – a good spot if you want to spend a few days in the capital. Camping R240 p.p.; shade and braai facilities, shared ablutions. Two glamping options: permanent dome tents with two single beds (R940 p.n.), or Explorer's Delight, a twin-sleeper safari tent R1 150 p.n. Tents share ablution facilities. There's a swimming pool and hammocks in shaded corners. Order a meal at the bar and use the Wi-Fi. There's also a laundry facility.
☎ 00 264 81 162 0761
📧 urbancamp.net

55 Arebbusch Travel Lodge

Next to Eros Airport, at the corner of Golf Street and Auas Road. Camping available with shared or private facilities. A wide variety of B&B and self-catering accommodation. Prices on the website. Regular specials available. Restaurant and pizzeria on site.
☎ 00 264 61 252 255
📧 arebbusch.com

56 River Crossing Lodge

The turn-off to this lodge is on the airport road (B6), about 5 km outside Windhoek. Double room from R2 485 p.n. B&B. Guided hikes and game drives (enquire beforehand). There is a restaurant and a swimming pool.
☎ 00 264 61 401 494
📧 rivercrossing.com.na



57 Heja Game Lodge

East of Windhoek, overlooking the Hoffnung Dam. Swimming pool, game drives and restaurant. The lodge has en suite rooms with air

conditioning, Wi-Fi and satellite TV. Rates from R984 p.n. for a double room B&B. Luxury chalet R1 275 p.n. B&B for two people. Game drive R300 p.p.
☎ 00 264 61 257 151
📧 hejalodge.com

58 Trans Kalahari Inn

About 22 km east of Windhoek, next to the B6 to the airport. Camping with power and communal ablutions R325 p.n. (max four people). Double room from R1 260 p.n. B&B. Free Wi-Fi in common areas, plus a restaurant and swimming pool.
☎ 00 264 61 222 877
📧 transkalahari-inn.com

59 Sweet Thorn Retreat

About 20 km east of the capital, next to the B6 airport road. Camping from R155 p.p. (with power). Standard double room in the lodge with air conditioning from R1 265 p.p. with breakfast. They offer SADC discounts and discounts for longer stays.
☎ 00 264 61 224 712
📧 sweetthornretreat.com

60 N/a'an ku sê Lodge

Follow the B6 out of Windhoek for 24 km, then turn north on the M53 for another 27 km. Chalets and luxury self-catering villas from R2 350 p.p. DB&B (SADC special; half-price for children under 12; valid until 30 November). N/a'an ku sê is an animal rehabilitation centre and they offer several guided tours.
☎ 00 264 61 307 338
📧 lodge@naankuse.com
📧 naankusecollection.com

DORDABIS

61 Arnheim Cave & Leisure

About 124 km south-east of Windhoek as the crow flies. Camping with shared ablutions R220 p.p. Campsite with own bathroom R280 p.p. (max four people per stand); luxury chalets R1 740 p.n. for two adults. Double rooms R2 200 p.n. DB&B. Family unit (two adults and two kids) from R2 200 p.n. Chalet

The Elegant Collection

CREATING MEMORIES



Elegant DESERT LODGE

Situated on the border of the World heritage site of the Namib Desert and only 38km from the gate to Sesriem and Sossusvlei. We offer accommodation in 27 elegantly appointed, air-conditioned rooms – all en-suite. The tasteful and comfortable rooms invite you to recline in the soulful yet liberating atmosphere of the world's oldest desert.



Elegant DESERT CAMP

Surrounded by the majestic Tsaris Mountains and endless flat gravel plains, **the tented Elegant Desert Camp is situated a mere 45km from Sesriem**. Only 10 individual en-suite tents, nestled carefully amongst rugged boulders, this secluded little gem welcome our guests to a world of vast spaces, endless horizons, and jagged mountain heights.



Elegant GUESTHOUSE

In the heart of Windhoek's oldest suburb lies our sophisticated yet simple and modern Guesthouse, which places its architecture and decorative accent on elegance and the comfort of guests. The chic, boutique guesthouse offers 17 rooms and will appeal to both the leisure traveller as well as the executive on business.



WWW.THE-ELEGANT-COLLECTION.COM

RESERVATIONS: info@the-elegant-collection.com



LE ROUX VAN SCHALKWYK

prices include breakfast. These are SADC rates. Cave tours at 7 am and 5 pm from R250 p.p. (book in advance). Buffet breakfast and dinner is available at the lodge at additional charge – booking is essential. Day visitors welcome R350 p.p.

☎ 00 264 81 735 4348

📧 arnhemcaves.com

62 Ankawini Safari Ranch

This 70 km² private game reserve is 90 km from Windhoek. Camping in a dry riverbed with three ablution blocks (donkey boilers) R175 p.p. (max six people per site). No electricity but firewood is supplied. At Camp Omunguindi (sleeps seven), there are three en suite safari tents. Private deck and braai with a view. From R1 500 p.n.; minimum two nights. You book Omunguindi exclusively. Drive around the farm and swim at The Castle venue's swimming pool if there's no function. Game drives available.

☎ 00 264 81 475 6395 (Reception is patchy, bookings via e-mail or website only.)

📧 ankawini.com

GOBABIS



63 West Nest Lodge

Next to the B6, about 35 km west

of Gobabis. Camping with private bathroom from R210 p.p. sharing; R380 p.p. with breakfast; R675 p.p. with dinner and breakfast. Tented chalet from R485 p.p. sharing. Luxury chalet from R1 045 p.p. sharing; more with meals. Swimming pool, restaurant and bar.

☎ 00 264 62 570 343

☎ 00 264 81 124 5295

📧 westnestlodge.com

64 Die Dam Trans Kalahari End Resort

On the outskirts of Gobabis, next to the Tilda Viljoen Dam. Camping and caravan stands on lawn, with power points from R150 p.p. Standard and family chalets R660 p.p. VIP chalets from R1 000 p.p. You can fish in the dam. Day visitors R30 p.p. Have a drink in the bar with a view of the dam, swim in the pool or play Putt-Putt. Free Wi-Fi.

☎ 00 264 62 565 656

📧 gobabisdam@afol.com.na



65 Goba Lodge and

Rest Camp

On the outskirts of Gobabis. Camping R430 p.n. for two people, plus R150 per extra adult and R100 per vehicle (power available). Rest Camp rooms (shared bathroom and

kitchen) R550 p.n. for two people. Chalets from R1 535 p.n. for two people B&B. Lodge rooms (DStv, fridge and aircon) from R1 500 p.n. for two people B&B. Family room (sleeps 3 – 5) from R1 850 p.n. B&B. They have a restaurant and swimming pool.

☎ 00 264 62 564 499

📧 goba@iway.na

66 Harnas Wildlife Foundation

This wildlife rehab centre, about 90 km north-east of Gobabis, is now managed by the N/a'an ku se Foundation. You can see a variety of animals, including wild dogs. Camping R270 p.p. Luxury cottages from R1 545 p.p. DB&B (ask about special SADC rates). Restaurant, bar and swimming pool available. Visit the website for information about the various activities.

☎ 00 264 62 568 828 (lodge)

☎ 00 264 81 140 3322 (reservations)

📧 harnas@naankuse.com

📧 harnas.org

67 Zelda Guest Farm

About 80 km east of Gobabis, on the B6. The campsite has 11 stands with shade, power points, hot water and braai facilities – R189 p.p. Double

rooms and family rooms from R705 p.p. sharing B&B. Air conditioning and Wi-Fi available.

GPS: S22.30930 E19.81723

☎ 00 264 62 560 427

📧 bookings.zeldaguestfarm@iway.na



68 East Gate

At the Buitepos border post. Camping from R140 p.p. Cabin (shared ablutions) R240 p.p. Self-catering bungalow (aircon, kitchen, bathroom) from R1 100 p.n. for two people. There's a restaurant, a petrol station, a swimming pool and a well-stocked shop. Braai packs and firewood available.

☎ 00 264 62 560 405

📧 eastgate-namibia.com

KHOMAS HOCHLAND



69 Harmonie C28

On the C28, 90 km from Windhoek and 240 km from Swakopmund. They offer fully equipped self-catering chalets with lovely views of the valley. Private campsites with own bathrooms, shade, 220V power, lights, braai, and hot water (donkey boiler): R180 p.p. Self-catering chalet (sleeps two) R950 p.n. There is a communal pool, hiking, birding,

playpark, self-drive 4x4 trails, guided drives, viewpoints and beautiful natural surroundings.

☎ 00 264 81 127 27.09

(WhatsApp only)

📧 harmonie-c28.com

70 Hakos Guest Farm

On Namibia's Great Escarpment, about 135 km from Windhoek, along the C26. Four shaded stands with shared ablutions and communal areas, Wi-Fi, no power R240 p.p. Double rooms from R1 200 p.p. B&B. Meals on request. Indoor pool. Hakos has the largest private astronomical observatory in Namibia. Stargazing up to four people: R640. Check the website for information about available telescopes and mounts.

☎ 00 264 62 572 111

📧 hakos-astrofarm.com

71 Corona Guest Farm

About 18 km from the C26 on the D1438; the turn-off is about 30 km from the C26/C14 junction. Rooms from R1 780 p.p. sharing DB&B. Longer stays get lower rates. Enquire about the 20% SADC discount.

☎ 00 264 61 681 045

📧 corona@resdest.com (bookings)

📧 info@coronaguestfarm.com

📧 coronaguestfarm.com



72 Camp Rooiklip

About 170 km south-west of Windhoek via the Gamsberg Pass (C26). Turn left on the D1438 to Rooiklip. Felsen Camp has three stands under rock overhangs, each with a braai, shower (hot water), basin and toilet. No electricity, but there is Wi-Fi: R240 p.p. Camp Flintstone has three self-catering stone houses: Two units sleep two (from R900 p.n.) and one sleeps four (R1 600 p.n.) There are shared ablution facilities, a lapa, a fully equipped kitchen, Wi-Fi and a big pool for guests at the farmhouse. You can book the entire Camp Flintstone for R3 000 p.n.

☎ 00 264 81 129 2126

☎ 00 264 81 128 7844

📧 camp-rooiklip.com

73 Rooisand Desert Ranch

About 167 km from Windhoek on the C26. Big, level camping stands, each equipped with electricity, a firepit and a basin. A slatted roof offers shade while hedges provide natural protection. Campers share the ablution block, pool and other amenities. There are also 10 roofed, enclosed structures with two bunk beds each as well as 10 concrete platforms on which you can pitch a 3 x 3 m tent (no roofs or awnings on these). Camping R250 p.p. Rooms at the lodge from R1 110 p.p. B&B. Self-catering chalet next to an astronomical observatory (2,5 km away from the lodge) R4 980 p.n. for four people (minimum two nights). Perfect for stargazers – telescopes for hire (booking essential).

☎ 00 264 81 127 7629

📧 rooisand.com/en

74 Namib's Valley of a Thousand Hills

A beautiful place on the edge of the Namib. The turn-off is about 7 km from the C26/C14 intersection – follow the signs. The campsite (no electricity) has a great view of the Gaub Valley. Each stand has a private bathroom and scullery. Camping R285 p.p. Bungalows from R1 665 p.p. sharing B&B, sleeps two to four people.

☎ 00 264 61 250 725

📧 namibsvally.com

REHOBOTH



75 Lake Oanob Resort

A popular resort 7 km west of Rehoboth next to the Oanob Dam. Swim, go on a boat ride, paddle on the dam, hike or drive a 4x4 trail. Camping from R100 p.p. or R160 p.p. for a shaded stand on the waterfront. En suite double room from R1 470 p.n. B&B. Family rooms from R1 862 p.n. B&B for two adults and two children. Luxury self-catering chalets from R2 451 p.n. for two adults, plus R261 per extra person (sleep 2–8). SADC discount: 30% on room and chalet rates. Entry fee R30 p.p. Day

Letsatsi

LIFESTYLE LODGE

VANRHYNSDORP



Situated in Vanrhynsdorp: an ideal stopover on the N7 route between Cape Town and Namibia, Springbok or Upington.

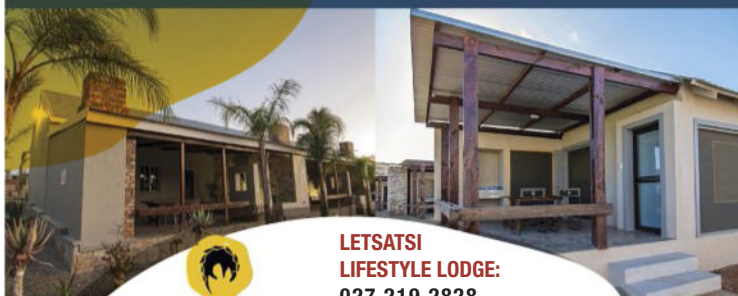
The lodge offers guests a choice of chalets that can accommodate between 2 to 4 people. The air-conditioned chalets are fitted with comfortable beds, and each room has an en-suite bathroom with a shower. A TV with a selection of DSTV channels, as well as a kitchenette with basic heat-and-eat appliances, is available in each chalet.

For guests' convenience, the lodge offers an on-site à la carte restaurant, Red Ox Steakhouse, that caters to the discerning palate, and a menu that is paired with some of the best wines in the region. Guests can also enjoy a high tea on the restaurant's patio with some decadent sweet pastries and cake.



The historical church and gardens which reflect the flora of the region, is available for guided tours by the resident succulent plant expert, and guests can cool down in one of the 4 swimming pools after a long drive.

The lodge specializes in weddings, birthday parties and other functions which they host in their on-site function venue to a capacity of 400 delegates.



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info@letsatsie.co.za
www.ncfamouslodges.com/
letsatsi-lodge

CENTRAL PLACES TO STAY

visitors welcome but you should book beforehand.

📞 00 264 62 522 370/69

📧 oanob.com.na

KALKRAND



76 Tsumis Tented Camp

The four en suite tents (two single beds each) are arranged around a communal lapa – R450 p.p. There's a spacious living area with an indoor braai and you can swim in the farm dam. You can buy meat and boerewors – arrange with Madelein beforehand. They only accept one booking at a time.

📞 00 264 81 275 5334

(Madelein, WhatsApp)

📧 tsumistentekamp@gmail.com

SOLITAIRE

77 Rostock Ritz Lodge

The turn-off to the lodge is 43 km north of Solitaire, off the C14. Four camping stands with communal ablution facilities from R195 p.p. There's a communal braai with a wonderful view. The lodge is about 6 km from the campsite. Lodge rooms from R1 765 p.p. sharing B&B. Rock paintings, 4x4 drives, scenic sunset drives and hiking trails. Contact them to enquire about special SADC rates.

📞 00 264 81 258 5722

📞 00 264 64 694 000

📧 rostock-ritz-desert-lodge.com

78 Bushman's Desert Camp/ Sossus on Foot/ Cha-re Camping

This farm is on the C14, about 33 km north of Solitaire. The campsite has hot showers and flush toilets but no power points. Camping R200 p.p. Exclusive bush campsites with flush toilet and sink but no shower R300 p.p. (2024 rate). Self-catering chalets R1 000 p.p. sharing (no fridge, but there's a fridge at reception). Owner Boesman Davids and his team offer desert tours on the farm: R2 240 for up to six people; R320 p.p. for bigger groups. A 4x4 self-drive tour is R400 per vehicle.

📞 00 264 81 294 3755 (Boesman)

📞 00 264 81 337 4611 (Yuri)

📧 sossusft@afol.com.na

79 Tsondab Valley

Scenic Reserve

The turn-off to this beautiful place is 9 km north of Solitaire via the C14. Landscape photographers will love it. Bungalows from R3 660 – R4 575 p.p. sharing DB&B plus tea and cake. Activities: flights over the desert, hiking, and dune drives. A vehicle with high ground clearance is recommended for the road to the lodge.

📞 00 264 63 293 383

📞 00 264 81 1283 266

📧 tsondab.com



80 Camp Gecko

At the base of Spreetshoogte Pass. The camp has three remote campsites (no electricity) that are booked exclusively. All the sites sleep six, with a braai, shower and toilet – R220 p.p. There are also seven en suite safari tents (donkey boiler). Two tents sleep two people: R505 p.p. Three are double-storey units that sleep two: R560 p.p. and two are family tents that sleep four: R560 p.p. Breakfast R165 p.p. Braai packs with steak, sausage, veggies, bread and salad R225 p.p. No card facilities.

📞 00 264 83 000 0021

📧 camp-gecko.com

81 Solitaire Namibia

Solitaire might only be the size of two rugby fields, but it has a filling station, restaurant, bakery, bar, swimming pool, Wi-Fi and a place to sleep. Solitaire Lodge and Solitaire Desert Farm (7 km further) have merged. The new place is known as Solitaire Namibia. Lodge accommodation: en suite double room from R2 690 p.n. B&B; family room from R3 600 p.n. B&B. Camping R225 p.p. 📞 00 264 815 601 400 (reservations) 📞 00 264 63 293 621 (Solitaire Lodge)

📧 reservations@solitairenamibia.com

📧 solitairenambia.com

82 Ababis Guest Farm

About 13 km south of Solitaire, next to the C14. Camping R250 p.p. Self-catering house from R640 p.p. (sleeps five) – this is a special SADC discount. Other luxury rooms from R1 760 p.p. DB&B. They plan to offer guided overnight hiking trails (1–3 days) in 2024.

📞 00 264 63 293 362

📧 ababis-gaestefarm.de

SESRIEM, SOSSUSVLEI & NAUKLUFT

83 Namib Naukluft Lodge & Soft Adventure Camp

About 63 km north of Sesriem in the NamNau Habitat Private Nature Reserve. The aptly named Soft Adventure Camp has chalets with canvas walls, aircon and a fridge. The camp has its own restaurant and splash pool. Rates from R900 p.p. plus a conservation fee of R100 p.p. The lodge is 1,4 km from the camp, behind a hill. There's a swimming pool and a boma with a bar and a restaurant. Lodge rooms with aircon from R1 830 p.p. B&B plus a conservation fee of R100. The reserve borders the Namib-Naukluft National Park.

📞 00 264 61 372 100

📧 namib-naukluft-lodge.com

84 Namib Desert Lodge & Campsite

This lodge is part of the Gondwana Collection Namibia. It's about 55 km from Sesriem. Each campsite has a tree and a power point: R259 p.p. Self-catering, en suite safari tent from R825 p.p. Drive to the lodge for dinner (about five minutes) and to see the petrified dunes illuminated at night. Lodge rooms from R2 019 p.p. sharing B&B. Sleep on the dunes at Namib Dune Star Camp R2 599 p.p. sharing B&B.

📞 00 264 61 427 200

📧 gondwana-collection.com

85 Agama Lodge

This popular spot is about 49 km from Sesriem. Standard chalets (sleep two or four) from R2 485 p.p.

sharing DB&B (two-night stay).

Deluxe chalets from R3 290 p.p. sharing DB&B. All units are en suite, with aircon. There's a swimming pool, bar and restaurant.

📞 00 264 61 224 712

📞 00 264 63 293 262

📞 00 264 61 250 725

📧 reception@agamalodge.com

📧 agamalodge.com

86 Weltevrede Guest Farm

About 47 km north of Sesriem. You're surrounded by mountains and camel thorn trees. Camping R150 p.p. (four stands with private bathrooms). Rooms overlook a small waterhole and you can watch the sunset over the dunes from your stoep. All rooms have aircon: from R1 450 p.p. sharing DB&B. Swimming pool and bar.

📞 00 264 81 165 2821 (Reception is patchy, so e-mail instead.)

📧 info@weltevredeguestfarm.com

📧 weltevredeguestfarm.com

87 Sesriem Campsite (NWR)

This campsite is in the hustle and bustle and doesn't offer much in terms of scenery. The advantage of staying here is that you're allowed to enter the Namib-Naukluft National Park and visit Sossusvlei an hour before anyone else, and you can stay an hour later. (All the other lodges, except Sesriem Oshana (#88) and Dead Valley Lodge (#89) are outside the park.) Camping R450 for four people, R85 per extra person (max eight people per stand). Each stand has a big tree for shade. Sesriem has a small shop, bar and restaurant. A shuttle can take you from the 4x2 parking area to Sossusvlei for R180 p.p.

📧 ct.bookings@nwr.com.na

📧 nwr.com.na

88 Sesriem Oshana Campsite

The 10 private camping stands under the management of the Sun Karros group, are next to Sesriem Campsite in the park. The great thing about staying here is that you can enter the park an hour

Misty Bay

RESTAURANT



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DESERT HOMESTEAD LODGE # 94

LE ROUX VAN SCHAL KWIJK

earlier. You also have access to the NWR restaurant and communal swimming pool. The stands on the ridge overlook Elim Dune and the Tsauchab Valley. Each stand has an awning, its own bathroom, sink, braai and power. Camping from R400 p.p. (max 10 people).

📞 083 323 2393
🌐 sunkarros.com

89 Dead Valley Lodge

This swanky lodge, consisting of 20 luxury tents, is also in the park. It's a stone's throw from Sesriem Campsite, with a view of Elim Dune and the surrounding plains. There's a restaurant for guests, and a swimming pool. Rates from R3 650 p.p. sharing, all meals included.

📞 083 323 2393
🌐 sunkarros.com

90 Sossus Oasis Campsite

This Taleni Africa campsite is only 500 m from the gate to the Namib-Naukluft National Park. It's next to a service station with a tyre repair shop. The Engen also has a well-stocked shop – you'll find everything from tyre pressure gauges to Disprin, pies and Wi-Fi

vouchers. There are 12 stands at Sossus Oasis, each with a power point, private bathroom and an awning. There's a swimming pool. Campsites #4 to #6 have great views over the surrounding mountains; sites #8 to #12 are close to the tar road to the park gate. The group campsites with communal ablutions are the furthest from the road, also with views of the mountains. Private camping R250 p.p. sharing (min two people per stand). You can book a specific campsite – click "Download factsheet" for a map. Group campsites R175 p.p.

📞 021 930 4564 (bookings)
🌐 sossus-oasis.com

91 Sossusvlei Lodge

Only about 500 m from Sesriem. The hotel is part of the Taleni Africa group. The Adventure Centre on the premises offers guided tours to Dead Vlei and Sossusvlei, Elim Dune and Sesriem Canyon, as well as sundowner drives on the farm. Want to splurge? How about a hot air balloon safari or a helicopter ride? Units from R2 209 p.p. DB&B. Swimming pool? Of course! Day visitors can book for a buffet

lunch at the restaurant.

📞 021 930 4564 (bookings)
🌐 sossusvleilodge.com

92 Desert Quiver Camp

The camp is also part of the Taleni Africa group. It's a lovely spot, about 5 km from Sesriem. Stay in neat self-catering units, each with aircon, a fridge, a two-plate stove, two single beds and a sleeper couch for two children (under 12). Two of the units are wheelchair-friendly. From R1 009 p.p. sharing. Meal packs available, and guests can have breakfast and dinner at Sossusvlei Lodge. The bar area (free Wi-Fi) with a swimming pool is built next to a rocky outcrop.

📞 021 930 4564 (bookings)
🌐 desertquivercamp.com

93 Desert Camp

This camp is basically a replica of Desert Quiver Camp (#92) but on the other side of the koppie, with views of the Naukluft Mountains to the east. There are 28 self-catering units with the same facilities: aircon, a stoep kitchen and an outdoor braai. The main difference is that the Desert Camp's bathrooms are

more private whereas Desert Quiver Camp's units are open plan. From R1 009 p.p. sharing.

📞 021 930 4564 (bookings)
🌐 desertcamp.com

94 Desert Homestead Lodge

On the doorstep of the Namib-Naukluft National Park and 32 km from Sesriem. There are 26 chalets – rates from R3 000 p.p. sharing DB&B. Horse riding is the big attraction here.

📞 00 264 61 240 020
🌐 reservations@deserthomesteadlodge.com
🌐 reservations@namibiatriavelconsultants.com
🌐 ondili.com

95 Little Sossus Lodge & Campsite

Both are 35 km from Sesriem. The campsite and the lodge are a few kilometres apart, and are now under new ownership. The campsite has a farm stall, a swimming pool and free Wi-Fi. Ten stands with awnings, power points and private ablution facilities. Camping R150 p.p., plus R200 per stand. Double room in lodge from R1 750 p.p. sharing DB&B.

These are SADC rates.

☎ 00 264 81 243 3659

📧 littlesossus.net

96 The Elegant Desert Lodge & Camp

About 38 km from Sesriem on the D85. There are six camping stands that share ablutions (R150 p.p.). En suite double rooms or family rooms from R1 000 p.p. DB&B. Swimming pool, bar, restaurant and free Wi-Fi. The Elegant Desert Camp has 10 luxury en suite safari tents, about 7 km from the lodge. Rates from R1 250 p.p. DB&B. Desert Camp has its own swimming pool and restaurant (dinner only). The lodge offers sunset drives and guided trips to Sossusvlei.

☎ 00 264 81 145 5964

📧 the-elegant-collection.com

97 Tsauchab River Camp

On the D854 dirt road, 70 km from Sesriem. Fourteen secluded campsites set far apart from each other along the dry Tsauchab riverbed. Campsites have shade and private bathrooms, but no power. Most are accessible in a 4x2, except for the Oerwald camp (min eight people) near the forest of wild fig trees. There are two bathrooms with donkey boilers, and a big braai area. SADC rates for 2024: Camping R140 p.p. plus R180 per stand. Chalets R1 500 p.p. sharing (sleep 2–4). The chalets are not self-catering but it is an option. There's a restaurant, bar and a swimming pool.

☎ 00 264 81 243 3659

📧 tsauchab.com

98 Neuras Wine & Wildlife Estate

About 100 km north-west of Maltahöhe, on the D850. Tents with communal ablutions from R1 270 p.p. sharing DB&B (solar power). Stone chalets from R1 340 p.p. sharing DB&B. Luxury units from R1 270 p.p. self-catering or R1 670 p.p. sharing DB&B. Enquire about SADC discount. There's a swimming pool. Day visitors welcome – open from 10 am to

5 pm (lunch from noon to 2 pm).

Wine tour and tasting R440 p.p. Wine tasting with cheese platter R280 p.p.

Book beforehand.

☎ 00 264 63 293 417

📧 neuras@naankuse.com

📧 neuraswines.com

99 Naukluft Camp (NWR)

This campsite in the Namib-Naukluft National Park has 21 stands under trees near the river. Camping R450 p.n. for four people, R85 per extra person (max five per stand). Twin-sleeper Bush Chalets from R1 200 p.p. B&B. There are day hikes in the park, or stroll upriver to the first pool – about a 40-minute walk. Park fee R100 p.p., plus R50 per vehicle per day. You need cash for park fees.

📧 ct.bookings@nwr.com.na

📧 nwr.com.na

100 BüllsPort Lodge & Farm

Campsite and lodge in the Naukluft Mountains, 110 km from Sesriem. The campsite has two stands (max four people each). Each stand has its own bathroom. These rates are valid from 1 November: Camping R335 p.p. sharing; exclusive use of campsite R1 950 p.n. (max 10 people). Double room from R2 065 p.p. sharing DB&B. Special offer: R1 870 p.p. – minimum three-night stay. Explore the Naukluft on foot or on horseback. There are 14 trails. Enquire about off-road trails and farm drives. Campers are welcome at the lodge restaurant.

☎ 00 264 63 293 371

📧 buellsport-naukluft.com

MALTAHÖHE

101 Maltahöhe Hotel

This is one of Namibia's oldest country hotels. It opened its doors in 1907 and still serves guests today. The bar is a place to meet the locals and learn about their lives. There are 20 rooms, a swimming pool, a beer garden, curio shop and a restaurant. Rates available on request.

☎ 00 264 63 293 013

📧 info@maltahoehe-hotel.com

📧 maltahoehe-hotel.com

102 Ōa Hera Campsite

On the western edge of town, as you turn in from the C14/C19 intersection. Camping R100 p.p. Free Wi-Fi available; superb curio/art shop on site. Meals also available.

GPS: S24.84425 E16.97351

☎ 00 264 81 215 2595

📧 oahera-art.com



103 Die Pappot

In the main road, at the end of the tar road. Camping R120 p.p. Shade netting for caravans. Special offer: Double room R250 p.p. sharing; breakfast R70 extra. Their farm stall is well stocked.

☎ 00 264 63 293 397

☎ 00 264 81 271 9414

MARIENTAL

104 Lapa Lange Game Lodge

Follow the M29 south-east from Mariental for about 35 km. Lapa Lange offers game drives (from R650 p.p.), walks with a San guide (R500 p.p.) and hiking trails. There are lodge rooms, chalets around a waterhole, and a campsite (two stands with private ablutions – R275 p.p.). Safari tent R1 125 p.p. sharing B&B. Double room R1 855 p.p. sharing B&B. Chalet with kitchenette and a braai R5 190 p.n. for four people B&B. A 25% SADC discount on offer.

☎ 00 264 63 241 801

📧 gamelodgenamibia.com

105 Kalahari Anib Lodge

This family-friendly lodge is 30 km east of Mariental, along the C20. Three private camping stands, each with its own bathroom, about 200 m from the lodge. There are also four en suite safari tents with views of the veld. Camping (for up to six people) from R287 p.p. Safari tent (sleeps four) R825 p.p. Double and family rooms from R1 949 p.p. B&B. Three circular hiking trails start near the reception office. Hire an electric fat bike (R300 p.p. for two hours) and explore any of the trails on two wheels. Sunrise/sundowner guided drive R745 p.p., with snacks.

A guided walk in the dunes is R660 p.p.

☎ 00 264 61 427 200

📧 gondwana-collection.com

STAMPRIET

106 Kalahari Farmhouse

Camping R259 p.p. (max 10 people per stand). B&B from R1 769 p.p. sharing. You get discount with a Gondwana Card.

☎ 00 264 63 260 259

📧 gondwana-collection.com

107 Stampriet Historical Guesthouse

On a koppie, with a pretty view over the small town of Stampriet. There are 10 rooms, including double rooms and a family room (sleeps 4–5) all in a lush garden. Enquire directly for rates – SADC residents get discount. There's a splash pool, green lawn, a jungle gym, Wi-Fi and a restaurant.

☎ 00 264 63 260 013

☎ 00 264 81 244 7448

📧 stamprietguesthouse.wordpress.com

GOCHAS

108 Wildmoor Nature Camp

Wildmoor is about 20 km north of Gochas, on the C15. You can camp on the lawn at the farmstead (with access to power) or across the road next to the limestone cliffs. The new campsite in the dunes has a braai, sink, hot water shower and toilet. Camping R200 p.p. Firewood R70 per bag.

GPS: S24.71773 E18.69789

☎ 00 264 81 490 7622

Wildmoor Nature Camp on Facebook

📧 francojunius79@gmail.com

109 Auob Country Lodge

The lodge, next to the C15 just 6 km north of Gochas, is an oasis in the heart of the Kalahari Desert. It is an ideal stopover to or from the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Camping R230 p.p.; double and family rooms from R1 810 p.p. sharing DB&B. There's a swimming pool, a restaurant and a lapa.

CENTRAL PLACES TO STAY



NAMIBRAND FAMILY HIDEOUT #111

PHIL STURGESS

Enquire about SADC specials.

☎ 00 264 61 374 750 (bookings)

☎ 00 264 63 250 101 (lodge)

✉ auob@ncl.com.na

✉ auob.com.na

ARANOS & KALAHARI

110 Outpost Safaris

About 130 km south-east of Aranos. Safari Camp sleeps 10 people: six in Dune House and four in two twin bungalows. There's a braai, lapa and a jacuzzi with a view of a waterhole. You book the camp exclusively: from R600 p.p. self-catering. Book meals at the lodge: breakfast R200 p.p.; lunch R300 p.p.; dinner R450 p.p. Outpost Lodge has four luxury rooms: R2 750 p.p. sharing; rate includes three meals a day, drinks and a game drive; minimum two-night stay for both places.

GPS: S24.67284 E19.98535

☎ 00 264 81 127 3696

✉ outpost.com.na

BETTA & DUWISIB

111 NamibRand Family Hideout

A remote farmhouse and three camping stands, 42 km north-west of Betta in the NamibRand Nature Reserve. The stands are about 2 km from the farmhouse, far apart from each other in the dunes. Each has a private bathroom with a flush toilet and hot shower, a braai, a sink and an awning (one site is wheelchair-friendly). Rates for 2024: Camping from R236 p.p. (max eight people and two vehicles per stand). The farmhouse sleeps 10: fully equipped kitchen, hot showers, braai, stoep and a waterhole; from R480 p.p. Bedding and towels cost extra: R210 p.p. Reserve fee R143 p.p. per day. Dune boards and fat bikes can be rented. Guided activities are available. There's also a self-drive 4x4 track in the dunes.

☎ 00 264 61 226 803

☎ 00 264 81 127 2957

✉ info@nrhideout.com

✉ nrhideout.com



112 Betta Rest Camp

Each stand has an awning and a deck, braai and washing-up facilities, and a power point. Communal ablutions. Camping R150 p.p. (R165 in 2024). Self-catering, double-room chalet from R525 p.p. sharing (R580 p.p. in 2024). Meals available on request. There's a well-stocked kiosk stocks and a coffee shop, and a swimming pool.

☎ 00 264 81 477 3992

☎ 00 264 61 237 294 (bookings)

✉ bettacamp.com

113 At Kronenhof Lodge

The turn-off is 1 km south of Betta. The two campsites are about 1 km from the lodge. The four private stands are behind a koppie and each has its own bathroom R230 p.p. (six people per stand). Communal swimming pool. The other campsite has three stands with shared ablutions and a swimming pool R170 p.p. Self-catering unit R850 p.p. sharing. Double and family

rooms R1 150 p.p. sharing DB&B. The self-catering Mountain View villa is far away from everything and everyone: R1 030 p.p. sharing (sleeps nine people). You can hike, go on a scenic sundowner drive, do clay pigeon shooting, or rent a fat bike.

☎ 00 264 83 700 0077

☎ 00 264 81 379 0593 (Tjaard;

WhatsApp only)

✉ kronenhof.com.na

114 Duwisib Guest Farm

On the doorstep of Duwisib Castle. Camping R165 p.p. Eight rooms (five double/twin and three family units) R1 045 p.p. sharing B&B. Rooms can be booked as self-catering units with a communal braai and fully equipped kitchen. There's also a self-catering twin-sleeper chalet, with its own kitchen: R1 240 p.p. There's a swimming pool and restaurant. Activities: walking trails (free), nature drive (R300 p.p.) and horse riding (price on request).

☎ 00 264 63 293 344

☎ 00 264 81 354 3619

✉ farmduwisib.com



At Kronenhof Lodge

OFFERS SUPERB OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION EN ROUTE TO SOSSUSVLEI AND THE NAUKLUFT MOUNTAINS. ENJOY SCENIC DRIVES, CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING, E-BIKE, FREE CYCLING AND WALKS.

MOUNTAIN VIEW VILLA: Four family friendly rooms and safe for those who travel with children or in a group of friends.

FIVE SELF-CATERING UNITS: En-suite showers and toilets, small kitchen with kettle and all the necessary crockery, electric stove plate and built in braai facility under roof.

SEVEN TWIN ROOMS AND FOUR FAMILY ROOMS all equipped with roof fans and air-conditioning. Each room has a view, private porch, and shaded parking area with outside power points.

FOUR PRIVATE CAMPSITES are situated a distance away from the lodge. Large Camelthorn trees and rocky outcrops adorn the area.

THREE LARGE CAMPSITES are located a distance away from the private campers and can cater for 7 to 25 guests per site. There are communal ablution facilities with hot and cold running water, flush toilets and washing up area.



HALFWAY BETWEEN LÜDERITZ AND SOSSUSVLEI, JUST BEFORE THE D707 ROUTE

www.kronenhof.com.na

Lodge +264 837 0000 77
Tjaard +264 81 379 05 93 (whatsapp only)
Karin +264 81 484 1884 (whatsapp only)
E-mail info@kronenhof.com.na

NORTH

Namibia has no shortage of wild, faraway places, but when you travel to the north of the country – the white plains of Etosha, the Kaokoveld, the mighty Kunene, Kavango, Kwando and Zambezi rivers – you feel as if you've reached the ends of the earth!

EVAN NAUDÉ

At its highest point, the Waterberg stands about 200 m from the ground. That doesn't sound like much, but if you're surrounded by flat Kalahari plains as far as the eye can see, it's mighty imposing!



10 things to do



1

1 Go game viewing in Etosha

Book at least five nights in this popular national park: Two nights at Okaukuejo so you can go to the Ombika, Olifantsbad and Nebrownii waterholes; two nights at Halali so you can drive to the pan and see vultures at Sueda waterhole; and one night at Namutoni, which is quieter. You can also explore the remote western part, with a stay at camping-only Olifantsrus – it has only 10 stands. Day visitors pay R100 per person, plus R50 per vehicle.

2 Do a sunset river cruise in the Zambezi Region

Make sure to book at least one sunset cruise on the Kavango, Kwando or Zambezi rivers. You'll see waterbirds by the dozen, and maybe even big game like elephants, hippos and crocodiles. Rates vary from R350 to R700 per person.

3 Stand above Epupa Falls

In the far north of Namibia, the Kunene River cascades over rocks and between baobab trees to form one of the prettiest waterfalls in Africa. Entrance is free, or R50 per person to visit the Sundowner Hill viewpoint. (Only vehicles with high ground clearance are allowed, but you can also walk there.) There is also a basic community camp on top of the koppie.

4 Marvel at the Twyfelfontein engravings

Twyfelfontein is a World Heritage Site, home to hundreds of big and clearly visible rock engravings: lions, giraffes – even a penguin! Entrance costs R80 per adult and R60 per child. In the area, you can also go see a dolerite rock formation called the Organ Pipes; and Burnt Mountain, where lava flowed 80 million years ago. Both are free to visit.

5 Touch the biggest meteorite on earth

That's right – the biggest intact meteorite on earth can be seen on the farm Hoba, between Tsumeb and Grootfontein. It's 3 m wide, 2,8 m long, about a metre tall and it weighs an estimated 60 tonnes. Open daily from 8 am to 5 pm. Day visitors pay R40 per adult and R30 per child.

6 Climb to the top of the Waterberg

The campsite at NWR Waterberg Resort in the Waterberg Plateau National Park is one of the most scenic in Namibia. From the campsite, it's about a 1,5 km walk to the start of the hiking trail to the top of the 200 m-high plateau. The climb itself is another kilometre; not too strenuous. The seemingly endless Omaheke Plain is below, with roads fanning out across the landscape from the base of the mountain. Day visitors pay R100 per person, plus R50 per vehicle.

7 Swim in Ngepi's croc-proof pool

Ngepi Camp on the banks of the Kavango has a crocodile-proof "swimming pool" – a floating cage in the river itself. Genius! Day visitors are welcome.

8 Go wild in Mahango

Mahango is part of Bwabwata National Park. The C48 between Divundu and the Mohembo border post into Botswana runs through Mahango. It's a dirt road, tarred closer to Divundu, and traversable in a sedan.

There's also a river road that's fine for a two-wheel-drive vehicle, except after heavy rain. Turn onto this road from the C48 and cruise along next to the Kavango for about 14 km. Day visitors pay R70 per person and R50 per vehicle – pay at the gate in the northern section of the reserve.

9 Explore around Brandberg

Brandberg is a giant granite massif. The mountain has some well-preserved rock art – go see the famous White Lady painting with a guide, it's only a few kilometres' walk. R80 per adult; R60 per child.

The landscape around Brandberg – especially along the course of the Ugab River – is known for desert elephants. Turn to page 48 for more info.

10 Admire the view of the Ugab Terrace

Read more about this area on page 112.

Turn to page 110 for a map of the highlights.

LE ROUX VAN SCHALKWYK

2



3



4



5

7



LE ROUX VAN SCHALKWYK

ZAMBEZI REGION



NO MEAT CROSSES THE RED LINE!

The Red Line, which runs across the breadth of Namibia, dates from the 1960s when buffalo in the northern parts of the country were infected with foot-and-mouth disease and it spread to other livestock. This veterinary cordon fence is still in place and prevents meat and other animal products from travelling from north to south and also west to east in places. There are checkpoints where the Red Line crosses main routes; should you go through one of these roadblocks you'll be required to open your Coleman. You may also have to drive your vehicle through a dip trough filled with disinfectant, and dip the soles of your shoes in a shallow bath. It's the law so don't try to convince the officials to let you through, or hide steaks behind the spare wheel!

Views to drive for

Situated between Outjo and Khorixas, the Ugab Terrace makes a great starting point for a journey into Damaraland, or a good overnight stop before heading back to the dreaded rush of civilization. Here are three top places to stay.

WORDS & PICTURES **LE ROUX VAN SCHALKWYK**





Few things can beat the view from the restaurant deck at Ugab Terrace Lodge. Le Roux was lucky enough to witness a rainshower move across the landscape.



Ugab Terrace Lodge

A sign along the road warns us of the steep gradient we need to navigate before reaching the lodge. Do you know what they say about a steep drive to reach your destination? I don't either, but it should go something like this: "The higher the lodge, the better the views!" And boy, does Ugab Terrace Lodge deliver. What better way to experience this region than by staying on one of the terraces themselves, and enjoying a 360-degree view of the valley formed over millions of years?

Certain lodges attempt to be overly luxurious with decor designed to keep you indoors. Not so at Ugab Terrace: This is where you go if you want to feel part of nature in simplicity and style. The lodge has unrivalled sunset views over the terraces. There are activities on offer, but with its high vantage point, it's more of a place to relax with a book and get lost in the immense panorama whenever you look up.

The lodge has been managed by Meyer Wiese for the past three years. He previously studied field guiding in the Kruger National Park.

"When the lodge was built in 2007, every stone used was brought up here by a single Hilux bakkie," he says. "The hill was too steep for trucks."

What makes the place special? "The vast space is a source of wonder for visitors," he says. "They can gaze out over the ancient landscape without another soul in sight."

While we were there, an unexpected cloudburst gave some much-needed rain to the thirsty soil of the drought-stricken area. We watched the storm moving across the land from north to south. Unforgettable!

Facilities: There are 16 chalets perched on a cliff, each with its own balcony. The three campsites are located at the foot of the hill. Campsites share an ablution block, which consists of three toilets and showers. There is no electricity but campers can use power points at the lodge parking area for recharging appliances.

Any niggles? Not much. The lodge allows you to be entirely immersed in your surroundings and it's hard to find fault. The campsites have their own views of the Ugab Terrace, although from much lower down; stay in a chalet to fully appreciate your surroundings.

Rates: Camping R270 p.p.; double room from R1 725 p.p. sharing DB&B.

Activities: Glide along a zipline (R450 p.p.) or do the 5 km walking trail. Go on your own or with a guide (R300 p.p.) to learn more about the fauna and flora along the way. Rock art was discovered not too long ago: a four-hour guided tour is available for R600 p.p. A scenic sundowner drive costs R350 p.p.

Day visitors: You're welcome to have a drink or a meal at the restaurant and enjoy the view. Activities are also available to day visitors, but you must book in advance.

Contact: ☎ 00 264 81 140 0179; 🌐 ugabterracelodge.com

From the top: Escape the Damaraland heat with a dip in the pool, which was built using rocks from the area. The lodge was designed so each of the chalets has a view of the scenery.

Vingerklip Lodge

If having unique experiences on holiday is your thing, dinner at the lodge's Eagle's Nest restaurant is a must. Perched atop the so-called North Terrace, the aptly named restaurant offers a view that any Verreaux's eagle would be very happy with! Even the 35 m-high Vingerklip looks small from up there.

Vingerklip is arguably the main attraction of the Ugab Terrace area – it imposes itself above the mopane and trumpet thorn trees. While day visitors are allowed to access the rock formation, if this is the reason you're in the neighbourhood, it's best to book at least one night at the lodge.

Lace up your hiking shoes and explore the trails, which allow for good birding and close-up views of the fascinating geology. Also set aside some time to enjoy the comforts of the lodge: It has two swimming pools, a gym and a kids' play area. If you're lucky, you might even see some of the desert elephants that regularly make their way from the nearby Ugab River and stay in the area surrounding the lodge for a couple of weeks at a time before moving on again.

Facilities: There are 12 thatched bungalows each with two double units – a total of 24 rooms. Eight of the units have loft accommodation, providing additional beds for guests travelling with children. All units have a private balcony. Heaven's Gate is a luxury bungalow that sleeps two in a quiet spot on the North Terrace.

Any niggles? The views of the surrounding landscape are somewhat obscured by thatched roofs with low sides, and other built structures.

Rates: Double room R1 930 p.p. DB&B.

Activities: There are three trails: Vingerklip walk (1 hour) takes you directly to the rock formation. (Climb to the base of Vingerklip to get an elevated view over the terraces.) The longer Vingerklip extension route (2 hours) takes you to Vingerklip and also wraps around the North Terrace. The South Terrace hike (1½ hours) is a great way to have a closer look at how these terraces were formed. The Joint Terrace hike (3½ hours) combines the Vingerklip extension and the South Terrace hike.

Dining at Eagle's Nest is only for overnight guests and booking is essential as there are only 20 seats available. A R100 p.p. surcharge is added when dining here.

Day visitors: Day visitors are welcome; the entrance fee is R15, payable at the gate.

Contact: ☎ 00 264 61 255 344 (reservations); ☎ 00 264 67 290 319 (lodge); 📧 vingerklip.com.na

Which finger?

Vingerklip should not be confused with the "Finger of God", or Mukurob. Mukurob was a 450-tonne, 12 m-high sandstone formation precariously balanced on a rock pedestal near the settlement of Asab in the south-east of Namibia. It collapsed on 7 December 1988.

From the top: This rock formation behind the lodge is not Vingerklip. The actual Vingerklip stands alone, about 1 km north-east. It's easy to see why the lodge restaurant is called Eagle's Nest.





Left: Bambatsi Guest Farm is about 30 km from Vingerklip, but it offers the best camping in the area. Plus, there's no shortage of excellent views.

Opposite page, from far left: The lookout point at Ugab Terrace Lodge; Vingerklip rock formation.

Bambatsi Guest Farm

I can hardly believe our luck when we spot a young leopard barely five minutes after entering the gate to Bambatsi Guest Farm. It slinks off the road and watches the car as I frantically struggle to free my camera from the bag on the back seat. By Murphy's law, as soon as I manage to untangle my camera, the leopard runs off.

"We've probably driven this road a thousand times but we've never seen a leopard on it," says lodge owner Gerald Hälbbich over coffee the next morning. Gerald and his wife Inge invited us for breakfast, which also included freshly baked bread and smoked game, a true Namibian delicacy. The Hälbbiches purchased the farm in 2006 and have since turned it into a must-visit destination for anyone travelling through the area.

Bambatsi is one of the oldest guest farms in Namibia, having opened its doors in the early 1970s. It's a place where you immediately feel at home, thanks in part to the welcoming committee of three friendly sausage dogs. "People who visit us for the first time usually stay one or two nights, but returning guests often stay for four nights or more," says Inge, attesting to the traditional hospitality afforded to guests.

The farm is about 60 km east of Khorixas via the C39. It's not in the heart of the Ugab Terrace area, but the terraces are only 30 km away – this is the best-value option if you're travelling on a budget.

Set among mopane trees and purple-pod terminalia, the four campsites provide an opportunity to experience the wilderness of Namibia. With views of rolling hills, it's just the spot for sundowners before lighting the campfire and settling in for the night.

The farmhouse building is on a small hill with an elaborate stoep that boasts views to the south and west over more mopane-covered hills. It also overlooks a waterhole, often visited by kudu, zebra, giraffe and eland.



Facilities: Of the four campsites, numbers one and two offer the best views. Campsite two has a swing bench for the ultimate sundowner experience. Ablution facilities are all in one building, but each campsite has its own designated toilet and shower. Power points are available at the ablution block if you want to charge a device or keep your camp fridge running. For the not-so-adventurous, there are seven spacious and comfortable bungalows available.

Any niggles? If you're looking for a luxury lodge experience, you might have to go elsewhere. Bambatsi offers a classic Namibian guest farm experience – something that is not so abundant any more.

Rates: Camping R250 p.p; bungalows R1 500 p.p. DB&B.

Activities: There's a hiking trail for guests who are interested in birding, or if you just want to get the legs moving a bit.

Contact: ☎ 00 264 81 245 8803; 🌐 bambatsi.com



THE LAY OF THE LAND

Ugab Terrace Lodge is on the first standalone terrace to the west of the D2743 when driving south. The main lounge area is on the southern edge of this terrace, with a deck overlooking Vingerklip and the two bigger and higher terraces on Farm Bertram, where Vingerklip Lodge is located.

Vingerklip Lodge has named the two large terraces on its property – South Terrace and North Terrace – but these don't actually have official names. The only named rock formations are Vingerklip and Suikerpot, which

is further east. The terraces are part of a larger complex that can be seen to the east of the D2743 or viewed when driving along the connecting D2351. Have a look at the satellite view on Google Maps to get an idea of the lay of the land.

The Ugab Terrace and Vingerklip as we experience them today were mainly formed by the Ugab River. Originating on the western edge of the Otavi Mountains, humid conditions around the time of the dinosaur's demise 66 million years ago allowed the flowing

Ugab to cut into the ancient rocks of the former Damara Mountains and cause intensive erosion. Deep erosion stopped some 14 million years ago, and the river started filling up its bed. Over millions of years, gravel and sand layers were deposited in the Ugab Valley.

About 2 million years ago, a drop in sea levels because of an ice age in the northern hemisphere increased the deep erosive power of the Ugab. This time it cut into the riverbed made of thick layers of debris, boulders and sand.

The riverbed decreased its original width and left behind parts of its old course – the terraces we see today.

When you visit the base of the 35 m-high Vingerklip, be sure to look at the different layers of rock and fine-grained sand. These layers indicate the changing flow rate over millions of years. Rocks show periods of high flow; fine sand layers indicate periods when the flow was slower.

Turn to page 110 for a map of the Ugab Terrace area.



NORTH PLACES TO STAY



HAKUSEMBE RIVER LODGE #18



AFFORDABLE OPTION

(See page 12.)

LOW SEASON

Many of these lodges lower their prices significantly at the height of summer (January to March, sometimes April). It gets very hot, and it can rain, but you'll save a lot of money if you visit during these months.

COMMUNITY CAMPS

There are many community-run campsites in Damaraland and the Kaokoveld. It's pointless to try and phone to book and usually not necessary either. Just drive in, someone will come to assist you.

KAOKOVELD & KUNENE RIVER

1 Epupa Falls Lodge

On the banks of the Kunene River, 200 km north of Opuwo. Situated right on top of Epupa Falls, the lodge has a restaurant, bar, deck and swimming pool. Camping from R200 p.p. (max four vehicles or two vehicles and two trailers per stand; there are five stands), plus R100 per trailer or caravan. There are three family units, five chalets on stilts with views of the falls, and one honeymoon suite. All accommodation from R1 100 p.p. sharing DB&B. Ovahimba cultural experience R750 p.p.

📧 reservations@epupafalls.lodge.com

📞 epupafalls.lodge.com

2 Omarunga Epupa Falls Camp

This Gondwana lodge at Epupa Falls has a restaurant, bar, lapa and swimming pool. Camping from R243 p.p. (10 stands, no electricity). Safari tent from R2 106 p.p. sharing

B&B. You can visit an Ovahimba village (R866 p.p.), do a sundowner walk (R374 p.p.) or go on a guided river walk (great for birding enthusiasts, R352 p.p.)

📞 00 264 61 427 200

🌐 gondwana-collection.com

3 Epupa Falls Viewpoint Campsite

This basic community campsite is on the same koppie as the Sundowner Hill viewpoint and overlooks the waterfall. Ablution facilities, awnings, firewood and a bar are available. They've recently added two more showers and two toilets. There is power to recharge your camera and phone. Camping R140 p.p.

📞 00 264 81 727 1394

(Samuel Ndiaombe)

📧 samuel.ndiaombe@gmail.com

Epupa Falls View Point Campsite on Facebook



4 Epupa Camp

About 1 km upstream from Epupa Falls. There are six riverfront camping stands with private ablution facilities.

There is limited power. Each stand is big enough to accommodate a maximum of 11 people; R215 p.p. Ten Kingfisher tents (two single beds) with communal facilities from R950 p.n. Ten safari tents R2 195 p.p. sharing DB&B. Ovahimba village visit R800 p.p.; sundowner drive R395 p.p.; half-day rafting trip R800 p.p. Meals available on request.

📞 00 264 61 237 294 (bookings)

📧 reservations@epupa.com.na

🌐 epupa.com.na

5 Kapika Waterfall Lodge

Kapika's 10 chalets have great views of the river and the waterfall. There are two camping stands with private ablution facilities R325 p.p. (four people per stand). A double-room chalet costs R2 240 p.p. sharing DB&B. Activities include nature walks R265 p.p., sunset drives R320 p.p., river rafting (enquire at the lodge about rates), and Ovahimba village tours R860 p.p. Swimming pool, restaurant and bar. Ask about specials when you book – locals and SADC members get a 20% discount.

☎ 00 264 81 480 4400
✉ kapika.epupa@gmail.com
✉ epupalodge.com

NEW
 6 Camp Cornie

This neat campsite under makalani palm trees is about 30 km east of Epupa Falls. Three campsites (with power and private bathrooms) R200 p.p. Two dome tents with shared ablutions R450 p.p. Luxury en suite safari tent R650 p.p. Pet-friendly. Swimming pool and bar. They offer kayak trips, fishing, birding and tours to a nearby Ovahimba village.
☎ 00 264 81 624 7585
✉ campcornie.com

7 Kunene River Lodge
On the Kunene River, 70 km west of Ruacana. Most of the 12 stands are under leadwood or jackal-berry trees, with views of the river. The stands have braai facilities, power and communal ablutions. Camping from R295 p.p. (valid until December 2023). The lodge has a restaurant and a swimming pool. The lodge rooms were closed at the time of print.

A river cruise is available depending on the water level – it must be booked and paid for at the lodge. Or hire a fishing rod for R175 per day. Nearly 300 bird species have been recorded, including rare ones like the Cinderella waxbill – this is the only place in southern Africa where you can see it. Visit the Dorsland Monument at Swartbooisdrif, or drive to Ruacana Falls upstream.
☎ 00 264 65 685 016 (lodge)
✉ kuneneriverlodge.com

 8 Mavinga Lodge & Campsite

The lodge is 37 km east of Swartbooisdrif, on the D3700. Camping stands on lawn, with awnings and braai facilities, right on the water's edge: R175 p.p. (own tent) or R225 p.p. hired tent. Double room R800 p.n. or R1 000 p.n. with breakfast. Restaurant on site.

☎ 00 264 81 404 1954 (Elizabeth Paulus)
☎ 00 264 81 844 2138 (Joyce Paulus)
✉ mavingalodge@gmail.com

 9 Kunene Islands Camp

On the D3700, 40 km east of Swartbooisdrif. Campsites are on the river, with fenced areas to keep out the crocs (R180 p.p.). Two croc-safe safari tents are pitched high on a riverbank: R250 p.p. for two people (bring your own bedding), plus R70 for an extra mattress. They have solar power (not for electrical appliances), and there's wood for sale. Bring your own drinking water. The swimming pool was recently renovated.
☎ 00 264 81 149 4313

 10 Omunjandi Restcamp

Also on the D3700, 41 km east of Swartbooisdrif and 8 km west of Ruacana Falls. The five stands are in the shade of jackal-berry trees. This is crocodile HQ so no swimming in the river, but they do have a pool. Camping R190 p.p. Four-sleeper self-catering chalet with solar power R1 280 p.n. There are also five luxury en suite tents: R840 p.n. for two people. Restaurant and bar.
☎ 00 264 81 358 5865
✉ omunjandi-restcamp.com

 11 Ruacana Eha Lodge

In Ruacana. Camping stands on grass – with power, communal ablutions and braai spots: R150 p.p. (max four people per stand). Traditional hut (two single beds) R330 p.p. Double room from R1 100 p.n. B&B. There's also a gym, a swimming pool and a restaurant.
☎ 00 264 65 271 500
✉ ruacanaehalodge.com.na

OPUWO
12 Opuwo Country Lodge

Just outside Opuwo – a good place to stock up before you head deeper into the Kaokoveld. Each camping stand has a braai, power point and light: R260 p.p. Standard double lodge room R1 170 p.p. sharing. Luxury double room R1 660 p.p.

sharing. Rates include breakfast. The swimming pool has one of the best views in Namibia.
☎ 00 264 81 458 9373
✉ reservations@opuwolodge.com
✉ opuwolodge.com

13 Ohakane Guesthouse
In town, behind the Shell service station. B&B R700 p.p. sharing. They also have a pool and serve a three-course meal on request.
☎ 00 264 65 273 031
✉ rise-in-africa.com

OSHAKATI & ONGWEDIVA

 14 Oshakati Guesthouse

Neat rooms with air conditioning. Standard double room R1 495 p.n.; standard family room (sleeps four) R1 895 p.n. B&B.
☎ 00 264 65 224 659
✉ oshakati-guesthouse.com

 15 Cheetah Backpackers & Safaris

At 3079 Onguti Street, Ongwediva, a small town next to Oshakati. R750 p.n. for two people in a self-catering flat (sleeps four). Camping R120 p.p.; dorm bed R180 p.p.
☎ 00 264 81 286 1952
✉ cheetahbackpackers.com

RUNDU & KAVANGO RIVER
16 Simanya River Lodge

A good overnight spot if you want to cross into Angola at the Katwitwi border post (20 km away). Laze in the swimming pool, which overlooks the river, and dream of all the tiger fish you can catch. There are 10 camping stands: R250 p.p. Each stand has power, private ablution facilities, a scullery and a braai. Self-catering house (sleeps three) with a fully equipped kitchen, aircon and a braai, R750 p.p. Studio flat (sleeps two) with a kitchenette, R650 p.p. Restaurant and bar are closed until further notice.
☎ 00 264 81 472 8478
✉ simanyariverlodge@gmail.com

NEW
17 Taranga Safari Lodge
On the B10, about 35 km west of Rundu. The campsites are on grass and each stand has a light, power point, tap and braai. Camping R250 p.p. Tented chalet with en suite bathroom and private deck from R2 125 p.p. sharing, DB&B. There's a restaurant and a floating river bar. Enquire about SADC discounts.
☎ 00 264 81 169 2186 (reservations)
✉ taranganamibia.com

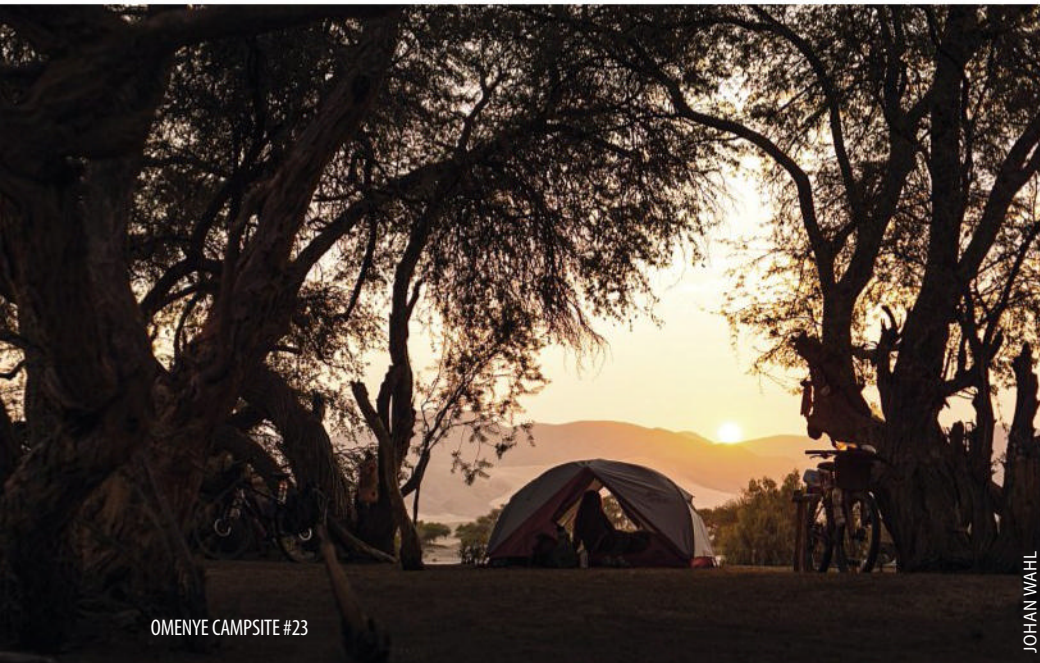
18 Hakusembe River Lodge
On the river, 16 km west of Rundu. Camping with private bathroom R287 p.p. Chalet accommodation from R2 509 p.p. sharing B&B. Fishing R231 p.p. per hour. Sunset boat cruise R366 p.p. This is a Gondwana lodge; you get discount with a Gondwana Card.
☎ 00 264 61 427 200
✉ gondwana-collection.com

19 Kaisosi River Lodge
On the banks of the Kavango River, about 8 km north-east of Rundu. There are 16 stands (with power), each with a private bathroom and braai R165 p.p. From R1 555 p.n. for a twin room B&B to R2 100 p.n. for a family room that sleeps four B&B. A sunset cruise costs about R140 p.p. Enquire about SADC rates.
☎ 00 264 81 249 5090
✉ kaisosiriverlodge.com

 20 Shankara Rest Camp

On the banks of the Kavango, 80 km east of Rundu on the B8 on your way to Katima Mulilo. Camping sites with electricity underneath big trees R120 p.p. Self-catering chalet (sleeps 2–6) R300 p.p. (children under 15 free). There's a swimming pool and deck overlooking the river. Shankara is well known for fishing (tiger, bream and catfish). Fishing trips (max four people), sundowners, bird, hippo and crocodile watching (max 10 people) R550 per hour.
☎ 00 264 81 240 2933
✉ shankararestcamp81@gmail.com
✉ shankararestcamp.com

NORTH PLACES TO STAY



OMENYE CAMPSITE #23

JOHAN WAHL

21 Shamvura Camp

Shamvura has one cottage, four tented units and six campsites. All units have power, as does the campsite. Rates from R200 p.p. for a normal stand; R230 p.p. for a private stand; R250 p.p. for a private stand with a kitchen. Tent unit R480 p.p. Two of the tent units sleep four people; two are twin-sleepers. Tree Top Cottage sleeps four and is equipped for self-catering: R580 p.p. ☎ 00 264 81 241 7473
 📧 shamvura@iway.na
 🌐 kavangoregion.com/listing/shamvura-camp/
 Shamvura Camp Namibia on Facebook

PUROS

22 Puros Bush Lodge & Camp

Pitch your tent or stay in the lodge where meals are available. The shaded campsites under big ana trees have hot showers and drinking water – try to get site #1 or #2 as these have the best location and are quite spacious. Camping R160 p.p. Self-catering chalet for

two from R550 p.p. sharing (a mattress is available for children – max. two children). Family unit (sleeps five) from R1 540 p.n.

☎ 00 264 61 251 661

📧 wild-exp.com

NEW

23 Omenye Campsite

This community campsite, 1 km from Puros, has five large stands under camel thorn trees along the dry Hoaribus riverbed. Shared ablutions (flush toilets and hot water). R150 p.p. Firewood and fuel available.

☎ 00 264 81 804 6918

📧 omenyecampsite.com

SESFONTEIN & WARMQUELLE

24 Fort Sesfontein Lodge

About halfway between Palmwag and Opuwo. The lodge offers great tours – enquire at reception. Lodge room R1 800 p.p. sharing B&B. Four-sleeper family unit R4 635 p.n. B&B. Dinner R355 p.p.

☎ 00 264 65 275 520

📧 fsesfontein@gmail.com

🌐 fort-sesfontein.com

25 Ongongo Waterfall Campsite

A swim in the natural pool at Ongongo is a must! There are nine campsites, each with a private bathroom R660 p.n. for two people, plus R280 per extra person (max eight people per stand).

☎ 00 264 61 239 643

📧 ongongo@naturefriend

safaris.com

🌐 ongongo.com

26 Khwarib Lodge

The lodge is next to the C43, 30 km from Sesfontein and 13 km from Warmquelle where you can buy basic supplies. Camping (with power) R300 p.p. Accommodation from R2 700 p.p. DB&B until 31 October 2023; low-season rate from 1 November to 23 December 2023 R1 950 p.p. These are the rates for Namibians and South Africans. There's a restaurant, bar and a pool. Book guided activities to see desert elephants, rock art, or meet an Ovahimba tribe.

☎ 00 264 81 219 3291

📧 reservations@khwarib.com

🌐 khwarib.com

27 Khwarib Community Campsite

The campsite has toilets, hot showers and braai areas, but no electricity. Camping about R100 p.p. Cool off in the pool at the bottom of the waterfall, which is within walking distance of the campsite.

GPS: S19.26548 E13.88372

No contact details, just arrive.

SKELETON COAST NATIONAL PARK

28 Terrace Bay Resort (NWR)

About 310 km north of Swakop. There are two self-catering houses that sleep 8 (from R3 120 p.n.) and 10 people (from R3 900 p.n.) respectively. There are also 20 double rooms: from R1 250 p.p. sharing DB&B. The kiosk sells basic supplies and the bar has cold beer and Wi-Fi.

☎ 00 264 64 694 007

📧 ct.bookings@nwr.com.na

🌐 nwr.com.na

29 Torra Bay Campsite (NWR)

This is the only official campsite in the Skeleton Coast National Park, R250 p.p. (max eight people per stand). Only open in December and January.

📧 ct.bookings@nwr.com.na

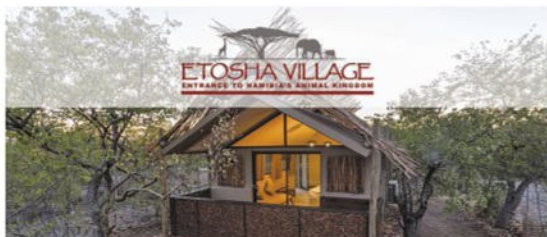
🌐 nwr.com.na

PALMWAG

30 Palmwag Lodge & Camp

This lodge is part of the Gondwana group. Palmwag is surrounded by the Torra, Anabeb and Sesfontein conservation areas – known for their elephants and rhinos. Visitors can go on a guided game drive (three hours; from R1 028 p.p., drinks included). You might not even have to leave the camp to see game: Elephants occasionally visit the garden. If you're just passing through, stop for a light meal at the thatched restaurant next to the swimming pool, or stay over and have a proper three-course dinner. The stands in the campsite are close together, but they are

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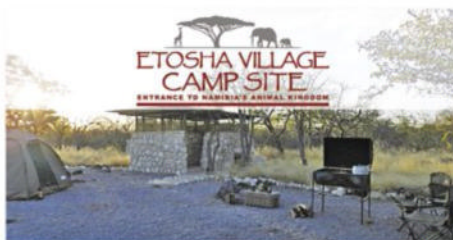
www.desertcamp.com

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www.etosha-village.com/camping.html



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www.sossus-oasis.com

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supplies a mere 6.5km from Etosha

www.etosha-tradingpost.com



LE ROUX VAN SCHALKWYK

separated by bushes and boulders. The best stands are the ones next to the Uniab River. Camping R287 p.p. (own power point, light, basin and firepit). Lodge accommodation from R2 126 p.p. sharing B&B.

☎ 00 264 61 427 200

🌐 gondwana-collection.com

31 Grootberg Lodge

This luxury lodge is on the edge of the Etendeka Plateau. The view is the reason why you'll brave the road up the mountain and swipe your credit card at the top. (Don't worry: If the road is too much for your vehicle, you'll be fetched in a Land Cruiser.) Double room from R4 154 p.n.; four-sleeper family room from R6 996 p.n. (Enquire about special SADC rates.) All rates are DB&B.

☎ 00 264 61 228 104

🌐 grootberg.com

32 Hoada Campsite

The fun happens around the donkey boiler: The coals that warm the water for your shower will also braai your chops! Camping from R242 p.p. (private ablutions). There's a swimming pool next to the reception office on the hill. Higher up there's a deck and a bar where you can enjoy the sunset. There are also a few permanent safari tents – from R576 p.p.

☎ 00 264 61 228 104

🌐 hoadacampsite.com

KAMANJAB

33 Oppi-Koppi Restcamp

Oppi-Koppi, on the outskirts of Kamanjab, is a great spot to spend a few days. The eight stands in the campsite each have power, an awning and a big work surface for cooking: R200 p.p. Double and family (sleeps four) rooms from R794 p.p. sharing. Luxury self-catering family room R1 139 p.p. Room rates are B&B. Sit in the bar or next to the pool and order something from the restaurant menu.

☎ 00 264 67 330 040

🌐 oppi-koppi-kamanjab.com

34 Mondjila Safari Camp

A good base if you want to explore Etosha via the Andersson gate (32 km away). Camping – eight stands with power, braai facilities and shared ablutions – R200 p.p. There are 11 luxury en suite tents on the slopes of a koppie from R1 350 p.p. sharing DB&B. Family rooms (sleep five) from R4 050 p.n. for two people sharing DB&B. The thatched restaurant is raised and offers a great view of the hilly landscape. Do some birdwatching from the small hide or hang out with the resident springbok on the grass near the swimming pool.

☎ 00 264 67 333 446 (Mondjila)

☎ 00 264 61 237 294 (bookings)

🌐 mondjilasafaricamp.com

35 Toshari Lodge

The modern thatched lodge is surrounded by gardens. There's a campsite on grass about 200 m from the lodge – the Wi-Fi signal extends all the way to your tent. Three stands, each with a private bathroom, scullery, power point and braai. Campers may use the lodge restaurant, bar, lounge areas and three swimming pools. The lodge rooms have aircon, and coffee and tea. Guided game drives in Etosha can be arranged. Camping R220 p.p. Double rooms from R1 240 p.p. B&B.

☎ 00 264 67 333 440

(lodge reception)

🌐 toshari.com

36 Mopane Village Lodge

Two camping stands, each with shade netting, a private bathroom, braai, tap and power. There are also 10 spacious en suite safari tents that sleep two people each, and 10 en suite chalets that sleep two to four people each. The lodge has a restaurant, bar, Wi-Fi and a pool. You have to book beforehand for lunch and dinner. Camping from R250 p.p. Chalets and safari tents from R650 p.p. B&B. Enquire about games drive in Etosha.

☎ 00 264 67 33 3491

☎ 00 264 64 407 105 (bookings)

🌐 rise-in-africa.com

37 Etosha Safari Lodge & Camp

The campsite at Etosha Safari Camp has 20 stands, each with a power point and braai. The stands share ablution facilities. The campsite is on grass and each stand has at least one big mopane tree for shade. There are 50 en suite chalets in a mopane forest closer to the reception office. The chalets sleep two, three or four people. There are also safari tents that sleep four. Camping R287 p.p.; safari tent R825 p.p.; chalet accommodation from R1 805 p.p. B&B. There's a swimming pool.

The Okambashu Restaurant serves a buffet breakfast, light lunches and a buffet dinner (R363 p.p.). At night, the Etosha Boys play their guitars and drums in the courtyard. Half-day game drive (morning or afternoon) in Etosha from R956 p.p. Etosha Safari Lodge is perched on a hill about 2 km from the camp. The chalets sleep two, three or four people, from R2 509 p.p. B&B. Restaurant, swimming pool and beautiful views!

☎ 00 264 61 427 200

🌐 gondwana-collection.com

38 Etosha Trading Post

This Taleni Africa spot is only 6,5 km

from the national park. Fill your tank, buy groceries, pick up souvenirs for friends and family at home, or order a takeaway like pies or roast chicken. There are eight private campsites, each with their own bathroom, power point, braai and shade. There are also four campsites for bigger groups, with a communal ablution block and a swimming pool. Camping from R250 p.p.
 ☎ 021 930 4564 (bookings)
 📧 etosha-tradingpost.com

39 Etosha Village

This Taleni Africa campsite and lodge is 2 km from Etosha's Andersson gate. Four private campsites, each with their own bathroom, scullery, power point, light and braai drum. Overlanders are accommodated in a bigger campsite with communal facilities. Camping from R250 p.p. (min two people). The lodge is 400 m from the campsite. Each of the 55 luxury en suite units in a mopane forest has two single beds and a sleeper couch for two children under 12. From R1 538 p.p. sharing DB&B. There are three swimming pools, plus a bar with Wi-Fi. At the restaurant you can enjoy a delicious buffet dinner and breakfast from early in the morning. Guided hike (about two hours) R350 p.p. Sundowner drive R370 p.p. (drink and snacks included). Stargazing R300 p.p. Half-day game drive in Etosha R990 p.p.; full day R1 195.
 ☎ 021 930 4564 (bookings)
 📧 etosha-village.com

40 Etosha National Park (NWR)

The main camps in the east are Okaukuejo, Halali and Namutoni. Camping R450 p.n. for four people, R85 per extra person (max eight people per stand). Double rooms, twin-sleeper bush chalets and family chalets (sleep four) in Halali, Namutoni and Okaukuejo from R860 p.p. sharing B&B. Chalets closest to the Okaukuejo waterhole cost more. Etosha's two luxury camps are Dolomite in the far west, and Onkoshi in the north-east: chalet

accommodation R1 870 p.p. sharing DB&B and each camp has its own restaurant. Olifantsrus in the western section of the park is for campers only: R450 p.n. for four people, R85 per extra person (max eight people per stand). Ask for stand #10 – it's spacious with lots of shade and it's right next to the waterhole.
 📧 ct.bookings@nwr.com.na
 📧 nwr.com.na

41 Onguma Nature Reserve

Onguma borders the eastern side of Etosha. Tamboti Luxury Campsite has a restaurant, bar and a swimming pool. Each of the 25 stands has a private bathroom, plus a scullery, power point and a braai. Some stands have grass. There's also a kiosk that sells ice, firewood, braai packs and other essential items. Leadwood Campsite is situated at Onguma Bush Camp, which is a lodge despite the name. Leadwood has six stands under leadwood trees. Each stand has a braai, a private bathroom and a power point. The stands are closer together, which makes it a good spot for a bigger group. Campers can cool down in the lodge swimming pool or sip a beer on the restaurant deck overlooking the waterhole. Camping from R370 p.p. Bush Camp has 18 units under trees around the main lodge building – it's the only lodge in the reserve that has family units. Rates from R2 280 p.p. DB&B. (See the website for rates and special offers at Onguma's other lodges.) Sunset drives and hikes are available.
 ☎ 00 264 61 237 055
 📧 onguma.com

42 Sachsenheim Guest Farm

The farm is an oasis in the bushveld. Perfect for birdwatchers with more than 300 species of birds – including the rare babbler, as well as an illuminated waterhole for wildlife lovers. The restaurant overlooks a swimming pool and a garden full of indigenous plants and trees. Six standard camping stands that share an ablution block; four private stands with their own bathrooms. All the stands have a braai, tap and power

point. Camping from R230 per adult; R50 per vehicle per day. There are 22 rooms (sleeping two, four or six people) spread among the trees in front of the main building. Four of the rooms have air conditioning; the rest have fans: from R880 p.p. B&B. A buffet dinner is served in the lapa with traditional boerekos – R350 p.p. Campers are welcome in the restaurant. Free Wi-Fi. Children over 12 years old welcome.
 ☎ 00 264 81 21 50 100 (Maria)
 📧 sachse@iway.na

TSUMEB

43 Minen Hotel

Even if you're not staying over, pop in for great German cuisine at the restaurant. Rooms from R1 620 p.n. for two people B&B. Swim in the pool, hang out in the bar or go for a stroll in the park across the road.
 ☎ 00 264 67 221 072
 📧 minen-hotel.com

44 Ghaub Nature Reserve & Farm

In the heart of the Otavi Mountains, between Tsumeb, Otavi and Grootfontein, on the D3022. The three campsites are far apart. Each has its own braai, bathroom and kitchen, and a small lawn to pitch your tent on – from R380 p.p. The lodge is within walking distance of the campsite. Swim in the pool, order a drink at the bar or have dinner. Lodge rates from R3 050 p.p. sharing DB&B (40% discount for two nights or more in the rooms), plus afternoon cake. Explore the farm's hiking trails, join an excursion to the Ghaub cave, or do an afternoon game drive to see eland, klipspringer, rhinos and rock art.
 ☎ 00 264 67 240 188 (lodge)
 ☎ 00 264 61 217 110 (bookings)
 📧 ghaub-namibia.com

45 Ohange Lodge

Each of the three camping stands is the size of a smallholding, with a neat hedge, your own bathroom, a braai, a donkey boiler and an awning with a sink – R260 p.p. Or, you can stay in one of 10 thatched-roof

double rooms (R2 016 p.n. B&B) or in a four-sleeper self-catering unit close to the pool (R1 680 p.n.). Budget travellers can stay in The Stables – three rooms that sleep two each (R360 p.p.). Lunch pack R100 p.p.; buffet dinner under the stars R345 p.p. Do game viewing from the restaurant stoep and don't miss the coffee and cake served at 4 pm.
 ☎ 00 264 81 261 6738
 📧 ohange.com

OTAVI

46 Gabus Game Ranch

About 12 km from Otavi along a gravel road. Visit the cave on the farm. Camping R240 p.p. Luxury double rooms and family rooms (sleep four) from R3 480 p.n. for two people DB&B. Family room from R3 640 p.n. DB&B for two adults and two children under 7 and R4 305 p.n. for two children aged 7 – 12. Game drives, guided hikes, cave excursion and horse riding available. Visit next-door Otavi Vineyards for wine tasting and a light meal.
 ☎ 00 264 67 234 291
 📧 gabusnamibia.com

GROOTFONTEIN

47 Seidarap Guesthouse

On the C42 between Grootfontein and Tsumeb, near the Hoba meteorite. There's a swimming pool and guests are even invited to swim in the koi pond! The guesthouse has 10 en suite rooms; rates from R820 p.p. sharing B&B. Dinner R280 p.p.
 ☎ 00 264 67 242 817
 ☎ 00 264 81 265 8044
 📧 seidarap.com

48 Meteorite Rest Camp

Only 3 km from the Hoba meteorite, the biggest of its kind in the world. The campsite is on the farm Venus and has eight stands with water and power points, and a swimming pool. Camping R140 p.p. Self-catering chalets R900 p.n. for two people. Self-catering unit with two rooms (sleeps four) R1 400 p.n. Firewood R40 per bundle. Rates increase in January 2024.

NORTH PLACES TO STAY



☎ 00 264 81 242 5456 (Madelein)
✉ malanjin@iway.na

49 Kamrav Guest Farm

About 68 km south-west of Grootfontein, along a gravel road. Camping R250 p.p. Full board R1400 p.p. They have a swimming pool and a restaurant.
☎ 00 264 67 231 564
✉ kamrav@iway.na

50 Roy's Rest Camp

About 58 km north-east of Grootfontein, next to the B8 tar road. Camping (17 stands) R160 p.p. Bungalow R1060 p.p. sharing (ask about SADC rates). There's a swimming pool and a restaurant: breakfast R160 p.p.; buffet dinner R295 p.p.
☎ 00 264 67 240 302
✉ roys-rest-camp.com

TSUMKWE

51 Grashoek

Basic community campsite with three stands, about 152 km west of Tsumkwe. Camping R50 p.p. Long drops and bush showers. Water is scarce, so be prepared. Firewood is available.

GPS: S19.23969 E19.24302 (reception tree)
✉ lcfn.info/juhoansi

52 Tsumkwe Country Lodge

The lodge is situated 1 km south-west from the small shop and filling station in Tsumkwe – petrol and diesel available. Rooms R765 p.p. B&B. Camping (with electricity) R180 p.p. Restaurant and swimming pool available.
☎ 00 264 67 240 901 (reservations)
☎ 00 264 67 687 842
✉ tsumkwelodge.com

53 Nyae Nyae Conservancy (Pannetjiesveld)

Wild camping south of Tsumkwe. Make sure you leave nothing behind. There's an official campsite at Holboom (no facilities). About R100 p.p.

GPS: S19.67761 E20.61890

NEW

54 Baobab Campsite

Information and photo on page 45.

55 Khaudum National Park

This wild, rugged park is for 4x4 convoys only. Roads are very sandy and overgrown in places. Bring drinking water and everything else you'll need – there are no shops. There are two access routes: the D3315 in the south, from Tsumkwe to Sikerete, or the Katere sand road (D3309) from the B8 in the north.

The two camps are run by different concession holders. Khaudum Camp is in the north and has six unfenced stands for campers (flush toilets, donkey-fired shower). Camping costs R375 p.p. (SADC rate), plus R130 per vehicle. (Xaudum Lodge, at the same site, is not open at the moment.) Sikerete Camp in the south has just been re-opened after a full renovation. It now has four unfenced stands (each with a private bathroom) plus eight self-catering tented units. Camping costs R297 p.p. (SADC rate) and the tented units cost R750 p.p. Park fees R70 p.p. and R50 per vehicle per day.

✉ Khaudum: reservations@khaudumcamping.com

☎ 00 264 61 227 519 (Sheugnei)

Emergencies: 00 264 81 100 6677

GPS: S18.50390 E20.75409

✉ Sikerete: info@khaudum.com.na

☎ 00 264 61 311 313 (Henry)

GPS: S19.10452 E20.70492

TWYFELFONTEIN

56 Doro Nawas

About 20 km north of Twyfelfontein. This is an upmarket place with a view of the Aba-Huab River Valley and the Etendeka Mountains. Stand with a sundowner in hand and marvel at the landscape stretched out all around. Accommodation

from R6961 p.p. sharing DB&B (ask about special SADC rates).

☎ 011 257 5000

☎ 021 702 7500

✉ wilderness-safaris.com

57 Camp Xaragu

Opposite Doro Nawas near a dry riverbed, in a valley surrounded by rocky hills. The en suite safari tents are a little tired on the inside, but they're neat. There's a swimming pool and cellphone reception; no electricity. Paraffin lanterns are provided in the tents. Water is heated by a donkey boiler from 4 am to 7 pm. Camping R250 p.p.; R350 p.p. with own ablutions. Safari tent R1495 p.p. sharing, breakfast and dinner included. Booking is essential.

☎ 00 264 81 469 5065

✉ resxaragu@gmail.com

58 Twyfelfontein Country Lodge

This lodge has one of the best locations in the country, close to the Twyfelfontein rock engravings. Units sleep 2–4; rates from R1280 p.p. sharing DB&B (SADC). The restaurant looks out over the Aba-Huab riverbed. There's a pool. They also offer sunset drives and guided hikes, and there's a bar on the premises for a sundowner.

☎ 00 264 61 374 750 (reservations)

☎ 00 264 83 769 7021 (lodge)

✉ twyfelfontein.com.na

59 Mowani Mountain Camp

The lodge is on a hill, with a view of the valley, and it's for those who don't mind shelling out bucks for comfort – from R5830 p.p. sharing DB&B (high-season rate). Enjoy a Damaraland sunset from the restaurant and swimming pool. Enquire about SADC rates and special offers.

☎ 00 264 61 232 009

✉ res@chiwani.com

✉ mowani.com

60 Mowani Campsite

This campsite used to be a part of Mowani Mountain Camp (#59), but it's now run separately – it's set at



AUOB Country Lodge



Feel the sand between your toes

Auob Country Lodge is located in a reserve of 8000 ha with a variety of indigenous and exotic wildlife.

The old farmhouse has been converted to accommodate a traditional kitchen, a lounge, bar, reception and restaurant areas. Bring your family and experience the Kalahari like never before.

Choose from a variety of family room layouts to suit your specific needs.

The shady camping sites, on the banks of the Auob River, each have their own braai and electricity point. See Springbok, Lechwe and Nyala from the comfort of your tent. The campsites are within walking distance from the lodge.

Explore the Kalahari's birdlife on foot or witness beautiful sunsets and herds of antelope on our game drives.

Visit our Facebook page/website for special offers. We frequently offer holiday and family packages to SADC visitors.

CONTACT US

-  www.auob.com.na
-  auob@ncl.com.na
-  **+264 61 374 750**
Lodge direct: +264 63 250 101
After hours: +264 81 162 5155
-  **Auob Country Lodge**



Twyfelfontein, in Damaraland, has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and is home to one of the largest collections of rock paintings in Southern Africa.

LET YOUR HEART RUN WILD



CONTACT US

-  www.twyfelfontein.com.na
-  twyfelfontein@ncl.com.na
-  **+264 61 374 750**
Lodge direct: +264 83 769 7021
After hours: +264 81 162 5155
-  **Twyfelfontein Country Lodge**

Not only have the Khoisan and ancient tribes left a true cultural heritage, but the entire area is characterised by natural wonders, like the Doros Crater, Brandberg, Organ Pipes and the Petrified Forest.

The lodge blends in beautifully with the surrounding environment. Breath-taking views from the deck over the Aba-Huab valley, desert plains and distant mountains ensure hours of relaxed comfort, peace and tranquillity.

Various activities and excursions are on offer and will make for unforgettable experiences. Twyfelfontein is a destination on its own. Come find your roots; listen to the heartbeat and experience the beauty of Africa.

Visit our Facebook page/website for special offers. We frequently offer holiday and family packages to SADC visitors.



NORTH PLACES TO STAY

the base of the hill. The camping facilities are excellent: Each stand has a private bathroom, an awning with a kitchen area, a braai and a shaded area with a picnic bench. No power. All the stands have scenic views of Damaraland and enough distance between you and your neighbour. Camping R390 p.p.

📞 00 264 61 232 009

✉ res@chiwani.com

🌐 chiwani.com/mowanicampsite

61 Ugab River Camp

There are very basic ablution facilities but no electricity, cellphone reception, Wi-Fi, ice or firewood. Camp on one of the basic stands under a camel thorn tree. Bring your own water. It's a community camp and you can stay for free, but make a donation towards the upkeep of the camp. No bookings necessary – they work on a first come, first served basis.

🌐 savetherhinotrout.org

62 Camp Kipwe

A luxury resort built around a koppie in the Aba-Huab Valley. The dome-shaped bungalows are the same colour as the surrounding landscape and are built among boulders. Each unit has an outdoor bathroom so you can relax in the tub and look out over the valley. From the units, a path winds through the rocks to an open-air restaurant and lounge. The views from here are spectacular. In summer you can swim in the pool in front of the restaurant. Rates from R5 260 p.p. sharing in 2023 high season (DB&B).

📞 00 264 61 232 009

✉ res@chiwani.com

🌐 kipwe.com

63 Madisa Camp

The campsite has nine stands, each with a private bathroom: R280 p.p. (power available). The shower is on a wooden platform among the trees and your donkey boiler is built into your braai. There are also five stands for bigger groups: R200 p.p. The eight en suite, self-catering

tents are up against a big boulder, offering some protection from the wind. The family units sleep three or four. There's no electricity at the tents, but solar lights help you find your way. Hot water is provided by donkey boilers or gas geysers. Tents from R1 055 p.p. sharing. Breakfast and dinner available – book beforehand.

📞 00 264 81 698 2908

🌐 madisacamp.com



64 Hais Ra Campsite & Tented Cams

The nine safari tents are laid out around an impressive outcrop. Each tent has solar power (for lights only) and its own open-air bathroom with a donkey boiler for hot water – a staff member will stoke the boiler for you. The 10 camping stands are next to each other on the banks of a dry riverbed. There are five bathrooms, each shared by two stands.

Camping R180 p.p.; safari tent R400 p.p. There's a central bar area where breakfast (R150 p.p.), lunch (R200 p.p.) and dinner (R200 p.p.) is served – booking is essential. You can also order a braai pack (R150). Relax next to the swimming pool during the heat of the day.

📞 00 264 81 386 8637 (WhatsApp)

🌐 haisra.com

KHORIXAS & VINGERKLIP

65 Damara Mopane Lodge

About 24 km east of Khorixas, next to the C39. Lodge accommodation from R1 991 p.p. sharing B&B. There's a swimming pool and a restaurant.

📞 00 264 61 427 200

🌐 gondwana-collection.com

66 Vingerklip Lodge

About 73 km south-east of Khorixas – the closest accommodation to the Vingerklip rock formation. See page 115.

67 Ugab Terrace Lodge

About 67 km south-east of Khorixas. See page 114.

68 Bambatsi Guest Farm

About 60 km east of Khorixas, along the C39. See page 116.

OTJIWARONGO & WATERBERG

69 Okonjima Lodge

Turn off the B1 about 44 km south of Otjiwarongo. Five exclusive campsites, each with their own bathroom and covered stoep (firewood provided). Camping R730 p.p. in high season. There's a swimming pool within walking distance of the campsite. The lodge has various accommodation options: from R3 988 p.p. sharing DB&B. Okonjima is also the home of the AfriCat Foundation, which rehabilitates big cats.

📞 00 264 67 314 000

🌐 okonjima.com

70 Otjiwa Lodge

The campsite has 10 stands with power: R200 p.p. Self-catering units from R817 p.p. sharing. Family chalets from R960 p.p. sharing B&B. All meals available. Swimming pool and floodlit waterhole. Enjoy a variety of activities like guided mountain-biking trails (R200 p.p.; bring your own bike), game drives (R460 p.p.) or rhino tracking (from R720 p.p.). These SADC rates are valid from 1 July to 31 December 2023.

📞 00 264 67 306 671

🌐 otjiwa.com.na

71 Frans Indongo Lodge

The turn-off is about 28 km north-east of Otjiwarongo, on the B1. Camping R200 p.p. SADC rates valid until 31 October 2023: double room from R2 296 p.p.; three-sleeper room from R2 877 p.p.; four-sleeper family room from R3 143 p.p. Lunch R190 p.p.; dinner R430 p.p. Game drive R430 p.p. Swimming pool and a lapa. 📞 00 264 67 307 946 (lodge) 📞 00 264 67 304 945 (reservations) 🌐 indongolodge.com

72 Aloegrove Safari Lodge

The turn-off is about 18 km north-east of Otjiwarongo, along the B1;

the lodge is another 18 km from the tar road. Standard room R3 201 p.p. B&B for two people; self-catering from R3 047 p.p. for two people; luxury room R3 558 p.p. B&B for two people. Dinner available: R400 p.p. All the rooms are newly renovated. Overnight guests can do a game drive. No day visitors.

📞 00 264 81 200 3049

📞 00 264 81 127 4103

🌐 aloeagroove.com

73 Waterberg Guest Farm

Next to the C22, about 34 km from the B1 and 24 km from Waterberg Plateau National Park. There are nine freestanding double bungalows in the foothills of the Klein Waterberg. They are set far apart and overlook the plateau in the distance. Eight of the units sleeps two people; one family unit sleeps two adults and two kids. Double room from R2 645 p.p. sharing B&B. There is also a family unit with two en suite rooms near the restaurant – from R1 625 p.p. sharing B&B. If you want to cook for yourself, book the Villa – a self-catering house with a kitchen and two bedrooms (sleeps four people in total) – R2 085 p.p. sharing. SADC residents get a 20% discount. 📞 00 264 61 237 294

🌐 waterbergnamibia.com

74 Waterberg Resort (NWR)

In Waterberg Plateau National Park, with a spectacular view of the cliffs. Camping R450 p.p. for four people, R85 per extra person (max eight people per stand). Each stand has a braai, power point and light. The resort also has double rooms, bush chalets that sleep two to four (with a braai, fridge and kettle) and four-sleeper self-catering chalets – all from R860 p.p. sharing. Breakfast is included in the room and chalet rate. There's a swimming pool, restaurant and bar in the historical Raasthaus, originally a police station, dating from 1908. Game drive R550 p.p. 📞 00 264 67 305 001 (resort office)

🌐 ct.bookings@nwr.com.na

🌐 nwr.com.na

75 Waterberg Wilderness Private Nature Reserve

There are three lodges and two camps in the reserve. Waterberg Plateau Campsite is near the reception office and has 20 stands, each with an awning, picnic table and braai. Andersson Camp is about 2 km further down the valley. It has four stands that are closer together, but it has more shade and is more remote. Both campsites have swimming pools and viewpoints on a koppie where you can have sundowners. From R380 p.p. – one family per stand.

Waterberg Valley Lodge has en suite safari tents that sleep two – they overlook the valley: R1 800 p.p. sharing. Waterberg Wilderness Lodge has 10 double units and four family units – from R2 700 p.p. sharing. Waterberg Plateau Lodge has eight chalets R3 500 p.p. sharing, each with a stoep and a splash pool on the terrace. Rates include breakfast, dinner and coffee and cake in the afternoons. The lodges all have a restaurant, Wi-Fi and a pool.

Hiking trails for overnight guests (1 km – 5.3 km). You can only climb up to the plateau with a guide (R380 p.p.; 2 – 3 hours). You can also look for rhino on an afternoon game drive (R950 p.p.) or on foot with a guide (R900 p.p.). No day visitors. ☎ 00 264 67 687 018
☎ 00 264 61 217 110 (bookings)
📧 waterberg-wilderness.com

76 Hamakari Guest Farm

This guest farm is 40 km south-east of the national park. It's further than the other accommodation options, but will be quieter during peak times, and the atmosphere is more "farm" than "reserve". There are five camping stands, each with water and electricity. One site has its own bathroom and veranda: R300 p.p. Next to the campsite is a small self-catering bush chalet that sleeps two for R1 700 p.n.

Near the farmhouse are eight large guest rooms with views over the bushveld: from R2 800 p.p. (rate includes breakfast, dinner and



CAMP KIPWE #62

CAMP KIPWE

afternoon coffee and tea). There's a farm dam and a clearing in the veld with a spotlight, where you can watch animals coming to drink at night. SADC rates available on request.

☎ 00 264 67 306 633
☎ 00 264 81 249 7927
📧 hamakari.com

BRANDBERG & UIS

77 Brandberg White Lady Lodge

This is the best place to stay if you want to see Brandberg's rock art, including the White Lady panel. The stands (hot showers; no power) are spacious; each has a braai spot, a tap and a big tree for shade. Campers can use the lodge swimming pool and there's also a restaurant and bar. SADC rates: camping R160 p.p., plus R50 per vehicle. Exclusive campsite with own ablution and electricity R220 p.p. Twin-sleeper safari tent with braai facilities from R1 250 p.n. Chalets from R1 650 p.n. for two people. Four-sleeper family room from R2 150 p.n. Tree house from R1 650 p.n. for two people. Options with meals are also available.

☎ 00 264 81791 3117
📧 brandbergwllodge.com

78 Brandberg Rest Camp

This camp is in the main road in Uis. Camping R150 p.p. Power and

hot showers. Safari tents R300 p.p. sharing. Self-catering units (sleep six each) and standard room from R1 260 p.n. for two people. Double room with a poolside view R1 460 p.n. B&B. There is a restaurant and a bar.

☎ 00 264 64 504 038
📧 brandbergrestcamp.com

79 Daureb Isib Campsite and B&B

In Uis, next to the Cactus & Coffee Tea Garden, you'll find this campsite tucked in among the succulents. Camping R275 p.p. – three stands, each with power and a private bathroom. There's a communal lapa and a swimming pool. They converted two of the campsites into tented chalets and there is a deluxe cottage that sleeps 2 – 4. Rates range from R752 to R935 p.p. sharing B&B.

☎ 00 264 64 504 106
☎ 00 264 81 842 5465
📧 daurebisib.com

80 Uis White Lady Guesthouse and Camp

Each stand has a braai, a power point and a light. The campsite has shade trees. Camping R155 p.p. B&B options: R1 872 p.n. for a double room; R2 691 p.n. for a four-sleeper family suite (two rooms). There are two swimming pools, and free Wi-Fi.

☎ 00 264 64 504 102
☎ 00 264 81 128 0876
📧 uiswhiteladyguesthouse.com

KAVANGO RIVER



81 Camp Ndurukoro

This place is 55 km west of Divundu. A great value-for-money camp. Campsite stands have power, river views and private ablution facilities: R150 p.p. Safari tent with private ablution facilities from R500 p.n. for two people sharing. Family unit with private bathroom and river view from R750 p.n. for two to four people. Cabin with private bathroom and kitchen from R500 p.n. for two people. The rates are negotiable if you stay three days or longer.

At the swimming pool, there's a shared kitchen area with a stove. (For all options, the rate includes a bundle of firewood per day – extra firewood costs R45 per wheelbarrow). Camp Ndurukoro is pet-friendly and they offer fishing trips and sundowner boat trips.

☎ 00 264 81 124 1051 (Leon Nederlof, WhatsApp/SMS)

82 Mobola Island Lodge

About 30 km north-west of Divundu, on a beautiful part of the river. Camping R180 p.p. Self-catering twin-sleeper bungalow or luxury safari tent from R1 600 p.n.; four-sleeper bungalow from R3 200.



Discover the furthest reaches of Namibia

Get “lost” in the Kunene Region with go! and Heuningland Tours.



In Namibia, it often feels like you’re the first person to travel through a landscape, that you’ve been transported to another, wilder era. If exploring the distant parts of our neighbouring country has always been on your bucket list, then this Kunene Region Photography Tour is for you.

Expert guide Douwe Vlok from Heuningland Tours will take a group of 16 people on a self-drive, 4x4 trip of the region. Toast Coetzer will act as your photography guide, offering advice and tips on how to improve your photography skills (all cameras welcome, even smartphones). You’re guaranteed to take more than a few pics that will impress the people back home.

The adventure kicks off at Spitzkoppe – home of the famous Rock Arch – and from there we will traverse some of the dry riverbeds of Damaraland and the Kaokoveld in search of the elusive desert elephant. Once we reach Epupa Falls, we will follow the course of the Kunene River and then take a turn through Etosha on our way home.

This camping tour promises to be unforgettable. The team from Heuningland will ensure that you experience the area’s unique natural splendour and must-see attractions, and you will get to take stunning photos along the way.



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When? 26 May – 7 June 2024
(13 days, 12 nights)

Rate: R28 450 per person.

How does it work? This is a self-drive, camping tour. (Contact Heuningland for the full itinerary.) The rate includes all meals, tents, and park and concession fees. You are responsible for fuel, camping chairs, drinks and snacks. Don’t forget your camera! Toast Coetzer will be your photography guide and he will be on hand to answer all camera-related questions. The group size is limited to 16 people to ensure an intimate experience.

What vehicle do I need? A 4x4 with good ground clearance is essential.

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The best way to see an unfamiliar region is with expert guides, especially if you also want to drive 4x4 routes. We have collaborated with Heuningland to offer a special photographic tour of the Kunene Region. Book your spot now!



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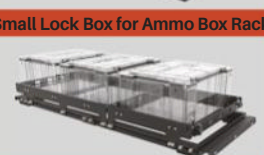
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NORTH PLACES TO STAY

Prices decrease if you stay two nights. No card machine – pay upfront via EFT or bring cash. There's no restaurant but you can request breakfast (R180 p.p.).

☎ 00 264 81 230 3281 (info only)

✉ booking@mobola-lodge.com

📍 mobola-lodge.com

83 Riverdance Lodge

This immaculate lodge is 25 km north-west of Divundu. Their campsite has four stands, each with a bathroom, power point, picnic table and a braai: from R180 p.p. (max four people). Lodge rooms from R3 100 p.n. for two people, DB&B. SADC residents get a 20% discount on room rates. Restaurant and free Wi-Fi.

☎ 00 264 66 258 401

☎ 00 264 83 783 7075

☎ 00 264 81 288 6005

📍 riverdance.com.na

84 Popa Falls Resort (NWR)

At Popa Falls, just south of Divundu. Ten stands with power R140 p.p. (max eight people). Rooms from R1 250 p.p. sharing B&B. Look out for hippos. Day visitors to Popa Falls: R25 p.p.; R15 for Namibians. Boat cruises offered and game drives to Mahango.

✉ ct.bookings@nwr.com.na

📍 nwr.com.na

85 Shامتu River Lodge

This lodge is just downstream from Popa Falls. Chalets, tented chalets and bush rooms from R2 115 p.p. sharing DB&B. Book a game drive to nearby Mahango, or a boat ride – even a mokoro trip to Popa Falls.

☎ 00 264 61 237 294

📍 shameturiverlodge.com

86 Rainbow River Lodge

Father-and-son team Deon and Geon de Waal run this lodge, both former Namibian national freshwater anglers. It's on the banks of the Kavango River about 300 m downstream from Popa Falls. The campsite has stands right on the riverbank. Camping R250 p.p. for a stand with power, grass and shade.

Chalets from R750 p.p. sharing B&B (SADC rate). Lunch and dinner also available. They offer game drives, river cruises and fishing. If weather permits, you can do a full-day river cruise to Popa Falls and Bwabwata National Park, which includes a braai. The boat has space for up to 25 guests and costs R600 per hour.

☎ 00 264 81 124 2633 (Deon)

☎ 00 264 81 210 6678 (Geon)

✉ rainbow@afof.com.na

📍 rainbowriverlodgenamibia.com

87 Nunda River Lodge

This well-run lodge is 7,5 km south of Divundu. The campsite has nine stands with power. Camping R190 p.p. En suite meru tent from R1 150 p.p. sharing B&B or R1 445 DB&B. Bungalows from R1 410 p.p. sharing B&B or R1 710 DB&B. They offer sunset cruises, fishing trips, mokoro trips, game drives and birding and cultural walks. Enquire about discounts for SADC residents.

☎ 00 264 81 310 1730

☎ 00 264 66 259 093

📍 nundaonline.com

88 Ngepi Camp

On the banks of the Kavango River, 16 km south of Divundu. Ngepi is one of our favourite camps in the area. The place has good river frontage – almost all the campsites have a river view. Ngepi is known for its croc-proof swimming pool in the river, but they also offer game drives, mokoro trips, fishing and excellent birding walks. Camping R220 p.p. (solar power from 10 am until 10 pm), plus R100 per day extra if you want to park your vehicle or trailer on grass. Bush hut R1 090 p.p. sharing B&B; tree house R1 240 p.p. sharing B&B.

☎ 00 264 81 202 8200

📍 ngepicamp.com

89 Ndhovu Safari Lodge

Ndhovu is 20 km south of Divundu. They have three campsites: two with space for four people each and one for 10 people. Two new campsites will also open in September 2023 – contact the lodge

for the latest camping rates. Other accommodation (chalets and tented rooms) from R1 650 p.p. sharing, DB&B. The River Tent Suite floats on the Kavango and sleeps two people – R3 200 p.p. sharing DB&B. Book via the e-mail address below and ask about SADC discounts.

☎ 00 264 61 224 712

☎ 00 264 66 259 901

✉ ndhovu@resdest.com

📍 ndhovu.com

90 Mahangu Safari Lodge

About 19 km south of Divundu. The campsite has six stands, all with power. Camping R235 p.p.; safari tent R1 555 p.p. sharing DB&B. Bungalows R1 680 p.p. sharing DB&B. SADC rates available on request.

☎ 00 264 66 259 037

📍 mahangu.com.na

KWANDO RIVER

91 Nambwa Campsite & African Monarch Lodges

African Monarch is the only lodge group with facilities within Bwabwata National Park, along the western bank of the Kwando River. Wild and wonderful Nambwa is one of the all-time classic campsites in Namibia. You need a 4x4 to get to the camp from the park entrance, as the road is deep sand. There are four unfenced campsites (take care, you may encounter elephant or hippo) with a kitchen, an ablution block with hot water, and power. Rate from R350 p.p. and a one-off sustainability levy of R100 per campsite.

Nambwa Tented Lodge is next door, with luxurious safari tents elevated on decks in the canopies of huge trees, overlooking the Kwando: from R7 800 p.p. sharing in high season, DB&B. Kazile Island Lodge is downstream from Nambwa – you're taken there by boat and it feels like you're in the Delta. Rates from R4 700 p.p. sharing in high season, DB&B. Contact them for SADC and low-season specials.

☎ 00 264 81 125 2122

✉ reservations@

africanmonarchlodges.com

📍 africanmonarchlodges.com

92 Bush Camp by Camp Kwando

Although operated by Camp Kwando (#96), this campsite is in a different location. It's accessible from the B8, 5 km west of Kongola, making it a good stopover if you're just passing through the region. Camping R330 p.p. for a stand with a private bathroom and electricity (valid until 30 November 2023). They have a bar and a swimming pool, and you can book a river cruise.

☎ 00 264 81 149 1435

📍 campkwando.com

93 Mukolo Camp

Turn off to this spick-and-span camp from the C49 tar road, about 8,5 km south of Kongola. Owners Hennie and Veronica Köhne will give you personal attention. Their good service and value for money has made Mukolo a firm favourite. Six camping stands, each with a private bathroom and power: R250 p.p. There are six self-catering cabins: R920 p.p. sharing. (Rates to increase on 1 December 2023.) Their river cruises are excellent, and they offer game drives (max three people), fishing, mokoro trips and bird and wildlife photography boat tours. New: exclusive photography tours with a professional photographer.

☎ 00 264 66 25 0408

☎ 00 264 81 124 0403

✉ mukolocampnam@gmail.com

📍 mukolocamp.com

94 Namushasha River Lodge

About 25 km south of Kongola. Six campsites, each with a private bathroom and power, R287 p.p. There are also four safari tents, each with four beds, a bathroom and a kitchen – perfect if you like a camping vibe but a bit more luxury: R825 p.p. Chalets from R2 509 p.p. sharing B&B. Have a beer on the deck above the Kwando River, fish, watch birds. It's part of the Gondwana Namibia group. If you don't mind mid-summer (it gets hot), enquire about discounted low-season rates.

☎ 00 264 61 427 200

📍 gondwana-collection.com

95 Sharwimbo River Camp

Turn off the C49 at the sign. Camping (five stands, shared ablutions) R250 p.p. Self-catering chalets (15 units) from R1 000 p.p. Chalet guests can also book to use a fully equipped kitchen and lapa area – the rate depends on the size of your group. The campsite and chalets have their own swimming pools. A boat cruise costs R250 p.p. per hour; game drive to Mudumu National Park R350 p.p.

☎ 00 264 81 293 2734

✉ kwikben@mweb.com.na

🌐 sharwimbo.com

96 Camp Kwando

An excellent lodge and campsite, 30 km south of Kongola. Camping with private bathroom and electricity R330 p.p. B&B options: double tented river chalet from R1 190 p.p. sharing; tree house from R1 765 p.p. sharing. Restaurant, swimming pool, boat rides and game drives. Rates valid until 30 November 2023; SADC members get a 20% discount.

☎ 00 264 81 149 1435

🌐 campkwando.com

97 Livingstone's Camp

Right next to Nkasa Rupara National Park, along the main access road. The five stands look out over part of the Linyanti wetland. Camping with private bathroom R340 p.p. Limited solar power available. They offer guided walks in the adjacent Wuparo Conservancy and mokoro trips (seasonal). It's a birder's paradise.

☎ 00 264 81 288 3808

🌐 livingstonescamp.com



98 Rupara Rest Camp

Just outside the border of Nkasa Rupara National Park. The Kwando River flows into the Linyanti marshes here – from the camp, you have a view of the Harubandi channel. Seven standard camping stands with power and shared ablutions – R200 p.p. Two stands with private ablutions – R250 p.p. Self-catering unit R940 per night for two people. From Kongola, follow the C49 tar road for 75 km and turn



off to Sangwali. Follow the signs for another 10 km.

☎ 00 264 81 162 5372

☎ 00 264 81 147 7798

🌐 rupara.com

99 Nkasa Lupala Tented Lodge

This tented lodge is on the border of Nkasa Rupara National Park. En suite tents from R5 400 per night for two people sharing, DB&B. From December 2023 to June 2024, SADC residents get a 40% discount.

☎ 00 264 81 162 5372

☎ 00 264 81 147 7798

✉ info@nkasalupalalodge.com

🌐 nkasalupalalodge.com

ZAMBEZI RIVER

100 Caprivi River Lodge

Only 4,5 km east of Katima Mulilo. En suite double chalet from R2 880 per night for two people B&B. En suite family room from R3 330 per night for three people B&B. Meals and Wi-Fi are available, and they serve tea to guests (free) in the afternoon. SADC residents get a 20% discount on accommodation. Sunset river cruise, fishing and birding trips available.

☎ 00 264 66 252 288

🌐 capriviriverlodge.com.na



101 Caprivi Houseboat Safari Lodge

About 6 km east of Katima Mulilo and an excellent birding spot. Camping (two stands, each with power) R175 p.p. Glamping unit in tented camp R500 p.p. with private bathroom. Safari tent from R650 p.p. sharing; R750 B&B. Other units from R750 p.p. sharing, or R850 with breakfast. They offer incredible multi-day Zambezi and Chobe river trips. Get six people together for their Zambezi Stop-Over (you sleep out one night), for only R1 150 p.p. (not including fuel, drinks or food).

☎ 00 264 66 252 287

🌐 caprivihouseboatsafaris.com



102 Caprivi Mutoya Lodge & Campsite

A great spot 24 km east of Katima on a tar road. Camping (four stands) R240 p.p., plus R60 per day for a power point. Four budget safari tents (twin-sleepers) R300 p.p. sharing. The lodge also has luxury tents (from R924 p.p. sharing B&B) and standard rooms (from R1 353 p.p. sharing B&B). Meals are available; some rooms also have self-catering facilities and air conditioning. Contact the

lodge for SADC discounts.

☎ 00 264 81 287 5438

✉ info@caprivimutoyalodge.com

103 Zambezi Mubala Lodge & Camp

This spot is 40 km (all tar) east of Katima and one of the best options in the region. The camp has 10 stands and eight self-catering safari tents (each sleeps four). Camping R287 p.p.; safari tents from R825 p.p. sharing. There's a restaurant, camp shop and swimming pool. The lodge is a few kilometres downstream from the camp. Lodge visitors are transported by boat. Luxury chalet R2 396 p.p. sharing B&B.

☎ 00 264 61 427 200

🌐 gondwana-collection.com

CHOBE RIVER

104 Chobe River Camp

The camp is 4 km from the Ngoma border post. Six stands with private ablution facilities but no power R284 p.p. Luxury tent chalet from R985 p.p. sharing B&B. There's a swimming pool and a bar.

☎ 00 264 61 427 200

🌐 gondwana-collection.com



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Namibia

47 km north of Sesriem, the entrance of Sossusvlei & 37 km south from Solitaire.

There are 13 rooms, each overlooking a small watering hole. Each room is en-suite with a small lounge area as well as an air-conditioner.

Spotlessly clean accommodation; a sparkling pool; delicious farm cuisine and true African hospitality tastefully served in our traditional lapa, camping, self-catering & air-conditioners

ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES: 4x4 route on the farm (self-drive); unguided scenic walks; Sossusvlei and Sesriem day trips; ballooning; sunset drives (self-drive), private romantic sunset hike & picnics, scenic & helicopter flights; quad biking, Naukluft hiking trails

EXCLUSIVE BIRD WATCHING OPPORTUNITY.



GOANIKONTES

DISCOVER GOANIKONTES OASIS: Namibia's Hidden Gem, Heart of Moon Valley.



Looking for an adventure that will leave you breathless and amazed? Look no further than **Goanikontes**, the heart of moon valley and Namibia's hidden gem.

Dip your toes into the natural swimming pool, or stroll along the footpaths for a truly immersive experience surrounded by the stunning beauty of Goanikontes.

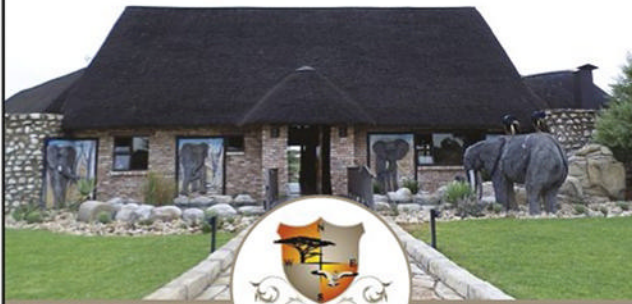
But the real wow factor of the area is the otherworldly landscape of the "moon valley" near Swakopmund. As the sun sets over this incredible landscape, witness the natural beauty of Namibia unfold before your very eyes.

If you're a nature enthusiast, you can't miss the opportunity to see the exotic *Welwitschia Mirabilis*. This plant, which can live up to 2000 years old, has captured the imagination of desert explorers since the 18th century. And for history buffs, the museum offers a glimpse into Goanikontes's fascinating past.

T: 00264 64 405 979/6
E: info@goanikontesoasis.com



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away from the busy city life and feel the
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ACCOMMODATION:
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www.westnestlodge.com

Established in 1999

Sea Breeze

GUESTHOUSE

Your home away from home!

The guesthouse is named after the Sea Breeze that originates from the Atlantic waters to the West. Swakopmund is surrounded by the Namib Desert on three sides, so this Sea Breeze is a vital source of moisture for desert life.

Come and experience this desert life for yourself and enjoy the relaxed bed and breakfast style hospitality of our guesthouse.

Sea Breeze is located about 10 minutes North of the centre of Swakopmund, walking distance to the beach and Platz am Meer Waterfront mall where you will find shops to suit all your shopping needs as well as a couple of nice restaurants.



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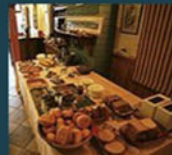
Tel: +264 64 463348 Whatsapp: +264 81 297 82 70
Email: seabreeze@seabreeze.com.na • www.seabreeze.com.na

Rapmund Hotel Pension

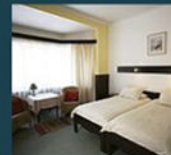
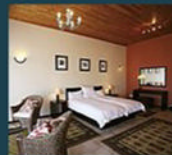
We make it easy to relax...



Entrance and Garden



Breakfast Buffet



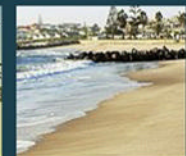
Luxury Gallery Room

Standard Room

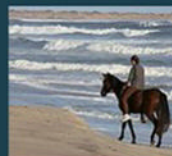
Luxury Flat



The View



The Location



Activities

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rapmund@iafrica.com.na
www.hotelpensionrapmund.com





ongongo
waterfall campsite

9 luxury campsites which can accommodate 8 guests and 2 vehicles.

This community-driven campsite is situated 6 km from Warmquelle, which is about 90 km north of Palmwag on the C43.

Access is by 2x4 vehicles (ONLY bakkies/SUVs).

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guesthouse

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Sesfontein Guesthouse is situated right at the heart of the village of Sesfontein, about 110 km north of Palmwag.

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Obelix Guesthouse

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Our 16 bedrooms can be defined as follows: 3 double rooms, 7 twin rooms, 5 family rooms as well as a guide room.

We provide a clean & comfortable place to sleep, with a wide variety for breakfast, with freshly baked goodies. Dinner can be booked up front, for a delicious home cooked meal every time.

Our restaurant facility boasts with a bar and braai area for guests. We provide ample parking for vehicles and caravans inside the premises. Security on site.

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www.obelixguesthouse.com | OLD BAY ROAD, LÜDERITZ.**





We invite you to come experience the beauty of the Kgalagadi and the warmth of its people, while staying with us at Nkisi Guest House. Relax and unwind at the Upperdeck Boskos Restaurant, or treat yourself to room service. Enjoy the tranquil outdoor spaces, and have a good night's rest in one of our lovely decorated air-conditioned rooms, equipped with DSTV.

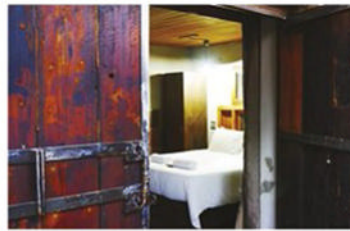
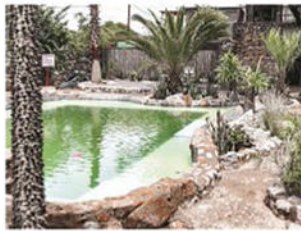


Upperdeck Boskos-restaurant

- Accommodation
- Air-conditioning
- DSTV
- Upperdeck Boskos-restaurant
- Outdoor Braai Facilities
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River Guesthouse & Camping



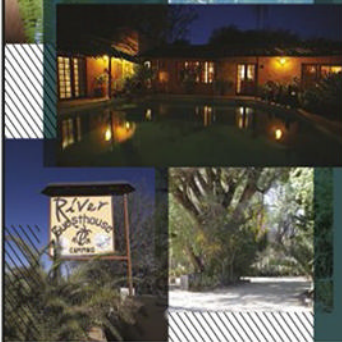
THE RIVER GUEST HOUSE IS SITUATED HALF WAY BETWEEN THE COAST AND ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK.

We offer 6 cosy double rooms with en-suite bathrooms (2 of them can be switched to family rooms).

Our restaurant serves home cooking. Enjoy a cool drink at the pool or a sundowner in our boma.

Six camp sites are available at the riverbed with ablution facilities (hot water), fireplaces and power points. Enjoy the personal touch in a family friendly atmosphere!

We are in the arty little town Omaruru.



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Vachellia

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Located between Aroab and Koës on the D503.
 140 km from Rietfontein border post and 150 km from Mata Mata entrance.



- ★ 2 full ablutions
- ★ 1 full visiting/kitchen area and boma
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- ★ Small plunge pool
- ★ Hikes and picnic spot
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- ★ Breakfast and supper on request

Find rest and peace between the red Kalahari dunes.

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Kaoko Bush Lodge
Gateway to Kaokoveld

Kaoko Bush Lodge is the ideal accommodation stopover from which to explore the wild beauty & diversity of Damaraland and Kaokoland.

Whether you stay a day or two to discover the unique rock engravings and cultural villages of Kamanjab or plan to head further north, at Kaoko Bush Lodge you will be ensured a comfortable stay.

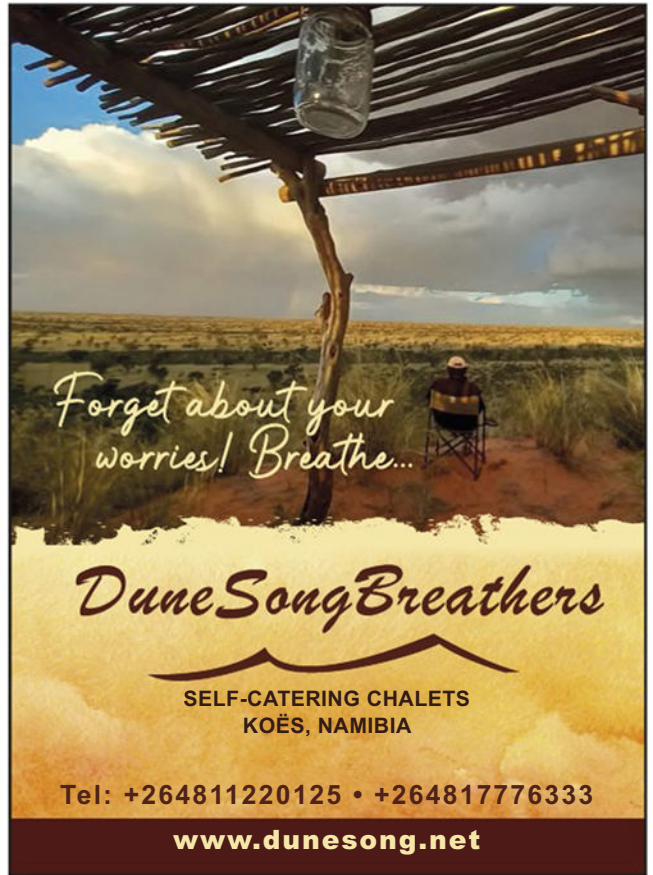
Situated only 8 km from Kamanjab, en-route to Opuwo, Kaoko Bush Lodge offers cozy private bungalows & convenient camping facilities, as well as an on-site restaurant that serves breakfast, lunch & dinner.

Need a halfway stop while on your Namibian adventure?

The lodge is situated inside our own game park. We have more than 18 different species of game & over two hundred bird species, many indigenous to the area, that can be viewed at the waterhole just 30 meters away from our restaurant and bar. The lodge also has a swimming pool for cooling down after a full day of exploring. A large solar rig means that we are completely off the grid and our water is sourced from uncontaminated underground springs.

Tel: +264 81 591 0040
info@kaoko-bush-lodge.com
www.kaoko-bush-lodge.com

Bookings: [Bookina.com](https://www.bookina.com)
[nightsbridge](https://www.nightsbridge.com)
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- Typical southern hospitality
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SPECIAL OFFER
River front camping till end of December 2023 @ **N\$250.00 pp per day**. Children under 12 free.

Simple luxury with a touch of homeliness and friendliness

There are **20 camping sites** on the bank of the Kavango River with power points, green lawns and jackal berry trees for lovely shade. For non-campers there are **29 en suite chalets**, 2 of which are family units.

Situated between the Mahango and Bwabwata parks.

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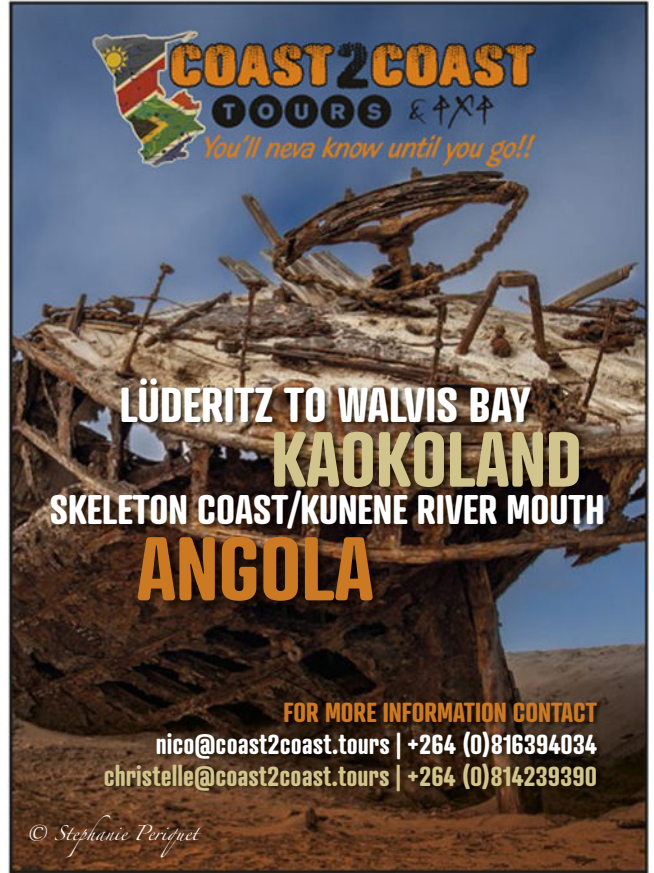
your dream destination. Be part of the Southwestern hospitality while enjoying a cold one, watching the sun sun greeting for the night.

GRÜNAU

Vastrap
Guest Farm
The Halfway Stay

Activities:
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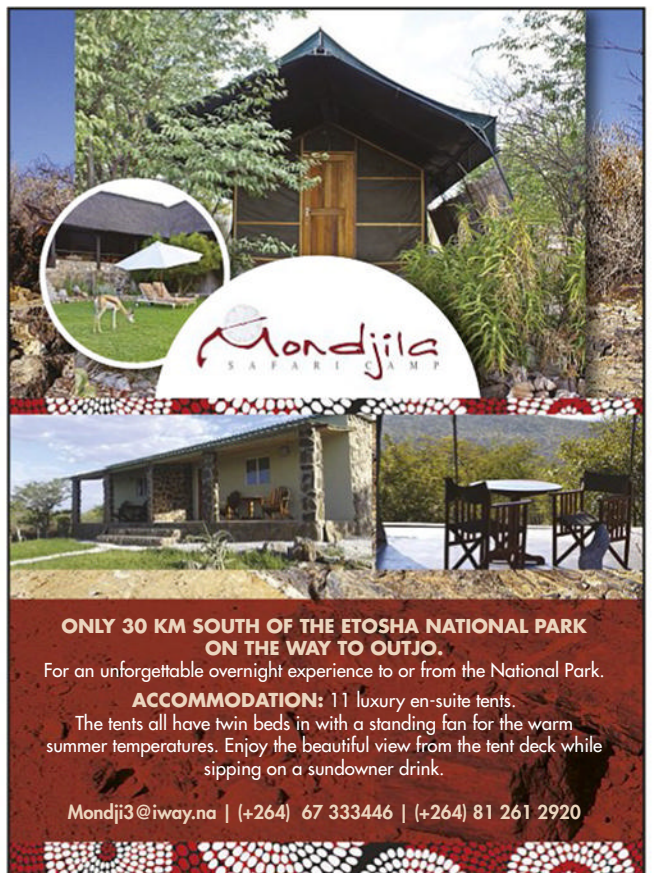
Grunau Country Hotel

Just as you start thinking that the long roads of Namibia are becoming too much, you discover this oasis between nothing and nowhere –

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With the wonderful restaurant, cold beer, clean and neat rooms, glamping and camping, and a cool swimming pool, you will have everything your heart can desire.

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Mondjila SAFARI CAMP

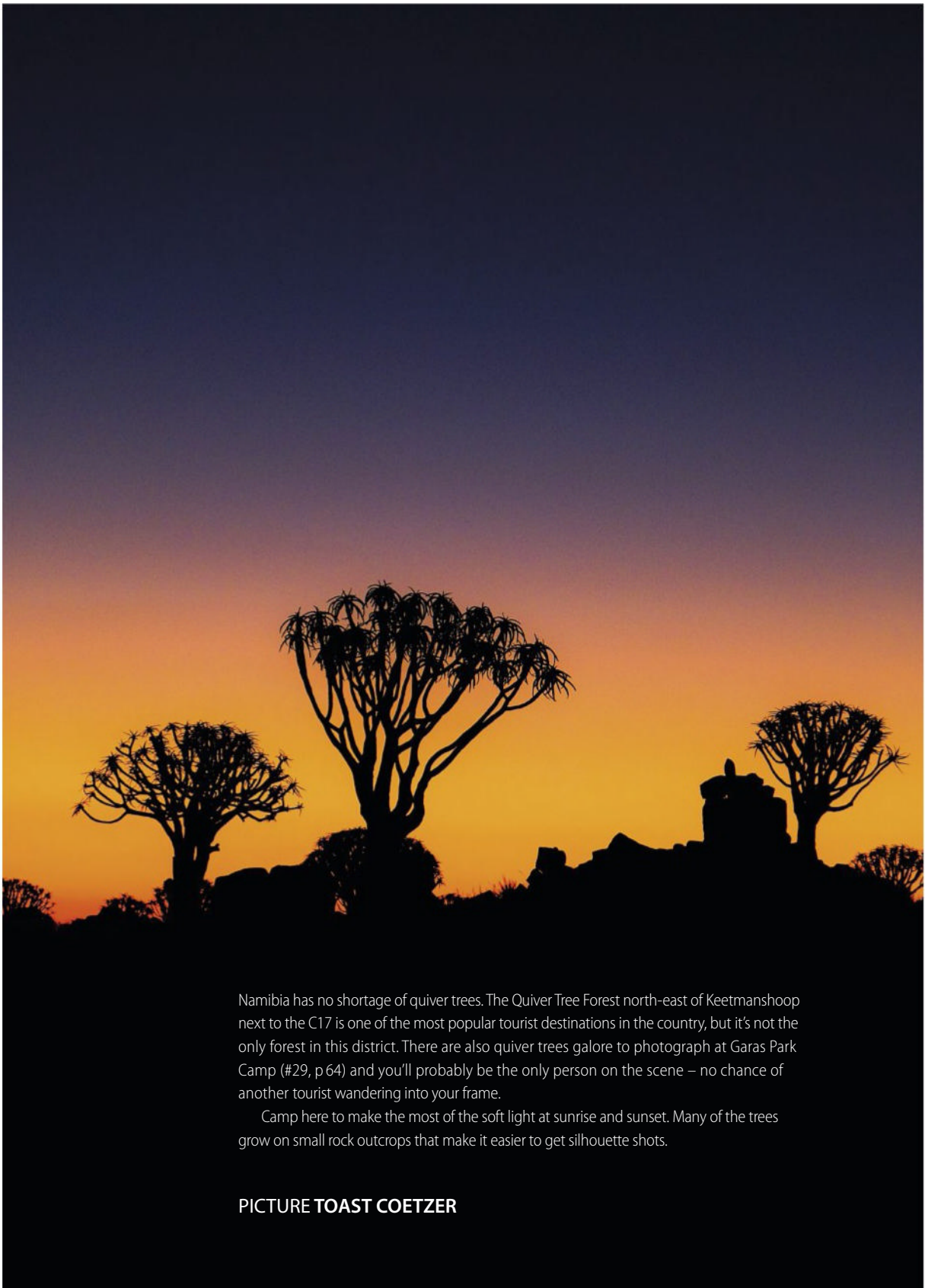
**ONLY 30 KM SOUTH OF THE ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK
ON THE WAY TO OUTJO.**

For an unforgettable overnight experience to or from the National Park.

ACCOMMODATION: 11 luxury en-suite tents.

The tents all have twin beds in with a standing fan for the warm summer temperatures. Enjoy the beautiful view from the tent deck while sipping on a sundowner drink.

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Namibia has no shortage of quiver trees. The Quiver Tree Forest north-east of Keetmanshoop next to the C17 is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the country, but it's not the only forest in this district. There are also quiver trees galore to photograph at Garas Park Camp (#29, p 64) and you'll probably be the only person on the scene – no chance of another tourist wandering into your frame.

Camp here to make the most of the soft light at sunrise and sunset. Many of the trees grow on small rock outcrops that make it easier to get silhouette shots.

PICTURE TOAST COETZER



kalahari

GAME LODGE

NAMIBIA

Home of the Kalahari Lion



As the only game lodge in the south of Namibia with free roaming lions and black rhinoceros, *Kalahari Game Lodge* is a haven still to be discovered! We are situated on the eastern border of Namibia adjacent to the Kgalagadi Trans Frontier Park, only 20km from the Mata-Mata border post.

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Restaurant offering delicious meals Close-Up Lion Viewing

Excellent photography opportunities



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www.kalaharigamelodge.com [kalaharigamelodge](https://www.facebook.com/kalaharigamelodge) [Kalahari Game Lodge](https://www.instagram.com/kalaharigamelodge)

A man with a beard, wearing a brown beanie, a brown quilted jacket, and grey trousers, is sitting inside a green A-frame tent. He is looking out to the right. Next to him is a large black backpack. In front of the tent, a small camp stove sits on a metal stand, with a silver pot and a yellow container on it. The background is a rocky, mountainous landscape with patches of snow.

Adventure. Always.

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