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Namibia

2026 TRAVEL GUIDE

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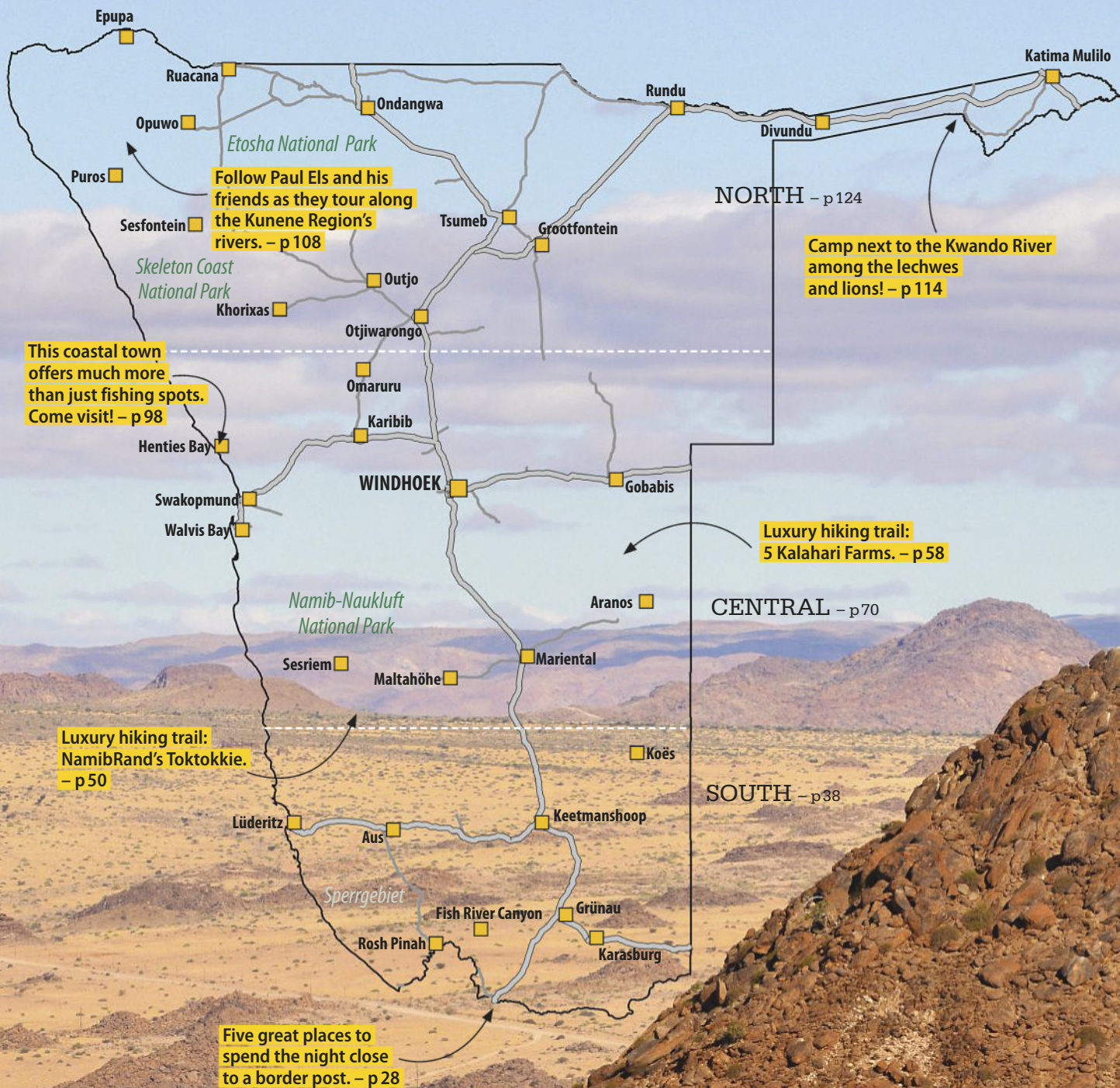
Sunset at Wüstenquell Conservation Farm.



COVER PICTURE
EVAN NAUDÉ

Toktokkie Trail, NamibRand Nature Reserve

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You won't believe your eyes

The magazine you're holding is probably the greenest in the history of *go! Namibia*. Page through it and you'll see camel thorn trees spread wide; the Kalahari covered in grass; the drenched Zambezi Region; the rivers of the Kaokoveld and Damaraland flowing to the ocean; and life in the normally arid Namib.

Yes, there are still dry spots waiting for rain, but in general the veld has been joyful this past year. Even the lilies on Sandhof farm came into bloom!

Good thing our writers visited Namibia shortly after the big rains last year. Now we can all see Namibia in her best dress.

But no worries if you can't get there in time – a dry, stripped-back Namibia has its own charm. The country's true desert form makes a visit even more adventurous: Those mirages on the horizon give you great photos; and you see more animals when the landscape is bare. You also feel immensely grateful when you can hide from the sun under a tree – and you'll drink your eight glasses of water per day with ease!

Even when the sun is making things a bit toasty, you'll forge ahead. Go do the things and see the places – it doesn't matter if you're a sweaty mess. (I took this photo at Elephant's Head in the Erongo Mountains during the hottest part of the day.)

But seeing a place that's usually bone dry become electric green is like someone turning up the volume on your favourite song. The wind sounds different when it blows through branches with leaves. Insects you've never seen zoom around, and wherever you walk, soft grass tickles your knees. Even the river stones have something to say.

It's like your soul takes a deep breath and exhales. Here comes possibility. Here comes another chance to sow and reap; a season in which the ewes will lamb and the birds will lay eggs. And the bigger picture: Here come the tourists. There have been books written on the subject: Seeing something green has a remarkable effect on your mood. It triggers feelings of harmony, optimism and rebirth. Add a pan full of water or a river in spate and you have what they call the Oasis Effect: You'll have less stress and more serotonin.

Because this is how it has always been: Like animals, we gather around water. Look at where the campsites are – along the Orange, the Kwando and the Kunene. And the kraals of the nomads – near the Huab and Hoarusib. Even permanent settlements grew around water sources. Did the first person in Henties Bay stay because he caught a galjoen? No – there was a freshwater spring!

Here's a suggestion: Keep an eye on the weather forecast. When you see parts of Namibia getting lots of rain, pack the bakkie and take a drive. Go see what the landscapes look like. Until then, let the stories and photos in this year's guide inspire you.

SOPHIA

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FOR THE DIGITAL MAGAZINE: zinio.com magzter.com

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Weg/go! is a member
of the Audit Bureau of
Circulations of South Africa



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go! Namibia is published by Media24, 40 Heerengracht, Cape Town, 8001

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

PARK FEES

The (many) national parks of Namibia are all managed by Namibia Wildlife Resorts (NWR) so there's a standard conservation fee for most of them. The daily fee for SADC residents to enter is currently R180 per adult, R100 per child under 16, and R60 per vehicle (with 10 seats or fewer). These rates apply at /Ai-/Ais, Etosha, Namib-Naukluft, Dorob, Waterberg Plateau, Skeleton Coast, Sperrgebiet and Cape Cross.

Entrance to other parks (Bwabwata, Mudumu, Khaudum, Nkasa Rupara, Mangetti, Popa Falls, Daan Viljoen, Hardap, Naute and Von Bach) costs R130 per adult, R80 per child and R60 per vehicle.

Remember to budget for park fees if you plan to stay over in a national park. Fees usually increase every July.

GET DISCOUNTS WITH THESE CARDS

NamLeisure. Get a 25% discount on all NWR formal accommodation (30% on camping, excluding the Miles camps, Popa Falls and Boplaas), and on meals and activities. (Namibians get a 50% discount on lodge accommodation, 40% on camping and 25% on meals and activities.) Solo card R500 per person (R250 for Namibians); R300 (R150) per student. Couple's card R800 (R400). Family card (two parents and two kids aged 13–17) R1 400 (R700).

All cards are valid for 12 months. 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 will increase on 1 November.

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.

SADC travellers receive a 40% discount on accommodation (50% for Namibians) – 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: R300 per adult; R150 per child aged 6–13; free for kids under 6. ☎00 264 61 427 200; gondwana-card.com

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. (A few places could not be reached in time to confirm their latest rates.)

Rates often go up on 1 July or 1 November. Always call or e-mail to check the rates beforehand. Some owners were hesitant to provide set rates due to fluctuating commodity prices, which impact their accommodation businesses.

We've divided Namibia into three regions for our accommodation sections: South (p 38), Central (p 70) and North (p 124). Each section also includes a map.

CHILDREN

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

DISCOUNTS

When you book accommodation, be sure to mention you're South African or Namibian. Residents of SADC countries sometimes get a discount. (Some of the rates in this guide already reflect this discount.) Also enquire about discounts for children, special offers and low-season rates, especially during the "green season" (January to March, when it rains).

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. 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.

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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AT THE BORDER



COMPULSORY STUFF

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. You can be fined R500 if you don't have this sticker on the back of your vehicle. Outdoor Warehouse and Agrimark sell a magnetic version for about R60.

PEN. Not compulsory, but having your own black 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.

SENDELINGS DRIFT AREA

BORDER FEES

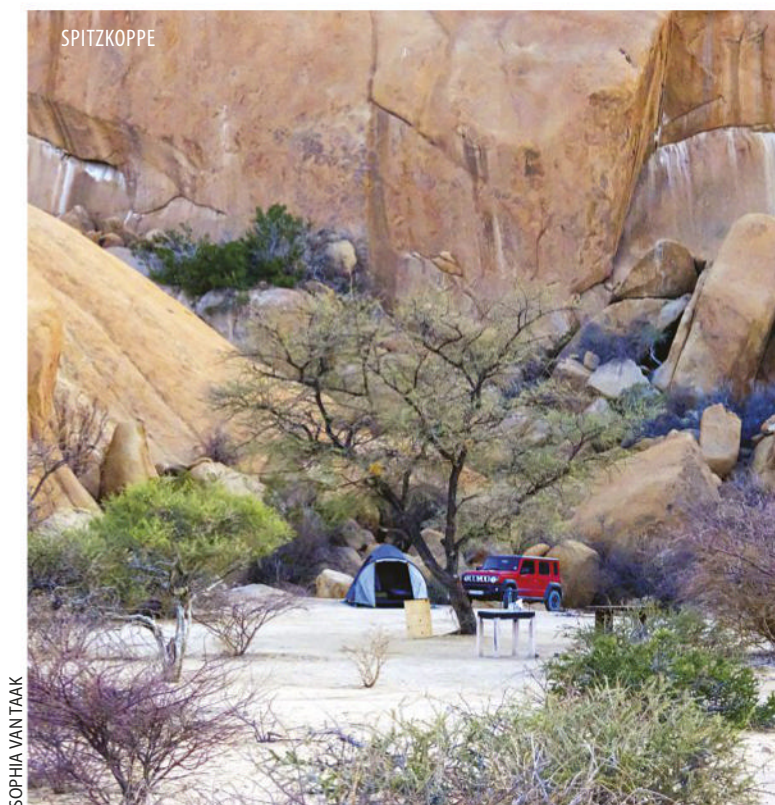
Have enough cash on hand. The current border fee is R445 per vehicle (including double-cab bakkies and kombis) and R283 per trailer and motorbike. You can pay in rand (R1 = N\$1), but bear in mind that prices may go up unexpectedly. See the maps for border post times (South p 38; Central p 70; North p 124).

STAY IN TOUCH

Most places to stay have Wi-Fi (often free), but it's convenient to get a prepaid SIM card in Namibia. MTC is the biggest mobile company in Namibia and you can get a SIM card and packages at most filling stations and convenience stores – you need your passport to complete the RICA process. The MTC Aweh YoData package has 25 GB of data and 500 minutes of airtime (valid for 30 days) and costs R249.

Some smartphones can also accept an eSIM card. 📶 airalo.com has a 5GB package (valid for 30 days) for about R790. At 📶 nomadesim.com you can buy 1 GB (valid for seven days) for R398.

AT THE BORDER



SOPHIA VANTAAK

FOOD & CUSTOMS RESTRICTIONS

At the time of going to print, South Africans were not allowed to take any animal products across the border into Namibia due to a local foot-and-mouth outbreak. This includes all meat, fish, dairy and egg products and even processed, tinned, dried and smoked foods. (Sorry, no cheese sandwiches, hardboiled eggs and meatballs for padkos...)

MEAT & FISH. The same regulations apply on the so-called Red Line. This cordon fence stretches from Torra Bay in the west to Gam in the east and also follows the southern border of Etosha National Park. Travellers may take meat and dairy products into the park, but can't exit the park to the south with them.

When returning to South Africa, you can take back 10 kg of biltong or droëwors and 25 kg of red meat (no pork) per person. To bring back fish, you need to buy a Recreational Import Permit (R505) from the SA Department of Fisheries at least two weeks before your departure. Each angler may bring up to 30 fish back into SA. There is a limit of 10 fish on the following species: kabeljou, steenbras, galjoen and blacktail. The fish should be frozen and in polystyrene containers.

✉ CSenquiries@dffe.gov.za; ☎ [callcentre@dffe.gov.za](tel:+27214622444)

GIFTS, ALCOHOL & CIGARETTES. Gifts worth up to R5 000 and personal items are duty-free. Each person may bring into Namibia: 200 cigarettes; 20 cigars and 250 g tobacco; 2 l wine and 1 l spirits; 50 ml perfume and 250 ml eau de toilette. 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.

VISA & MEDICAL

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

VACCINATIONS. Not compulsory, but it's a good idea to be up to date with your yellow fever, hepatitis A and antitetanus shots.

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

MEDICAL INSURANCE. Always a good idea.



TOAST COETZER

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. Ask if the card machine is working before you fill up, especially in smaller places.
- Travel with different 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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Today, this hotel is again a favourite stop for explorers heading to destinations such as the Richtersveld, Namaqua National Park, the Orange River and Namibia.

Guests enjoy uniquely decorated rooms, delicious home-cooked meals, authentic Namaqualand hospitality, and the relaxed charm of a traditional country hotel, set amid the Kamiesberg Mountains.

All year round, the region welcomes thousands of visitors, making Kamieskroon the ideal base from which to explore the region's remarkable natural treasures. The Namaqualand Flower spectacle in June and August, vast landscapes, unique biodiversity, the peaceful rhythm of nature, and the understated comforts of the Kamieskroon Hotel have proven to make this country hotel a popular destination once again.



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📍 @kamieskroon_hotel | 📍 Kamieskroon Hotel | 1 Old National Rd, Kamieskroon, Northern Cape

www.kamieskroonhotel.com

Exquisite from every angle

What is it about Namibia that captures your imagination? Is it an unforgettable gravel road or a campsite where you wanted to stay forever? Earlier this year, we asked our Instagram followers to share their favourite photos. These ones made us feel like we were right there under the starry skies of the south or among the croaking frogs of the Kavango. Congrats to our 10 winners – your R3 000 gift vouchers from Adventure Inc. are on their way!



CATCH OF THE DAY

Chris Leggatt, Wilderness

 [chriscrossingsa](#)

Reaching the Kavango River, its banks dotted with tall trees, is a welcome break after driving through the mostly dry southern parts of Namibia. The river is life for the local residents – it provides water for drinking and irrigation, it's used for transport, washing and of course, fishing.

I run a canoe hire business back home on the Garden Route, so I was rather taken by the mekoro (yup, the plural of mokoro) that move up and down the river. I captured this image early one morning at Taranga Safari Lodge, close to Rundu. A fisherman was checking his nets after leaving them out overnight. Shooting into the rising sun provided some challenges with lens flare, but the layers in the silhouette were made that much more pleasing when the fisherman was rewarded for his efforts.



◀ SIGNS OF LIFE

Nazreen Essack, Cape Town

📷 nazreenessack

I snapped this shot while driving from Solitaire to Walvis Bay along the C14. I was with a photography group and we'd stopped to take photos of a roadside quiver tree. A lone 4x4 driving down below caught my attention. Namibia is so sparsely populated that you often don't see other cars for ages. The challenge with this image was exposing for the harsh midday light.

The vastness of the Namib Desert is something else. Knowing that it's just you and the natural elements is very humbling.

▶ AT A GALLOP

Jo-Mari de Klerk, Wellington

📷 jomari_dk

I recently visited my friend Lien Rossouw on her farm in the Maltahöhe area – that's where I took this photo. One morning, I went up with Lien's sister Gina in a gyrocopter – I wanted to take photos in the soft light.

We came across this herd of gemsbok – a moment I couldn't have planned for even if I'd tried! The light was continually changing and the fast-moving gyrocopter made it challenging, but pilot Gina was very patient and circled until I got the shot.

Namibia will always feel like home to me. I grew up there and my parents still farm in the Helmeringhausen district. This photo sums up what I love about the country: open plains, beautiful light and special, unexpected moments in nature.







◀ SILENT NIGHT

Brittany McDonald, Somerset West

 [brittle_sees](#)

I took this photo on the first night of a trip we did through Namibia in 2025 – at the Canyon Roadhouse campsite. I woke up in the early hours – I think it was the sheer silence of the landscape that was so unusual to my city ears. I peeked out of my tent and the sky was simply blazing with stars.

In a very small window between the moon setting and the sun rising, with the Milky Way right above our campsite, I rushed out to try and get a decent photo in my half-asleep state. I used a crooked table as a tripod and a timer so I didn't have to touch my camera.

What makes this photo one of my favourites is not that it's the best example of astrophotography ever recorded in Namibia; rather, it's the feeling it conjures of a half-dazed overlander looking up at the universe.

▼ HOME OF THE JACKAL

Vivienne Naudé, Centurion

 [vivid_photography61](#)

Late one afternoon on a guided tour of the Sperrgebiet in Namibia, we set up camp next to the quiet, blue-grey Atlantic Ocean. In that peaceful moment, I saw this black-backed jackal trotting down the dunes to the beach. The light from the ocean's side perfectly illuminated its face.

Every time I look at this photo, it takes me back there – back to the desert where the animals live their lives undisturbed.





FEATHERED RAINBOW

Heiko Wolf, Pretoria

 [_wolf_foto](#)

I read an article in an in-flight magazine about this colony of southern carmine bee-eaters, which nest on the southern bank of a section of the Zambezi River. It tickled my curiosity: When do the birds assemble, and how do you get to this remote spot? Where's the best place to stay? The answers: August to October, by boat, Zambezi Mubala Lodge!

I spent three nights there and saw an estimated 5 000 bee-eaters: in flight, hunting, nesting and resting in the trees. It was tricky to isolate single birds or even small groupings from the overwhelming number of possible photo opportunities.

I've travelled a lot in southern Africa, but this special experience stands out. It was worth all the effort, money and time spent to get there! Namibia's north-east has so much to offer.





DANCE OF THE RAIN

Wiehahn Jacobs, Bellville

 [wiehahn_jacobs](#)

I took this photo at the Hardap Resort near Mariental. It was late afternoon and we were on our way to the restaurant to watch the sun set over the Hardap Dam. The resort is high up and gives you a great view of the surrounding landscape. Rain was falling on the horizon.

I took this photo from a low angle to get the clouds in the frame. The sun was going down fast, but I waited for the wind to stir the grass in the foreground to create the effect I wanted.

This photo makes me smile. It's one of the most beautiful moments in nature I've ever experienced – and Namibia has an abundance of those! Sometimes it's the lesser-known places that surprise you.

THE COLOUR OF GRATITUDE

Roberto Kruger, Swakopmund

 [robertokruger_photography](#)

There's a big pan on the farm Sandhof near Maltahöhe, which only fills with water during an exceptional rainy season – usually every three or four years. Soon after the rain, these lilies – *Crinum paludosum* – appear and bloom in their thousands for a few short days. It's an incredibly special sight that requires planning and a healthy dose of luck – you can only hope that you arrive in time to see the lilies open!

This photo tells the story of Namibia – it looks like a land of sand and stone, but add a little rain and it turns into something spectacular.



▲ FROM MY POINT OF VIEW

Gillian Ritchie, Cape Town

 [tarmactravels](#)

Dead Vlei has always been on my bucket list, but it exceeded every expectation. Being there was such an immersive experience – the prickly heat, the softness of the sand, the eerie silence surrounding the skeletal trees...

We climbed the dunes next to the vlei and followed the curving path of footprints along the ridge. What struck me was the straight, shadowed line juxtaposed against the curving dunes. The small figures further along the ridge added an interesting focal point and highlight how big these dunes actually are.

You can never spend enough time there – the light constantly changes, from one hour to the next, changing the mood and the colours.

➤ ADVENTURE IN SIMPLICITY

Johan Wahl, Muizenberg

 [a.whale.away](#)

My wife Jana and I bikepacked through Namibia for three months – part of a longer journey from Cape Town to the Kunene River. I took this photo of our minimalistic camp setup late one afternoon near Sesriem.

Cycling through Namibia is not easy. The relentless heat and wind, and the vast stretches between water sources all take their toll. Yet, when you're met with scenes like this, every challenge feels worth it.





Hit the road with Adventure Inc.

Half the fun of planning a Namibian holiday is thinking about how you're going to use your special camping and hiking gear! Adventure Inc. has all the quality products you need to make your trip one to remember. Visit adventureinc.co.za for more.



1. Osprey Aoede Crossbody Bag

The shoulder strap is adjustable and the flap of the front pocket has magnetic clips so your everyday items are easy to access. On the back is a zipped pocket for things you don't use often, but want to stow away safely, like your passport. The main compartment has a space for your wallet, road map and medication, plus two mesh pockets to organise loose items like charging cables and even a tyre pressure gauge. There's also a key clip inside. Everything has its place – you'll never have to wonder where something is again.

R899

2. Icebreaker T-shirt

The name of this shirt – 150 Tech Lite III – sounds like a laser weapon from *Star Wars*, but it's actually a highly engineered merino wool garment that's soft, tough and designed to be worn day after day.

Merino is a great alternative to cotton: It's lightweight and wicks sweat from your skin so it evaporates faster and you stay cooler. Merino also naturally repels the bacteria that cause odour, which means you can wear this every day of a multi-day hike without your buddies complaining.

R1 599

3. Sea to Summit Pocket Towel

This lightweight towel absorbs water like a desert plant, but also dries in an instant. It has a press-stud loop so you can hang it from the nearest branch or tent pole after your shower. By the time you're dressed, it will be dry enough to pack away.

There are four sizes, from 40 x 80 cm (58 g) to 75 x 150 cm (175 g). The towel also has a soft but sturdy zipped case with air vents and is made from 100% recycled polyester.

R349 – R529

4. Buff

A Buff has more uses than MacGyver's pocketknife: It can be a scarf, beanie, hair tie, dust mask, cloth, sponge... The stretchy microfibre material is made from recycled plastic bottles and has a UPF rating of 50 for maximum sun protection. With a design from the Original SA Collection, you can represent Mzansi wherever you go. Wear the national flag, or what about a rock art motif?

R359

5. Sea to Summit Clean-up Kit

When packed away, this camp kitchen kit is about the size of a hamburger. But when set up, the 10-litre bag is wide enough to submerge a standard plate. The dishcloth is soft on one side and coarse on the other. And the handle of the pot scrubber can be used to store the small bottle of eco-friendly dishwashing liquid. There's also a DryLite dishtowel to dry your dishes.

R949



6. Sea to Summit Evac Dry Sack

While most dry sacks are cylinders, this one is more oval-shaped, which is more ergonomic when you need to squash it between other items in your backpack. It also won't roll away if you put it down on a hill.

It's made from durable, 70 denier waterproof, recycled nylon. To make the sack as compact as possible, you can squeeze out the air after you've closed the buckle. The base is air permeable, but it won't let water in. This sack is a must if you're off to hike the Fisher River Canyon or paddle on the Orange River. Pack your camera, clothes and food and leave your worries on the riverbank.

Sizes vary from 3 litres (42 g) to 35 litres (113 g) and the buckles are replaceable.
R599 – R949

7. LifeStraw Solo Water Filter

Another nifty product for when you hit the trail. The microfilter inside intercepts everything that will cause you grief, including bacteria, parasites, microplastics,

silt and sand. In a pinch – if you're really thirsty – you can drink water directly from a river or pond with the filter.

But there's a better way to use it: Fill a standard plastic bottle (with a 28 mm mouth) from the river and screw the Solo onto the bottle. Squeeze the bottle to force the water through the filter, and collect the clean, filtered water in your water bottle. So easy! It takes only 20 seconds to filter one litre.

The Solo also has a backwash syringe to rinse out the device, it weighs less than 50 g, and can filter 2 000 litres before it needs to be replaced.

R669

8. NoNormal Coffee

Trust the Swiss to think up something smart and delicious – coffee in a tube! Add one to your food crate and you no longer have to struggle with a drip filter or plunger. Simply stir half a teaspoon of the paste into a cup of boiling water and voila!

It tastes just like real coffee because it

is real coffee. NoNormal is made from dark-roast Arabica beans from Colombia. A 100 g tube can make 20 to 30 cups, depending on how you like your coffee. You can choose between classic black or sweet black – the latter is lightly sweetened with beet sugar to give it a subtle caramel flavour.

R349

9. Hydro Flask Coffee Flask

Even better: Make your coffee in this 354 ml thermos and you won't have to stop to boil water. Hydro Flask products are known for their excellent insulation. The double-wall vacuum insulation will keep water steaming hot (or ice-cold) for half a day at least. A tight rubber seal prevents the lid from leaking if the flask falls over, and you only have to turn the top ring on the lid a quarter of the way if you want to take a sip.

R749

10. Hydro Flask Travel Tumbler

This 946 ml tumbler is your coffee flask's big brother. Despite its large size, its base is small enough to fit into your bakkie's cup holder. Remember, Namibia is hot. And dry. You're thirsty all the time. With this insulated tumbler at your elbow, your drink will stay cold and you'll stay hydrated. And the flip straw in the lid means you can take a sip with one hand while the other taps along to "Hotel California" on the steering wheel.

R1 199



You'll need a 4x4 and patience to reach this viewpoint near Potjiespram Campsite in the !Ai!Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park, but it's worth it to see the Orange River at its most beautiful.

Cross the border at first light

If you're coming from any major city in South Africa, the first day of a Namibian holiday usually involves a long drive to reach a border post before dark. Pro tip: Rather stay over next to the Orange River and start your holiday refreshed the next morning. Here are our favourite places to break the journey.

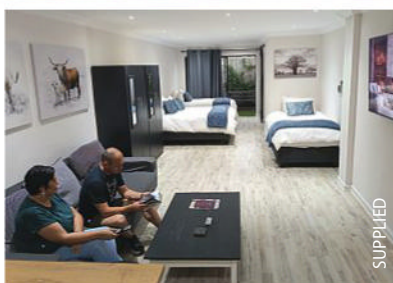




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GET PAPERS FOR YOUR POOCH

Your pet needs a certificate to show that its rabies and other vaccinations are up to date. A microchip is not a requirement, but it's recommended. Baxter also needs to go to a

vet registered with the South African Veterinary Association for a health check and to get an inter-territorial movement permit. You must do this no more than seven days before your departure.



BORDER POST Alexander Bay/Swartkops

Open from 6 am to 10 pm

Dina's Accommodation

Alexander Bay and Oranjemund are on either side of the Orange River mouth. These former mining towns, connected by the Ernest Oppenheimer Bridge, were founded when alluvial diamonds were discovered in the 1920s. Back then you needed a permit to visit because access to the Sperrgebiet was limited to employees, their families and approved visitors. These days the towns are open to the public, although neither has much of a tourism offering.

Alexander Bay is windswept and lifeless, but things are still happening in Oranjemund. The mine is still active, so the town has a filling station, a Spar, coffee and clothing store, and a mining museum (Jasper House in 7th Avenue). Look out for the semi-tame gemsbok that roam the streets!

Dina's Accommodation in Oranjemund consists of three rooms, three flats and a house with three bedrooms. Each of the rooms has a double bed, kettle, microwave, small fridge and cutlery. Each of the open-plan flats (with a double bed or two three-quarter beds) has a kitchen with a full-size fridge, stove, air fryer, microwave and braai facilities in a private garden.

The house can sleep six people. It also has a fully equipped kitchen and a living area with a dining table and a fireplace. All units have TVs and free Wi-Fi. You can bring your pets (see sidebar) if you arrange beforehand. Breakfast and dinner are available on request.

Where? 1st and 3rd Avenue, Oranjemund

Rates: Luxury room from R800 per night; flat R850 per night; house R1 400 per night.

Contact: 00 264 81 416 0711 (WhatsApp)

00 264 81 269 9164; dinasaccommodation.com

– Evan Naudé



BORDER POST Sendelingsdrift

Open from 8 am to 4.15 pm

SANParks Sendelingsdrift rest camp

Did you know you can cross into Namibia by pont? Yup, the border post at Sendelingsdrift on the South African side of the |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park is not the border to use if you're in a hurry, but it's definitely the right call if you're after adventure.

Although a vehicle with high ground clearance is recommended, a sedan will make it to Sendelingsdrift, and beyond into Namibia. But if you want to explore more of the park on the SA side, you'll need a proper 4x4. It's worth it – add an extra day or two to your itinerary.

Sendelingsdrift has 10 self-catering chalets in a row on the banks of the Orange River. Four of the chalets sleep four people (in two rooms with two single beds each) while the rest have two single beds in an open-plan room. The chalets all have air conditioning, ceiling fans and a kitchen with a fridge, electric stove, basic cooking utensils and cutlery. Bedding and towels are provided.

There's a lawn between the chalets and you can see the river when you braai on your stoep. And the cherry on top? There's a swimming pool for when it gets sweltering.

The campsite is opposite the reception office. The stands aren't marked – you basically pick the nearest braai pit or shade tree. The ablution and washing-up facilities are communal. Water is available, but there's no power. Potjiespram Campsite is another option – it's about 13 km away and has 18 basic camping stands, each with a sink and a counter under an awning. No power. There's cold water in the ablution facilities.

Next to the reception office you'll find a shop with basic supplies, and a filling station with diesel and petrol. The filling station is open Monday to Saturday from 8 am to 3.30 pm; it closes at 1 pm on Sundays.

Visit the nursery at Sendelingsdrift, which sells special indigenous plants from the region, and the adjacent Richtersveld Desert Botanical Garden, a collaboration between SANParks and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). Walk through the tunnels of unique succulents and semidesert flora and you'll realise that there's way more life in the desert than you thought.

How does the pont work? It's open every day from 8 am to 4.15 pm and costs R190 per vehicle with up to six seats; you pay more for bigger vehicles, trailers and caravans.

Where? Sendelingsdrift is 90 km east of Alexander Bay – 80 km of the route is along a gravel road that's often in a poor state.

Rates: Camping R311 per night for the first two people, plus R118 per extra adult and R59 per extra child. Chalet accommodation R1 271 per night for the first two people, plus R341 per extra adult and R171 per child. Potjiespram 4x4 campsite R300 per night for the first two people, plus R112 per extra adult and R55 per child; max six campers and two vehicles per stand.

Sendelingsdrift and Potjiespram are inside the national park. If you stay over, you need to pay the daily conservation fee: R87 per adult; R43 per child aged 2 – 11 years; free with a Wild card. If you only use the border post, you don't have to pay this fee.

Contact: ☎ 012 428 9111 (bookings); ☎ 027 831 1506 (Sendelingsdrift); 🌐 sanparks.org

– Evan Naudé



BORDER POST Vioolsdrif/Noordoewer

Open 24 hours

Kwelanga River Lodge

Kwelanga is one of the newer lodges on the South African side of the Orange River. It's a working farm that produces fruit and vegetables. During the Covid-19 lockdown, the owners decided to build accommodation and set up a base for river tours.

Kwelanga has seven chalets and two campsites. The chalets are in a row high along the riverbank with a great view of the Orange. Each unit has air conditioning, en suite bathrooms, a small fridge, a tea and coffee station, cutlery, and a braai on the stoep. The chalets are open-plan and sleep two to five people.

You can pitch your tent in the River Campsite near the water, or in the Fish Eagle Campsite that's set slightly back. Both campsites have lots of trees and green lawns. River Campsite has five stands, each with private ablutions and washing-up facilities. Fish Eagle's ablutions and washing-up facilities are shared among its eight camping stands. In both campsites, you get a braai, power point and an awning for your vehicle. There's also a big swimming pool to offer some relief from the summer heat.

The restaurant and bar – Pub & Grub (8 am to 8 pm) – is next to the campsites. There are pizzas (from R115), burgers (R135) and steak (R190) on the menu. Breakfast has to be ordered a day in advance.

Kwelanga is also the departure point for rafting tours, offered by their sister company Rapid Adventures. You can explore the river west towards Aussenkehr on a half-day paddling trip (from R750 per adult; R500 per child under 12) or a full-day trip (from R950 per person). They also offer fishing outings and longer rafting trips of four or five days (from R4 500 per adult; R4 150 per child). The rate includes paddling equipment, a guide, meals and reserve permits. Paddlers have to bring their own camping gear. ☎ 071 613 5159; 🌐 rapidadventures.co.za

Where? On the Kotzeshoop Road, 6,5 km west of the border post.

Rates: Fish Eagle Campsite R400 per night for the first two people, R700 per night thereafter for up to six people. River Campsite R600 per night for the first two people, R1 000 per night thereafter for up to six people. Chalets from R1 400 per night for two people.

Contact: ☎ 083 288 9496 (WhatsApp only)

🌐 kwelangariverlodge.com

– Evan Naudé



Felix Unite Camp Provenance

According to legend, Felix Unite was the first man to lead a rafting trip on the Orange River in the 1980s. It was a new concept back then, but quickly started to attract more people looking for adventure. By 1985, Felix and his partners, Carlos Peres and Mark Kampers, established the first commercial rafting business on the Orange River. They started with a simple campsite as base for their trips, and over the years it grew into a resort with formal accommodation, a restaurant, swimming pool and bar.

Provenance Camp – on the Namibian side of the river – has 19 cabanas on a koppie overlooking the water. The 17 standard units each sleep two people, while the two family cabanas can accommodate four. Each unit has a bathroom, air conditioning, ceiling fans and a small coffee station. They're not equipped for a self-catering stay and don't have braai facilities – accommodation is offered on a bed-only or bed-and-breakfast basis.

Luckily the Orange River Restaurant is open from 7 am to 10 pm and serves all three meals. There's a massive swimming pool next door where you can sit with your binoculars and look for kingfishers in the reeds; and at dusk when it cools down a bit, you can hike the Max Track – a 3,8 km circular trail that starts at the reception office (ask for a map) and leads to a viewpoint on a koppie.

The main attraction remains their rafting trips. You can do a quick half-day trip (R785 per adult; R550 per child) and see about 10 km of the river, or lock in for the full experience: a four-day excursion (R5 725 per adult; R5 525 per child under 18) with guiding, meals and paddling equipment included. You just need to bring your own camping gear.

Where? On the C13, 13 km from the Noordoewer border post.

Rates: Accommodation from R1 550 per night for two people. Family cabana from R2 625 per night.

Contact: ☎ 087 354 0578; 🌐 felixunite.com

– Evan Naudé





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BORDER POST Onseepkans/Velloorsdrif

Open from 8 am to 4.30 pm

Red Rock River Camp

This quiet border post is one of the best places to enter Namibia. The gravel C10 from here to Karasburg is 103 km of elbow-out-the-window driving pleasure.

Red Rock River Camp is about 10 goliath-heron wingbeats downstream from the border post, on the South African side of the Orange. Roché Schoeman and Adelaine Breedt are at the helm. As a rafting guide with more than 25 years' experience, Roché has a long history with the river. In 2014, he swam the entire length of it – from Lesotho to the sea!

He and Adelaine settled in Onseepkans in 2020, just before Covid turned the world upside down. Over time, they've made Red Rock River Camp into an oasis in this Richtersveld-like part of the Northern Cape. They live in the camp so they're always available – and you can book a rafting trip at any time of the year, unlike at some other places.

Each of the five camping stands (on lawn, under trees) has space for 10 people. Campers share ablution facilities with hot showers. Red Rock relies on solar power and there are only two power points – one in the campsite and one near the kitchen. Campers have access to a communal kitchen in the building that overlooks the river. There's also a viewing deck and a splash pool.

Red Rock offers customised five-day rafting trips (R6 980 per adult; R5 900 per child) on a pristine section of the Orange. You can see places like Ritchie Falls, and a stretch that Roché calls the Fish Eagle Section because there are so many of them. Rafting equipment and meals are supplied; bring your own camping gear. If your time is limited, you can do a day outing for R750 per person (lunch included).

Roché and Adelaine also organise special expeditions for anglers. Fly-fishermen come here to catch yellowfish. Birders can see Orange River white-eye in the trees on the riverbank, and you might spot a goliath heron as still as a statue in the rapids. On my visit, I even ticked off a striped kingfisher!

Where? 51 km north of Pofadder, along the R358.

Rates: Camping R200 per person. Firewood R50 per bundle. Do a sunset 4x4 outing to a dune with a view (R350 per person). There's a shop in Onseepkans where you can buy meat and basic groceries.

Contact: 083 660 7798 (WhatsApp)

redrockrivercamp.co.za

– Toast Coetzer



Noordoewer Guesthouse

**THE IDEAL HALFWAY STOP BETWEEN
CAPE TOWN (670 KM) AND WINDHOEK (800 KM).**

14 guest rooms are en suite, with private entrances, fridges/minibars, and air conditioning.

Visit our newly built coffee shop and farmstall (Die Mielie) with a breathtaking view of Noordoewer and the Orange River. Gifts, homemade jams, olives, and local art available.

Come and enjoy the best coffee along the B1 with our famous butternut rusks.

Cakes are daily baked and feel free to try our Crème Brûlée Cheesecake.

Make fire under the Namibian moonlight or sit down to a home-cooked dinner made from local produce.

Noordoewer Guesthouse is your perfect start or end of your unforgettable visit to Namibia.

**Talk to us about routes
and the history of the area.**

Tel: 00264 81 379 5958/ 00264 63 297108
Email: bookings@noordoewerguesthouse.com
www.noordoewerguesthouse.com

Amanzi Trails

ORANGE RIVER ADVENTURES

Spacious lawns, shaded parking spaces, clean ablution facilities and hot showers with good water pressure.

The campsites overlook the river with the majestic Geelkrans as a backdrop.

Come and paddle on the Orange River, which promises to be the trip of a lifetime.

For the avid birdwatchers, this is a birdwatching paradise with beautiful endemic species.

Other activities include:

hiking | mountain bike trail | fishing



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RONEL STEYN



**STAY
HERE**

**CANYON ROADHOUSE,
FISH RIVER CANYON**



Where? 70 km north-west of Grünau. Follow the C12 for 53 km and turn left onto the D601 – the Roadhouse is 16 km further.

Rates: Lodge: R2 512 per person B&B. Camping costs R341 per person. The shaded stands share an ablution block, but each stand has its own power point and braai. If you're a SADC resident and you have a Gondwana card (R300; see page 10), you get 40% discount on accommodation (including camping) and 25% discount on dinner and activities.

Contact: 00 264 61 427 200

gondwana-collection.com

Whether you're heading to the Fish River Canyon or coming back from there, it's impossible to drive past the Canyon Roadhouse without turning off. This green oasis in an otherwise inhospitable landscape looks like an American movie set from the 1950s, somewhere on Route 66 in the Wild West.

The wrecks of Fords, Chevs and even an old Land Rover have found a last resting place among the quiver trees in the front garden. The main building has more classic cars, a shop that sells everything from locally made jewellery to toys and firewood, a restaurant with fast and friendly service, and the iconic Pompstasie bar, decorated with number plates and road signs from all over.

The cold Tafel lager served at the Pompstasie, the big burgers and Amarula cheesecake on the restaurant menu, and the chance to fill your tank are some of the reasons why motorcyclists, overlanders and tour buses full of European tourists like to pull over here. It gets very busy around lunchtime!

But here's a pro tip: The Roadhouse is a fun (and quiet!) place to stay after the "peak traffic" has left in the early afternoon. There are 24 air-conditioned en suite rooms that open onto two shaded courtyards and there are 12 camping stands behind the lodge.

First make your way to the old cement dam next to the windmill. It's been turned into a swimming pool and no one will judge you if you order a beer at the bar en route. Relax and read in the shade or chat to the rosy-faced lovebirds that socialise in the palm trees around the pool. An acacia pied barbet might also drop by.

You can book a range of guided tours in a safari vehicle to the Fish River Canyon and Gondwana Canyon Park, as well as guided hikes. There's also a marked hiking trail of about 2–3 hours that starts and ends at the lodge – you can do it for free and without a guide. Just let the reception office know if you want to hike the trail.

You can also explore the park in your own vehicle, and the main viewpoint overlooking the canyon is only a half-hour drive away. This makes the Roadhouse a good (and unique) base in the region.

– Pierre Steyn



FISH RIVER LODGE

EXPERIENCE THE
FISH RIVER CANYON
BEYOND THE VIEWPOINT.

Our guided 2-day and 3-day hikes take you down into one of Africa's greatest natural wonders, hiking dramatic canyon landscapes with expert guides.

Each evening is spent in Camp Edge or Camp Eternity, where your cabin overlooking the canyon, offers rest and reflection, while watching the desert light fade.

SOUTH

Namib-Naukluft
National Park

Continues on page 70

to Sesriem

to Maltahöhe

Another all-time
classic Namibian
dirt road.

Most people come to the Garub
waterhole for the feral horses, but
there are plenty of gemsbok here too.

One of the most scenic roads in the country.

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

Plan your trip so you arrive
at the Fish River Canyon at
sunrise. The sun will be
behind you, which is better
for taking photos.

28 Place to stay

Town

Place

Border post

Main road

Gravel road

Secondary gravel road

4x4 route



Atlantic
Ocean

Sperrgebiet

Rosh Pinah – Sendelingsdrift

8 am – 4.15 pm

Cross the Orange River
on a pont! See page 31.

Oranjemund – Alexander Bay

6 am – 10 pm

|Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld
Transfrontier Park

Rosh Pinah

31

Sendelingsdrift

32

Oranjemund

29-30

Alexander Bay

Aussenkehr

40

Kuboes

Eksteenfontein

Lekkersing

41

Ai-Ais

Fish

Orange

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NAMIBIA

KALAHARI

Kgalagadi
Transfrontier Park

Mata-Mata - Welverdiend

8 am – 4.30 pm
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-Menasse - Rietfontein

8 am – 4.30 pm

Ariamsvlei - Nakop

24 hours

Noordoewer - Vioolsdrif

24 hours

Velloorsdrif - Onseepkans

8 am – 4.30 pm

Continues on page 71

A beautiful drive over the dunes.

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

Buy meat from Die Vleisstal farm stall at Namgate, next to the B1. See page 45.



SOUTH PLACES TO STAY

KLEIN-AUS VISTA, #19

SOPHIA VAN TAAK

HELMERINGHAUSEN & TIRASBERG

1 Namtib Biosphere Reserve

This privately owned 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 Tiras Mountains and the red dunes of the Namib Desert. Camping R250 p.p. (braai, solar-heated showers, communal wind shelter, no power). Lodge rooms from R1 800 p.p. sharing (breakfast included). Guests must book in advance. You can hike a variety of trails or climb one of the koppies (free).

📞 00 264 83 707 1190

🌐 namtib.net

2 Ranch Koiimasis

Only accessible from the D707. Activities range from hiking to guided horse rides and e-biking tours. Camping R400 p.p. (five private stands, each with a braai

and clean drinking water; shared ablutions). Schwalbennest is a private self-catering chalet that sleeps two: R4 000 p.n, minimum two nights (meals on request). Chalet Virosa is a basic unit with two single beds, an outdoor braai and a communal ablution block: from R900 p.n. Luxury rooms at Fest Inn Fels Farm Lodge R3 230 p.p. DB&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 R422 p.n. for two. Luxury en suite safari tent R3 580 p.p. DB&B.

📞 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, hiking 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 R200 p.p.

📞 00 264 81 424 9888

(WhatsApp only)

🌐 amiller@iway.na

5 Landsberg Campsites

Three large campsites (each accommodates 10 people) R340 p.p.; one glamping site (two beds) with private ablutions, shade, patio and braai R900 p.p. (both SADC rate). Each campsite has a view over the plains in the foothills of the Tiras Mountains; 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.

📞 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 Swartrandberg and a peak called Mount D'Urban. Rates from R230 p.p. 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 benches where you can enjoy the view.) You can buy firewood, braai meat, ice, jam, chutney, seasonal produce and farm bread (order beforehand) at their farm shop, The Pantry. There's a playground for the kids.

📞 00 264 81 547 3532

🌐 moundurban.com.na

7 Helmeringhausen Hotel

The hotel is in Helmeringhausen's only street. Camping R300 p.p. (hot showers, no power). Double room R1 620 p.p. sharing DB&B. They also have two self-catering apartments (sleep two, no children) on the farm about 4 km from the hotel – R6 000 p.n.; minimum two nights. Enquire about SADC rates.

☎ 00 264 81 637 9521

✉ helmeringhausennamibia.com

KOËS & KALAHARI**8 Koës Hotel**

Camping on grass R150 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 81 330 8980 (Elmarie)

✉ koeshotel@gmail.com

9 DuneSong Breathers

About 30 km north of Koës. One of the best places to stay in the area. Bush camp (minimum two nights) R250 p.p. if you use your own tent. You can also stay in a twin-sleeper safari tent for R500 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 R900 p.p.

☎ 00 264 81 777 6333

✉ dunesong.net

10 Kalahari Sunset Game Farm

This farm is on the C15, 46 km from the Mata-Mata border post. There are four camping stands with power points and ablution facilities: R150 p.p. Game drives on request at R250 p.p. The farm sells meat and firewood. You can also order freshly baked farm bread.

☎ 00 264 63 252 005

✉ oerwoud@africaonline.com.na

✉ kalaharisunsetgamefarm.com

11 Terra Rouge Guest Farm

Kalahari hospitality at its finest. Camping R150 p.p. There are three chalets near the farmhouse (each sleeps two; R1 400 p.n.). Firewood and meat for sale. There's also the Kalahari Sonstraal self-catering farmhouse. The farmhouse is at the end of a sandy road, 27 km from the C15 alone on a hill. It sleeps six people in three bedrooms and has Wi-Fi and DSTV. R3 500 p.n. minimum stay of two nights.

☎ 00 264 63 252 031

☎ 00 264 81 129 0280 (WhatsApp)

✉ terrarouge@iway.na

12 Kalahari Game Lodge

Situated on the C15, 18 km from Mata-Mata. The campsite has six stands spread out along the dry Auob riverbed. Each has its own ablution facilities with a donkey boiler for hot water, no power points: R378 p.p. (max four people). There are also eight twin-sleeper chalets: R1 987 p.p. sharing DB&B. There are guided game drives, 4x4 self-drive routes, hiking trails and more than 185 bird species to spot. 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 R200 p.p. (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; rates from R1 500 p.n. for four people. There's 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 Ggalagadi 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 chalet for two: R1 300 p.n. (self-catering); stone chalet for two: R2 640 p.n. (self-catering). They also have two luxury campsites, each with a private bathroom, electricity and hot water: R310 p.p.

All meals are available but must be pre-booked. The lodge has a swimming pool, a boma and a waterhole that is illuminated at night. Sundowner or sunrise game drives; walking trails and stargazing on the dune.

☎ 00 264 81 302 1236

✉ torgoslodgenam.com

LÜDERITZ**15 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 430 p.n. B&B; single room R1 050 p.n. B&B.

☎ 00 264 81 818 6727

☎ 00 264 63 203 080

✉ christo.b@iway.na

16 Kratzplatz

Centrally located at 5 Nachtigal Street. Barrels Restaurant is part of this enterprise. A double room costs R1 050 p.n.; triple room R1 530 p.n.; family room (4 – 5 guests) from R2 050 p.n. Breakfast included.

☎ 00 264 63 202 458

✉ kratzmr@iway.na

17 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 R4 760 p.n. Family unit (two adults, two children) R7 720 p.n. All

rates include breakfast.

☎ 00 264 63 204 000

✉ nesthotel.com

18 Prospector's Inn

Behind the TrenTyre as you enter Lüderitz, on the corner of Stauch and Estorff streets. The guesthouse has nine rooms (each with two double beds) – from R1 400 (single person) to R1 800 for a double room (breakfast included). Guests can use the bar, living area, swimming pool and braai facilities. There's also a restaurant; open daily 4 – 9 pm.

☎ 00 264 63 202 856

✉ prospectorsinnamibia.com

AUS**19 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 Desert Horse Inn restaurant. Campers may use the swimming pool and bar at the inn.

Camping from R460 p.n. for two (no electricity). Geisterschlucht self-catering cabin from R1 680 p.n. for the first three people (max eight). Double room at the inn from R1 995 p.p. sharing B&B. Eagle's Nest luxury self-catering twin chalets from R2 635 p.p. sharing B&B. (You get 40% discount at Desert Horse Inn and Eagle's Nest with a Gondwana card.)

☎ 00 264 63 258 116

✉ klein-aus-vista.com

20 Bahnhof Hotel

The hotel is a fixture in the tiny town of Aus. Drop in! Family and double rooms from R2 488 p.n. for two B&B. Self-catering units:



BETHANIE HOTEL & GUESTHOUSE, #22

Aloe Rock Cottage (sleeps three), Orange House (sleeps four), Aloe Rock House (sleeps six) – rates from R578 p.p. Self-catering guests can also have meals at the hotel.

📞 00 264 67 240 901 (reservations)
📧 hotel-aus.com

21 Aus Guest Rooms

Opposite the filling station. Camping with shared ablution facilities R200 p.p. Campsite with private bathroom R250 p.p. Self-catering: R600 p.n. for a single room; R800 p.n. for a double room. Organise in advance if you want a packed lunch for the road (from R150 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)
📧 namibaus@afof.com.na

BETHANIE

22 Bethanie Hotel & Guesthouse

Camping R350 p.p. (power available). Double room R2 350 p.n. Family room (two adults and two kids under 16) from R2 850 p.n. Rooms have aircon; breakfast is included. Dinner R85 – R380. Restaurant, beer garden, coffee shop, swimming pool, info centre, 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

23 Alte Kalköfen Lodge

History is kept alive at this guest farm. Camping R250 p.p. sharing. Self-catering units R935 p.p. sharing; double room R910 p.p. sharing B&B. (Half-price for

children aged 3 – 13 years.) Rates to increase in November. Their meals are superb – treat yourself! Hike, laze at the pool, look at their collection of lithops or go for a scenic nature drive.

📞 00 264 81 170 0004
📧 altekalkofen.com

SEEHEIM

24 Seeheim Hotel

The hotel is Seeheim. Camping R300 p.p. Single room from R1 127 p.p. Double room from R945 p.p. sharing B&B. Family room for four from R2 657 p.n. B&B. There's a swimming pool, restaurant and bar. Free Wi-Fi. You can also order a padkos parcel (R200 p.p.).

📞 00 264 81 341 0005
📧 janko@seeheimhotel.com
📧 seeheimhotel.com

KEETMANSHOOP

25 Quiver Inn Guesthouse

Single room R750 p.p.; double room R1 500 p.n.; family room (sleeps four) R1 800 p.n.; five-sleeper room R2 500. There are two luxury units (each sleeps five) – R3 000 p.n. They have a pool and braai facilities in the garden. All rooms have a kitchenette.

📞 00 264 81 855 3835
📧 quiverinnguesthouse.com

26 Garas 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) R220 p.p.; R60 extra with power. Entrance to the quiver trees R120 p.p. You can order toasted sarmies or a light picnic before arrival.

📞 00 264 81 491 3863 (Marian)
📧 marian.hulme.z@gmail.com

27 Quivertree Forest Rest Camp

This place is 13 km north-east

of Keetmanshoop, on the C17. Camping R360 p.p. (includes entrance fee to the quiver tree forest). Self-catering rooms from R1 210 p.n. (for two people) to R2 250 p.n. (family room for four). Rooms with dinner and breakfast included from R2 900 p.n. (for two) to R5 985 (for four). Visit the quiver tree forest and the Giant's Playground rock formations. Day visitors are welcome. Entrance fee R130 p.p.

📞 00 264 81 696 5117
📧 quivertreeforest.com

28 Mesosaurus Fossil Camp

About 42 km east of Keetmans. The Bush Camp is 3 km into the veld among quiver trees and 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 R200 p.p.; self-catering chalet R400 p.p. sharing. Fossil tour R150 p.p. – tours take place daily at 9.30 am and 4.30 pm. The chalets are closed from December to February. (Too hot!)

📞 00 264 63 683 641
📧 mesosaurus.com

ORANJEMUND

29 Op My Steep Lodge

Near the Oranjemund-Alexander Bay border post. Double room from R1 250 p.n. B&B. Self-catering unit R880 p.n. for the first guest, plus R150 per extra person (sleeps four). There's a restaurant on site.

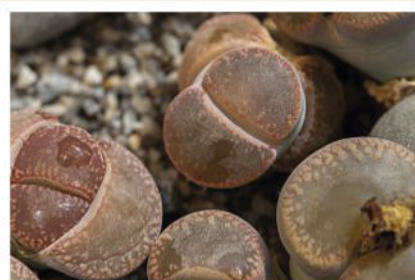
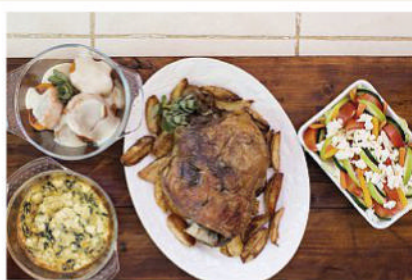
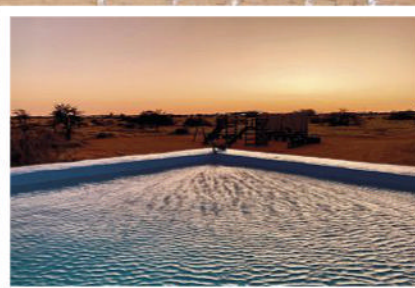
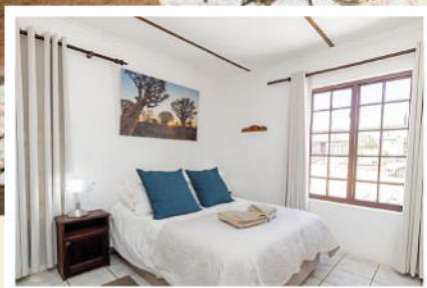
📞 00 264 81 750 1716
📞 00 264 63 234 223
📧 opmystoeop.com

NEW!

30 Dina's Accommodation

Three luxury rooms, three flats and a house with three bedrooms. See page 30.

Continues on p 44



Since 1995, the De Wet Family has embraced guests as part of their own, sharing warmth and enthusiasm. Our range of accommodation includes the main White House, self-catering chalets, and camping facilities, all ideal for a tranquil getaway. Whether you're seeking a romantic escape, a family vacation, a weekend with friends, or a larger gathering, we have something for everyone.

In a setting that is both comfortable and charmingly rustic, you will truly appreciate the historical richness this farm has to offer. Reserve a camping spot and enjoy the calming experience of sleeping under the spectacular Namibian stars! All accommodation is easily accessible by car—there's no need for a 4x4.

Each self-catering chalet comes equipped with air conditioning, heaters, fresh bedding, towels, cutlery, crockery, pots and pans, a tea and coffee station, and a small two-plate stove. Additionally, you will find a well-stocked fridge filled with cold beer, wine, soft drinks, and ice.



LOCATION

12 km north of Grunau

CONTACT US

00264 81 351 0534 | 00264 63 262 061

WEBSITE

www.withuis.net

SOUTH PLACES TO STAY



FELIX UNITE CAMP PROVENANCE, #39

EVAN NAUDE

ROSH PINAH

31 Four Seasons Lodge
B&B accommodation. Double room R1 250 p.n. Self-catering twin chalet R1 400 p.n. Family room (sleeps three) R1 600 p.n. Family room (sleeps four) R1 850 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 the Roter Kamm crater.
☎ 00 264 63 274 416
☎ 00 264 81 270 6040
📧 rosh-pinah-accommodation.com

en suite tents and seven of them are new. The six original tents have a communal boma for self-catering guests. The new Superior tents don't have self-catering facilities, but guests can book and enjoy meals at the farmhouse. All the tents have a small fridge and air conditioning.

Twin-sleeper tent R1 850 p.n.
Four-sleeper family tent from R2 500 p.n. for two to R4 100 p.n. for four. The resort has a swimming pool and a bar.
☎ 071 386 8926
📧 frontierriverresort.co.za

34 Kwelanga River Lodge

Chalets and camping on a fruit and vegetable farm next to the Orange River. See page 32.

35 The Growcery

Each of the spacious, shaded camping stands on the riverbank has power, a braai and kitchen area. They share a bathroom. Pole 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,

kitchen area and a braai.

If you don't want to camp, stay in the basic but neat Chic Shacks (the units share a bathroom and kitchen). There are meals on offer, but the menu depends on what's available and booking is essential. Day visitors are welcome at the restaurant and bar area.

Camping from R220 to R240 p.p. Private, river-view campsite R280 p.p. Chic Shack (sleeps two; linen provided) R310 – R670 p.p. depending on which meals you want included. They have Wi-Fi. Ask about river activities.
☎ 084 604 2756
📧 thegrowcery.co.za

36 Richtersveld Wilderness Camp

Each of the nine 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 in the corner has its own shower and toilet; Weaverbird and Nightjar share a hot shower – R250 p.p. and R100 p.n. for your stand, or R200 p.n. if you're camping at Kingfisher.
📧 richtersveld.co.za

NOORDOEWER

37 Amanzi River Camp

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. Camping: R250 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, a restaurant and braai facilities. Free Wi-Fi, and swimming pools for the warmer days. Single room R1 110 p.n. B&B. Double room R1 660 p.n. B&B. Family room for three R2 150 p.n. B&B – ask for an extra mattress if you need one (R290).

☎ 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 and camping. See page 33.

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 – R187 p.p. There are several en suite rooms (Wi-Fi, air conditioning, microwave, kettle). The rooms around a shallow dam costs from R2 110 p.n. for two people; rooms

NEW!

SENDELINGS DRIFT

32 Sendelingsdrift rest camp

SANParks camp with self-catering chalets, a campsite and a 4x4 bush camp. See page 31.

VIOOLSDRIF

33 Frontier River Resort

This tented camp is high on a hill overlooking the Orange River and Noordoewer. There are 13

with a river view from R1 457 p.n. for two people. A family chalet (sleeps 10 people) costs R4 479 p.n. for the first four people; then R680 per extra person.

00 264 81 128 6247

norotshamaresort.com

FISH RIVER CANYON

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

The facilities have seen better days, but the communal pool is big, blue and warm. And you can hike into the Fish River Canyon. Camping R390 p.p. (max eight people per stand). Double room from R1 640 p.p. sharing B&B. Self-catering family unit (sleeps four) R2 180 p.p. sharing. (You get 25% discount on formal accommodation and 30% on camping with a NamLeisure card.) Rates to increase in November.

00 264 61 285 7200

nwr.com.na

42 Canyon Roadhouse

Lodge accommodation and camping about 20 km north-east of Hobas, next to the C37. There's also a lekker restaurant, plus a bar, filling station and an ATM. See page 36.

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 995 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 976 p.p. sharing B&B. (You get 40% discount on accommodation with a Gondwana card.)

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 stands under trees – camping R480 p.p. (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: R2 340 p.p. sharing B&B. Rates to increase in November. (You get 25% discount on chalet accommodation and 30% on

camping with a NamLeisure card.)

00 264 61 285 7200

nwr.com.na

GRÜNAU

45 Namgate

About 5 km south of Grünau. The guest rooms (for two to five people) have their own bathroom, air conditioning and a coffee station. The self-catering units (for up to six people) have a living room, kitchen and braai. From R880 p.n. for two people to R1 200 for six people. There is a campsite with communal ablutions behind the guesthouse: R150 p.p. Dinner and breakfast parcels can be ordered in advance. You can cool down in the farm dam and fill your cooler box at Die Vleisstal, the owners' farm stall/butchery. Order beforehand via their online shop:

pad123.zobaze.shop

00 264 81 432 6706

namgate.co.za

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WITH FIBERGLASS HANDLE

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70 MM
RECOVERY
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INFLATION-DEFLATION
SYSTEM

R1 495 VAT incl.



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3 X 5 M

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TARPAULIN 550 GSM
- 5 X 6 M

R1 795 VAT incl.



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**QUALITY TOOLS
QUALITY MACHINERY**



RED ROCK RIVER CAMP, #54

46 Grünau Country Hotel

This popular hotel has been in service for decades. Camping R200 p.p. Glamping unit from R750 p.n. for two (shared ablution facilities with campsite). Double room from R900 p.n.; family room for four from R1 300 p.n. There's a restaurant with an à la carte menu, a swimming pool, and a play park for kids. It's an ideal stayover to visit the Fish River Canyon. Shuttles are available for day trips to the Fish River Canyon, and to transport hikers.

☎ 00 264 81 230 9804

📧 grunaucountryhotel.com

47 Grünau Chalets

There's no shortage of self-catering options around Grünau, but what sets this place apart is that it's next door to Toekies Deli, a filling station and a shop. There are four campsites, each with a bathroom, sink, braai, power point and lawn: R230 per night and R55 p.p. (max six).

The 12 self-catering units are spacious and modern. Some of them are built around a lawn while others are further away if you want more privacy. Double room from R1 190 p.n. Family room R1 420 p.n. for four people.

☎ 00 264 81 783 1313

📧 grunauchalets.com

48 Die Withuis

It's 12 km north of Grünau. The old farmhouse is self-catering with three family rooms and one student room, each with its own bathroom. Guests share the kitchen, living room and a garden with a labyrinth. Family room with one double bed and two single beds from R950 p.n. for two people. Student room with two single beds R660 p.n.

Each of the chalets (for two to four people) has a kitchen and a braai – rates from R950 p.n.

Camping (power point, tap, braai, shared ablutions) R250 p.p. There's a swimming pool within walking distance of the accommodation and the De Wet family serves the best dinner in the district!

☎ 00 264 63 262 061

📧 withuis.net

49 Vastrap Guest Farm

Only 3 km east of Grünau next to the B3. Self-catering units and guest rooms that sleep two to five people. Each room has air conditioning and a coffee station. Self-catering units from R1 550 to R1 850 p.n. Guest rooms from R990 p.n. (single) to R1 550 p.n. (for four people). Camping R250 p.p. Breakfast costs R180 p.p. and dinner R250 p.p. Lunch and takeaways on request. There's a swimming pool.

☎ 00 264 81 127 7142

📧 vastrapguestfarm.com

50 Goibib Mountain Lodge

About 50 km north of Grünau next to the B1. Eight spacious en suite double rooms with air conditioning, TV, Wi-Fi and a coffee station: R2 100 p.n. for the room only, R2 500 p.n. with

breakfast and R3 190 p.n. with breakfast and dinner. Camping is R225 p.p.

☎ 00 264 61 224712

📧 goibibmountainlodge.net

KARASBURG & AROAB

51 Sunset Chalets

Just outside Karasburg with a great view. Luxury self-catering chalets with air conditioning from R350 p.p. Enquire about discounts for large groups.

☎ 00 264 81 148 7802

📧 sunsetchalets.wixsite.com/sunsetchalets

52 Karas Inn B&B

Five self-catering units in Karasburg, with air conditioning, Wi-Fi and DSTV. Rates from R700 p.n. for two people to R1 950 p.n. for six. Breakfast R130 p.p. extra.

☎ 00 264 81 122 0135

📧 karasinn270200.wixsite.com/karasinn

53 Oas Guest Farm

Off the C11 dirt road between Karasburg (80 km) and Aroab (100 km). Secluded, with a farm atmosphere. Camping (no power) R100 p.p. Neat ablutions with a donkey boiler. You can charge your phone or camera at the house. Self-catering rooms sleep nine people in total: R350 per adult. Hike or go on a 4x4 drive. GPS: S27.49480 E19.21417

☎ 00 264 81 461 7071 (Pinnie, WhatsApp only)

📧 oasstaal@iway.na

NEW!

ONSEEPKANS

54 Red Rock River Camp

Five camping stands a stone's throw from the Onseepkans/Velloorsdrift border post. See page 34.

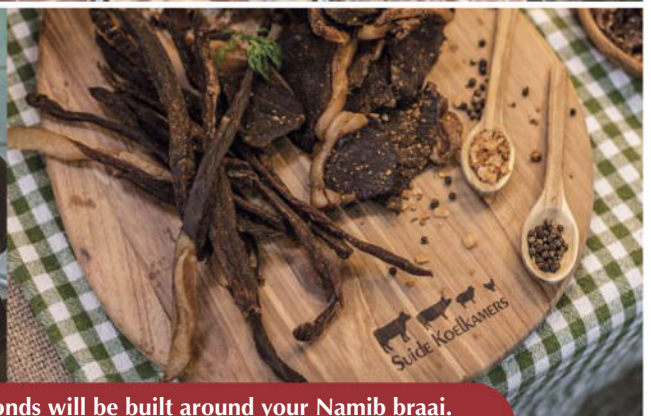
SUIDE KOELKAMERS BUTCHERY

WHERE CUSTOMERS BECOME FRIENDS

This proudly Namibian butchery stems from a father-and-son passion for bringing people together and building bonds around a *braai*.



HANDMADE
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MEAT AVAILABLE
IN PORK AND
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With quality local meat we will ensure that great bonds will be built around your Namib braai.
Order in advance and have your order waiting for you.

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Suide Koelkamers Butchery
Address: Schmiede Street

Cell: +264 81 247 6318
Land line: +264 63 222 004
E-mail: stiena@iway.na
www.suidekoelkamers.com

MARIENTAL 
Suide Vleis Butchery
Address: Albert Voigts Street

The background of the advertisement is a photograph of a dusty, unpaved road winding through a dry, hilly landscape under a clear sky. A red horizontal line is positioned above the word 'FORTUNER'. On the right side, the rear portion of a dark-colored SUV is visible, driving away and kicking up a large cloud of dust.

FORTUNER

GRSPORT

THE LUXURY OF FREEDOM UNLEASHED

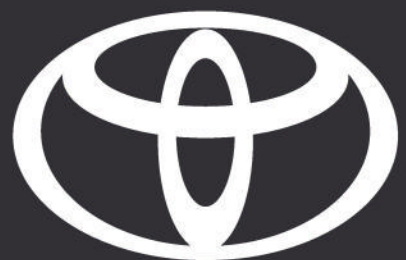
The Fortuner GR-Sport has arrived. This new, aerodynamic SUV was inspired by Gazoo Racing and features 18" black alloy wheels, perforated suede leather seats, aluminium sports pedals and GR badging. The Fortuner GR-Sport is also equipped with a more powerful 165kW engine as well as improved off-road capabilities so that you can experience the Luxury of Freedom on a whole new level.

The Fortuner GR-Sport. The Luxury of Freedom Unleashed.





Model shown: **Fortuner GR-Sport**



Stars, sand & desert dreams

The three-day Toktokkie Trail is pure luxury. You explore a section of the NamibRand Nature Reserve where only animals roam, and at night you dine at a proper table and sleep under a billion stars.

WORDS & PICTURES **EVAN NAUDÉ**





HIKE: TOKTOKKIE TRAIL

Opposite page, from the top: The Toktokkie journey begins with a ride on an old Land Cruiser that drops you off at the starting point. From there you head into the dunes, where your guide points out the tracks of beetles and wedge-snouted desert lizards and relays the curious habits of sociable weavers. The overnight camps have open-air toilets, showers and a camp kitchen, as well as a proper dining table for breakfast and dinner.

NamibRand, in south-western Namibia, is the biggest private nature reserve in the country. This whopping 2 150 km² protected area lies snug against the eastern edge of the Namib Desert and shares a 100 km-long border with the Namib-Naukluft National Park. Albi Brückner, the founder of NamibRand, bought the first farm in 1984 and traded agriculture for conservation. Now, 17 former farms have been rehabilitated, and kilometres of border fences have been removed to form one massive, continuous conservation area.

The Toktokkie Trail opened in 1997. Since then, the experience has been refined to a three-day hike with two nights in an open-air camp. It's the only overnight trail in NamibRand and is limited to small groups on particular dates. At the end of last year, I finally got a chance to tick this unique hike off my wish list.

DAY 1

Into the horseshoe (3km)

The entrance to NamibRand is a humble farm gate next to the C27, which you open and close yourself. But unlike on a farm, you won't see another gate again. I drive 11 km along a jeep track to an old farmhouse called Die Duine, which serves as the trail base.

I meet the other hikers there. They're a group of friends, all from Windhoek. Some hail from Germany originally; others were born in Namibia. As we drink iced tea and eat lunch, our hiking guide Sebastiaan Kazimbu explains the itinerary for the next three days. The Toktokkie is a circular route. Today's leg will be the shortest and is planned for the late afternoon when it's cooler. Tomorrow will be a full day over the longest distance, and it's usually the hottest, too. The last leg will be done by late morning.

After lunch, Sebastiaan folds his hands and asks with a big smile: "Shall we start?" I slap on an extra layer of sunscreen, shoulder my backpack, lock

the car and set my overnight bag aside for the camp staff to transport to our next camp. Then we all climb onto the back of a sun-bleached 40-series Land Cruiser and drive into the desert.

The Toktokkie kicks off with a visit to the Namib Desert Environment Education Trust centre (NaDEET), hidden in the dunes about 1,5 km from the farmhouse. NaDEET is a non-profit, donor-funded organisation founded in 2003 to teach schoolkids and students about sustainability. We learn about solar power, solar cookers and recycling before we get back onto the Cruiser.

Twenty minutes later, we stop at an old farm dam. "We hike from here," says Sebastiaan. He uses his hiking pole to draw a map in the sand. "We start off that way," he says, pointing to a mountain behind a dune. "That mountain is called Horseshoe because it's U-shaped like a horseshoe. Our first camp is inside the horseshoe."

He continues: "The next day we'll hike north, first over the mountain and then across a plain on the other side. We'll stop for lunch at the next mountain, Skaapberg, before we head east to the second camp in the dunes. On the last morning, we'll go back to the farmhouse."

The first kilometre is up a gradual dune covered in fairy circles – those mysterious bare sandy patches where nothing grows. Scientists are still trying to figure out what causes them. None of the many theories – from earth gases to termites to visits from aliens – have been proven conclusively. We're actually lucky to see them because there's lots of grass on the dunes. "It's unusual for this time of year," says Sebastiaan. "There was no grass last year around this time, only sand. Our rainy season is usually from mid-February to April. The yellow grass you see here is from that time. The new green shoots emerged after last week's unexpected rain."

We stop next to animal droppings. "This was a giraffe, a young one," says Sebastiaan. "There are about 25 in the reserve. They move around a lot – it feels like winning the lotto if you see one!"

The latest game census in NamibRand showed the reserve has more than 3 000 gemsbok and more than 12 000 springbok. Kudu, zebra, red hartebeest, brown hyena, aardwolf, bat-eared fox and 150 bird species are also on the wildlife list.

A little further along, we stop at fine tracks in the sand that look like a road network. “A Kalahari Ferrari went this way,” Sebastiaan says. “A wedge-snouted desert lizard. They’re very fast! They use their snouts to dig and dive into the sand when they feel threatened. They eat ants and termites mostly. They’re well camouflaged – the same colour as the sand.”

Sebastiaan is like a desert interpreter who translates the world for us as we walk. He grew up in Swakopmund but moved to Keetmanshoop 16 years ago and has been hiking this trail since then. He knows pretty much everything there is to know about the Namib.

The tufts of grass throw long shadows by the time we reach the top of the dunes. A surprise awaits: A camp kitchen with a table set for dinner, and a cooler box filled with beer, wine and G&Ts. Eight beds are spread out on the dune. “Welcome to camp – an Airbnb in the true sense of the word!” Sebastiaan says.

Dinner is butternut soup, chicken curry and butterscotch pudding. I’m in heaven. This is ridiculous.

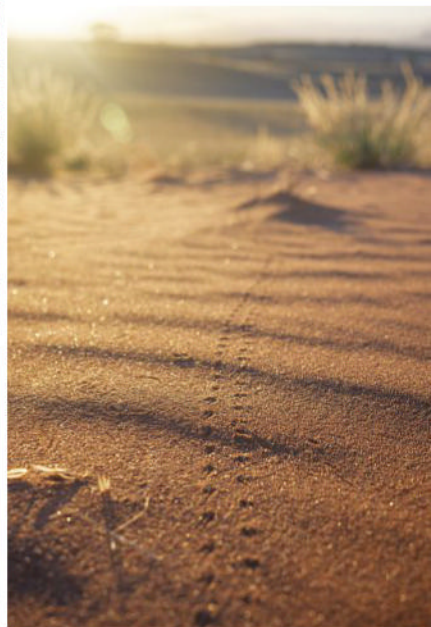
DAY 2

Mountains, sandy plains and dunes (12 km)

Waking up in the desert is always special, even if you’ve done it many times before. The cool air is the first thing you notice, before you’ve opened your eyes. Then you look at the world from your sleeping bag and you’re overwhelmed by all the space around you: uninterrupted nature in all directions, to the purplish pink horizon.

I’m up early to take photos and I watch as Sebastiaan wakes the rest of the group one by one, treating them to coffee in bed. Everyone’s basin is also filled with hot water. The breakfast table is set with rusks, cereal, muesli, yoghurt, fresh bread, cheese and salami.

We begin our hike soon after 7 am, while the coolness of the night still lingers over the



HIKE: TOKTOKKIE TRAIL

Opposite page, clockwise from the top: Your bedroom has no walls or roof. In the evenings you listen to stories about the Milky Way before falling asleep, and in the mornings you wake slowly with the Namib Desert. The second day's walk begins with a steady climb up the edge of Horseshoe Mountain. When you reach a saddle in the mountain, you stop for a breather and take in the glittering view of the valley.

sand. A short distance from camp, we see tracks. "Ah, the Namib Times! Let's read this morning's news," says Sebastiaan and crouches down. "This is a Grant's golden mole. They're endemic to the Namib and active at night. This mole is so small it can fit in the palm of your hand. They don't build tunnels, but dive and 'swim' under the sand. They leave a line in the sand that looks like snake spoor."

A gemsbok dragged its feet nearby, and there are signs of a springbok a little further on. "A hairy-footed gerbil went this way," Sebastiaan says. "Look, it moves like a rabbit with its hind legs stepping past its front legs. You can see which direction it went."

The trail winds through grasses over a dune, then up a slightly higher dune as we approach the mountain. Sebastiaan stops under a camel thorn tree and points to a big sociable weaver nest in the branches. "There are no signs of life, but this nest is still active," he says. "The birds usually leave the nest about 45 minutes after sunrise to go look for food and only return in the late afternoon. Tonight you'll hear them chatter."

Sociable weavers never stop building their nest – one nest can be home to several generations. Sebastiaan estimates this particular one to be about 35 years old. "In the Kalahari, where the trees are bigger, the nests are also bigger. Some are more than a hundred years old."

Where the last dune touches the foot of the rocky mountain, Sebastiaan takes a magnet out of his backpack and pulls it through the sand. When he lifts up the magnet, it's covered in fine black grains that look like iron filings – magnetite, a natural iron oxide.

From the 2 km mark, the trail heads up to a neck. Over the next kilometre, the path gradually climbs a slope littered with granite and basalt rocks. Finally we reach the neck. A cool breeze stirs and we all rest. I can see the trail going down the other side of the mountain and disappearing over a dusty plain towards Skaapberg.

We descend with the breeze, and at around the 5 km mark at the bottom of

the mountain, we hear the *wrok-rak* call of a Rüppell's korhaan, but the bird is too well-camouflaged among the rocks for us to see it.

The wind kicks up a dust cloud in a clearing and I have to hold onto my hat and squint my eyes. Then, like a mirage, a tent appears at the base of Skaapberg. A row of chairs has been set out in the shade and Sebastiaan opens a cooler box with drinks, oranges, bread rolls and quiche. "Welcome to our lunch spot!" he says. "Eat and drink. Maybe take a siesta – we'll stay here until its cooler."

It starts to cool down just after 4 pm and we strike out again, now going north-east over a series of dunes. In the distance I can see the Nubib Mountains on the other side of the C27 and I realise we've almost completed the circular route. Two hours later we reach our camp for the night. After a shower and a sundowner, we sit down for dinner while barking geckos call in the dark. Above, the night sky is so bright it's almost distracting. The more you stare, the more you see.

In 2012, the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) declared NamibRand a Gold Tier International Dark Sky Reserve. It's apparently the highest rating they give. Criteria to determine the quality of the night sky include the area's air quality, light pollution and the number of cloudless nights. NamibRand's remote location means it has very little artificial light pollution, and the conditions for stargazing are excellent. Before we eat, Sebastiaan points out constellations like the Southern Cross, Scorpius, Taurus, Orion and the Seven Sisters. He also identifies Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, and the two milky patches of the Magellanic Clouds. "They're estimated to be 166 000 light years away," he muses. "It's difficult to imagine that distance."

We cut our stargazing session short because dinner is ready. On the menu is gemsbok fillet and cheesecake. When everyone falls quiet, I look up. I thought the desert was vast, but the night sky makes me feel even smaller.





DAY 3

Back to the beginning (6km)

The final day's walk is short and shouldn't take more than two hours. Again, we cross a series of dunes covered in newer dark-green grass and older yellow plumes. I add a few detours to other dunes because I don't want this experience to end. On one of my detours, I see a dune lark – a bird endemic to the Namib. I feel very lucky.

After about 3 km we come across a herd of gemsbok with about 20 adults and six calves hiding behind their mothers. We also see a toktokkie beetle that sits still for a moment so that we can admire it. "There are eight different species of toktokkie in the reserve," Sebastiaan says of the trail's namesake. "Some secrete a waxy substance that covers their body, almost like sunscreen. So they look white, but they're actually black underneath."

Before I can take a photo, the toktokkie scrabbles off. We should also get going – it's getting late. I drag my feet and leave tracks like that gemsbok did on the first day.



From top left: On day two, the longest hiking day, you take a rest and enjoy lunch in a shelter to escape the worst heat. From there the trail swings north-east and leads across a series of dunes. Some are bare, others covered with tufts of grass and the occasional herd of gemsbok.





IN OTHER WORDS

Katja & Hajo Lanz, Windhoek

Katja: The Toktokkie is definitely worth the effort. I'd love to do it again and share the experience with more people.

Hajo: I didn't know what to expect. I thought it would be difficult, but I'm relieved that I could do it. It wasn't too strenuous and it was very enjoyable.



Annette Vollrath, Berlin

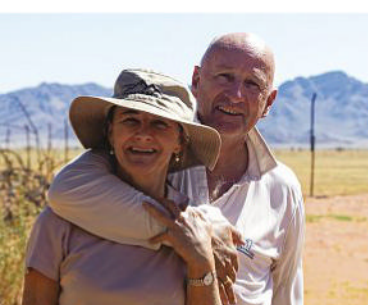
The colours of the desert are spectacular. Our guide Sebastiaan managed the experience in a thoughtful way. His knowledge of the Namib was illuminating.



Mike Frindt & Tobias Gerster, Windhoek

Mike: The hike wasn't as challenging as I had expected. I brought way too much stuff! Everything you need is supplied, and you sleep comfortably every night.

Tobias: I loved the cold beer when we arrived in camp! It was also wonderful to see the desert so green after the rain.



Matthias Geisler & Ana Martins, Windhoek

Matthias: This is my second time doing the Toktokkie. It's a unique, safe and comfortable way to experience the beauty of the desert.

Ana: Being this close to the sand and the stars, the animals and the insects, helps you to understand the cycles of nature. It's a new world for a city dweller like me!



Sebastiaan Kazimbu, guide

The best time to hike is just before the winter, in April and May, when the weather is moderate. It gets very hot in October and November. During June and July we sometimes wake up in the night to temperatures below freezing, but the advantage is cool temperatures during the day.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

How does it work? The Toktokkie is a guided slackpacking trail for small groups of up to eight people. Your overnight luggage will be transported between camps and you walk with a light daypack. The total distance is about 22 km. Hikers will return to their vehicles around 11 am on the last day.

Where? The circular trail starts and ends at Die Duine farmhouse in the NamibRand Nature Reserve. The NamibRand turn-off on the C27 is 400 m north of the C27/D827 junction. From there it's 11 km to the farmhouse. There's safe, shaded parking at the farmhouse.

How fit do I need to be? You have to be moderately fit. The daily distances aren't too challenging, but the desert temperatures will sap your energy.

What will I carry? Drinking water (1,5 to 2 litres per day), sunscreen and a camera or binoculars.

Where do I sleep? In an open-air camp on a camping bed with a mattress and a bed roll. Each person also gets a collapsible basin, a foot mat and a table to keep your luggage and shoes off the sand.

The camp has a pit toilet and bucket shower – you warm your water in the camp kitchen.

What's included? All meals (except lunch on the first day), drinks, camping gear, guides and conservation fees. You can preorder lunch for the first day – R200 per person.

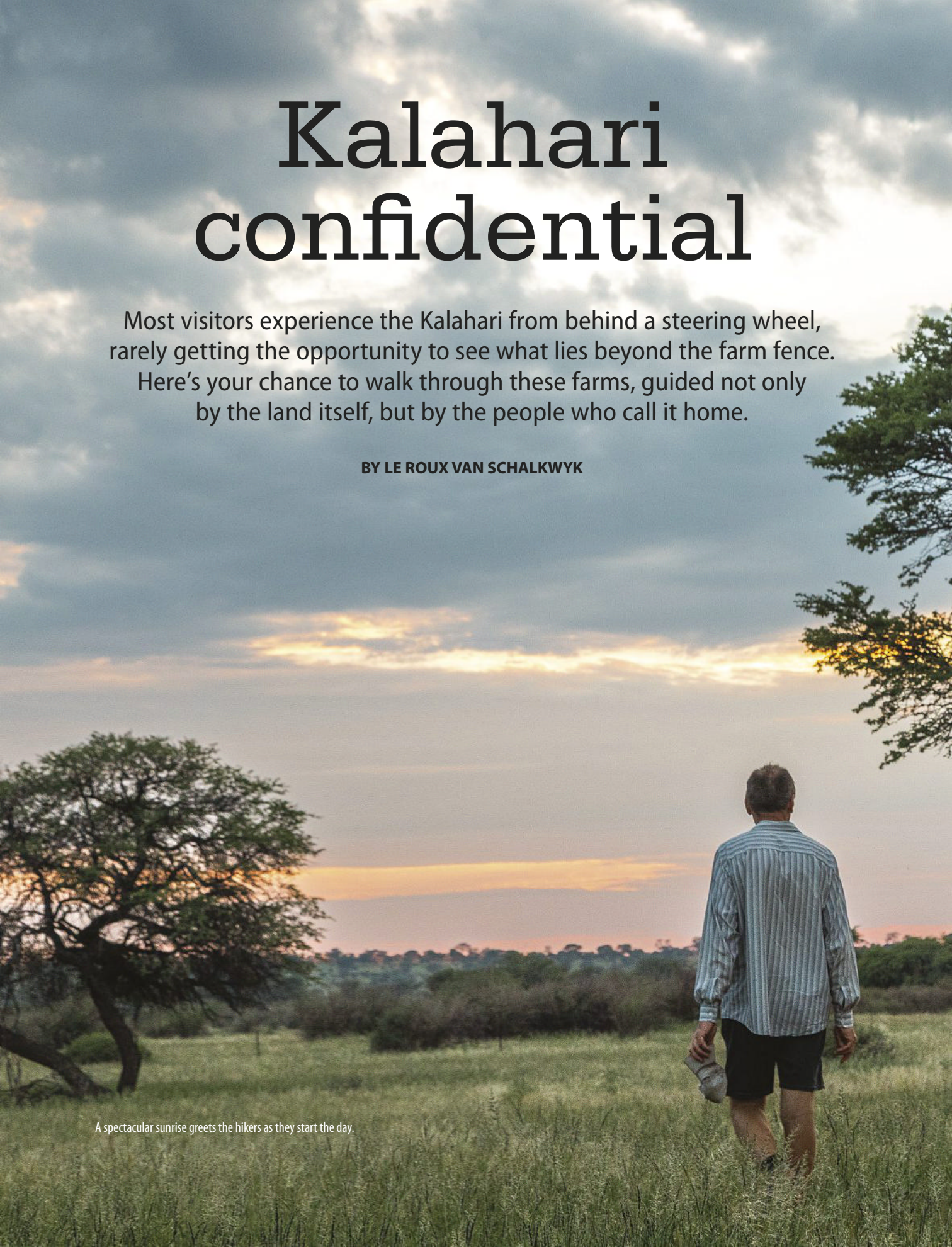
Cost: R10 400 per adult; R5 200 per child aged 8 – 14 years old. No children under 8.

Contact: ☎ 00 264 61 264 521; 🌐 toktokkietrails.com

Kalahari confidential

Most visitors experience the Kalahari from behind a steering wheel, rarely getting the opportunity to see what lies beyond the farm fence. Here's your chance to walk through these farms, guided not only by the land itself, but by the people who call it home.

BY LE ROUX VAN SCHALKWYK

A man in a striped shirt and dark shorts is walking away from the camera through a field of tall grass. The sky is filled with dramatic, colorful clouds from a sunrise or sunset. A large tree is on the left, and another is on the right. The horizon is visible in the distance.

A spectacular sunrise greets the hikers as they start the day.



HIKE: 5 KALAHARI FARMS

Opposite page, clockwise from the top: A herd of gemsbok in the hunting camp at Olifantwater Ost. On this hike you'll meet farmers like Eckhart Förtsch. He will show you around his impressive organic garden. At the end of each day, you arrive at a set-up camp and a welcoming foot bath to soak tired feet. Claire Whipp and Brett Leask of Whipps Wilderness Safaris have used their years of tourism experience to create a well-organised slackpacking hike.

It has been a rainy drive. I turn off the D1775 gravel road in Namibia's central Kalahari onto a dirt track that leads to the farmhouse on Doornboompan, about 200 km south-east from Windhoek. It's mid-March and after a good rainy season, opening my window, I'm immediately engulfed by the smell of rain and soil, accompanied by the sound of insects and birds celebrating its arrival.

Doornboompan, owned by Talita and Fanie Horn, is where we'll spend the first night of the four-day Kalahari Farms Hike, hosted by Whipps Wilderness Safaris. A camp has been set up near the classic, Kalahari-style farmhouse beneath towering camel thorn trees, in a field of luminous grass that has sprung up since the rain arrived.

"Two months ago there was nothing!" Talita says, still amazed at the transformation. This part of the country had been suffering a prolonged drought. I can see the joy beaming from her face as she looks across the landscape.

At camp, I meet Claire Whipp, owner of Whipps Wilderness Safaris, and her husband and partner-in-crime, Brett Leask. Brett will be guiding the hike, while Claire takes care of logistics.

The first night is spent around the fire, getting acquainted with the other hikers and learning what the next few days have in store.

DAY 1: 21 KM

A rooster is crowing from the direction of the farmhouse when we set off. Overhead, Cape turtle doves coo from the camel thorns. The sand underfoot is firm and still saturated from the rain.

The first stretch is relatively flat, following a straight farm track that disappears towards the horizon. The dark red sand cuts a bold line through knee-high grass and the camel thorns are dark

silhouettes against the cloud-heavy sky.

It starts to drizzle just as we reach a pan that we must cross. It quickly earns the name "Cement Pan" as the wet clay clings stubbornly to our boots, making each step an effort. We make matters worse by laughing at our predicament, trying not to slip into the grey-brown mess.

Brunch awaits after about 10 km, at the edge of a second, much larger pan that we thankfully skirt rather than cross. Each day starts with a light "breakfast" of coffee and rusks, so brunch is a welcome sight! Beneath the skeletal frame of a windmill, Claire stands ready with homemade sourdough croissants baked by Talita. There's also a spread of cold meats and fruit, and Talita's goat's-milk labneh – a tangy Middle Eastern delicacy made by straining yoghurt and makataan curd.

"Farmers like Talita were the ones who got this hike off the ground," says Claire. "They saw our company advertising trails elsewhere and asked us to have a look at a trail that they'd mapped out across all the adjacent farms. We were delighted by the idea. Most multi-day trails in Namibia are in remote wilderness areas, but we found the concept of a trail across several farms very interesting."

The first day takes us in a southerly direction. Over the next days, we'll complete an oval-shaped loop, slowly make our way south-west before turning back north. Today was characterised by pans and acacias and red veld. As we move further south, we'll meet the dunes...

We leave Doornboompan for neighbouring Olifantwater Ost, owned by André and Susan du Toit. We soon pass a herd of springbok. Apart from pausing to wonder at the multitude of pods of the aptly named candle-pod acacia, the rest of the walk is easygoing. We arrive at the *jaghuis*, which hosts occasional hunting groups, and we're grateful for the roof over our heads when the clouds open and rain pours down again.

DAY 2: 18KM

We wake to damp shoes and southern yellow-billed hornbills flying overhead as we continue through Olifantwater Ost's hunting camp. The first stretch of the morning leads through magnificent camel thorn savannah and fields of bushman grass. The slightly sweet scent of the grass complements the fresh morning air.

New scorpion holes and red velvet mites dot the wet sand, alongside gemsbok tracks. It doesn't take long before we spot the herd, with a few springbok interspersed among them.

After exiting the hunting camp, we visit André and Susan at their home for brunch. A meal is prepared on Susan's cast-iron Aga stove, and we're treated to homemade boerewors and goat's-milk yoghurt. With chickens clucking and geese honking in the background, we sit on the spacious stoep. André explains that they've long wanted to host a hike like this, but the ongoing drought delayed their plans.

Not long after brunch, we leave Olifantwater Ost for neighbouring Olifantwater West. The owner here, Eckhart Förtisch, meets us at his house and gives us a tour of his organic vegetable garden, full of tomatoes, lettuce, herbs, citrus trees and fig trees – a veritable Garden of Eden in the harsh Kalahari.

From there, Eckhart leads us south along the Olifants River to our campsite. He explains that more than a hundred years ago, elephants roamed this area. The farms and river still carry the name, but the giants disappeared long ago, victims of ivory hunters and expanding agriculture. He also shows us a well probably dug by the first commercial farmers and long since dry. He discovered it in the riverbed and believes it to be around a hundred years old.

Eckhart has been on the farm since he was one, when his parents bought the land in 1972. His love of nature is evident as we walk. He shows us alien-invasive thornapple plants that come from South America. The leaves and seeds are highly toxic and if



HIKE: 5 KALAHARI FARMS

Opposite page, clockwise from top left: An exceptional rainy season turned the Kalahari into a sea of green. Manfred Förtsch welcomes the visitors to his farm, Neumark. This camel thorn tree houses a massive colony of sociable weavers.

ingested by humans or animals can cause death in serious cases.

He also points out a germinating camel thorn and explains the nutritional value these trees provide for wildlife and livestock. He shows us a buffalo thorn tree, describing its importance in traditional belief systems, where it symbolises the connection between the living and the dead.

That evening, we feast on gemsbok sirloin with fresh greens and vegetables from Eckhart's garden. And once again, we sleep in luxurious tents on comfy beds.

DAY 3: 20 KM

The next morning we meet Uwe and Silvia Kühnel from the farm Ellingerode. As Uwe guides us across his land, conversation turns to reintroducing perennial grasses, producing bush feed during drought, and battling veld fires. Uwe bought the farm in 2000 and farms with dorpers – a breed much better adapted to the area than the karakul everyone raised in the past.

Ellingerode has six big dunes. Uwe laughs as we labour up the first of five for the day. "It doesn't look like this one is 20 metres high, but I know, because I put water tanks up here!"

At the top, yet another brunch awaits: French toast and bacon, lemonade and prickly pear juice pressed by Eckhart.

After brunch, Uwe bids us farewell. We traverse valleys of waving grass and crest the remaining dunes. From each ridge, the next dune appears. Eventually we reach the border of Olifantwater West again, crossing the fence over a neat bridge welded by Eckhart from scrap metal. This marks the furthest south we'll travel before we turn north toward Namburn Pan – our camp for the night.

The name comes from a festival that has been held here in recent years – a vastly smaller, Kalahari counterpart

to AfrikaBurn. Camp is set up on the eastern edge of the pan. A picturesque sunset unfolds over the white expanse, fringed with camel thorns.

DAY 4: 19 KM

A chilly breeze greets us as Eckhart leads us north along a dune crest. We pause to admire a massive sociable weaver nest enveloping a camel thorn tree before reaching a site where Eckhart discovered ancient pottery shards and stone tools.

The final farm we enter is Neumark, owned by Manfred and Tanya Förtsch. Manfred, Eckhart's cousin, meets us at the fence. After saying goodbye to Eckhart, Manfred explains that his grandparents bought the farm in the 1930s. He grew up in Windhoek but spent weekends here, eventually taking over after his father, Heinrich, passed away in 2022.

"I wish I'd come sooner to learn more from my dad," he says.

He explains how his father diversified operations by incorporating game alongside livestock, a strategy that allows game meat sales to sustain the farm during lean years.

Manfred has boundless energy. He speaks of plans to establish an eco-village where small-scale farmers can share work and knowledge, develop camping infrastructure and cycling trails, and tackle the invasive prosopis trees that have overtaken parts of the farm. He employs two workers permanently to clear prosopis, which has spread extensively. He reckons each tree can produce up to 30 000 seeds in a season, so the plants are removed completely from the roots to prevent regrowth. Some of the cleared wood is used for firewood or charcoal, while the pods can be used as livestock feed, known locally as *boskos*. Through a project called Save the Tree, efforts are also underway to push the



HIKE: 5 KALAHARI FARMS

prosopis back toward the riverbeds and restore indigenous vegetation. His only limitation, he says with a laugh, is time.

Manfred leads us up a high dune near his house. There's a swing up there, maybe the highest in the Kalahari. And then we head to our final campsite beneath hardy camel thorns in a valley between dunes. That night, we're treated to kudu steaks from André and Susan on Olifantwater Ost.

What makes this hike special is that it grants access to places few people ever see – working farms shaped by resilience, history and intimate knowledge of the land. Like their owners, each farm has its own character, energy and stories to share.

After completing the day's hike, there's time to relax in camp at the farm Neumark.



IN OTHER WORDS

Beate Bause (far left)

I loved the ever-changing scenery, the animals in the distance, the amazing sunsets, walking in the rain, the farmers educating us, the camaraderie with fellow hikers, and the wonderful food. But the highlight was probably the views from the crests of the red Kalahari dunes.

Alta Bredenkamp (middle)

My best moments were walking in the rain at the hunting camp, surrounded by animals and flowers. I wish I had left all my snacks at home, because WWs made so much food and kept us busy with delicious meals and snack platters filled with produce from the farms.

Barbara Taylor Krauer (right)

The one thing I wish I'd had was a proper camera to capture it all. A cellphone just doesn't do it justice. But in a way, it leaves an indelible snapshot in your mind – very good memories, a great group of people and a real adventure.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

How does it work? Whipps provides luxury tents, each equipped with proper beds (and bedding), plus side tables and solar lighting. Mobile showers, toilets and a hand-wash station ensure comfort in the wild. All meals are included, from early morning tea, coffee and rusks to generous brunches, afternoon snacks and hearty dinners.

You will need to bring your own snacks for the trail, a small backpack, water bottle (farm-fresh drinking water is available throughout the stay) and all personal hiking essentials such as suitable boots, a hat and sunscreen.

When? Hikes are scheduled during the dry season on the following dates for 2026: 21 – 26 May and 20 – 25 August.

Where? Doornboompan is about 40 km west of Leonardville via the C23, turning south onto the D1775.

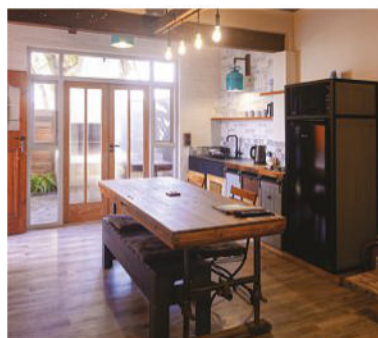
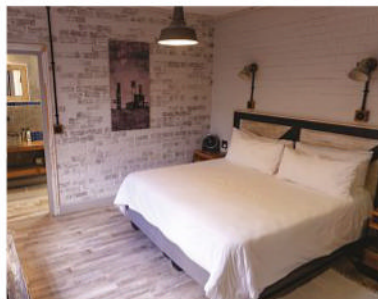
Cost? R22 000 per person sharing; R26 450 single supplement.

Contact: ☎ 00 264 81 289 5290; 🌐 whippswilderness.com



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DE BAKEN, WALVIS BAY



Where? Corner of JJ Cleverly and Richard Dyer streets, two blocks from the Walvis Bay waterfront.

Rates: R2 200 per night for a twin unit; R3 000 per night for a family unit; R1 450 per night if you're travelling alone.

Contact: 00 264 81 608 8535

debaken.com.na

Wlotzkasbaken is a higgledy-piggledy holiday town in the desert north of Swakopmund, home to some delightfully strange houses that farmers built using leftover materials from their farms. It's also the inspiration behind De Baken in Walvis Bay, which takes architectural cues from Wlotzkasbaken but is entirely unique at the same time. It's a compound of different units that look like children's building blocks. Some units have big windows and handmade wooden doors; others have walls made from corrugated iron or concrete. There's a water tank on top of the highest one.

It's no surprise that the owner, Conrad Scheffer, is an architect – and a handy one at that. De Baken's manager, Coenita Balk, tells me more: "The goal was to always use eco-friendly and recycled materials," she says. "Conrad made lots of items himself, like the front doors, dining room tables and built-in cupboards. He even salvaged the palm trees from the original erf and replanted them. His daughter Bianca painted all the artworks you see on the walls.

For his unique approach, Conrad received a Merit Award of Achievement from the Namibia Institute of Architects in 2024.

De Baken has seven units, each with a different design but the same facilities. Each unit has Wi-Fi, a big TV with Netflix, and a kitchen with a fridge, microwave, two-plate stove and coffee and tea station. There's also a private outdoor braai.

Flirty Flamingo, Te Rooi, Captain's Cabin and Sandy Bottoms sleep up to four people in two bedrooms; Slap Snoek, Pelican Crossing and Windy Waves are for couples. Some units have garages, others have safe parking in a courtyard behind a security gate.

– Evan Naudé

An exclusive insurance add-on from OUTsurance sees to it that you get even more **OUT** of your African adventure.

GOING OUT IN AFRICA?

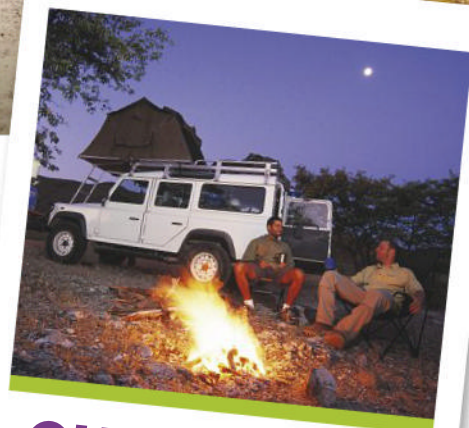
MAKE SURE YOUR COVER CAN GO THE DISTANCE

There's plenty to explore just beyond our borders, but if you're keen to push a little further — maybe a long, open-road drive through Zambia's wide river valleys, a slow climb up Rwanda's winding mountain routes, or a road trip across Tanzania's vast plains — it's worth making sure your insurance doesn't stop at the border post.

OUTsurance has an optional add-on that works alongside their comprehensive car insurance, made specifically for travellers who like heading north with a map on the dashboard. Called OUT-in-Africa, it extends your cover into countries such as Kenya, Angola, Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia or the Democratic Republic of Congo (south of Kolwezi).

It's worth noting that OUT-in-Africa cover extends beyond just 4x4 vehicles – it's also available for cars, motorcycles, caravans, trailers and watercraft.

The add-on includes exclusive product benefits like vehicle repatriation, medical repatriation and a service escorting minors returning to South Africa. It also covers emergency repairs, emergency accommodation and assistance with electrical or mechanical breakdowns.



OUT-in-Africa

Car insurance built for cross-border adventures



Visit outsurance.co.za to find out more or call 08 600 60 000 to add OUT-in-Africa to your existing vehicle insurance.

OUTsurance is a licensed insurer and FSP. Ts, Cs and limits apply.





ATTENTION

LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS AND HUNTING COMMUNITY

In light of the increased Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreaks in the Republic of South Africa (RSA), heightened vigilance and proactive measures are essential on Namibia's part to prevent any risk of disease incursion.

Authorities, livestock owners, and stakeholders are urged to exercise increased biosecurity awareness, ensure compliance with veterinary protocols, and report any suspected cases immediately. Maintaining Namibia's FMD-free status is crucial for animal health, food security, and trade integrity.

- If you receive hunters or visitors from RSA, please ensure that there is no direct contact with Namibian livestock;
- Livestock trucks returning from RSA must be washed and disinfected in RSA before returning to Namibia;
- Any Namibian resident returning from RSA should exercise caution when visiting or returning to Namibian livestock establishments (farms, feedlots, auctions). Refrain from having direct contact with Namibian livestock if there was any contact with RSA livestock for a minimum of 7 days.



ATTENTION

TRAVELERS TO NAMIBIA

ANIMAL PRODUCT CONTROL AS FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE PREVENTATIVE MEASURE

NO CLOVEN-HOOFED ANIMAL PRODUCTS
may be brought into Namibia
WITHOUT A VALID VETERINARY IMPORT PERMIT

This includes raw, cooked, smoked, dried or processed meat,
milk and milk products, canned goods and other restricted
material like forage or hay.



APPLY FOR A VETERINARY IMPORT PERMIT
from the Namibian Veterinary Services
BEFORE ARRIVING AT THE PORT OF ENTRY TO NAMIBIA

ENFORCEABLE BY LAW



Directorate of Veterinary Sciences
Import/Export Head Office
Tel: +264 61 303 150 / 208 7890
Email: DVS3@mawlr.gov.na



Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries, Water and Land Reform



**LIVESTOCK AND
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS
BOARD OF NAMIBIA**



Continues on page 125

CENTRAL

NAMIBIA



BOTSWANA

KALAHARI



50 km

RSA

Continues on page 39



SOPHIA VAN TAAK

AMEIB GUESTHOUSE, #16



**CENTRAL
PLACES
TO STAY**

**SKELETON COAST
& HENTIES BAY**

**1 St Nowhere Spa
and Campsite**

This resort and fishing spot is about 110 km north of Henties. Camping with communal ablutions R600 p.n. for the first five people. Camping stand with a sea view R700 p.n. for the first five people. A VIP stand with its own ablutions, washing-up facilities, work surface and shade netting for the wind costs R875 p.n. for the first five people. Each extra camper pays R175 p.n. From February to November a VIP stand for two people costs R640 p.n. The glamping option (a room with single beds, a bathroom and kitchen) costs R1 000 p.n. for two people.

Bungalow for five to nine people: R1 300 p.n. for the first four people; plus R325 per extra person.

Bungalow for 11 to 13 people: R2 600 for the first eight people, plus R325 per extra person. Luxury bungalow for six people: R1 920 p.n. for the first four people, plus R480 per extra person.

The kiosk sells the basics. This isn't a traditional spa, but you can soak in the salt water.

☎ 00 264 81 252 9422

☎ 00 264 81 124 0879

✉ bookings@stnowhere.com

2 Mile 108 Campsite (NWR)

About 90 km north of Henties Bay. Campsite with a long drop and no electricity R190 p.p. (max eight). You pay for water: R1 per litre; R10 per shower. Self-contained campsite (own shower and toilet, no nearby braai) R310 p.p. (max eight). Campsite with private ablutions and a donkey boiler, braai, stoep with solar lights and sink R730 p.n. for

four people, plus R75 per extra person (max eight). Basic fisherman's cabin R480 p.n. (sleeps two). Open year-round; gets crowded in December and January. The kiosk sells ice, beer, bait and firewood.

☎ 00 264 64 694 007

✉ 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 R180 p.p. You also have to pay a daily park fee: R180 p.p. and R60 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 (R240 p.p.) with power points, a scullery and a braai. Maximum six people per stand. Whalers self-catering cottage (sleeps four) R880 p.p. Double room from R1 824 p.p. sharing DB&B (SADC rate). There's also a restaurant, bar, gift shop and a small museum.

☎ 00 264 64 694 012/7

📍 capecross.org

5 Mile 72 Campsite (NWR)

This campsite is 36 km north of Henties Bay. Camping R190 p.p. (max eight per stand). Campsite has a long drop, no electricity and you have to buy water: R1 per litre; R10 per shower. Basic fisherman chalet R480 p.n. (sleeps two). Only open in December and January.

☎ 00 264 63 247 770

📍 nwr.com.na

6 De Duine Hotel

Next to the sea in Duine Road. Double room R970 p.n. Family room (sleeps four) from R1 740 p.n. They have braai and conference facilities, a restaurant and a bar. There's a swimming pool and a squash court.

☎ 00 264 64 500 001

📍 deduine.com

7 Ietsiemeer Beach House

This luxurious self-catering guesthouse has a view of the sea. You rent the house exclusively and there is space for 28 people in 12 rooms. Rent three seafront en suite double rooms for R6 850 p.n. (six people sharing). Rates for other rooms in the house: three extra seafront double rooms from R1 650 p.n., four courtyard double rooms R1 500 p.n., two family rooms R2 100 p.n. (each sleeps four). There's a 25% increase if you only book one night. Enquire about 10% SADC discount.

☎ 00 264 81 141 0702

📍 ietsiemeer.com

NEW!

8 Klein Henties

A self-catering flat that sleeps four in Duine Road. See page 106.

NEW!

9 Die Padstal

Six luxury rooms and six self-catering chalets on the corner of Benguela Street and Duine Road. See page 106.

10 Namib Shore

Rental agents for eight houses dotted around town. Reception is at 1261 Nossob Street. Self-catering three-bedroom house R250 – R450 p.p. sharing. Bigger houses are also available.

☎ 00 264 81 127 5663

☎ 00 264 81 221 5886

📍 namibshore.com

11 Buck's Camping Lodge

While this campsite won't win prizes for scenic views, it makes up for it with great facilities. See page 106.

12 Jakkalsputz (NWR)

This place is 9 km south of Henties. Camping R190 p.p. (max eight per stand). Long drop, no electricity and you pay for water: R1 per litre; R10 per shower. Only open in December and January.

📍 ct.bookings@nwr.com.na

📍 nwr.com.na

SPITZKOPPE

13 Spitzkoppe Campsites

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 open from 9 am to 5 pm. Braai packs are available. Camping R320 p.p. Day visitors R170 p.p. A guided outing to rock art sites in Bushman's Paradise is included

in the price and takes about two hours. Bookings only per e-mail.

✉ reservations@logufa.com

📍 spitzkoppe.com

14 Spitzkoppe Tented Camp

The camp is only a kilometre from Spitzkoppe. Four private campsites (R275 p.p.) each with a bathroom, braai and power. There are also 14 en suite safari tents that sleep two or four people: from R1 540 p.n. for one person to R5 280 p.n. for four. Four bush wagons with en suite bathrooms and solar power: R1 540 p.n. for one person; R2 640 p.n. for two. Donkey boilers supply hot water. 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 81 333 3448

📍 spitzkoppemountaincamp.com

USAKOS

15 Achab

The campsite is 9,5 km west of Usakos. Five remote campsites, each with space for 2 – 3 tents: R320 p.p. Each site has a braai area, toilet, and shower with donkey boiler. Self-catering tents (up to four people) with en suite bathroom and kitchen: from R675 p.p. sharing (R1 200 p.n. for one person). Self-catering eco-cabins (sleep four): from R825 p.p. sharing (R1 350 p.n. for one person). Some eco-cabins have a plunge pool. There's a swimming pool and rock pools in the rainy season, and they also offer guided tours (walking and driving).

☎ 00 264 81 243 3412

☎ 00 264 81 363 8318

📍 achabcamp.com

ERONGO MOUNTAINS

16 Ameib Guesthouse & Camping

The location is scenic and the meals are lekker. Camping (shared

ablutions) R230 p.p. Twin-sleeper cabin (in the campsite) from R530 p.p. sharing – you get a double bed or two single beds, a bathroom and an outdoor braai.

The two private Leadwood camping stands are 3 km from the farmyard, set among boulders and thorn trees. You need a 4x4 to stay here. Each stand has an open-air bathroom with a shower, basin and flush toilet: R280 p.p. (max eight people). The farmyard has a lush garden and six en suite double rooms: R1 810 p.p. sharing (R2 240 single supplement) or R1 540 p.p. in a family room for four people.

Ameib is known for Philipp's Cave – a heritage site with rock art – and the rock formations at a place called Bull's Party and Elephant's Head. Day visitors welcome: R100 p.p. Overnight guests can do a sunrise or sunset drive. (SADC discount on camping and accommodation for two nights or more). Guesthouse and campsite have swimming pools.

☎ 00 264 81 803 6103

📍 ameib.com

17 Omandumba Guest Farm & Bush Camp

There are four camping areas far apart from each other and sheltered by the rocks – R260 – R360 p.p. The Cave is high up and has a view of the ancient landscape. Each campsite has a braai, scullery, flush toilet and shower (donkey boiler).

There's a great view of the Erongo Mountains from the steep 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: R1 950 p.p. sharing with breakfast and dinner. (From June onwards it's R1 370 p.p. sharing for SADC members.)

CENTRAL PLACES TO STAY



ERONGO ROCKS, #18

SOPHIA VAN TAAK

Guests can book a rock art tour with or without sundowners – from R500 p.p.

📞 00 264 81 444 3716 (bookings)

📞 00 264 01 217 0879 (Harald and Deike Rust, owners)

📧 omandumba.de

18 Erongo Rocks

This guest farm 40 km from Omaruru in the Erongo Mountains has six very neat campsites: R250 p.p. Camp Granite, Camp Dik-Dik and Camp KykNet are for the wild at heart. The other three campsites are for campers looking for more comfort. All campsites have an open-air bathroom (basin, shower,

flush toilet), braai facilities, shaded areas and tables and chairs.

The old farmstead is now a coffee shop (with Wi-Fi). You can cool down in a modern plunge pool or a cement farm dam.

📞 00 264 81 210 2047

📧 erongorocks.com

19 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. Each stand has a tap and a roof for shade. Two campsites share a bathroom with flush toilets

and showers (a donkey boiler supplies hot water). Two stands have their own bathrooms; one is wheelchair-friendly. Camping with shared bathroom R240 p.p. Camping with private bathroom R260 p.p. Pets are welcome.

📞 00 264 81 277 1668 (WhatsApp)

📧 erongo.iway.na

OMARURU

20 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 R250 p.p. plus R45 for a power point. Guest rooms with breakfast included: single room R750 p.n.; double room R1 350 p.n.; family room (for three to six people) R1 600 – R2 700 p.n. You can also book dinner.

📞 00 264 81 124 5365 (Eckhardt)

📧 river-guesthouse.com

21 Omaruru Guesthouse

This spot is neat, the staff are friendly and there's a swimming pool area with deck chairs and free Wi-Fi. Single room R630 p.n.; double room R1 040 p.n.; family room (for three or four people) R1 377 to R1 606 p.n. The rates include breakfast.

📞 00 264 64 81 712 2289

📧 omaruru-guesthouse.com

22 Eins Art Studios

Four arty self-catering apartments around a garden 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, 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). The Inspire Apartment sleeps four people in two bedrooms, with an extra single sleeper couch in the living area. Rates from R1 500 p.n. for two. Minimum stay of three nights. Secure parking, free Wi-Fi, laundry service (on request), walking distance from town centre.

📧 lekkeslaap.co.za (search for "Eins Art Studios")

KARIBIB

23 Kaliombo Safari Camp

This camp is 42 km east of Karibib and 69 km from Okahandja. Camping with power R300 p.p. Groups of 15 or more have exclusive use of the campsite. There are five en suite safari tents: R850 p.p. sharing self-catering. B&B and dinner options available on request. Tents 1 and 2 have the best view of the waterhole.

GPS: S21.96335 E16.23974

📞 00 264 64 404 561

📞 00 264 81 247 4825

📧 sunrisetours@africa.com.na

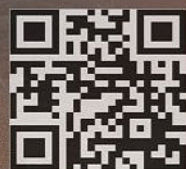
24 Etusis Lodge & Campsite

Private nature reserve south-west of Karibib on the C32. There's a campsite 20 km from the lodge with running water, toilet and shower facilities, and shade (no electricity): R225 p.p. Self-catering farmhouse (sleeps 2 – 7 people) R1 276 p.p. sharing. Minimum stay of two nights. Stone-and-thatched bungalows R2 424 p.p. sharing DB&B. Luxury tent accommodation R1 688 p.p. sharing DB&B. Sunset drives, hikes and horse rides are available.

📞 00 264 64 550 826 (lodge)

📧 etusis.de

📧 rates@resdest.com



Kristall
Galerie

Swakopmund, Namibia

The Tusks of Africa:

CENTRAL PLACES TO STAY

25 Wüstenquell

Conservation Farm

This remote farm has several accommodation options. Stay in a lodge room (R970 p.p. sharing) or a self-catering rondavel for four people (R1 450 p.p.), or pitch your tent. The campsite has three stands (shared ablutions) laid out among dramatic rock formations (R220 p.p.).

The Zebra Outpost is a self-catering house on its own in the veld (R3 050 p.n.). It has a donkey boiler for hot water, a spacious kitchen and living area and two en suite double rooms – the one on the top floor has an outdoor bathroom.

Self-catering mountain chalets, each with a double bed, viewing deck and plunge pool: R1 820 p.p. sharing.

📞 00 264 81 244 8517

📧 wuestenquell.com

26 Donkerhuk West

In the Witwatersberg along the C28. Two exclusive campsites – Andi's Camp (max 20 adults) and Duiker's Den (max eight adults) – under camel thorn trees; no power but each with its own bathroom. Camping R250 p.p. Duiker's Den has its own kitchenette. Barbarossa Tented Camp has three self-catering units with en suite bathrooms: R650 p.p. Both rates are for SADC residents. Two USB power points available in the central kitchen lapa.

If you want tasty farm meals, order two weeks in advance.

Fresh farm produce is for sale at reception. Wood costs R110 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 (R80 p.p. in your own vehicle); free to hike or mountain bike. Rates valid until 31 October.

📞 00 264 81 217 5757 (Christian, WhatsApp only)

📧 donkerhuk.com.na

OKAHANDJA

27 Omatozu Lodge

About 25 km north of Okahandja, near the B1. The campsite has four stands with power – each with a private bathroom. Camping R330 p.p. Meals are available (arrange in advance). Luxury safari tents from R2 200 p.p. sharing DB&B (R1 650 per extra bed, up to four people). There's a swimming pool, lapa and bar. Self-drive game route (R500 per vehicle per day) – there's one 4x4 trail and one 4x2 trail. MTB trails R100 p.p.; there's also a 7 km hiking trail.

📞 00 264 81 643 7100

📧 omatozu.com

28 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. and R150 per stand (max six people per stand). Twin-sleeper deluxe bungalow R1 980 p.n. B&B. Luxury twin-sleeper chalet R2 320 p.n. B&B. The restaurant also serves lunch and dinner. Activities: walking trails, birdwatching and fishing. Hire a double canoe (R250) or go on a sundowner boat cruise (R220 p.p, R95 for a snack pack; minimum 10 guests).

📞 00 264 81 341 9180

📧 tungeni.com

SWAKOPMUND

29 Alte Brücke

Popular resort near the beach. Camping (with power) R600 p.n. for the first two people, plus R100 per extra person (max six people per stand). Twin-sleeper chalet from R2 200 p.n.; two-bedroom chalet (max six guests) from R2 250 p.n. for the first two people. Chalet rates include breakfast.

📞 00 264 64 404 918

📧 altebrucke.com

30 Tiger Reef

Close to the beach. The campsite has a lawn; each stand has a braai, power, water, and Wi-Fi. Communal ablutions. From R600 p.n. for two people (max six per stand).

📞 00 264 81 450 1797

📧 lhg.na/tiger-campsite

31 Beach Lodge

In Vogelstrand, in the northern part of town. Double room from R2 850 p.n. Family room from R3 600 p.n. for two people (sleeps 4–6). Rates include breakfast. Enquire about specials. The Wreck restaurant at the lodge is a great place to have dinner and watch the sunset.

📞 00 264 64 414 500

📧 beachlodge.com.na

32 Atlantic Villa

In Vogelstrand. The complex is within walking distance of the sea and the Platz am Meer shopping centre. Double rooms from R1 2640 p.n. B&B. All rooms have air conditioning. Safe parking, Wi-Fi, wine cellar.

📞 00 264 81 840 2910

📧 atlantic-villa.com

33 Strand Hotel

On the Mole by the seaside. Double room from R4 397 p.n. B&B. Check their website for suites and even more luxurious options. The hotel is an O&L Leisure property. Join their loyalty programme (it's free) and get 50% off accommodation. Visit

📧 ol-leisure.com

📞 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 800 p.n. B&B. There's parking and security.

📞 00 264 81 634 5212

📧 stay-at-swakop.com

35 Hotel Pension Rapmund

This small hotel in Bismarck Street has safe parking and is within walking distance of the town centre and the beach. Double room R1 287 p.p.; luxury gallery room (sleeps two) with a private stoep, deck chairs and a sea view R1 591 p.p. Family room (sleeps four or five; one unit has a kitchen) R2 866 to R4 154 p.n. The buffet breakfast (included) will make you look forward to getting up in the morning.

📞 00 264 81 321 9961

📧 hotelpensionrapmund.com

36 Swakopmund Luxury Suites

A stylish place near the lighthouse. Double room from R3 300 p.n. B&B.

📞 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 Maxuillili streets, a few blocks away from the town centre and the Mole. Double and family rooms from R1 987 p.p. sharing B&B. (You get a 40% discount if you have a Gondwana card.)

📞 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 (and Namibia). Double room from R2 920 p.n. B&B. Self-catering flatlet from R1 130 p.n.

📞 00 264 64 414 200

📧 hansahotel.com.na



HOTEL PENSION RAPMUND, #35

39 Footprints

Sixteen rooms, plus a rooftop deck with a communal braai area and a bar with sea views. Double room from R1 600 p.n. B&B. Enquire about family rooms and twin rooms. Discounts for large groups and long stays.

☎ 00 264 64 403 042

📧 footprints2swakop.com

40 Skeleton Beach Backpackers

At 14 Moses Garoeb Street, 200 m from the sea. Camping from R560 p.n. for two people to R1 120 p.n. for four. Dorm rooms from R396 p.p. (shared bathroom); en suite double/family room from R616 p.p. Rates include breakfast. There's also a communal kitchen.

☎ 00 264 64 400 315

📧 skeletonbeachbackpackers.com

41 Windpomp 14

This campsite is at the popular Mile 14 fishing spot: Turn at the windmill next to the road, 25 km north of Swakopmund. Each of the 21 camping units has a private bathroom, a kitchen and a sheltered braai. From R260 p.p. for a stand furthest away from the sea in low season, to R340 p.p. for a stand right on the sea in peak season. There's also a restaurant and a bar.

☎ 00 264 83 700 4414

📧 camp@windpomp14.com

📧 sunkarros.com

42 Sophia Dale Base Camp

On a farm about 12 km from Swakop along the B2. Camping R250 p.p. Self-catering bungalow from R1 570 p.n. for two people to R2 065 p.n. for four. The restaurant serves a daily breakfast and dinner Monday

to Saturday – book in advance.

☎ 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 from R220 p.p. (shared ablutions) to R300 p.p. (private bathroom). En suite self-catering safari tents from R1 500 p.n. (sleeps two or four). Family room for four from R1 800 p.n. Bungalows with braai facilities from R1 650 p.n. for two; four-sleeper double-storey unit R2 220 p.n. Bigger houses from R5 570 p.n. (sleeps 12) to R6 850 p.n. (sleeps 20). 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 R700 p.n. for two (max six per stand). Shared ablutions with hot water. En suite backpacker-style double room from R900 p.n. (four people). Self-catering chalets (sleep two to eight), from R1 600 p.n. for two people. There's a play area for the kids, and a restaurant.

☎ 00 264 81 128 7151

📧 lagoonchaletswb.com

NEW!**45 De Baken**

New self-catering units near the waterfront. See page 66.

CENTRAL PLACES TO STAY



EVAN NAUDÉ

DE BAKEN, #45

NAMIB-NAUKLUF NATIONAL PARK

46 Wild camping

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 are non-existent. (You only get a long drop.) 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 R180 p.p. for SADC residents, plus R60 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

47 Düsternbrook Safari Guest Farm

About 30 km north-west of Windhoek in the mountains of the Khomas Hochland. Two camping options are available: Bush Camp with shade, electricity and Wi-Fi (R435 p.p.), and the more secluded Pioneer Camp with shared ablutions, no electricity and a quieter wilderness feel (R405 p.p.).

Guests can also stay in rooms at the historic farmhouse, or choose fully equipped self-catering chalets in the surrounding bush. (See website for rates.)

Activities include game drives, mountain drives and horse riding. Lots of hiking opportunities.

Restaurant on site. Namibians and SADC residents can contact the farm directly for 20% discount.

☎ 00 264 61 232 572

☎ 00 264 81 864 3000

🌐 dueternbrook.net

48 Elisenheim Guest Farm

This farm is 15 km north of Windhoek in the Eros Mountains. Camping R190 p.p.; single room R660 p.n.; double room R950 p.p.; breakfast R160 p.p.; other meals can be ordered at the Farmer's Kitchen on the premises.

☎ 00 264 61 264 429

🌐 elisenheim-guestfarm.com

49 Sun Karros Daan Viljoen

In the Daan Viljoen Game Reserve, about 20 km west of Windhoek via the C28. Seven luxury campsites, each with its own toilet, shower, kitchenette and built-in braai. Campers have access to the Boma restaurant, swimming pool and walking trails. Camping from R510 p.n. for two people. Chalet (sleeps two) from R2 400 p.n. B&B. The chalets are not self-catering, but there are braai facilities.

☎ 00 264 61 232 393

🌐 sunkarros.com

50 Krumhuk Farm

An organic farm 20 km south of Windhoek. Five self-catering units, situated around the farmstead, each with an open-plan kitchen and living area, plus a stoep and braai facilities. From R1 400 p.n. for two people (units sleep up to four). Camping R150 p.p. The farm kitchen offers full catering for guests and day visitors, or book a special braai under the stars. Relax at the pool or explore the farm on a guided tour or game drive.

☎ 00 264 81 641 3794

🌐 krumhuk.de

51 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

SOUTHERN NAMIBIA



120 KM GUIDED SELF-DRIVE 4X4 ROUTES,
grading 3 to 5, stunning views over desert type landscapes,
roaming herds of game, guided dune driving and overnight
self-contained camping in the dunes, walking excursion to
remarkable Africa Rock Viewpoint, visit to
Roter Kamm Impact Crater,
**experience the feeling of unperturbed landscape where
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www.ausdeserttours.com

CENTRAL PLACES TO STAY



ESMA MARNEWICK

HOTEL THULE, #51

have aircon, a tea and coffee station, satellite TV and Wi-Fi. Double and family rooms from R3 880 p.n. B&B. There's also a restaurant.

📞 00 264 61 371 950

📞 00 264 83 372 0600

🌐 hotelthule.com

52 The Elegant Guesthouse

In Klein Windhoek (Von Eckenbrecher Street) – the oldest suburb in Windhoek, close to the city centre, shopping and restaurants. Within walking distance of Joe's Beerhouse. There are 17 en suite double rooms – from R2 650 p.n. B&B. Secure parking, swimming pool, free Wi-Fi.

📞 00 264 82 430 1933

🌐 the-elegant-collection.com

53 Klein Windhoek Guesthouse

Double room from R1 640 p.n. Family room (sleeps four) from R2 020 p.n. B&B. Self-catering units

from R1 950 p.n. for two people. Swimming pool, restaurant, Wi-Fi. 📞 00 264 61 239 401

🌐 kleinwindhoekguesthouse.com

54 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. Single room R800 p.n.; double room R1 200 p.n.; family room R1 600 p.n. B&B.

📞 00 264 61 240 777

📞 00 264 81 237 7644

🌐 pension-christoph.com

55 Urban Camp

In the heart of Windhoek – a good spot if you want to spend a few days in the capital. Camping R330 p.p.; shade and braai facilities, shared ablutions. Two glamping options: permanent dome tents with two single beds (R1 320 p.n.) or Explorer's Delight, a twin-sleeper safari tent (R1 650 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

56 Arebbusch Travel Lodge

Next to Eros Airport, at the corner of Golf Street and Auas Road. En suite safari tent (two single beds) from R1 410 p.n. Double room from R1 308 p.n. B&B. Chalet for two or three people with a kitchenette, breakfast included: from R2 094 p.n. Restaurant and pizzeria on site. These rates are subject to change and may vary depending on the specific dates of booking.

📞 00 264 61 252 255

🌐 arebbusch.com

57 River Crossing Lodge

On a reserve next to the B6 (the airport road) about 5 km outside Windhoek. Each en suite room has

its own stoep with a scenic view. The restaurant also has a big deck if you want to sit outside. Single room R1 750 p.n. Double room R2 885 p.n. B&B.

📞 00 264 61 401 494

🌐 rivercrossing.com.na

58 Kapps Mountain Lodge

A beautifully restored farmhouse 20 km east of Windhoek on the B6. The luxury rooms are fully equipped for a self-catering stay while the other rooms share a kitchen and living area. Double room from R1 300 p.n. Family room from R1 850 p.n. The 4x4 campsite (no power) has 10 stands: R180 p.p. 📞 00 264 81 332 3316

🌐 kappsmountain.com

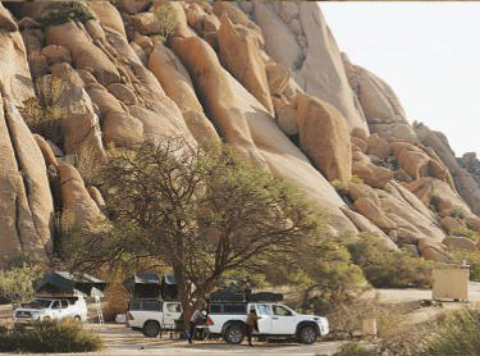
59 Trans Kalahari Inn

The turn-off to this lodge is on the airport road (B6), about 5 km outside Windhoek. Camping R380 p.n. (max four people per stand) with a bathroom, braai and power. Double rooms from R1 610 p.n. and

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NAMIBIA

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www.spitzkoppe.com



CENTRAL PLACES TO STAY

triple rooms from R1 560 p.n.
Free Wi-Fi in common areas, plus
a restaurant and swimming pool.
☎ 00 264 61 222 877
📧 transkalahari-inn.com

60 N/a'an ku sê Lodge & Wildlife Sanctuary

Follow the B6 out of Windhoek
for 24 km, then keep north on the
M53 for another 27 km. Chalets
and luxury self-catering villas from
R6 622 p.n. for two DB&B.

N/a'an ku sê is a wildlife
sanctuary and they offer several
guided tours.
☎ 00 264 61 22 88 69
📧 naankusecollection.com

DORDABIS

61 Ankawini Safari Ranch
This 70 km² private game reserve
is 90 km from Windhoek. Camp
Porosa is in a dry riverbed with
three ablution blocks (donkey

boilers) R175 p.p. There are three
stands; max six people per stand.
No electricity but firewood
is supplied.

Camp Omunguindi (sleeps
seven) has three en suite safari
tents. Private deck and braai
with a view. From R800 p.p.;
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:
R350 p.p.
☎ 00 264 81 475 6395 (Reception
is patchy; bookings via e-mail or
website only.)
📧 info@ankawini.com
📧 ankawini.com

62 Arnhem Cave Lodge

About 124 km south-east of
Windhoek as the crow flies. This
resort was recently upgraded and
now has new facilities, thatched

roofs and lawns. There are 10
camping stands on grass, with
braai facilities, water and power:
R350 p.p. (shared ablutions) or
R380 p.p. (private ablutions and
a shared camp kitchen).

Self-catering cottage (sleeps
five) R3 500 p.n.; family unit
(sleeps four) with a kitchenette
R3 000 p.n. En suite chalet with
two three-quarter beds and
mattresses for kids in the loft
R2 500 p.n. A minimum stay of
two nights is required for cottage
bookings. Chalet guests can order
breakfast (R150 p.p.) beforehand
and all guests are welcome to eat
at the lodge.

☎ 00 264 612 37294
☎ 00 264 81 255 1331
📧 arnhemcaves.com

GOBABIS

63 West Nest Lodge

Next to the B6, about 35 km west

of Gobabis. Camping with a private
bathroom from R235 p.p. Tented
chalet (with two single beds) from
R570 p.p. Thatched chalet (with
two single beds) from R745 p.p.
Bigger chalet with a double bed
and a sleeper couch for children
from R1 235 p.p. Luxury double
chalet with a television and
swimming pool R2 005 p.p. All
accommodation is self-catering,
but there is a restaurant and a bar.

☎ 00 264 62 570 343
☎ 00 264 81 124 5295
📧 westnestlodge.com

64 Die Dam Gobabis

This resort on the edge of town
next to the Tilda Viljoen Dam is
under new management. Camping
with communal facilities R200
p.p. and a stand with a private
bathroom costs R250 p.p. A safari
tent with two single beds (also
communal ablutions) costs
R350 p.p. En suite double or

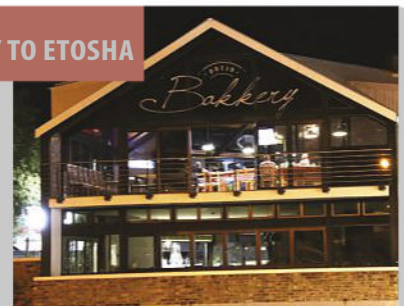


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between.

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• Open Monday to Saturday 7:00 – 17:00



family room with air conditioning, TV and coffee station: from R1 200 p.n. for two people. You can paddle or fish on the dam. The resort has a swimming pool, restaurant and bar.

☎ 00 264 81 497 1387 (WhatsApp)

✉ diedamgobabis.com

65 Harnas Wildlife Foundation

This wildlife rehab centre, about 90 km north-east of Gobabis, is managed by the N/a'an ku sê Foundation. You can see a variety of animals, including wild dogs. Camping R400 p.p. Luxury cottages R5 803 p.n. for two DB&B (ask about SADC rates). Restaurant, bar and swimming pool available.

☎ 00 264 62 568 828 (lodge)

☎ 00 264 61 228 869 (reservations)

✉ harnas.org

66 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:

R250 p.p. Single rooms R1 500 p.p, double rooms R1 000 p.p. B&B. Air conditioning and Wi-Fi available.

☎ 00 264 62 560 427

☎ 00 264 81 220 0130 (WhatsApp)

✉ bookings.zeldaguestfarm@iway.na

67 East Gate

At the Buitepos border post. Camping from R180 p.p. Cabin (two-sleeper, shared ablutions) R300 p.p; self-catering two-bed bungalow R1 500 p.n. The biggest self-catering bungalow sleeps six people and has two bedrooms and a sleeper couch: R2 800 p.n.

Restaurant, filling station, swimming pool and a well-stocked shop. Braai packs and firewood available.

☎ 00 264 83 722 3700

✉ eastgate-namibia.com



SOPHIA VAN TAAK

NAOS FARM STAY STAY, #69



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Betta Lodge & Campsite
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On the road between Helmeringhausen and Sossusvlei, just 20 km from Duwisib Castle!

Camp under the stars or stay in our comfortable rooms & self-catering units. Restaurant, bar, shop & petrol station all in one place. Sundowners on the balcony with a view you will not forget.

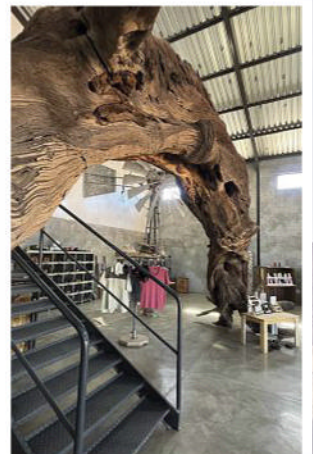
Don't miss: Our juicy T-bone steaks on the fire. Freshly baked apple pie and venison patties. Homemade products in our shop.

Betta Lodge & Campsite... your Namib stop you don't want to miss!

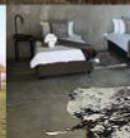
www.bettacamp.com

reservation@bettacamp.com

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COME FOR THE ADVENTURE... STAY FOR THE FOOD, THE VIEW AND THE VIBE!





ABABIS GUEST FARM, #82

SOPHIA VANTAAK

KHOMAS HOCHLAND

68 Harmonie C28

On the C28, 90 km west of Windhoek and 240 km from Swakopmund. Private campsites with private bathrooms, shade, power, lights, braai and hot water (donkey boiler): R250 p.p. Private campsite for families and groups, facilities as above plus a splash pool: R1 300 for five people, plus R230 per additional person.

Twin-sleeper self-catering chalet R1 400 p.n. Chalets for four from R2 700 p.n. Swimming pool, hiking, birding, play park, self-drive 4x4 trails, guided drives, lookout points and beautiful natural surroundings. You get 10 kg of firewood and 1 kg of ice p.p. per day on the house!

☎ 00 264 81 127 2709

(WhatsApp only)

✉ harmonie-c28.com

69 Naos Farm Stay

About 90 km south-west of Windhoek via the C26 and D1282. This old farmhouse was beautifully renovated and furnished. It sleeps seven people in four rooms of which two are

en suite. The house (R3 500 p.n.) has a dining room, living area and a stoep overlooking a garden with a braai lapa, hammocks and a swimming pool.

It's a cattle farm but there's wildlife too, and you can explore the farm roads and ride your mountain bike. Experienced riders can enquire about horse rides. You can also order fresh bread beforehand.

✉ naosfarmstay@gmail.com
(Henning du Toit)

70 Hakos Guest Farm

About 135 km from Windhoek, along the C26 (up in the mountains just before the Gamsberg Pass). Four shaded stands with shared ablutions and communal areas (Wi-Fi, no power): R275 p.p. Double room R1 350 p.p. Meals on request. Indoor pool. Hakos has the largest private astronomical observatory in Namibia. Stargazing for up to four people: R880. Check the website for information about available telescopes and mounts.
☎ 00 264 81 352 1162 (WhatsApp)
✉ hakos-astrofarm.com

71 Rooisand Desert Ranch

About 167 km from Windhoek on the C26. Big, level camping stands, each equipped with electricity, a firepit and a sink. A slatted roof offers shade while hedges provide natural protection. 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). These are close to the bathrooms and campers share a huge braai space, a kitchenette, a seating area for about 20 guests, plus a pool and beach volleyball court. Camping R325 p.p. Double lodge rooms from R1 950 p.p. B&B. Self-catering chalet next to an astronomical observatory (2,5 km away from the lodge) R5 800 p.n. for four people (min two nights). Telescopes for hire – book in advance.

☎ 00 264 81 127 7629

✉ rooisand.com

72 Corona Guest Farm

About 18 km from the C26 on the D1438; the turn-off is about 30 km from the C26/C14 junction. Rates from R1 900 p.p. sharing DB&B.

Longer stays get lower rates.

Enquire about the 20% SADC discount.

✉ coronaguestfarm.com

73 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: R330 p.p. No electricity but there is Wi-Fi. Camp Flintstone has three self-catering stone houses, each sleeping two people: R430 p.p. Shared ablution facilities, a lapa, a fully equipped kitchen, Wi-Fi and a big pool for guests at the farmhouse.

☎ 00 264 81 128 7844

✉ camp-rooiklip.com

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 R340 p.p. Bungalows from R3 960 p.n. for two B&B (sleep 2–4 people).

☎ 00 264 61 250 725

📍 namibsvally.com

REHOBOTH

75 Lake Oanob Resort

This resort is 7 km west of Rehoboth next to the Oanob Dam. Swim, go on a boat ride, enjoy an aqua-cycle, paddle on the dam, hike or drive a 4x4 trail. Camping from R130 p.p. or from R220 p.p. for a shaded stand on the waterfront.

En suite double room from R1 970 p.n. B&B. Family rooms for two adults and two children from R2 250 p.n. B&B. Luxury self-catering chalets from R3 261 p.n. for two adults, plus R347 per extra person (sleep 2–8). SADC discount: 30% on room and chalet rates.

☎ 00 264 81 322 2175 (WhatsApp)

📍 oanob.com.na

SOLITAIRE

76 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 R220 p.p. Exclusive bush campsites with a flush toilet and basin but no shower R330 p.p. Self-catering chalets R1 100 p.p. sharing (no fridge, but there's a fridge at reception). Owner Boesman Davids and his team offer desert tours on the farm: R2450 for up to six people; R444 p.p. for bigger groups. A 4x4 self-drive tour costs R500 per vehicle.

☎ 00 264 81 294 3755 (Boesman)

☎ 00 264 81 337 4611 (Yuri)

📍 bushmansdesertcamp-sossus.com

77 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 R5 000 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 81 430 3401 (WhatsApp)

📍 tsondab.com

78 Barkhan Dune Retreat

At the bottom of Spreetshoogte Pass. Camping on the farm: R225 p.p. (max four people per stand). Camping in the new Spreetshoogte Camp halfway up the pass: R290 p.p. (each stand has an awning, a cement stoep and shared ablutions) or R680 p.p. with private ablutions. Dune Chalet from R2 727 p.p. B&B to R4 720 p.p. with all meals, plus cooldrinks, cake and tea and a sunset drive.

Okanti self-catering house sleeps five – R1 417 p.p.; KuanguKuangu double chalet further into the veld – R3 300 p.p. All meals and afternoon tea available on request.

☎ 00 264 83 000 0008

📍 barkhan.africa

79 Camp Gecko

At the base of Spreetshoogte Pass. The camp has three remote campsites (no electricity) that are booked exclusively. All sites sleep six, with a braai, shower and toilet – R280 p.p. There are also seven en suite safari tents (donkey boiler). Two tents sleep two people: R600 p.p. Three are double-storey units that sleep two: R670 p.p. Two are family tents that sleep four: R670 p.p. Breakfast R200 p.p. Braai packs available – R290 p.p. No card facilities.

☎ 00 264 81 346 6534 (WhatsApp)

📍 camp-gecko.com

80 Stofpad Lodge

Halfway between Spreetshoogte Pass and Remhoogte Pass, next to the D1261. Two luxury camping stands at the base of a koppie: R520 p.n. for the first two people, plus R260 p.p. extra; max eight people per stand. Each stand has grass, braai facilities on the stoep and under the stars, a bathroom and a kitchen with a fridge, kettle and two-plate stove.

The Miernes campsite (with a swimming pool, shared ablutions, kitchen and laundry) has eight standard stands (maximum four people each) and one stand for groups of up to 16 people: R210 p.p.

Spacious luxury double room R2 040 p.n. B&B. There are also self-catering units (for two or four adults and two children) – R3 560 p.n. There are mountain-bike trails, hiking trails, a restaurant with a deck and a view, a shop, bar and brewery.

☎ 00 264 61 237 294

📍 stofpad@exclusive.com.na

(for SA bookings only)

📍 stofpad.com.na

81 Solitaire Namibia

Solitaire might only be the size of two rugby fields, but it has a filling station, restaurant, bakery, bar, swimming pool, free Wi-Fi and a place to sleep. Camping R225 p.p. Roadhouse accommodation: double room facing a courtyard with a swimming pool R2 959 p.n.; family room for four from R3 960 p.n. B&B.

Mountain Lodge is 7 km from Roadhouse, at the foot of the Randberg. Double room from R3 146 p.n.; family room from R4 125 p.n. B&B.

☎ 00 264 63 293 619

📍 solitairenambia.com

82 Ababis Guest Farm

About 14 km south of Solitaire, next to the C14. Camping R350 p.p. Self-catering house R2 000 p.n. for

two people or R3 000 p.n. for three to five people. A luxury room in the old farmstead with its pretty garden, stoep and swimming pool costs R3 120 p.p. DB&B.

☎ 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 R2 925 p.n. for two.

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 R4 615 p.n. for two B&B. 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. It's about 55 km from Sesriem. Each campsite has a tree and a power point: R341 p.p.

Self-catering, en suite safari tent from R1 084 p.p. (sleeps four). Drive to the lodge for dinner and to see the petrified dunes illuminated at night. Lodge rooms from R2 398 p.p. sharing B&B.

Sleep in the dunes at Namib Dune Star Camp: R3 405 p.p. sharing B&B. (40% discount with a Gondwana card.)

☎ 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 R3 157 p.p.

CENTRAL PLACES TO STAY



sharing DB&B (two-night stay). Deluxe chalets from R4 180 p.p. sharing DB&B. All units are en suite, with aircon. There's a swimming pool, bar and restaurant.

📞 00 264 81 383 6369

🌐 agamalodge.com

86 Weltevrede Guest Farm

About 47 km north of Sesriem. You're surrounded by the Naukluft Mountains and camel thorn trees. Camping R180 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 750 p.p. sharing DB&B. (Ask for the 20% SADC discount.) Swimming pool and bar.

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

📧 info@weltevreddeguestfarm.com

🌐 weltevreddeguestfarm.com

87 Sesriem Campsite (NWR)

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. Each stand is laid out around a camel thorn tree and has a power point, tap and access to communal ablution facilities: R670 p.p. (max eight people per stand). Rates to increase in October. You also have to pay a daily park fee of R100 p.p. and R60 per vehicle.

📞 00 264 61 285 7200

🌐 nwr.com.na

88 Sesriem Oshana Campsite

This campsite has 10 private stands. It's managed by the private Sun Karros group and is next to Sesriem Campsite inside the park. Staying here means you can enter the park an hour 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 R560 p.p. (max 10 people).

📞 00 264 83 323 2393

🌐 sunkarros.com

89 Dead Valley Lodge

This swanky lodge, which consists 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 R4 900 p.p. sharing, all meals included.

📞 00 264 83 323 2393

🌐 sunkarros.com

90 Sossus Oasis Campsite

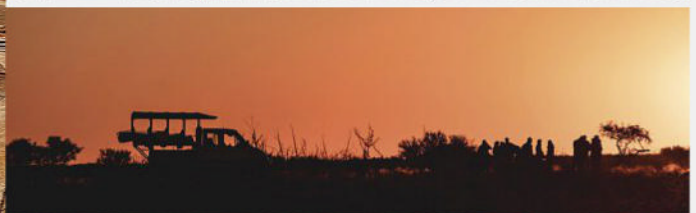
This Taleni Africa campsite is only 500 m from the gate to the

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 of the surrounding mountains; sites 8 to 12 are close to the tar road to the park gate. The campsites for bigger groups, with communal ablutions, are the furthest from the road, also with views of the mountains. Private camping R325 p.p. sharing (min two people per stand). You can book a specific campsite – click "Download factsheet" for a map. Group campsites R215 p.p.

📞 021 930 4564 (bookings)

🌐 sossus-oasis.com



**Lapa
Lange**
game lodge

Tel: 00264 632 41801

Email: lapalange@gmail.com

SITUATED ON THE M29 ROAD 35 KM OUTSIDE MARIENTAL ON THE MATA ROAD, 200 KM FROM THE QUIVER TREE FORESTS AND 215 KM FROM KEETMANSHOOP OR MATA-MATA GATE (KGALAGADI NATIONAL PARK). 300 KM FROM WINDHOEK.

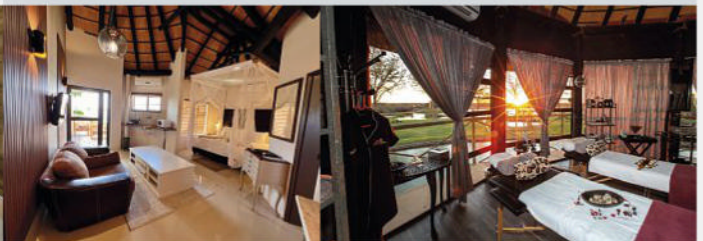
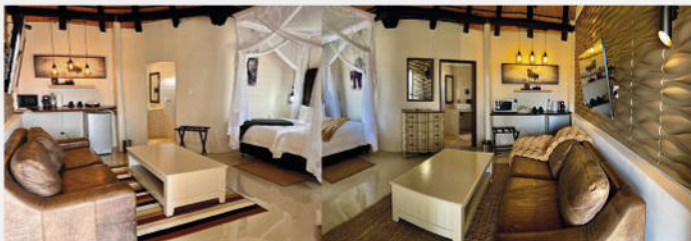
The magnificent Main buildings house the reception, curio shop, restaurant, bars and lounges all overlooking the rooms, swimming pool and a floodlit waterhole that hosts large variety of game including sables, giraffes, and rhinos.



Accommodation in the form of ultra and luxury chalets all in prime positions on the edge of the waterhole ensure your game-viewing pleasure.

Luxury rooms with full facilities look out over the waterhole and lodge around the main water features and swimming pool.

All campsites are on established lush green lawn, each with own ablution, electricity outlets, lights, taps, wash basin, and mobile barbeque.



CENTRAL PLACES TO STAY



DESERT QUIVER CAMP, #92

91 Sossusvlei Lodge

Only 500 m from Sesriem. The lodge 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 725 p.p. DB&B. Swimming pool? Of course! Day visitors can book 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 stove, two single beds and a sleeper couch for two children (under 12). Two of the units are wheelchair-friendly. From R1 490 p.p. sharing. 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 24 self-catering units with the same facilities: aircon, a stoep

kitchen and an outdoor braai.

The main difference is that the Quiver Camp's bathrooms are more private whereas Desert Camp's units are open plan. From R1 417 p.p. sharing.

☎ 021 930 4564 (bookings)
📍 desertcamp.com

94 Desert Homestead Lodge

On the doorstep of the Namib-Naukluft National Park; 32 km from Sesriem. There are 27 chalets and one family unit (two bedrooms, one bathroom) – rates from R4 300 p.p. sharing DB&B. Horse riding is the main attraction here.

☎ 00 264 61 240 020
📍 ondili.com

95 Little Sossus Lodge & Campsite

Both are 35 km from Sesriem. The campsite and the lodge are a few kilometres apart. The campsite has a farm stall, swimming pool and free Wi-Fi. All facilities have been updated. The campsite has 10 stands with awnings, power points and private ablution facilities. Camping R200 p.p., plus R240 per stand. Double room in the lodge from R4 760 p.n. DB&B. These are SADC rates.

☎ 00 264 81 141 4376
📍 littlesossus.net

96 The Elegant Desert Lodge & Camp

About 38 km from Sesriem on the D854. Air-conditioned en suite double rooms and family rooms from R1 900 p.p. B&B. Swimming pool, bar, restaurant and free Wi-Fi. The lodge offers sunset drives and guided trips to Sossusvlei. The Elegant Desert Camp has 10 luxury en suite safari tents, about 7 km from the lodge. Rates from R2 675 p.p. DB&B. Desert Camp has its own swimming pool and restaurant (dinner only). Enquire about SADC rates.

☎ 00 264 82 430 1933
📍 the-elegant-collection.com

97 Tsauchab River Camp

On the D854 dirt road, 70 km from Sesriem. There are 14 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. It has two bathrooms with donkey boilers, and a big braai area. SADC rates: camping R220 p.n. for the site plus R170 p.p. Chalets with electricity and air conditioning from R3 500 p.n. for two people DB&B. There's a restaurant, bar and a swimming pool.

☎ 00 264 81 141 43 84
(WhatsApp only)
📍 tsauchab.com

98 Neuras Wine & Wildlife Estate

About 100 km north-west of Maltahöhe, on the D850. Standard tents with communal ablutions from R1 600 p.p. sharing DB&B (solar power). Neat chalet for two from R1 895 p.p. sharing DB&B. Luxury units from R2 381 p.p. self-catering. Enquire about SADC discounts. There's a swimming pool. Day visitors welcome – open from 10 am to 5 pm. Wine tour and tasting R750 p.p. Wine tasting with a cheese platter R400 p.p. Book beforehand.

☎ 00 246 63 293 417
📍 collectioninfo@naankuse.com
📍 naankusecollection.com

99 Naukluft Camp (NWR)

This campsite in the Namib-Naukluft National Park has 21 stands under trees near the river. Camping R460 p.p. (max five per stand). Twin-sleeper Bush Chalets from R2 000 p.p. sharing B&B. Rates to increase in October. You also pay a daily park fee of R100 p.p. and R60 per vehicle. There are day hikes in the park or stroll upriver to



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Photo: Lodge Damaraland in Khorixas

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Swakopmund

CENTRAL PLACES TO STAY



the first pool – about a 40-minute walk.

☎ 00 264 61 285 7200

📧 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 R400 p.p. sharing; exclusive use of campsite R2 100 p.n. (max 10 people). Double room from R3 250 p.p. Family room (two adults and two children) R8 800 p.n. Accommodation rates include breakfast, afternoon tea and cake and all farm activities. Discount for longer stays. 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.

📧 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. En suite double rooms from R1 050 p.p. sharing B&B. Other meals also available – enquire directly.

☎ 00 264 63 293 013

📧 malthoehoe-hotel.com

MARIENTAL

102 Flying Ostrich

This guest farm is 4 km north of Mariental next to the B1 – look for the flags. The self-catering units (sleep 2–6) are spacious, modern and surrounded by lawns where your kids can kick a ball around. Light a fire and watch the shadows of the palm trees grow longer. From R1 540 p.n. for two people.

☎ 00 264 81 717 1211

📧 bookingsflyingostrich@gmail.com

103 Lapa Lange Game Lodge

Follow the M29 south-east from Mariental for about 35 km. Lapa Lange offers game drives (from R780 p.p.), walks with a San guide (R585 p.p.) and hiking trails. There are lodge rooms, chalets around a waterhole, and a campsite (two stands with private ablutions – R345 p.p.). Luxury tent R1 774 p.p. sharing B&B. Double room R3 472 p.p. sharing B&B. Chalet with kitchenette and a braai R4 262 p.n. for two people B&B. These are SADC rates.

☎ 00 264 63 241 801

📧 gamelodgenamibia.com

104 Kalahari Anib Lodge

This family-friendly lodge is 30 km east of Mariental, along the C20. Three private camping stands, each with a bathroom, about 200 m from the lodge. Camping (max six people) from R341 p.p.

Camping2Go safari tent (sleeps four) R1 084 p.p. Double and family rooms from R2 572 p.p. B&B.

A sunrise/sundowner guided drive

or guided walk in the dunes costs R935 p.p. with snacks. (There's a 40% discount on accommodation and 25% on activities if you have a Gondwana card.)

☎ 00 264 61 427 200

📧 gondwana-collection.com

STAMPRIET

105 Kalahari Farmhouse

Camping R341 p.p. (max 10 people per stand). B&B from R2 125 p.p. sharing. You get a 40% discount with a Gondwana card.

☎ 00 264 61 427 200

📧 gondwana-collection.com

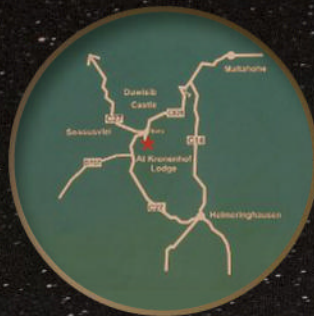
106 Stampriet Historical Guesthouse

On top of a koppie with a view of the town. Lovely garden. Double rooms from R1 360 p.n. Family rooms from R1 840 p.n. for three people to R2 800 for five. Splash pool, lawns, jungle gym and Wi-Fi. Rates include breakfast.

☎ 00 264 81 244 7448

(Petro Hayman); 📧 stampriet.guesthouse@gmail.com

At Kronenhof Lodge



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TWO 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. Swimming pool.

THREE LARGE CAMPSITES

are located a distance away from the private campers and can cater for 7 to 25 guests per site. Swimming pool.

There are communal ablution facilities with hot and cold running water, flush toilets and a washing-up area.



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CENTRAL PLACES TO STAY

GOCHAS

107 Wildmoor Nature Camp

Wildmoor is about 20 km north of Gochas, on the C15. Camping R250 p.p. Two campsites in the dunes with beautiful views. It's near a waterhole where you can see kudus, impalas, warthogs and gemsbok. Both campsites have ablutions with hot water, as well as braai facilities (enquire about firewood). You can also camp across the road from the farmhouse next to the limestone cliffs. The three stands under the big camel thorn tree each have a braai spot and power, with a shared ablution block with hot water and power.

GPS: S24.71773 E18.69789

☎ 00 264 81 240 8811

☎ 00 264 81 490 7622

"Wildmoor Nature Camp"

on Facebook

✉ francojunius79@gmail.com

108 Auob Country Lodge

This lodge, next to the C15 just 6 km north of Gochas, is an oasis in the heart of the Kalahari. It's a good stopover to or from the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Camping R295 p.p.; double and family rooms from R2 970 p.p. sharing DB&B. There's a swimming pool, a restaurant and a lapa. Enquire about SADC specials.

☎ 00 264 61 374 750 (bookings)

☎ 00 264 63 250 101 (lodge)

✉ auob.com.na

ARANOS & KALAHARI

109 21 Dunes Lodge and Campsite

This farm is about 30 km south-west of Aranos next to the D1041. The two camping stands are set far apart on a dune. Each has its own bathroom, kitchen and solar power. Camping R200 p.p.; self-catering chalet with

aircon (sleeps four adults and two children) from R750 p.p. for the first two people (the bigger the group, the lower the rate).

☎ 00 264 81 248 1447

✉ mabester@afol.com.na

110 Aranos Kalahariland Guest Farm

About 15 km north-west of town next to the C20 to Leonardville. The four self-catering units (each sleeps two people) are in a tranquil farmyard with chickens and turkeys. Each room has air conditioning and a stoep (R500 p.p. sharing). There are shared braai facilities. The two hunting units are more basic and sleep six people each. They overlook a waterhole where animals come to drink – R350 p.p.

For camping, you pay a one-off vehicle fee of R200, plus R100 p.p. (wild camping) or R200 p.p. (in the campsite with facilities).

Hike, ride your mountain bike or 4x4, drink a sundowner on a red dune or float in the farm dam. The shop sells basic groceries, ice, braai meat, camel thorn firewood and souvenirs. ☎ 00 264 81 128 6105 (Danie & Mariaan Kotzé) ✉ danmar@afol.com.na

111 Ley-Lia Guest House

In Sarel Theron Street. The guesthouse has free Wi-Fi and there's DStv, air conditioning and a coffee station in each room. There are also communal braai facilities and braai packs for sale. Single room R550 p.p.; double room R850 p.p.; family room for four R1 050 p.p. Breakfast available at R130 p.p.

☎ 00 264 81 143 3143

✉ leyliaguesthouse@gmail.com

"Ley-Lia Guest House" on Facebook

112 Strauss Lapa

In Hospital Street. Three units that sleep two to four people

– rates from R400 p.p. sharing (the bigger the group per unit, the lower the rate); R500 single rate. Communal braai facilities and swimming pool. The rooms aren't fully equipped for a self-catering stay, but have cutlery and crockery. You can order meals beforehand.

☎ 00 264 81 330 7014

✉ strauss@iway.na

113 Dorsland Cottage

Tiger's Lair Farm is about 20 km south-east of Aranos next to the M39 (the road signs say M32). The self-catering cottage is in the farmyard next to the dry Nossob riverbed. It sleeps four people in two rooms and has braai facilities. Braai packs are available – order beforehand. Rates from R1 350 p.n. for two people to R2 550 p.n. for four.

☎ 00 264 81 439 8235

✉ koningshout@gmail.com

BETTA & DUWISIB

114 NamibRand Family Hideout

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 waterhole, private bathroom with a flush toilet and hot shower, a braai, a sink and an awning (one site is wheelchair-friendly). SADC rates: camping from R276 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 R585 p.p. Bedding and towels cost extra – R247 p.p. Reserve fee R175 p.p. per day. Dune boards and fat bikes can be rented. Guided drives and walks are available. There's also a

self-drive 4x4 track in the dunes.

☎ 00 264 61 226 803

☎ 00 264 81 127 2957

(WhatsApp)

✉ nrhideout.com

115 Tolou's Lodge

Standard chalets that sleep two each, and two family chalets that sleep four: R800 p.p. sharing DB&B. Each unit has solar power, braai facilities, a bathroom, bedding and towels – you can even climb onto the roof of your chalet with a ladder to take a sunset photo! Campers are welcome. Camp next to the chalet for R200 p.p. (own tent); or R300 p.p. to sleep inside the chalet. The lodge has a restaurant and bar, short hiking trails (2–8 km) and a dam where you can watch birds.

☎ 00 264 81 146 1806

(WhatsApp)

✉ tolouslodge.com

116 Betta Rest Camp

Basic camping with shared ablutions: R300 p.p. Accommodation in the Mountain Camp – basic corrugated iron chalets (each sleeps four people) with an outdoor bathroom: R800 p.p. Glamping: Each stand has an awning and a deck, braai, kitchen, bathroom and power point. Rates from R350 p.p. Self-catering double room or family chalet from R2 500 p.p. sharing. Meals available on request.

Betta has a filling station and a swimming pool. Drop by the new restaurant and coffee shop. They sell baked goods, sit-down meals, takeaways, braai packs, biscuits and jams, ice cream and groceries. Also browse the curios – all items are made in Namibia. Travellers who want to stretch their legs can make use of the picnic site and ablution facilities.

☎ 00 264 81 627 1161

✉ bettacamp.com

117 At Kronenhof Lodge

The turn-off is 1 km south of Betta. The two campsites are about 1 km from the lodge. Four private stands are behind a koppie and each has its own bathroom: R560 p.p. (six people per stand). There's a communal swimming pool. The other campsite has three stands with shared ablutions and a swimming pool: R440 p.p. Self-catering unit R1 000 p.p. sharing. Double and family rooms R1 700 p.p. sharing DB&B. The Mountain View self-catering villa is set apart. It has four en suite double rooms around a communal kitchen and living area. There is an outdoor braai, pizza oven and a splash pool. From R2 900 p.n. for two people to R5 800 p.n. for eight people. You can hike, go on a scenic sundowner drive, do clay-pigeon shooting or rent a fat bike. They do tyre repairs and have used and new tyres.

☎ 00 264 83 700 0077

🌐 kronenhof.com.na

118 Duwisib Guest Farm

On the doorstep of Duwisib Castle. Camping R245 p.p. Self-catering room (with a communal braai and fully equipped kitchen) from R750 p.n. for one person to R1 700 p.n. for three people. Single room R1 700 p.p.; double room R1 370 p.p.; triple room R1 180 p.p. Breakfast is included in these rates. Dinner is also available at the restaurant. There's a swimming pool. Activities: walking trails (free), nature drive and horse riding (price on request). SADC rates available upon request.

☎ 00 264 63 293 344

☎ 00 264 81 354 3619

🌐 farmduwisib.com



AT KRONENHOF LODGE, #117

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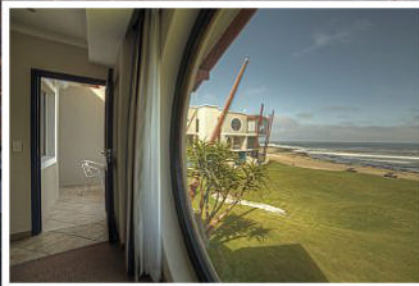
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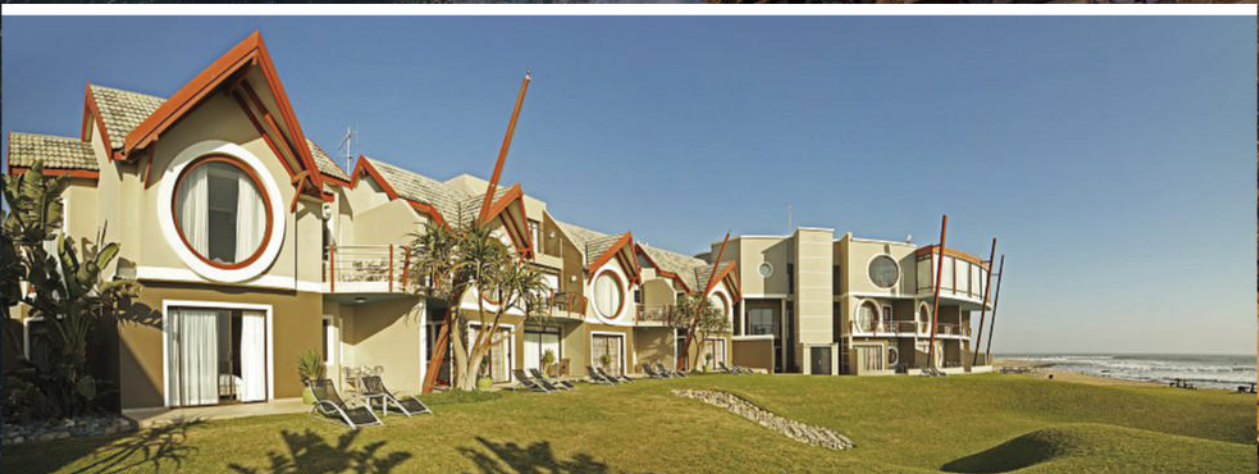


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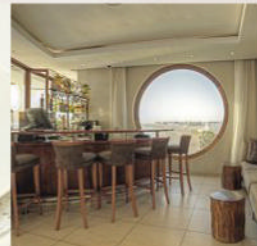
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Get your toes in the sand

It's easy to skip Henties Bay – Namibia's northernmost coastal town – on a road trip, but if you love fishing and friendly people, you'll be missing out.

WORDS & PICTURES **EVAN NAUDÉ**



Don't let an overcast day put you off the beach. You'll be happy for the cooler weather in this desert town and the fishing remains good!



HENTIES BAY

Opposite page: Johan and Daleen Agenbag are the town's unofficial ambassadors; they're always willing to share tips on things to see and do.

Below: Henties used to be just a collection of holiday cabins, but it is becoming a booming coastal town.

Each of the towns on the Namibian coast has its own vibe. Oranjemund and Walvis Bay are industrial centres for mining, fishing and shipping. Lüderitz and Swakop have echoes of their German colonial heritage – Swakop has a swanky feel thanks to the abundance of European tourists, hotels and beach houses.

Then there's Henties Bay – it's the humblest of them all, isolated up north on the Skeleton Coast. It has no industries or colonial heritage and it seldom features on the itineraries of foreign tourists.

Ask any Namibian and they'll tell you it's a quiet town where people like to retire and fish. Except during the holidays, when everyone from the interior arrives with their extended family. Come January, they all disappear over the eastern horizon in a cloud of dust, and tranquillity returns to Henties Bay.

I returned in November 2025 to see if Henties (as the locals call it) is still as peaceful as I remember.

The major's bay

Henties Bay was named after major Hendrik "Hentie" van der Merwe, a Kalkfeld farmer and car dealer who was travelling along the coast to Swakopmund after a hunting expedition in the Brandberg area in 1929. When

he arrived at the Omaruru River mouth, he found a freshwater spring and set up camp. It's said that Hentie discovered the remnants of a camp used by a Schutztruppe patrol unit and a plate with a German inscription and the date 1886 on it. So, Hentie wasn't the first person at this oasis.

On an exploratory expedition in 1488, Bartolomeus Dias had found such an abundance of fish here that he called the area *Praia das Sardinhas* (Coast of Fish). The area was also visited by diamond miners in the early 1900s, but they soon left for shinier diamond fields further south.

The spring next to the ocean stole Hentie's heart and he returned again and again for his December holidays. He built the first semi-permanent structures – beach huts made from transport crates he'd used to import vehicles. More people started coming here and this spot on the coast was named Henties Bay in the major's honour.

In 1951, the government put a handful of plots at the river mouth up for lease, but they banned permanent buildings at first. In the 1960s, plots were laid out in the dunes on both sides of the river mouth and the first houses were built, plus a shop, hotel and caravan park. In 1979, the town finally got municipal status.

You'll see many interesting, funny and cryptic names in and around Henties. As you travel along the C34 from Swakopmund, you'll come across a series of signs pointing to fishing spots. It's easy



to guess the origin of some, like Mile 14 or Mile 26 – they indicate the distance from Swakopmund. Others will leave you scratching your head: “U-Boat Rock”, “Bennie se Rooi Lorrie”, “Die Walle”... Each of these named spots, which stretch north of Henties for more than a 100km, has a story only a local can tell you.

As I drive around town, I notice several new houses and advertisements for new developments. Many of the houses have names: Rus 'n biki, Pint innie wint, Weskus Paradys, Tjailatyd, Vitamine See.

On this faded coastline, it's the people and their stories that add colour to the landscape.

Fish braai on the beach

“We’ve been living here for 30 years,” says Daleen Agenbag in the Bean Tree Café at the local Spar. “Most of the older generation that built Henties up have passed away – we’re now the old generation!”

Daleen is the chairperson of Save the Dorob, an initiative by the Henties Bay Tourism Association aimed at protecting the Dorob National Park area around Henties Bay, and to encourage sustainable tourism. She’s with her husband Johan, who is the chairperson of the tourism association. They’re Henties Bay’s unofficial tourism ambassadors and a great source of information about everything there is to see and do in the area. If you’re new to town, the Agenbags are your Henties Bay Wikipedia.

I ask them about the place names along the C34. “The miles are self-evident, but the others all have a story,” Johan says. “Sarah se Gat, for example, was named after a legendary Henties angler – it was her favourite fishing spot. Her name was Sarah de Jager and she taught the men a thing or two about fishing. Bakleigat marks the spot where men fought over fish; Bennie se Rooi Lorrie is where a child forgot his toy on the beach... People’s connections to these places run so deep that some even scatter their loved ones’ ashes there.”

Henties has always been a place to retire, especially for farmers from the interior



who wanted a house by the sea. “We’ve seen generations come and go. People now live in their parents’ or even their grandparents’ house,” says Johan.

But the town is no longer a sleepy retirement retreat. “Henties is experiencing a boom – there are lots of new developments,” says Daleen. “And we still have land available. With the planned expansion of the mining, oil and gas industries along the coast, more development is predicted over the next 15 years. There are even people who live in Henties and work in Swakopmund. There’s traffic around Walvis Bay and it’s often faster to drive 70km from here to Swakop than 35km from Walvis!”

Fishing is still the main drawcard, but the Agenbags say there are other attractions that aren’t as conspicuous. Henties Bay is surrounded by the Dorob National Park, an arid emptiness that you have to explore with a 4x4 and a sense of adventure. You’ll discover lichen fields, welwitschias, Damara terns and even the Messum Crater, an extinct volcano.

“It’s wonderful to take a drive into the desert in the afternoon,” says Daleen. “There’s no way we’ll move to another

On this faded coastline, it's the people and their stories that add colour to the landscape.

HENTIES BAY

Opposite page: Look closely at the houses of Henties Bay and you'll see many of them have quirky or cryptic names.

Below: Hennie Grobler and Maggie van Niekerk are long-time residents. Hennie's been around since the 1980s and has seen the town evolve over the decades.

place. The absolute peace here – the quality of life... Every time we come home from somewhere else, we appreciate Henties all over again.”

Johan is a skilled fisherman and the chairperson of the angling club – just the right person to show me the ropes. “We get kabeljou, steenbras and to a lesser degree, blacktail,” he says. Kabeljou are targeted in summer; steenbras and galjoen in winter.”

If you visit Henties to fish, you can't come for just a day. You have to spend at least a few days to make provision for poor weather or poor catches. “It pays to hire a guide,” Johan says. “That way you're guaranteed good advice and you'll know the right places to fish. And please buy your bait or mussels from a proper fishing shop to protect the natural stock.”

And once you've caught your fish, what's the best way to eat it? “Braai it right there on the beach!” says Johan. “Fillet the fish and put it over the coals with the skin facing down. Turn the grid every now and then. When the fish is cooked, the skin just pulls away. Season with a bit of lemon, salt and pepper – simple.”

Back in the day

The Cape Cross Seal Reserve, 60 km north of Henties, is home to one of the biggest

fur seal colonies you'll ever see. En route, I pass evaporation pans where salt crystals form a crust around the edges. Next to the pans are tables with crystals and a tin where you can leave a donation if you want to take one home. About 18 km before you reach Cape Cross, there's a turn-off to Sout Gat – an old tin mine filled with water that has a very high salinity. You can float on your back like in the Dead Sea.

Soon after, I see the lichen fields. Lichen is made up of two or more organisms – a symbiotic relationship between fungus and algae or cyanobacteria. It grows on any surface: plants, rocks, even desert plains. Sometimes it looks like orange carpets have been thrown over the Dorob.

On the other side of Cape Cross, a road heads east over the plains. On this road you can see more lichen fields, centuries-old welwitschias, and the Messum Crater. You need at least a day for this detour, a good map and a friend to make up a convoy, because there's no cellphone signal or traffic here if you run into trouble.

Back in Henties, I take photos of the river mouth where major Hentie used to stay during his holidays. There's a water slide here now, a mini golf course and even a nine-hole golf course in the riverbed.

I run into local resident Hennie Grobler in Duine Road. He points to a half-painted house on the golf estate. “That's my new house! We put the windows in today and tonight we'll have our first braai.”

Hennie tells me about the ever-shifting Omaruru River. It once ran through town, in decades gone by, but the outflow has since shifted to the north. The old riverbed was perfect flat terrain for the golf course.

Later, I did some research and found that the river flows mostly underground. You'll only see water above ground after exceptional rain, like the town experienced in April 2025. “Years ago we experienced a similar thing,” Hennie says. “We all went to watch the river coming down. The water kicked up a dust cloud – it looked like a car driving down a road as the river pushed the driftwood downstream.”

The next morning, I have coffee with Hennie and his wife Maggie to hear more anecdotes from the past. Hennie is





originally from Kamanjab and Maggie is from Loeriesfontein in the Northern Cape.

"After school, I trained to be a fitter and turner in Pretoria; then I went to the army in Potch. In 1985, I came to Henties to repair vehicles with my father-in-law Patrick Eagleton. There were about 300 residents then," Hennie says. "The town only got electricity shortly after I arrived – before then we used generators."

Hennie says holiday-goers have always come here, especially to camp at Jakkalsputz and Mile 108. "One day you'll see four or five tents, the next day there will be a hundred, and the day after three hundred! All of a sudden the town is busy. We used to count the headlights as the vehicles arrived in town at night. Rows and rows of headlights. The population more than doubles overnight. You can't find parking!"

Hennie and his father-in-law saw a business opportunity. "There were no freezing facilities in town for people to store fish and meat, so we set up two cold rooms running on generators and rented out plastic containers. We laid a pipe to my father-in-law's swimming pool next door and pumped out water for the cooling system!"

Over time, Hennie built his own workshop and a filling station, and in

2012 he bought the golf course. His latest project is a series of holiday units in Duine Road and his own house next to the golf course. "We were young when we arrived here. I look at my son's Grade 1 photo from the 1990s and it's just him and his teacher! Now there are two private schools in town.

Indeed, the past few years have seen a steady influx of younger residents – people in their mid-30s with children. And more businesses. Rental houses are more affordable than in Swakop, and delivery services make things easier. In the past you had to go buy everything elsewhere. The value of houses and properties is increasing.

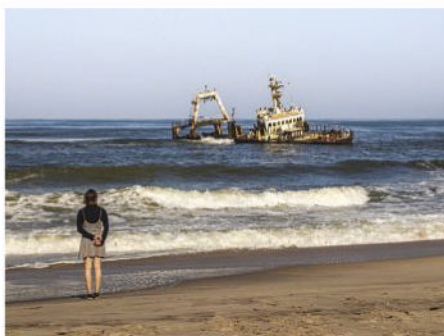
"We even got some traffic lights a few months ago," Hennie says with a laugh. "Although most times you sit there all on your own waiting for the light to change."

I ask Maggie about what happens when they get older. "Maybe we'll have all the necessary facilities by then, but fortunately Swakop is not too far away," she says.

As I drive out of town, I think I understand what drew major Hentie here. Yes, the fresh water made it a great spot to camp, but it's the sense of community that makes you want to come back year after year. Now it's my turn to tell someone about the best fishing town in Namibia...

"Every time we come home from somewhere else, we appreciate Henties all over again."

DO THIS!



Catch a fish

You can fish for kabeljou, galjoen and steenbras from Swakopmund in the south all the way past Henties for 130 km to the mouth of the Ugab River. Visit one of the angling shops for tackle, bait and advice, as well as the details of a reliable guide to accompany you to the best fishing spots. Rates for a guide vary from R800 to R1 000 per day.

- **Leon's Tackle Shop:** Benguela Street (Spar Centre) and Jakkalsputz Street (Total filling station), ☎ 00 264 81 208 7659
- **Fish Reaper:** Benguela Street (Spar Centre), ☎ 00 264 81 447 7175
- **Excalibur:** Jakkalsputz Street (Total filling station), ☎ 00 264 85 752 5427

OBEY THE RULES

You need a fishing permit (R14 per person) from the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. Visit the office in the Hanganeni Centre in Sand Street.

Contact: ☎ 00 264 64 500 320

Opening times: Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday from 8 am to 1 pm.

Henties Bay Fish Festival

This is the biggest annual festival on the town's social calendar. Come enjoy the angling competition, food and craft stalls and music performances on the festival grounds.

Where? Sand Street

When? 21 – 22 August 2026

Entrance fee: Tickets from R100 per adult and R50 per child under 13 depending on the day or days you visit. Free for pensioners.

Contact: ☎ 00 264 81 325 7520

✉ skutschheike@gmail.com

"Hentiebaai Visfees" (Yes, Hentie without the "s") on Facebook

See a Skeleton Coast shipwreck

About 14 km south of Henties, you can see the wreck of the *Zeila*, a fishing trawler that was sold as scrap metal in Walvis Bay in 2008. It was stranded here when the towing line broke en route to India. Look for the place where you can pull over next

to the beach and take a photo of the ship in the waves.

Where? 14 km south of Henties Bay next to the C34.

Explore the Dorob

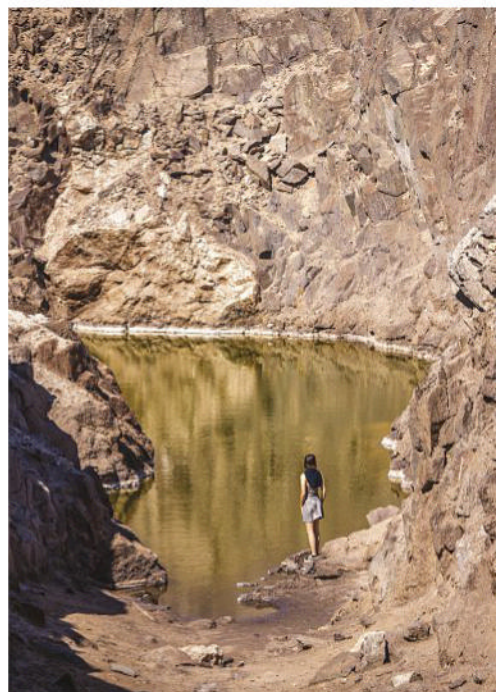
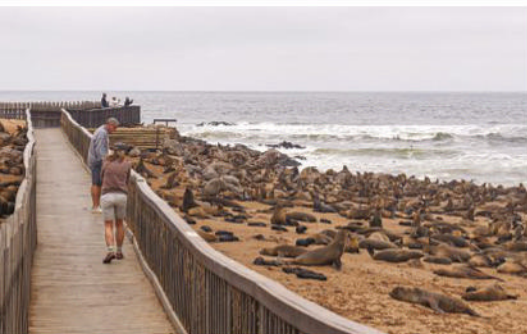
There are lichen fields along the C34 outside Henties, but if you want to see the Messum Crater, welwitschias, and Sout Gat, or if you want to head deeper into the Dorob, it's essential to travel with a GPS and a Tracks4Africa map. Go in convoy and take enough drinking water because the day can heat up quickly.

Get your (free) Dorob entry permit from the office of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism in Swakopmund before you travel to Henties. It's on the corner of Bismarck Street and Sam Nujoma Avenue.

Opening times: Monday to Friday from 8 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday from 8 am to 1 pm.

GET A TRACKS4AFRICA MAP

The 1:1 000 000 paper map of Namibia (R395) is made from durable, waterproof



The must-do activities in and around Henties include fishing, seeing shipwrecks, visiting a seal colony, exploring the Dorob Park's off-road tracks and natural wonders and even playing a round of golf in a dry river mouth.

material and is 1 x 1,2 m in size – fold it open on your bonnet, not inside the bakkie! The digital version works on Garmin devices and costs R350 per year. shop.tracks4africa.co.za

See a seal colony

In 1485, the Portuguese seafarer and explorer Diogo Cão was ordered by King João II to find a new route to the Far East. On his second try, Cão made it all the way to modern-day Namibia before he gave up. He planted a *padrão* (a stone cross) at the point where he turned around – hence the name Cape Cross.

Today, Cape Cross is a nature reserve and known for its fur seal colony – the population is about 200 000 strong! It's the world's biggest colony and worth a photo. You can walk among the dozing seals on fenced boardwalks. Just bring a clothes peg for your nose – you'll smell the seals long before you see them!

Where? 60 km north of Henties Bay, next to the C34.

Cost: R180 per adult, R100 per child aged

8 – 16 years; free for younger kids; R60 per vehicle.

Opening times: Daily from 10 am to 5 pm.

Play golf in the riverbed

The Henties golf course might be in the desert, but the greens are still green. Bring your own clubs or hire a set from the golf club and play nine holes next to the sea.

Where? Omaruru Street

Opening times: Daily from 8 am to 5 pm.

Cost: Non-members R250 for 9 holes; R350 for 18 holes. Hire clubs for R250 per day.

Contact: 00 264 85 759 9972; "Henties Bay Golf & Lifestyle Estate" on Facebook

Slide down a supertube!

Like soft serve and sandcastles, a water slide is synonymous with a summer holiday. Take your kids to the Henties Bay Supertube. The kiosk sells light meals and you can also play a round of mini golf.

Where? Bronshaai Street

Opening times: Daily from 10 am to 7 pm (seasonal).

Cost: R20 per person.

Contact: 00 264 81 312 6133

Play padel

Yup, you can play padel in Henties Bay. There are new courts next to the Jakkalsputz Restaurant.

Where? Jakkalsputz Street

Opening times: Daily from 7 am to 7 pm.

Cost: From R360 per court for an hour.

Contact: 00 264 81 614 0845

Look for a tern

Be on the lookout for Damara terns when you drive from Swakop to Henties. These white birds with their black caps make their nests on the arid plains. You have the best chance of seeing this special species on open beaches, gravel plains and salt pans, about 1 – 2 km from the sea.

Where? Next to the C34.

HENTIES BAY



THE CLUBHOUSE

EAT HERE

Bean Tree Café

Don't do your grocery shopping when you're hungry! Have a Full House Breakfast (R130) with eggs, bacon, sausage, beans and steak, or order a light meal like a burger (from R65) or toasted sandwich (from R28). The kids can munch a mini pizza (R55) or fish fingers and chips (R45).

Where? Inside the Spar, Benguela Street.

Opening times: Monday to Saturday from 8 am to 7 pm; Sunday from 9 am to 6.30 pm.

Contact: 00 264 64 500 130

The Clubhouse

This restaurant is next to the golf course. Popular dishes include eggs benedict (R80), espetada (R220), paella (R165) and sushi (from R55 for six pieces).

Where? Jakkalsputz Street

Opening times: Tuesday to Sunday from 8 am to 9 pm.

Contact: 00 264 81 486 1060

Jakkalsputz Restaurant

Grab a traditional brötchen

(from R45) or a toasted sandwich (from R35) for something light, but if you're really hungry, try the schnitzel (R155) or T-bone (R240). They also serve breakfast, burgers, pizza and seafood.

Where? Jakkalsputz Street

Opening times: Monday to Thursday from 7.30 am to 5 pm; Friday and Saturday from 7.30 am to 9 pm; Sunday from 7.30 am to 3 pm.

Contact: 00 264 81 614 0845

Fishy Corner

The name tells you everything you need to know – a fish restaurant on the street corner! There are oysters (R25 each) and mussels (R95) on the menu, or grab a calamari burger (R130). Starving? Try the kabeljou and calamari (R235) or go big with a seafood platter for two with fish fillets, six prawns, ten mussels and calamari (R490).

Where? Corner of Benguela and Galjoen streets.

Opening times: Daily from 8 am to 10 pm.

Contact: 00 264 81 482 8686

STAY HERE

Klein Henties

This ground-floor flat is behind the main house with a private entrance and a courtyard with a braai. The unit sleeps four people in two bedrooms (two single beds and a double bed). There's a fully equipped kitchen and a spacious living area with an indoor braai for when the wind picks up. You're within walking distance of the beach and shopping centres.

Where? Duine Road

Rate: R350 per person.

Contact: 00 264 81 325 7520

agenbagheike@gmail.com

Die Padstal

Six luxury rooms and six self-catering chalets. The rooms (each sleeps two) have a coffee station, microwave and a small fridge, while the chalets each have a kitchen (stove, fridge and microwave) and a sheltered stoep with an outdoor braai.

The chalets sleep four.

Where? Corner of Benguela Street and Duine Road.

Rates: Luxury rooms (for two) from R1 500 per night; chalets (for four) from R2 500 per night.

Contact: 00 264 81 363 9631

padstal.selfcatering@gmail.com

Buck's Camping Lodge

This campsite won't win any prizes for its views, but it has great facilities. Each of the 45 stands has a private bathroom, plus washing-up facilities, power, a tap and a braai drum. There are also two chalets that each sleep four.

Where? Sand Street

Rates: Camping R350 per night; chalets from R500 per person.

Contact: 00 264 64 501 039

00 264 81 270 2959

buckcamp@afol.com.na



DIE PADSTAL

FIND OUT MORE

The best online resource is the Facebook page "Henties Bay Tourism". Visit the tourism office in Nickey Iyambo Avenue (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5 pm; 00 264 64 501 143) or ask Daleen or Johan Agenbag in the local Spar for first-hand info, tips and contact details.

Fresh

PRE-ORDER

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+264 81 304 1981

HENTIES BAY

SPAR



MARIENTAL



OUR FACILITIES

24 Rooms

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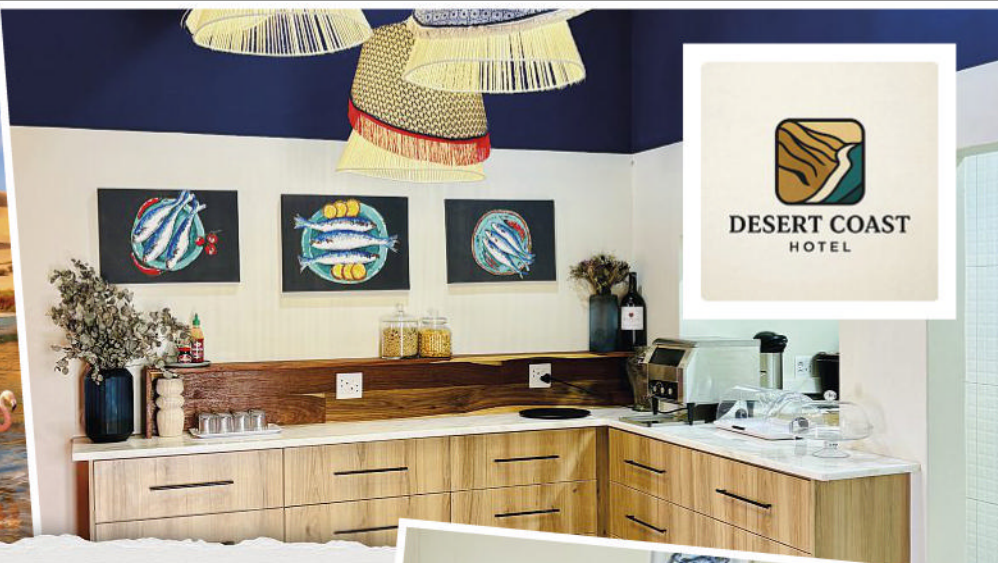
Air conditioning

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WALVIS BAY NAMIBIA

+264 81 326 2887 | reception@dchotel.com.na

After initially getting bogged down, the party managed to drive through the lower reaches of the Hoarusib River, where the water was clear and the scenery stunning.

In search of silence



Three retired couples, two months, one plan:
Go in search of Namibia's fabled emptiness.
Yup, Paul Els and his friends know how to overland!

My wife Elsa and I had been wanting to travel to Namibia again for some time. Over the years since our honeymoon, we've spent plenty of time in southern Africa, often travelling light with a dome tent. Yet nowhere in Botswana, Zimbabwe or Malawi will you find the same remoteness and pristine wilderness as Namibia's far north-west. That was what we'd been missing.

After retiring as a lecturer in Civil Technology at North-West University, I finally had the time. Elsa's coffee business in Potchefstroom could run without her. My brother Bertus and his wife Tina from Fochville wanted to join us, and one night at a braai our friends Pieter and Juliana Esterhuizen from Leeupoort also decided to come along. They had never camped before and Juliana was already in her 80s. But their 1997 Land Rover would keep up with my 1997 Land Cruiser and Bertus's 1996 Jeep Cherokee. It was a date. We were excited to see what Namibia looked like after the generous summer rains.

On 7 June 2025, we departed Potch and travelled along the Trans-Kalahari Highway through Botswana to the Buitepos border post. We bought supplies in Gobabis and camped at Harnas Wildlife Foundation, about 100km north of town (p 83). It's a centre for rescued predators and we could hear the lions roaring in the dark.

From there, we drove north to Grootfontein, where we visited the Hoba Meteorite and camped high

on a koppie at Mondjila Safari Camp (p 129), 32 km south of the Andersson gate into Etosha. This campsite is a firm favourite. We left our solar fridges full of meat at Mondjila – on the safe side of the veterinary fence (see p 125) – and went into Etosha to spend the day at the Okaukuejo waterhole.

Next, we pointed the noses of our (some might say "vintage") 4x4s north towards the Kunene. Where possible, we wanted to trade the main routes for more interesting back roads. The road via Kamanjab to Ruacana was tarred. Once there, we found that the seasonal spectacle of the Ruacana Falls had already passed. We followed dirt roads west along the river, navigating with an old Tracks4Africa road map and an even older GPS device.

At Camp Cornie (p 127), about 30km from Epupa, we met Toast Coetzer – a writer for this magazine. He was impressed to hear about our 62-day journey and I promised to tell him all about it once we were back. (*Thanks for that, Paul! – Ed.*)

For the next few days we camped along the Kunene. At Epupa Falls Lodge (p 126) I ran into an old acquaintance – an Ovahimba chief called Jagatunga. His name means "tall man". He had served as an interpreter during the Border War and we caught up over a beer.

The touring party was eager to reach open landscapes. In Opuwo, about 180km south of Epupa, we restocked our crates and fridges. The OK in Opuwo had some of the best meat we bought on the trip. When we turned onto the D3703 west to Etanga, our journey began in earnest...

Getting lost, in a good way

Elsa and I had explored these jeep tracks many times before, but now they'd been badly damaged by the rain. Still, the lush grass and green mopane veld more than made up for the bumpy driving.

There are two ways to reach the Marienfluss from Etanga. Van Zyl's Pass to the north-west is famous – or rather, infamous. It has a reputation for chewing chunks of rubber out of tyres. We chose the alternative: Jan Joubert Pass north of the Otjiha Plains. The route to get there cuts south via another pass in poor condition. After the heavy rain, the road was so badly damaged that we could only cover a short distance before we had to set up camp in a dry riverbed late in the afternoon. Our rule is simple: We stop driving at 4pm. That's when it's time to settle in and relax.

On the other side of the plain, we camped at a community campsite in the Orupembe Conservancy near an old marble mine (GPS: S17.98537 E12.58570), and from there we travelled over Jan Joubert Pass and past Rooidrom.

On previous visits, sun-bleached cattle and game carcasses had dotted the Marienfluss like graves. Now the grass waved in the wind like a wheatfield. But with the grass also came swarms of migratory locusts.

In the past, we've travelled west to east from the adjacent Hartmann's Valley through the Hartmann Mountains to the Marienfluss, but this time I just couldn't find the road. We carried on further north. Elsa, who was keeping an eye on the GPS, eventually said: "There's

KAOKOVELD & DAMARALAND

a park nearby – look, it's green on the screen."

But that couldn't be right – the Skeleton Coast National Park was way off to the west. Then it dawned on me: The green section ahead wasn't a park, it was another country – Angola!

Somehow we had made our way back to the Kunene. That night, we camped on a rise next to the river. The magic of the landscape – its audible silences and brilliant night skies – left us feeling overwhelmed and grateful. The fresh leopard tracks we found in camp the next morning were further proof of the area's pristine remoteness. We named the spot Verdwaalkamp and I promised myself that one day I'd get lost and end up there again.

We travelled back through the Marienfluss and eventually found the mountain road to the Hartmann's Valley, driving through clouds of locusts. Our destination was a water point in the Ondondujengo riverbed east of Bloudrom. In the past, you had to pump water there by hand; a solar pump has since been installed, but it was disconnected when we arrived and the thousand-litre tanks were all empty. Fortunately we have another rule: Every vehicle must always carry at least 50 litres of water. The next day we drove back via Rooidrom and Jan Joubert Pass to camp at the marble mine again.

Guided by the rivers

After the rugged passes of the Kaokoveld, the towering cliffs of the Hoarusib River were calling. In dry years, you can drive down the Hoarusib all the way to Puros. We returned across the Otjiha Plains, continued south to Orupembe and then headed east to meet the river at its upper reaches. But we'd barely driven a kilometre down the riverbed when the Land Cruiser got stuck. The surface seemed deceptively firm, but beneath the top layer of sand was

marshy ground. I had misjudged it completely.

We struggled to free the Toyota with the Land Rover (yes, there were jokes) and eventually set up camp right there. We were disappointed, but yet again I was amazed by the transformed landscape after all the rain. The Khumib River, west of the Hoarusib, became our plan B. It has an equally scenic 4x4 route that runs mostly alongside the river.

On the way, I kept thinking of an Ovahimba man called Benz whom we'd met in the region years earlier. Benz had gone to school and qualified as a tour guide. One evening he came to our camp and asked for medicine – the chief's wife had back pain. The next morning, to our surprise, a small crowd arrived with a goat – a gift of thanks because our Panados had worked so well. We explained that we couldn't possibly take the goat with us and asked if they'd rather look after it for us. What stayed with me most was what happened next: The group formed a circle around us and Benz prayed for us to have a safe journey.

After a few relaxed days at the Omenye community camp (GPS: S18.76226 E12.94136) in Puros, we heard from other travellers that vehicles had managed to get through the lower reaches of the Hoarusib. So we decided to give it another crack, and hopefully experience Puros Canyon. The water was clear and the scenery was spectacular. In half a day's driving, we crossed the stream 72 times.

Then – less than a kilometre before the turn-off across the Ganias Plains to the Hoanib River – it happened again, but this time it was Pieter's Land Rover that sank into the mud up to its chassis.

We dug for hours to free the vehicle, but eventually we raised the white flag and camped there for the night. The Hoanib would have to wait for another trip.

We managed to free the vehicle

and set off early the next morning, back through the canyon. From Puros, we followed a well-graded road across the beautiful Giribes Plains to Sesfontein. We pushed on a little further and spent the night in the Khowarib Schlucht at a community campsite (GPS: S19.26572 E13.88394), and from there we followed the Ombonde riverbed to the C35 main road. This route – usually dusty and bone dry – forced us to drive along slippery, muddy tracks because the dirt roads were overgrown.

In Kamanjab, we restocked at the shops and drove via Khorixas to Tsubes Petrified Forest Tented Camp (p 133), just north of Twyfelfontein.

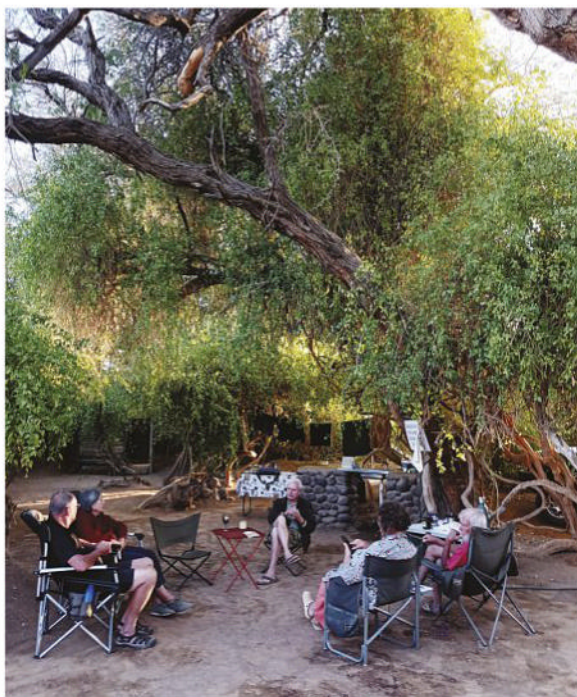
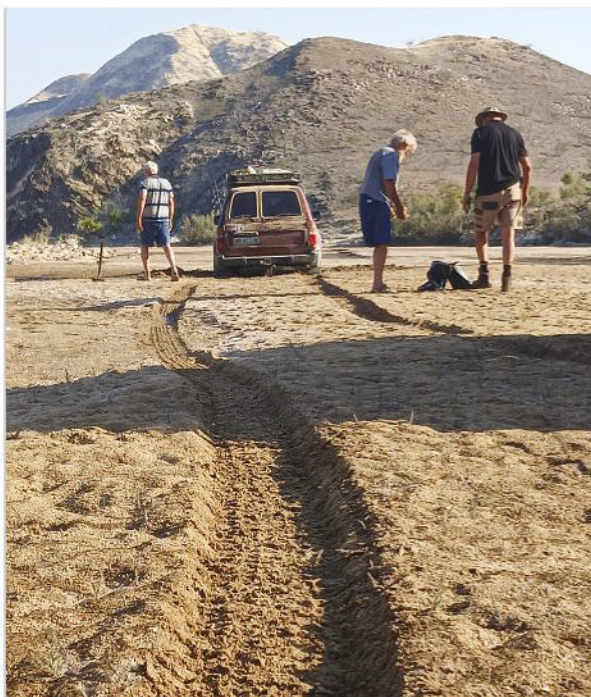
The real Damaraland

The Huab riverbed was still too wet, so we opted to explore the rock-strewn Red Mountain Joint Management Area between Twyfelfontein, the Doros Crater, the Ugab River and Brandberg.

The drive from Aba-Huab past the Organ Pipes and Burnt Mountain was incredibly scenic. We even spotted mountain zebra. Then we crossed vast plains where shy black rhino sometimes graze. The area is effectively managed, with manned entry gates on every route through it.

We were not surprised to see that the entire Ugab Rhino Camp had washed away, but it was good news to find that construction of new ablution facilities had already begun. The old ones had been badly dilapidated. It was still early in the day, so we decided to travel east along the river to the bottom of Divorce Pass. Every now and then one of us would get out and test the Ugab on foot before the rest drove their vehicles through.

The next day we travelled about 35 km along Divorce Pass before heading across to the Goantagab riverbed. It was touch and go – wet in places, dry in others – but



Clockwise from top left: Heavy rainfall earlier in the season meant the usually dry riverbeds were now muddy, and caused the Land Cruiser to get stuck in the Hoarusib. Where possible, the adventurers opted to stay in community campsites like Omenye in Puros. On the pass in the Hartmann Mountains between the Marienfluss and Hartmann's Valley, Paul cleared the path for the rest of the convoy. The trio of "vintage" vehicles next to the Kunene River. Little Sossus Lodge might be in a more touristy part of Namibia, but there was still plenty of peace and quiet at the campsite. Getting lost is not a bad thing if it leads to such a scenic spot above the Kunene – promptly named "Verdwaalkamp".

*I couldn't help
wondering whether
the korhaan's
"preparation,
reparation" call
had actually been
a warning...*

WHAT THE BUDGET LOOKED LIKE

The two-month tour cost about R23 000 per person. In total, the group drove about 8 000 km, which worked out to about R21 000 of fuel per vehicle.

The group's groceries came to R14 000; the three couples split this expense evenly.

As far as possible, they didn't pay more than R500 per couple per night for camping – community camps usually charge much less. Accommodation cost about R10 000 per person.

completely worth it. This is surely the most scenic part of Damaraland. Eventually we turned south towards Brandberg and crossed red dunes near the De Rust mine. Two vehicles got stuck in the thick sand. Right, enough excitement for one day.

One of the standout moments was watching the different shades of Brandberg that evening. The red dawn the next morning was just as memorable. At first light we heard the call of a Rüppell's korhaan – it sounded as though the bird was repeating the words "preparation, reparation". Every now and then, we also heard the deep, explosive call of a Ludwig's bustard.

The cool morning sand was easier to drive on and we made good progress towards Brandberg. In one of the deep kloofs we met local miners digging for crystals and semi-precious stones. They have worked their claims here for 60 years to make a living. Salt-of-the-earth people. We braaied and camped with them that night.

Our plan had been to drive down the Omaruru to Henties Bay, but the miners told us there was no way we'd manage. Yup, once again a river had thwarted our plans! Luckily there were several back roads to the coast, but first we had to get around Brandberg. On the western side of the mountain the grass was so tall that we couldn't even see the welwitschias that normally stand exposed on the rocky plains.

Our amazement at the landscape was short-lived because the Land Rover's clutch failed soon afterwards. I had brought a homemade towbar, so we hitched up the Landy and followed the shortest route along the C35 road to Swakopmund. I couldn't help wondering whether the korhaan's "preparation, reparation" call had actually been a warning...

A last bit of fun

The cold, misty weather in Swakopmund was refreshing after

the heat of the interior. As usual, we camped at Tiger Reef (p 76), and enjoyed the town's historical buildings and German heritage.

With the Land Rover repaired, there was still one place we wanted to see: the Khomas Hochland. We travelled along the winding Kuiseb River and then turned east off the C14 desert road towards Gamsberg Pass. The Hochland offers a remarkable variety of campsites and is a dream for travellers. You can camp under rock overhangs, beside giant boulders or against the escarpment.

The views of the Valley of a Thousand Hills and the dramatic scenery along the mountain passes often left us speechless. We camped at Rooisand Desert Ranch (p 84) for a night, continued up to the Hochland, spent another night among the boulders at Namibgrens Guest Farm, and then descended Spreetshoogte Pass back to the C14.

We stocked up in Solitaire and visited Sossusvlei. By now we were back in the touristy part of Namibia – more people, better roads and a tamer rhythm of life. But that night at Little Sossus Lodge (p 88), camped beneath a camel thorn tree, we could still hear the distant calls of hyenas and jackals.

Our two-month adventure was coming to an end, and we were ready to return home with hearts full of gratitude.

Still, we continued south – through Betta and Helmeringhausen to Klein-Aus Vista (p 41), where the friendly owner Piet Swiegers offered us two nights in the Geisterschlucht Cabin because the campsite was fully booked.

Other travellers told us that the Namaqualand wildflowers had started blooming around Springbok and Soebatsfontein. It was an easy decision – everyone nodded in agreement. And just like that, we were off to see the flowers!



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CAMP SITE**
GATEWAY TO CAMPING COMFORT

SOSSUS OASIS



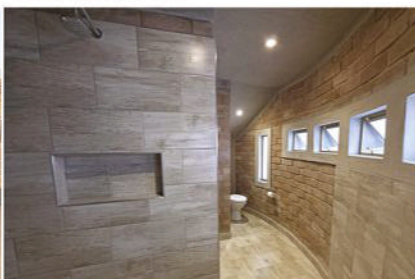
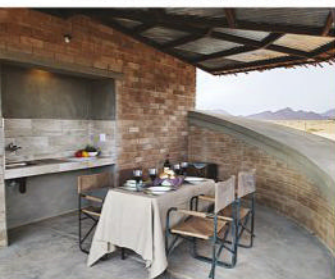
Camping under star-studded skies near the entrance gate to Sossusvlei

We are excited to introduce to you our new and improved private campsites at Sossus Oasis!

The individual campsites are equipped with private bathroom facilities including a shower and toilet, a shaded area with wash-up facilities, power outlets and a braai. Each unit has a unique rooftop terrace to admire the magnificent sunset and sunrise views surrounding the camp and is a perfect spot for those eager to sleep under the star-studded skies of the Namib.

Refresh after a day in the Desert at the new cool and inviting pool onsite.

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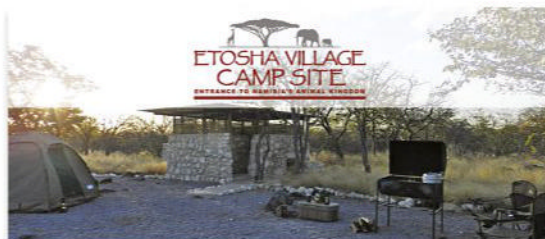
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Where the Kwando runs wild

The Kwando River flows past three national parks in the Zambezi Region: Bwabwata, Mudumu and Nkasa Rupara. Elephants move between them, hippos fill the channels, and birdlife is abundant. They're all easily accessible, but still feel properly off the beaten track. Here's your guide to the best campsites.

BY LE ROUX VAN SCHALKWYK

Although in close proximity to one another and connected by the same river, Bwabwata, Mudumu and Nkasa Rupara each has a unique character. I enjoy these parks not only for the wildlife strewn across their floodplains, but also for the campsites that give you a properly untamed Namibian experience.

Elephants move between river and woodland, and you have a front-row seat. Hippos grunt from the shallows and at night, you'll hear the distant whoop of a hyena, or the low, rolling call of lions. And sometimes, when you unzip your tent at dawn, you wonder what might be staring back at you.

These are some of the wildest places to pitch a tent in Namibia.





From far left: A young male lion photographed near the famous Horseshoe Bend in the Kwando Core Area. The viewpoint at the ruins of Fort Doppies is the perfect first stop when driving into this area. The Nambwa campsites are close to Long Lagoon.

BWABWATA NATIONAL PARK

Kwando Core Area

Bwabwata National Park makes up most of the straight arm of the area previously known as the Caprivi Strip. Hugging the Kavango River, you'll find the park's Mahango and Buffalo Core Areas. The Kwando Core Area is situated on the eastern border of the park, and Nambwa is its only camp.

Nambwa Lodge (on the western bank of the Kwando) has built four elegant campsites using recycled materials in their construction. The shower walls, for instance, are built from old beer bottles, allowing natural light to filter in during the day. The lodge's Sijwa Project, a community upliftment programme, contributed upcycled art pieces and chandeliers, making each site unique and special. The campsite is almost on the banks of a body of water called Long Lagoon, and a 15-minute drive from the famous Horseshoe Bend on the Kwando.

While showing us around the campsite, site manager Delicious Nduna warns that wild dogs sometimes move through the area. He also mentions elephants visiting the camp. "Just be calm when they're here. The elephants will do their thing and move on."

I can attest to the wild dogs. Two years

ago, staying here with friends, we left our campsite for a sunset drive and met a pack of wild dogs on the road leading out of camp. We were privileged to spend time with them as they played in a rain-filled hollow, launching high jumps into the muddy pool.

After setting up camp and waiting for the heat of the day to pass, we go for a drive and find lion spoor heading towards Horseshoe. It isn't long before we spot him emerging from behind a bush. He's a young male and walks lazily into view, looks at us, then lies down in front of the car. Not a bad sighting for a first drive!

Horseshoe Bend, a big oxbow lagoon, is what the Kwando Core Area is known for. Its white sandy beaches make spotting game easy. Arrive an hour before sunset and watch as herds of elephant come down to drink. On the inside of the bend, grazing lechwe are usually present. Hippos are almost always around, and the occasional crocodile won't be far off. You might also see waterbuck, reedbuck and even a sitatunga if you're lucky, while the woodland areas are home to plenty of impala, kudu and giraffe.

There are a few more camps to the eastern side of the river, but to reach Horseshoe Bend from there involves

driving along bumpy, sandy tracks for 40 minutes to an hour. To properly explore the Kwando Core Area, there is no equal to Nambwa.

Nambwa Campsite

The four campsites (maximum six campers per site) offer spacious, shaded camping with private ablution facilities, a kitchen and lapa for additional shade or rain cover. Campsites are equipped with solar-powered lights, a plug point for a car fridge, two USB charging points and even Wi-Fi connectivity. There's a communal pool to swim in during the hot summer months.

Where? From the B8, turn south at the sign to the park reception and entrance gate for Bwabwata National Park. From the gate, it's 15 km to reach Nambwa Campsite. Note that the roads are very rough and sandy – those 15 km will take at least 45 minutes to drive. You need a proper 4x4 with low range and high clearance. Remember to pay your park fees at the gate.

Rates: R350 – R650 per person, depending on which site you book. Park fees per day: R130 per person; R60 per vehicle.

Contact: ☎ 00 264 81125 2122

✉ reservations@africanmonarchlodges.com; africanmonarchlodges.com

KWANDO RIVER

Clockwise from top left: There's no shortage of fish-eagles in this area – they provide the soundtrack to life along the Kwando. A plains zebra in Mudumu National Park. All the campsites in Mudumu overlook the channel with views of Nakatwa Island. A pod of hippos stare down the camera at the hippo pool.

MUDUMU NATIONAL PARK

Mudumu is the most accessible of the three parks. The tarred C49 goes through it and most of the accommodation in the area is along this route. The campsites are run by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, and there are permit offices to the north and south where the C49 enters the park.

Within the park, some tracks are very sandy and require proper 4x4 driving, especially in the south-western section along the river. It becomes evident at check-in that this has caused problems for visitors before. While paying for our permit, the park official hands us cellphone numbers copied from a handwritten page, titled: "Give these 3 numbers to tourists before leaving the office for them to call when they get stuck."

I chuckle at the expectation; not *if*, but *when*. Fortunately, there's cellphone reception throughout most of the park, should that eventuality occur.

Of Mudumu's ample 1010km² of land under conservation, visitors can only explore a relatively small portion. Luckily the track along the river is best for spotting game. Start in the north and gradually work your way south towards the campsites. The first stop, Hippo Pool, lives up to its name – a large pod spends the day grunting, blowing sprays of water and eyeballing visitors. The rest of the drive usually offers antelope, zebra, elephant and fish-eagles calling from the treetops.

While the river and its floodplains define the park's western boundary, most of Mudumu is east of the C49 and consists of dry, dense mopane woodland. Due to the density of the bush, sightings are fewer, but patient visitors may be rewarded with large elephant herds and species like sable, roan and eland.

Each campsite is along a river channel – the channels form Nakatwa Island – with the main stream of the Kwando further west. Campsites #1 and #2 are close to the ranger station and might feel more secure. Sites #3 and #4 are under large jackal-berry trees on a slightly raised riverbank. Being less bushy and more elevated offers better wildlife views across the opposite bank.

We camped at #4, with a view of a favourite elephant drinking spot about 100 m downstream. We enjoyed sundowners and watched the ellies splash around before disappearing back into the bush.

I have fond memories of staying here with a friend on his first ever camping trip. During the night, we heard lions calling not far from camp, and I watched him grow slightly more tense with every roar. Later that night, a hippo came to graze and was making a noise nearby. After a few seconds, we heard a nervous call from my friend's tent: "Guys?"

Although the whole group heard it, he still denies it was him.

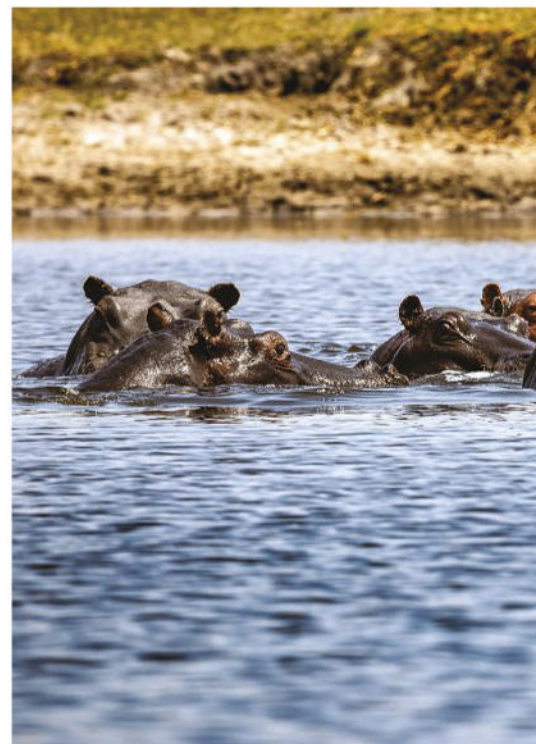
Nakatwa Campsites

Camping here is for the self-sufficient and adventurous. There are no facilities. The long drops have long since become defunct; pack a shovel and lots of water. That said, I love camping here. The lack of creature comforts makes the experience more rewarding. No distractions, just your campfire, the starry sky and you.

Where? From the B8, turn south at Kongola onto the C49 road and follow it for about 35 km to reach the park gate. It's another 13 km to the campsites.

Rates: Park fees per day: R130 per person; R60 per vehicle. There's no extra cost for camping.

Contact: ☎ 00 264 81 419 6303 (Theophilus Mafwilo)





NKASA RUPARA NATIONAL PARK

Nkasa Rupara is where the Kwando becomes the Linyanti. The park is named after two islands – Nkasa in the south and Rupara in the north-east, which form part of the Linyanti swamps. It's Namibia's largest formally protected wetland area (337 km²), made up of reedbeds, lagoons and floodplains. Big populations of elephant and buffalo roam here. I've never seen as many warthogs as I have here – they seem to be everywhere!

Due to seasonal flooding, large tracts of the park – especially Nkasa Island – may be inaccessible. Always be wary in the wet season, normally from November to April. Tracks can be cut off by deceptively shallow-looking channels, and vehicles can easily get stuck. I've experienced this myself and was fortunate to have just enough cellphone signal to call the rangers, after tracking down a number by phoning various other people. This is not a park where you want to wander on foot looking for help.

(Do your homework before your holiday and compile a list of all relevant emergency numbers beforehand. – Ed.)

The park serves as a vital trans-boundary corridor for wildlife moving between Angola, Botswana, Namibia and Zambia. Because it's unfenced, animals migrate freely, following seasonal changes and water availability. Rare in the region, Nkasa Rupara offers your best chance of seeing a puku. Closely related to lechwe, the puku is slightly smaller and lacks the black colouring on the forelegs that lechwe have. Puku prefer drier grasslands and shrublands, while lechwe favour open floodplains closer to water.

You can't camp inside the park. Rupara Rest Camp on the Harubandi Channel is situated just outside the boundary – it's managed by the Wild Waters Group in a joint venture with the Wuparo Conservancy community. Staying here directly supports the local

community and showcases community-based conservation in action.

With no fencing, this campsite offers the same wild experience as you'd have in the park. Wild animals wander through the area. The channel attracts abundant birdlife, too. It is not unusual to see elephants moving through camp, as happened again during our stay. After dark, frogs and crickets create a steady symphony, accompanied by the crack of branches and low elephant rumbles in the night.

Rupara Rest Camp

Standard and private campsites are set beneath the canopies of jackal-berry, leadwood and marula trees. The standard sites share ablutions, while the private sites have their own ablutions, a power point, covered kitchen area and washing-up facilities. The best options are private campsites #1 and #2, which offer views over the channel.

The standard campsites are situated behind the self-catering chalets, which are lined up overlooking the Harubandi Channel – you can stay in a permanent tented or chalet-style unit if you want more comfort than camping. Self-catering guests have access to a spacious communal area with a bar and swimming pool, while the communal kitchen is equipped with braai facilities, gas cookers and a shared fridge-freezer.

Where? Follow the C49 south from Kongola. After 70 km, take the turn-off to Sangwali and follow the gravel road toward Nkasa Rupara National Park. After about 24 km, turn left at the sign for Rupara Rest Camp. You need a 4x4, especially if you want to go into the park. Rupara Rest Camp is 3 km from the gate. **Rates:** Standard campsite (varying sizes) R300 per person; private campsite R350 per person. Park fees per day: R130 per person; R60 per vehicle.

Contact: ☎ 00 264 81 6759118

✉ info@rupara.com; 🌐 rupara.com





Clockwise from far left: Two carmine bee-eaters hitch a ride on the back of a warthog. A giant visitor arrives at Rupara Rest Camp. At private campsite #2 you can sit around the campfire while enjoying the view over the Harubandi Channel. A towering leadwood provides shade at private campsite #3.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The small settlement of Kongola has a service station for fuel and a Metro store for most grocery needs. For braai meat, however, you'll find a wider selection in larger towns like Katima Mulilo or Rundu.

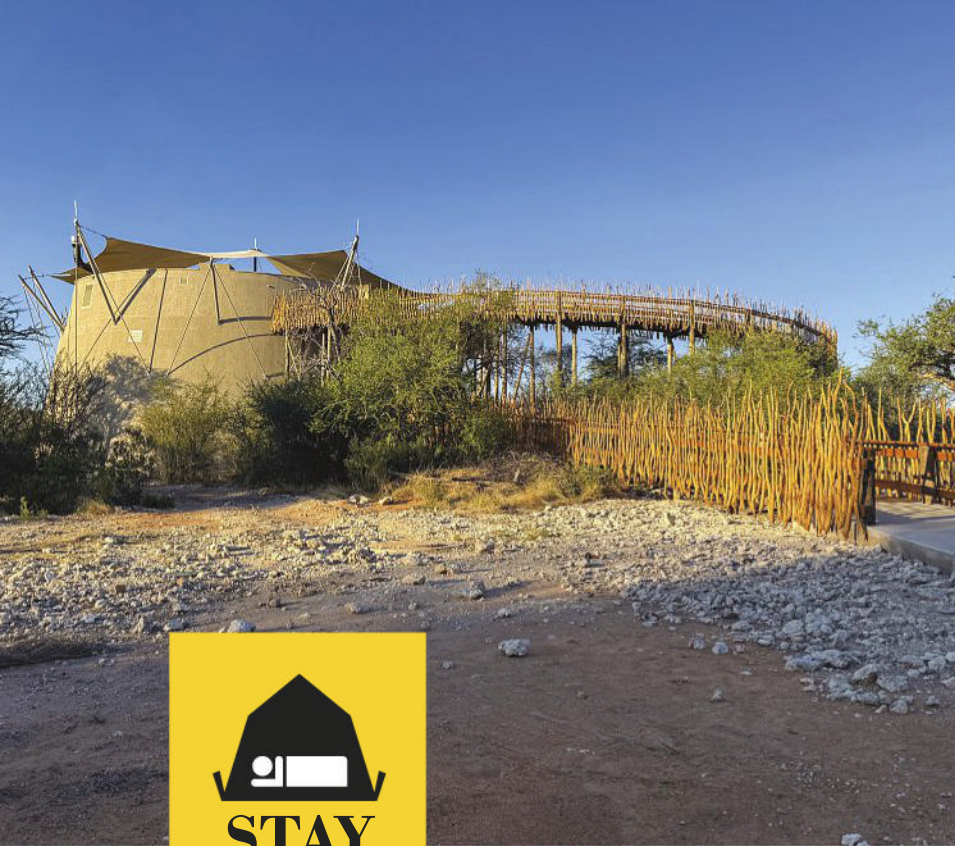
Apart from the Nakatwa Campsites, where you need to be self-sufficient in every way, most places make use of borehole water, which is safe for drinking. It's always a good idea to confirm when you make a reservation whether the camp has potable water so that you can plan accordingly.

It's not advisable to enter any of these parks without a 4x4. If you're not in a kitted-out Land Cruiser, most camps offer game drives. You can still experience the veld without the risk of getting stuck.



BE WILD-CAMP SAVVY

- Keep a safe distance from wildlife at all times. Never block an animal's path or disturb it while it's drinking water.
- Never leave food lying around your campsite, as this could attract unwanted visitors. Also: Never feed wildlife.
- At night, stay close to camp and always use a torch when moving around.
- It's prohibited to collect firewood in the parks, so make sure you buy enough beforehand. Firewood can be bought next to the main road and is also sold at most camps.
- Leave the camp as you found it and always take your refuse with you, disposing of it in the next town or at a service station.



RONEL STEYN



MOKUTI ETOSHA LODGE



Where? 105 km north-west of Tsumeb. Follow the B1 for 82 km towards Oshivelo and turn left onto the C38. Just before you reach the Von Lindequist gate, turn left to Mokuti.

Rates: From R5 247 per night for two people (breakfast included) if you live in Africa and you've joined the O&L Leisure Club. Look for special offers and book far in advance because sometimes dinner is included at a special rate.

Contact: ☎ 00 264 67 229 084

🌐 ol-leisure.com

At first glance, Mokuti looks like it's meant for foreign tourists only – it has fancy restaurants, a swimming pool where Tatjana Smith would feel at home, and more than a hundred tastefully designed suites in a lush garden. The excellent location of this luxury lodge – about 40 m from the Von Lindequist gate into Etosha National Park – increases the FOMO for travellers who have to stretch their rands!

But if you play your (membership) cards right, a stay here is not as unrealistic as you might think. Mokuti is owned by O&L Leisure – a subsidiary of Ohlthaver & List – the biggest privately owned company in Namibia (it also founded Hartlief and Namibian Breweries). Clearly O&L knows which side its brötchen is buttered because if you live in Africa and you join the O&L Leisure Club (it's free), you get up to 50% discount at all its establishments. This includes luxury hotels and lodges like Mokuti, The Strand Hotel in Swakopmund, Le Mirage near Sossusvlei, Midgard near Windhoek, and Chobe Water Villas in the Zambezi Region.

At Mokuti, you get that in-the-wilderness feel even though you're just outside Etosha. Damara dik-dik peer at you from the thickets near your room and grey go-away-birds chatter in the treetops. Banded mongooses scuttle across the lawns, the females carrying their babies by the neck to cross the irrigation ditches.

You'll naturally want to visit Etosha, either in your own car or on a guided drive in one of the lodge's safari vehicles.

Mokuti was extensively renovated recently; during our stay, the SkyBoma (pictured above left) had just opened – an open-air restaurant eight metres above the ground, surrounded by bushveld and views to the horizon. The Ontouka Reptile Park is on the lodge grounds and worth a visit, and you can walk in the veld with two Hai||om guides (R650 per person).

– Pierre Steyn



Discover the furthest reaches of Namibia with us

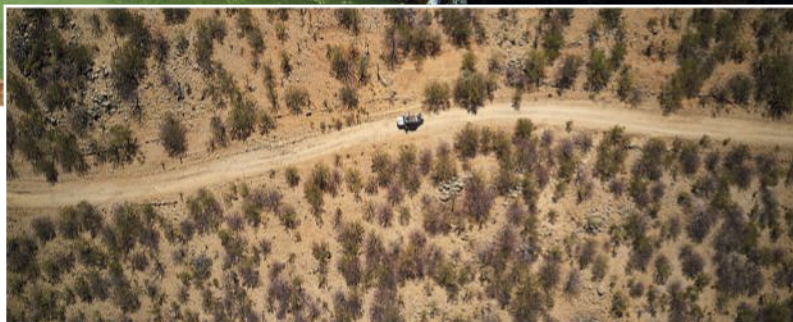
Come and get lost (in a good way) in the Kunene Region in the north-west of the country with *go!* and Heuningland Tours. It will be the trip of a lifetime.

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 neighbour has always been on your travel bucket list, then the Kunene Region Photo Tour is for you.

Expert guides from Heuningland Tours will take a group of 16 people on 4x4 routes during a self-drive, camping tour of the region. And with our own Toast Coetzer acting as your photography guide, offering advice and tips on how to level-up your photography skills, you're sure to take more than a few pics that will have everyone at your photo club oohing and aahing.

The tour kicks off at Spitzkoppe – home of the famous Rock Arch – and from there you'll traverse the mostly dry riverbeds of Damaraland (covered largely by what is officially called the Erongo Region) and the Kaokoveld. You'll turn around at the majestic Epupa Falls, a mere stone's throw from Angola, and drop in at Etosha on your way home.

This tour promises to be unforgettable, and the team from Heuningland will ensure that you experience the region's unique natural splendour and must-see attractions – and you'll get to take stunning photos along the way.



JOIN US ON TOUR

The best way to see an unfamiliar region is with expert guides, especially if you also want to drive 4x4 routes. Toast visited the Kunene Region with Douwe Vlok from Heuningland Tours. We have collaborated with Heuningland to offer a special photographic tour of the Kunene Region. Book your spot now!

KUNENE REGION PHOTO TOUR (13 days, 12 nights)

WHEN? 27 May – 8 June 2026

RATE: R34 800 per person.

WHEN? 27 May – 8 June 2027

RATE: R37 850 per person.

HOW DOES IT WORK? This is a self-drive, camping tour through Damaraland, the Kaokoveld and Etosha. (Contact Heuningland for the full itinerary.) The rate includes all meals, tents and park and concession area 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'll be on hand to answer all camera related questions, as well as share tips. 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.



For more information and bookings, contact Heuningland.

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DISCOVER SWAKOPMUND'S HIDDEN GEM:

The Cafe Anton Legacy

Where German Heritage Meets Namibian Hospitality in a
Family Story Spanning Three Generations

Step into the enchanting world of Schweizerhaus, where every corner whispers tales of dedication, dreams, and three generations of the Anton family who have made this Swakopmund institution a beloved home away from home.

The story begins in 1954 when Manfred Anton and his mother, Lisbeth, arrived from Germany with nothing but hope and exceptional baking skills. Destiny had a sweet plan – Manfred met his future wife while baking cakes at the Strand Café, and together they dreamed of creating their own guesthouse.

In 1965, that dream materialised when they purchased a piece of land from Mr. Kaiser. What makes this story remarkable? When funds ran short, Manfred's wife's former employer handed her a blank cheque with the words, "Mrs. Anton, you can fill in any amount!" – a testament to the trust and respect the Anton family had already earned.

The original house, imported from Germany in 1896, gave the establishment its charming name 'Schweizerhaus' (meaning 'Swiss House', so named due to an initial confusion about its origin). From humble beginnings with just four rooms, the Anton family have lovingly expanded their hospitality haven to 20 beautifully appointed rooms.

Today, the legacy continues with Heidi and her daughters, Silvia, who studied Hotel Management, and Désirée, a talented hairdresser-turned-baker who perfected her craft in



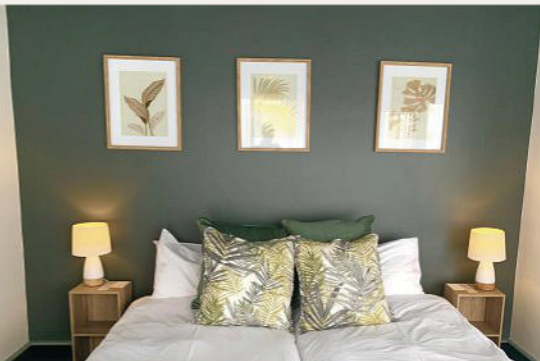
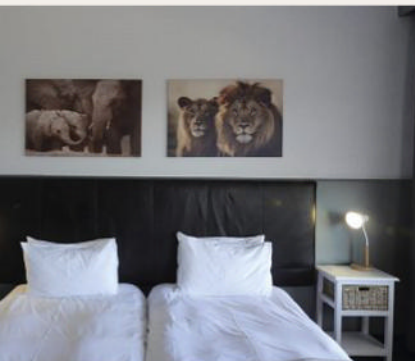
Germany. Together, they maintain the family's commitment to authentic German hospitality while embracing Namibian warmth.

At Schweizerhaus, you're not just booking a room – you're becoming part of a family story. Experience genuine German pastries from their own bakery, enjoy the café's cosy atmosphere, and feel the warmth that only three generations of hospitality expertise can provide.

Whether you're exploring Swakopmund's coastal charms or seeking an authentic cultural experience, Café Anton offers the perfect blend of history, comfort, and that unmistakable feeling of being welcomed home.

*Experience the Café Anton magic for yourself –
where every guest becomes family.*





Cafe Anton

Hotel Schweizerhaus

reservations@schweizerhaus.net

www.schweizerhaus.net

Tel: +264 64 40 0331

Bismarck St. 1, Swakopmund, Namibia



NORTH

ANGOLA



50 km

This road is graded, but best traversed in a vehicle with high ground clearance. After rain you need a 4x4. Check with one of the lodges before you leave.

Ruacana
8 am – 6 pm

Omahenene – Calueque
8 am – 6 pm

Oshikango – Santa Clara
8 am – 6 pm

KAOKOVELD

NAMIBIA

Etosha Pan

Etosha National Park

Lower your tyre pressure to 1,6 bar for Etosha's corrugated gravel roads.

SKELETON COAST

Skeleton Coast National Park

DAMARALAND

- 28** Place to stay
- Town
- Place
- Border post
- Tar road
- Gravel road
- Secondary gravel road
- 4x4 route
- Pass
- Park gate
- Red Line

Atlantic Ocean

to Henties Bay

Continues on page 70

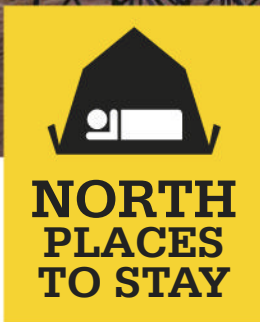
to Karibib

Erongo

Ruacana Falls sometimes run dry when the Kunene River is low, but go have a look anyway.

The OK in Opuwo sells quality meat.

Drive the Grootberg Pass.



OMARUNGA EPUPA FALLS CAMP, #2

TOAST COETZER

KAOKOVELD & KUNENE RIVER

1 Epupa Falls Lodge

Above Epupa Falls on the Kunene River, 200 km north of Opuwo. The lodge has a restaurant, bar, deck and swimming pool. There are six stands in the campsite. Camping from R300 p.p. plus R100 per trailer or caravan (SADC rate; max six people per stand and four vehicles, or two vehicles and two trailers).

There are three family units, five chalets on stilts with views of the falls, and one honeymoon suite. Formal accommodation from R2 900 p.p. sharing DB&B. Himba cultural experience R750 p.p. Other activities on their website.

📞 00 264 81 250 8225

(WhatsApp only)

🌐 epupafallslodge.com

2 Omarunga Epupa Falls Camp

This Gondwana lodge at Epupa Falls has a restaurant, bar, lapa and swimming pool. Camping from R341 p.p. (10 stands, no electricity).

Safari tent from R2 525 p.p. sharing B&B. You can visit a Himba village (R1 195 p.p.), do a sundowner walk (R475 p.p.) or go on a guided river walk (great for bird enthusiasts, R445 p.p.). You get 40% discount on accommodation and 25% discount on meals and activities with a Gondwana card (see page 10).

📞 00 264 61 427 200

🌐 gondwana-collection.com

3 Epupa Falls View Point 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. There is power to recharge your camera and phone. Camping R170 p.p. You can arrange a guided tour with donkeys for 10 to 14 days along the Kunene River to Marienfluss.

📞 00 264 81 727 1394

(Samuel Ndiaombe)

🌐 samuel.ndiaombe@gmail.com

"Epupa Falls View Point Campsite" on Facebook

4 Epupa Camp

This scenic camp is about 1 km upstream from Epupa Falls. Choose from eight riverfront camping stands, each with private ablutions, braai facilities and a washing-up area. Camping R220 p.p. for a stand without power; R260 p.p. for a stand with a power point. Safari tent for two people with a private bathroom and patio overlooking the Kunene from R5 570 p.n. DB&B. The honeymoon cottage with the same facilities costs R5 830 p.n. Himba village visit R1 035 p.p.; sundowner drive R520 p.p.; half-day rafting trip R1 035 p.p.

📞 00 264 61 237 294 (bookings)

🌐 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 (R400 p.p.; four people per stand).

Chalets from R2 745 p.p. sharing DB&B. Swimming pool, restaurant and bar. Ask about specials when you book – Namibians and SADC residents get a 20% discount.

☎ 00 264 61 234 342

✉ epupalodge.com

6 Camp Cornie

This neat campsite under makalani palm trees is about 30 km east of Epupa Falls. Four campsites (with power and private bathrooms): R300 p.p. Three safari tents with private ablutions: R600 p.p. Luxury en suite safari tent R600 p.p. It's pet-friendly and there's a swimming pool and bar. They offer kayak trips, fishing, birding and tours to a nearby Himba village.

☎ 00 264 81 279 9762

✉ campcornie@gmail.com

✉ campcornie.com

7 Kunene River Lodge

This lodge is currently closed for renovations – it should be open again by January 2027.

8 Mavinga Lodge and Campsite

The lodge is 37 km east of Swartbooisdrif, on the D3700, along the Kunene River at a Himba village called Okozongombe. Camping stands on lawn, with awnings and braai facilities, right on the water's edge: R200 p.p. (own tent) or R300 p.p. for a hired tent. Double en suite room from R800 p.n. Breakfast R100 p.p. Restaurant on site. There's a swimming pool, bar, braai area and solar power. Activities available, like birdwatching and sundowners overlooking the Kunene River.

☎ 00 264 81 844 2138

(Dolly Paulus)

✉ mavingalodge@gmail.com

9 Omunjandi Restcamp

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 R200 p.p. Four-sleeper self-catering chalet with solar power R1 680 p.n. There are also five luxury en suite tents: R1 040 p.n. for two people. Restaurant and bar. They recently opened a farm stall where you can buy fresh products like eggs, meat and vegetables. Birding outings on request – you can see the rare grey kestrel and cinderella waxbill here.

☎ 00 264 81 368 2132

✉ omunjandi-restcamp.com

10 Ruacana Eha Lodge

This lodge is currently closed for renovations – it should be open again by October 2026.

OPUWO

11 Opuwo Country Lodge

Just outside Opuwo – a good place to stock up before you head deeper into the Kaokoveld. Each of their 11 campsites is equipped with a sun shelter on a concrete foundation, a private shower (with hot water), a flush toilet and basin, a covered kitchen with sink and work area, electrical outlets and a braai: R330 p.p. (max six adults). Campers have access to the lodge swimming pool, bar, restaurant and public area with Wi-Fi. Standard twin lodge room from R1 595 p.p. sharing. Luxury double room from R2 200 p.p. sharing. Rates include breakfast.

☎ 00 264 81 458 9373

✉ opuwolodge.com

OSHAKATI & ONGWEDIVA

12 Cheetah Backpackers & Safaris

At 3079 Onguti Street, Ongwediva, a small town next to Oshakati. Two people in a self-catering flat (sleeps four) cost R850 p.n. Double room R750 p.n. Camping R180 p.p.; dorm bed R200 p.p.

☎ 00 264 81 286 1952

✉ cheetahbackpackers.com

RUNDU & KAVANGO RIVER

13 Simanya River Lodge

A good overnight spot if you want to cross into Angola at the Katwitwi border post (20 km away). There are various room options on the river (from R3 049 p.p. sharing). The 10 camping stands (R420 p.p.) are neat, with power, private ablutions, washing-up facilities, as well as a braai with a kitchenette.

☎ 00 246 83 288 8352

✉ info@simanya.com.na

✉ simanya.com.na

14 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 with ample shade. There's lots of privacy between the stands. Camping R375 p.p. Tented chalet with en suite bathroom from R1 518 p.p. sharing DB&B. The chalets provide views of the river on private wooden decks. They're stylishly furnished with two twin beds or one queen bed, allowing you to experience the African bush in comfort. There's a restaurant and a floating river bar. These are SADC rates.

☎ 00 264 81 718 1966

(reservations)

✉ taranganamibia.com

15 Hakusembe River Lodge

On the river, 16 km west of Rundu. Camping with private bathroom R341 p.p. (Take note: The campsite and safari tents are temporarily closed after recent floods.) Chalet accommodation from R3 309 p.p. sharing B&B. Fishing R290 p.p. per hour. Sunset boat cruise R460 p.p. This is a Gondwana lodge; discount with a Gondwana card.

☎ 00 264 61 427 200

✉ gondwana-collection.com

16 Kaisosi River Lodge

This peaceful place is on the banks of the Kavango River, about

8 km north-east of Rundu – no 4x4 required. There are 16 stands with power, each with a private bathroom and braai, as well as a play area for kids. Camping R190 per adult. Double room from R1 905 p.n. B&B; family room R2 442 p.n. B&B (sleeps four). Enquire about SADC rates.

☎ 00 264 81 249 5090

✉ kaisosi@iway.na

17 Mukuku Rest Camp

This tree-rich camp is about 60 km east of Rundu. The self-catering chalets are private and some overlook the Kavango River. Rates from R2 400 p.n. for two people to R5 360 p.n. for four people, breakfast included. The six camping stands each have their own ablutions, power, water and braai: R490 p.p. Meals available – book beforehand.

☎ 00 264 81 663 3903

✉ mukukurestcamps.com

18 Shankara Rest Camp

On the banks of the Kavango, 80 km east of Rundu on the B8, on your way to Katima Mulilo. Campsites with electricity beneath big trees R200 p.p. Self-catering chalet (sleeps 2–6) from R500 per adult; free for children under 12. There's a swimming pool and deck overlooking the river. Shankara is well known for fishing (tiger, bream). Fishing trips (R800 per hour, max four people), sundowners, bird, hippo and crocodile watching (max 10 people).

☎ 00 264 81 240 2933

✉ shankararestcamp.com

19 Shamvura Camp

Shamvura has a cottage, four tented units and six campsites. All units have power, as does the campsite. Rates from R210 p.p. for a normal stand; R250 p.p. for a private stand; R300 p.p. for a private stand with a kitchen. Tented unit (self-catering) R500 p.p. Two of the tented units sleep

NORTH PLACES TO STAY

four people; two are twin-sleepers. Tree Top Cottage sleeps four and is equipped for self-catering: R600 p.p.

☎ 00 264 81 241 7473

✉ shamvura@iway.na

✉ kavangoregion.com/listing/shamvura-camp
“Shamvura Camp Namibia” on Facebook

20 Puros Bush Lodge and Camp

A few kilometres upstream along the Hoarusib River, there are six chalets and one family unit (self-catering). Meals are available. Self-catering chalet for two from R725 p.p. sharing (a mattress is available for young kids – max two children). Family unit (sleeps five) from R1 900 p.n. Or pitch your tent under the shade of age-old camel thorn trees. Camping R200 p.p. Each site has its own drinking water, hot shower and toilet – try to get #1 or #2 as these have the best location and are quite spacious.

☎ 00 264 61 251 661

✉ puros.wild-exp.com

21 Omenye Community Campsite

You turn off the D3707 between Puros and Okahirongo Elephant Lodge to reach this campsite. There are five camping stands and four bathrooms with flush toilets and donkey boilers for hot water. Owner Chips Tjambiru or one of his sons will stoke the boiler every afternoon. Camping from R200 p.p. ☎ 00 264 81 804 6918 (Alvina; bookings)
☎ 00 264 81 600 4014 (Chips)

SESFONTEIN & WARMQUELLE

22 Fort Sesfontein Lodge & Safaris

About halfway between Palmwag and Opuwo. The lodge offers great tours, such as rhino tracking, Hoanib tours, Damaraland

tours to see rock engravings, or Kaokoveld tours with visits to a Himba settlement. Lodge room from R5 300 p.n. for two DB&B. The rooms have air conditioning, mosquito nets, and coffee- and tea-making facilities. Four-sleeper family unit R6 820 p.n. DB&B. Rates to increase in July.

☎ 00 264 65 275 520

✉ fortsefontein.com

23 Ongongo Waterfall Campsite

With the waterfall nearby, plus Himba villages and elephants, this should be a minimum two-night stay. There are nine campsites, each with a private bathroom, hot shower and shaded washing-up area: R880 p.n. for two people, plus R350 per extra person (max eight per stand). Day visitors are welcome: R90 per person. Guided walking tours from R550 to R770 per group are also available.

☎ 00 264 61 234 793

✉ ongongo.com

24 Khowarib Lodge

The lodge is next to the C43, 30 km from Sesfontein and 13 km from Warmquelle where you can buy basic supplies. There are 10 campsites with power and shared ablution facilities with hot showers: R350 p.p. Safari tent (en suite) on a wooden deck or chalet: R6 190 p.n. for two people DB&B. They also offer tented chalets from R2 677 p.p. sharing DB&B (sleep 2–4). These are the rates for Namibians and South Africans. Restaurant, bar and a swimming pool. Go see desert elephants and rock art. You can also meet members of the Himba tribe. ☎ 00 264 81 219 3291

✉ khowarib.com

25 Khowarib Community Campsite

The campsite has toilets, hot showers and braai areas. No electricity. Camping about R150 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

26 Terrace Bay Resort (NWR)

About 310 km north of Swakopmund. There are two self-catering houses for eight or ten people – from R1 540 p.p. sharing (minimum four people) – and 20 double rooms from R1 740 p.p. DB&B. These rates will decrease for winter in July 2026, to R1 320 and R960 respectively. The kiosk sells basic supplies and the bar has cold beer and Wi-Fi. (You get discounts if you're a NamLeisure member. See page 10.)

☎ 00 264 64 694 007

✉ ct.bookings@nwr.com.na

✉ nwr.com.na

27 Torra Bay Campsite (NWR)

This is the only official campsite in the Skeleton Coast National Park – R310 p.p. (max eight people per stand). Only open in December and January. Enquire about NamLeisure discounts.

✉ ct.bookings@nwr.com.na

✉ nwr.com.na

PALMWAG

28 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 335 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're separated by bushes and boulders. The best stands are the ones next to the Uniab River. Camping R341 p.p. (power point, light, sink and braai). Camping2Go safari tent (sleeps four) R1 084 p.p. Lodge accommodation from R2 807 p.p. sharing B&B. (40% discount on accommodation if you have a Gondwana card.)

☎ 00 264 61 427 200

✉ gondwana-collection.com

29 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 R5 828 p.p. DB&B. Enquire about special SADC rates.

☎ 00 264 61 228 104

✉ grootberg.com

30 Hoada Campsite

The fun happens around the donkey boiler: The coals that warm the water for your shower will also braai your chops! This campsite is run by Grootberg Lodge. Camping with private ablutions from R800 p.n. for two people; discount if you book for more than two nights. There's a swimming pool next to the reception office on the hill. Higher up, there's a deck and a bar among the granite boulders where you can enjoy the sunset. There are also permanent safari tents for two – from R1 526 p.n.

☎ 00 264 61 228 104

✉ hoadacampsite.com

KAMANJAB

31 Oppi-Koppi Restcamp

Oppi-Koppi, on the outskirts of Kamanjab, is a great spot to spend a few days. Sit in the bar or next to the pool and order something from the restaurant menu. The

eight stands in the campsite each have power, an awning, a braai, shaded lunch area with a table and sink, and a big work surface for cooking. There's a tap, with safe drinking water from a natural spring. Shared ablution block. Camping R240 p.p. Standard rooms from R1 100 for one person to R3 706 for four people. Luxury or self-catering rooms from R1 400 for one person to R4 830 for four people. All room rates B&B.

☎ 00 264 67 330 040

✉ oppi-koppi-kamanjab.com

ETOSHA

32 Mondjila Safari Camp

A good base if you want to explore Etosha via the Andersson gate (32 km away). 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. Camping – eight stands with power, braai facilities and shared ablutions with flush toilets and hot water – R250 p.p. En suite family rooms (each sleeps five people): from R1 670 p.p. sharing, DB&B. New rooms are currently being built – the lodge should be open by May 2026.

☎ 00 264 81 824 2926

✉ info@mondjilasafaricamp.com

✉ mondjilasafaricamp.com

33 Toshari Lodge

The lodge is 26 km south of Etosha's Andersson gate. 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 air conditioning, and coffee and tea. Guided game drives in Etosha can be arranged.



PALMWAG LODGE, #28

Camping R295 p.p. Double room from R1 935 p.p. B&B. Enquire about SADC specials.

☎ 00 264 64 405 045

☎ 00 264 81 382 2655

✉ quiverandconamibia.com

34 Etosha Safari Lodge & Camp

The campsite at Etosha Safari Camp (10 km from the park) 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 R341 p.p.; safari tent R1 084 p.p.; chalet accommodation from R1 980 p.p. B&B. There's a swimming pool.

The Oshebeena Bar serves a buffet breakfast, light lunches and a buffet dinner. At night, the Etosha Boys play their guitars

and accordion in the courtyard. Half-day game drive (morning or afternoon) in Etosha from R990 p.p. Etosha Safari Lodge is perched on a hill about 2 km from the camp. The chalets sleep two, three or four people – rates from R1 980 p.p. B&B. Restaurant, swimming pool and beautiful views! (Gondwana card discounts.)

☎ 00 264 61 427 200

✉ gondwana-collection.com

35 Eldorado Lodge

This lodge is 10 km from the Andersson gate and has a stunning garden. The 24 air-conditioned guest rooms (double and triple) are laid out around the garden: R2 230 p.p. sharing, B&B. (Dinner available on request.) Camping (near a waterhole) on grass with power points, shade trees and private ablutions, kitchen and braai: R320 p.p. Swimming pool, bar and restaurant – breakfast costs R250 p.p. and dinner R500 p.p. They also sell every meat product you can think of.

☎ 00 264 81 1410 340 (bookings)

☎ 00 264 67 444 321

✉ etoshaaccommodation.com

36 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 meal. 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 R325 p.p.

☎ 021 930 4564 (bookings)

✉ etosha-tradingpost.com

37 Etosha Village

This Taleni Africa campsite and lodge is 2 km from Etosha's Andersson gate. Four private campsites, each with its own bathroom, scullery, power point, light and braai. Overlanders are accommodated in a bigger campsite with communal facilities.

NORTH PLACES TO STAY

Camping from R650 p.n. for two. 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 R2 322 p.p. sharing DB&B. There are three swimming pools, plus a bar with Wi-Fi. You can get a buffet dinner at the restaurant, and you can buy drinks, beer, ice and firewood at the One Stop Cuca Shop. There's a waterhole across the road next to the big swimming pool. Guided hike (about two hours) R470 p.p. Sundowners R485 p.p. (drink and snacks included). Stargazing R400 p.p. Half-day game drive in Etosha R1 390 p.p. ☎ 021 930 4564 (bookings) 📍 etosha-village.com

38 Etosha National Park (NWR)

The three main camps in the east of the reserve – Okaukuejo, Halali and Namutoni – offer camping (big stands, power points, braai and communal ablution facilities) from R550 p.p. Chalets (with breakfast) from R1 690 p.p. sharing a standard room to R5 930 p.p. sharing a premier room right next to the waterhole.

The small Olifantsrus Camp in the west of the park only has camping: R510 p.p. The more luxurious Dolomite Camp is close to Olifantsrus, while Onkoshi is in the north-east of the park – rates for a twin-sleeper bush chalet (with dinner and breakfast) from R4 320 p.p. sharing.

All the camps except Olifantsrus have a restaurant. Game drive R650 p.p. (morning or afternoon); R750 p.p. at night. A NamLeisure card will get you 25% discount on accommodation (30% on camping), meals and activities. ☎ 00 264 61 285 7200 📍 nwr.com.na

39 Onguma Nature Reserve

Onguma borders the eastern side of Etosha and has some of the

most scenic camping stands in the area. Tamboti Luxury Campsite has a restaurant, bar and swimming pool. Each of the 25 stands has a private bathroom, plus a scullery, power point and a braai. Some stands have grass.

Leadwood Campsite is 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 R500 p.p.

Bush Camp has 18 double rooms under palm trees around the main lodge building – it's the only lodge in the reserve that has family units. Rates from R2 810 p.p. sharing 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

40 Sachsenheim Guest Farm

About 30 km east of Etosha's Von Lindequist gate. This farm is an oasis in the bushveld. Perfect for birdwatchers with more than 300 species recorded, including the rare black-faced babbler. The restaurant overlooks a swimming pool and a garden full of indigenous plants and trees. There's also an illuminated waterhole. The campsite has six standard stands that share an ablution block and four private stands with their own bathrooms. All the stands have a braai, tap and power point. Camping R250 p.p.; R50 per vehicle. A stand with a private bathroom costs R300 p.p.

There are 22 rooms (sleeping two, four or six) spread among the trees in front of the main building. Four of the rooms have

air conditioning, the rest have fans: from R1 500 p.p. sharing B&B. A buffet dinner is served in the lapa with traditional boerekos – R390 p.p. Campers are welcome in the restaurant. Free Wi-Fi (although the connection is slow). No children under 12. Guided farm tour: R350 p.p. including a sundowner. ☎ 00 264 81 21 50 100 (Maria) 📍 sachsenheimguestfarm.com

TSUMEB

41 Minen Hotel

Even if you're not staying over, pop in for great German cuisine at the restaurant. Rooms from R1 560 p.n. for two people B&B. All their rooms are comfortably furnished with en suite bathrooms, TV, telephone, air conditioning and Wi-Fi. There's a golf course just around the corner. They also have a conference centre and beer garden. Swim in the pool or go for a stroll in the park across the road.

☎ 00 264 67 221 071 📍 minen-hotel.com

42 Ghaub Nature Reserve and Guest Farm

Halfway between Tsumeb, Otavi and Grootfontein, next to the D3022. Camping R420 p.p. Lodge accommodation in a double room: R3 400 p.p. sharing, DB&B. (40% discount if you book for more than two nights.) They offer a range of activities, including a cave tour. ☎ 00 264 67 240 188 📍 ghaub-namibia.com

43 Ohange Lodge

It's 38 km south of Tsumeb. Each of the three camping stands is the size of a smallholding, with a neat hedge, your own braai and an awning with a sink: R230 p.p. Stands with private ablutions (donkey boiler): R380 p.p.

Budget travellers can stay in The Stables – three rooms that sleep two each, with shared ablutions – R520 p.p. Two-sleeper self-catering unit from R2 610 p.n.

Or stay in one of 10 thatched-roof double rooms (from R2 930 p.n. B&B). They have a swimming pool with an amazing view. 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

44 Gabus Game Ranch

About 12 km from Otavi along a gravel road. Visit the cave on the farm. Camping R340 p.p. (max four people). Luxury double room with a view of the waterhole from R2 640 p.n. DB&B. Family room from R6 486 p.n. DB&B for two adults and two children under seven. Contact them for SADC rates. 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

45 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 R200 p.p. Self-catering chalet (sleeps up to four people) from R1 245 p.n. for two people. ☎ 00 264 81 242 5456 📍 info@meteorcamp.com

46 HH820 Accommodation

A guesthouse in town, with beautiful farm-style rooms – R1 350 p.n. for two people or R870 p.n. if you're travelling alone. You can book the entire house (sleeps 12) for R7 000 p.n.

Breakfast can be arranged beforehand – R150 p.p. Enquire about dinner.

☎ 00 264 81 260 6134 (Lizette) 📍 zetta@iway.na 📍 hh820accommodation.com

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NORTH PLACES TO STAY

47 Seidarap Guesthouse

Just north of Grootfontein, next to the C42. 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 R1 010 p.p. sharing B&B. Dinner R440 p.p.
📞 00 264 67 242 817
📞 00 264 81 374 9505
✉️ seidarap.com

48 Baobab Campsite

About 90 km north of Grootfontein. It has a small waterhole where animals come to drink and there are Meyer's parrots in the trees. The shop sells necessities like braai packs, tea, coffee and treats from the area. Five neat stands (R150 p.p.) among tamboti trees, near a baobab that's a national monument.
GPS: S18.88555 E18.32166
📞 00 264 81 260 2982
📞 00 264 81 218 0738
✉️ baobabmonument@gmail.com

49 Roy's Rest Camp

About 60 km from Grootfontein next to the B8 towards Rundu. Camping R220 p.p. Bungalow (breakfast included) R1 333 p.p. sharing (R1 568 single). There's a swimming pool and waterhole. All meals available on request, or you can order a braai pack (R192 – R295 p.p.).
📞 00 264 67 240 302
✉️ roys-rest-camp.com

TSUMKWE

50 Grashoek

Community camp about 152 km west of Tsumkwe, run by the Ju/'Hoansi-San. Camping R80 p.p. There are pit toilets and bush showers. Water available at reception. Firewood for sale. Several activities available – you can track animals and look for food in the veld with a San guide (R250 p.p.) or watch a demonstration of traditional songs and dances around

the campfire (R220 p.p.).

GPS: S19.23969 E19.24302 (reception tree)
📞 00 264 81 610 0052 (Apollo)
✉️ lcfn.info/juhoansi

51 Tsumkwe Country Lodge

The lodge is a kilometre from the small shop and filling station in Tsumkwe. There are 10 neat campsites with power points and water. Firewood for sale. Stand with communal facilities R230 p.p. Stand with private ablutions R330 p.p. En suite rooms from R945 p.p. B&B (sleep two or three people). Two self-catering units with aircon: R2 650 p.n. Restaurant and swimming pool.
📞 00 264 81 276 3974
✉️ tsumkwelodge.com

52 Nyae Nyae Conservancy (Pannetjiesveld)

Wild camping south of Tsumkwe. There's an official campsite at Holboom, but there are no facilities – you have to be self-sufficient. About R150 p.p.
GPS: S19.67761 E20.61890
📞 00 264 67 244 011 (Nyae Nyae Conservancy office)

53 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 R572 p.p. plus R149 per vehicle. (Xaudum Lodge, at the same location, is currently undergoing a rebuild.) Sikerete Camp in the south has four unfenced stands (each with a private bathroom): R440 p.p. The eight tented units cost R2 504 p.p.

sharing DB&B. Park fees R130 p.p. and R60 per vehicle per day. These are SADC rates.

Khaudum:

✉️ reservations@khaudumcamping.com
📞 00 264 61 227 519 (Sheugnei)

Emergencies:

📞 00 264 81 100 6677
GPS: S18.50390 E20.75409
Sikerete:
✉️ khaudum.com.na
✉️ info@khaudum.com.na
📞 00 264 61 311 313 (Henry)
GPS: S19.10452 E20.70492

TWYFELFONTEIN

54 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. Accommodation from R6 760 p.n. DB&B (ask about special SADC rates).
📞 011 257 5000
📞 021 702 7500
✉️ wildernessdestinations.com

55 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 private ablutions. Safari tent R1 495 p.p. sharing DB&B. Booking is essential.
📞 00 264 81 469 5065
✉️ resxaragu@gmail.com

56 Twyfelfontein Country Lodge

This lodge has one of the best locations in the country, close to the Twyfelfontein rock engravings. En suite rooms (sleep 2–3) from R1 592 p.p. sharing DB&B. The restaurant looks out over the Aba-Huab riverbed. There's a pool

and a bar for a sundowner. Guided morning and afternoon hiking trails are available. Or head out to the Adam and Eve Rock, where you can see engravings and rock paintings.
📞 00 264 81 162 5155 (reservations)
📞 00 264 83 769 7021 (lodge)
✉️ twyfelfontein.com.na

57 Mowani Mountain Camp

On a hill, Mowani offers 13 en suite rooms with views across the valley, and two luxury suites with open-air bathrooms, a spacious lounge and deck. This one is for those who don't mind shelling out bucks for comfort – from R5 572 p.p. sharing DB&B. Enjoy a Damaraland sunset from the restaurant and swimming pool. Enquire about SADC rates and special offers.
📞 00 264 61 232 009
✉️ chiwani.com/mowani

58 Mowani Campsite

This campsite is at the base of the hill. The facilities at the seven stands are excellent: Each has a private bathroom (shower, basin and toilet), 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 R520 p.p. Wood and ice are available for sale.
📞 00 264 61 232 009
✉️ chiwani.com/mowanicampsite

59 Ugab River Camp

This camp has basic ablution facilities (pit toilets and donkey boilers). There is no electricity, cellphone reception, Wi-Fi, ice or firewood. You need a 4x4 to get there, and it's advisable to be self-sufficient. Be aware that elephants and lions move through the camp. You can 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.

GPS: S20.962703 E14.134043

📍 savetherhinotrust.org

60 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 R4 690 p.p. DB&B.

📞 00 264 61 232 009

📍 chiwani.com/kipwe

61 Madisa Camp

The campsite has nine stands, each with a private bathroom and power: R385 p.p. The showers are on a wooden platform among

the trees and your donkey boiler is built into your braai. There are also five stands for bigger groups (with power): R280 p.p. The eight en suite, self-catering tents are up against a big boulder, offering some protection from the wind. The double tents sleep two people each, with a choice between a double bed or two twin beds. The family units sleep three or four. Hot water provided by donkey boilers and gas geysers. Tents from R1 400 p.p. sharing. Breakfast (R260 p.p.) and dinner (R460 p.p.) on request – book beforehand.

📞 00 264 81 698 2908

📍 madisacamp.com

62 Tsubes Petrified Forest Tented Camp

Camping stands (with shared ablutions) are next to each other on the banks of a dry riverbed: R250 p.p. The 10 twin-sleeper safari tents are laid out around an impressive outcrop. Each tent

has solar power (lights only) and shares a bathroom with the neighbours. It has a donkey boiler for hot water – a staff member will stoke the boiler for you. Rates from R520 p.p. There's a swimming pool and they serve breakfast (R250 p.p.), breakfast packs (R230 p.p.), lunch and dinner (both R250 p.p.) – booking is essential, lunch and braai packs on request. Visit the petrified forest – R200 p.p.

📞 00 264 81 649 1580 (WhatsApp)

📍 info@tsubesforestcamp.com

📍 haisra.com

KHORIXAS & VINGERKLIP

63 Damara Mopane Lodge

About 24 km east of Khorixas, next to the C39. Lodge accommodation from R2 284 p.p. sharing B&B. There's a swimming pool and a restaurant. (You get 40% discount with a Gondwana card.)

📞 00 264 61 427 200

📍 gondwana-collection.com

64 Vingerklip Lodge

About 73 km south-east of Khorixas and the closest accommodation to the Vingerklip rock formation. They have 12 en suite double rooms and 12 family suites: rates from R2 430 p.p. sharing DB&B. Two restaurants at the lodge; day visitors are welcome at the Vingerklip Lodge Restaurant, but book beforehand.

📞 00 264 67 687 158

📞 00 264 67 290 319

📍 vingerklip.com.na

65 Ugab Terrace Lodge

About 67 km south-east of Khorixas. Three stands, each with private ablutions: R390 p.p. There are lights connected to a timer, but no power outlets. There are 16 rooms with air conditioning and free Wi-Fi (devices can be charged at the lodge). Double room from

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NORTH PLACES TO STAY



R3 315 p.p. sharing DB&B. Day visitors welcome, but book lunch in advance.

☎ 00 264 81 140 0179

☎ 00 264 81 149 1433

📍 ugabterracelodge.com

66 Bambatsi Guest Farm

About 60 km east of Khorixas, along the C39. The best campsite close to Vingerklip. There are stands for about four groups. Camping R320 p.p. Each stand has its own ablution facility and donkey boilers provide hot water. Campsites #1 and #2 have the best views. Bungalow accommodation from R1 700 p.p. sharing (R2 000 single), B&B.

☎ 00 264 81 245 8803

☎ 00 264 81 385 6120

📍 bambatsi.com

OUTJO

67 Kai-Oms

Backpackers Lodge

This cheerful place in Meester Ave has dorm rooms (from R350 p.p.) with communal bathrooms. There are also three en suite double rooms available: from R1 750 p.p. DB&B. Family room (sleeps four)

with meals included – R2 100 p.n. Camping R200 p.p. There's a communal kitchen and braai, and free Wi-Fi.

☎ 00 264 81 375 0152

OTJIWARONGO

& WATERBERG

68 Okonjima Lodge

Turn off the B1 about 44 km south of Otjiwarongo. There are four exclusive campsites, each with its own bathroom and covered stoep (firewood provided): from R880 p.p. plus R190 park levy p.n. There's a swimming pool within walking distance of the campsite. The lodge has various accommodation options, from R4 830 p.p. sharing DB&B. Park levy R310 p.n. The Okonjima reserve is also the home of the AfriCat Foundation, which rehabilitates big cats.

☎ 00 264 67 314 000

☎ 00 264 81 127 6233

📍 okonjima.com

69 The Otjiwa Collection

The campsite has 10 stands with power and two spacious, shared

ablutions with hot showers: R410 p.p. Double room R3 075 p.p. sharing. Self-catering family chalet from R4 560 p.n. for two people to R9 120 p.n. for four people. Rates include dinner and breakfast. Other meal options available. Swimming pool and floodlit waterhole to watch game at night.

☎ 00 264 81 678 2988

📍 otjiwa.com.na/lodges/eagles-rest-lodge

70 Frans Indongo Lodge

This lodge is currently closed for renovations.

71 Aloegrove Safari Lodge

The turn-off to the guest farm is about 18 km north-east of Otjiwarongo, along the B1 on your way to Otavi; the lodge is another 18 km north-east from the tar road. Self-catering rooms from R3 552 p.n. for two people. Standard rooms from R3 704 p.n. B&B for two people. Luxury room R4 112 p.n. B&B for two people. Dinner R500 p.p. Overnight guests can do a carnivore game drive (R600 p.p.) – look for lion, cheetah and leopard. No day visitors.

☎ 00 264 81 200 3049

☎ 00 264 81 127 4103

📍 aloegrove.com

72 Waterberg Guest Farm

Next to the C22, about 34 km from the B1 and 24 km from Waterberg Plateau National Park. Relax at the pool with a view of the waterhole. The area around the Waterberg is well known among bird lovers. If you want to cook for yourself, book the Villa – a spacious self-catering house with a kitchen and two bedrooms (sleeps four) – R2 845 p.p. sharing. 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 units sleep two; one family unit sleeps four – rates from R2 855 p.p. sharing B&B. There's another family unit near the restaurant – from R3 515 p.p. sharing B&B. Meals are served in their dining room, with a great view of the Waterberg. Enquire about SADC rates.

☎ 00 264 81 207 9746

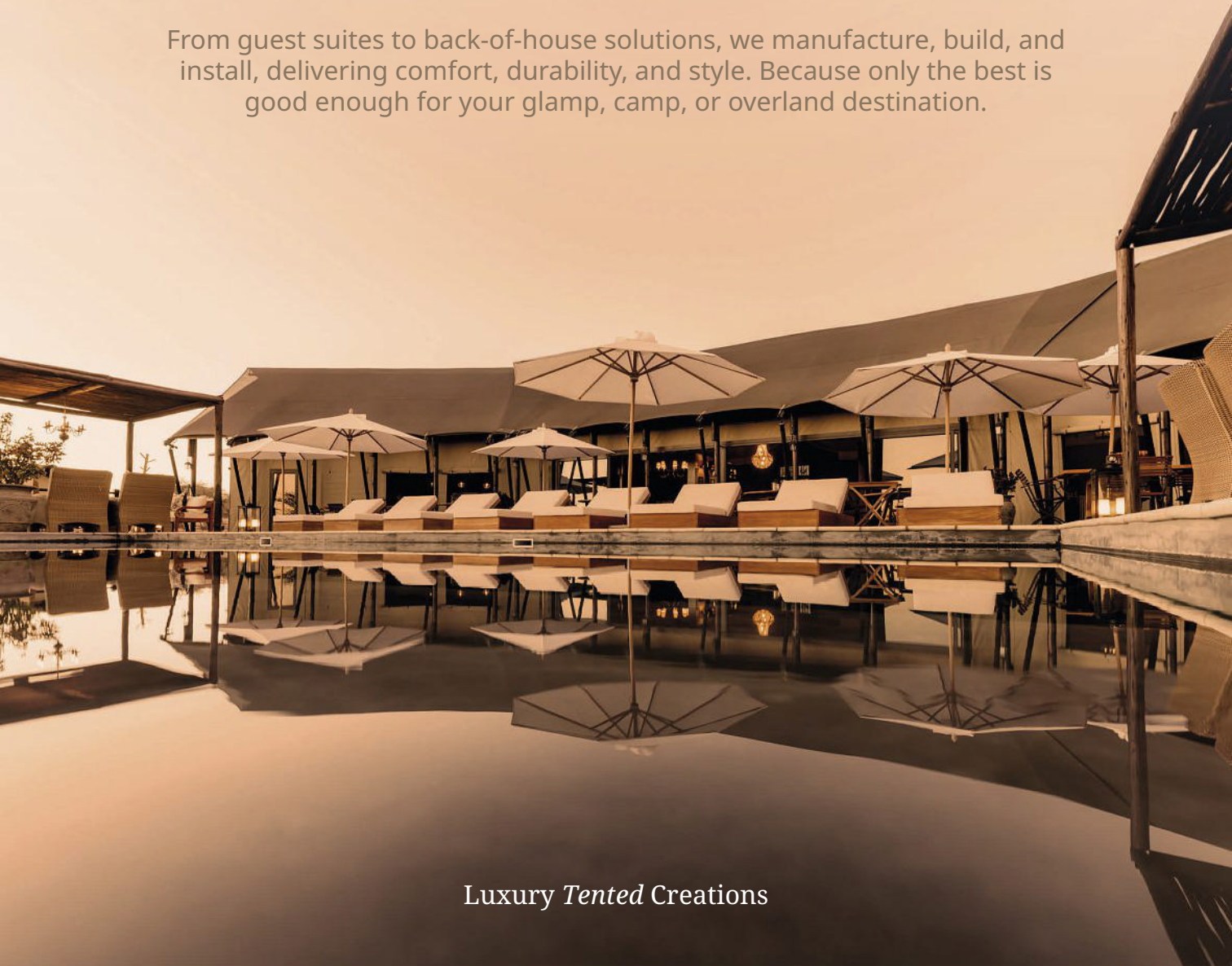
📍 waterbergnamibia.com



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NORTH PLACES TO STAY

73 Waterberg Resort (NWR)

In the Waterberg Plateau National Park, with a spectacular view of the cliffs. Camping R430 p.p. (max eight people per stand). Each stand has a braai, power point and light. The resort also has double rooms from R1 350 p.p. sharing. Bush chalets (with a braai, fridge and kettle) that sleep 2–4 from R1 340 p.p. sharing. Four-sleeper self-catering family chalets from R1 520 p.p. sharing. Breakfast is included in the rate, except if you're camping. There's a swimming pool, restaurant and bar in the historical Rasthaus, originally a police station, dating from 1908. Game drive R650 p.p. (You get 25% discount with a NamLeisure card.)

☎ 00 264 67 305 001 (resort office)

✉ ct.bookings@nwr.com.na

🌐 nwr.com.na

74 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. Rates from R420 p.p. – one family per stand.

Waterberg Valley Lodge has en suite safari tents that sleep two – they overlook the valley: R2 250 p.p. sharing. Waterberg Wilderness Lodge has 10 double units and four family units: from R3 200 p.p. sharing. Waterberg Plateau Lodge has eight chalets: R4 350 p.p. sharing, each with a stoep and a splash pool on the terrace. Lodge rates include breakfast, dinner and afternoon coffee and cake. The lodges all have a restaurant, Wi-Fi and a pool.

☎ 00 264 81 7164 056

🌐 waterberg-wilderness.com

75 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". Near the farmhouse, where the Diekman family will host you, are eight large guest rooms with views of the bushveld: R4 100 p.p. including afternoon coffee and tea, dinner and breakfast.

There are five camping stands about 250 m from the farmhouse, each with water and electricity. Each stand has its own bathroom and stoep: R400 p.p. There's also a swimming pool.

Next to the campsite are two self-catering bush chalets that sleep two and four respectively: R1 800 p.n. for two, plus R500 per extra person. There's a farm dam that's illuminated at night – watch animals coming to drink. SADC rates on request.

☎ 00 264 67 306 633

☎ 00 264 81 249 7927

🌐 hamakari.com

BRANDBERG & UIS

76 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 camping 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 R220 p.p. plus R60 per vehicle (once off). Exclusive campsite with electricity and private ablutions – R290 p.p. Twin-sleeper safari tent with braai facilities from R1 635 p.n. Chalets or tree house from R2 180 p.n. for two people. Four-sleeper family room from R2 845 p.n. Options with meals are also available. Order meals two days in advance. Breakfast R245; dinner R395.

☎ 00 264 81 791 3117

🌐 brandbergwllodge.com

77 Brandberg Rest Camp

This camp is in the main road in Uis. Camping R240 p.p. Power and hot showers. Safari tents R480 p.p. sharing. Self-catering units (sleep six) and standard rooms from R1 440 p.p. for two people. Double room with a poolside view R960 p.p. B&B. There's a restaurant and a bar.

☎ 00 264 64 504 038

✉ brandberg@africaonline.com.na

🌐 brandbergrestcamp.com

78 Daureb Isib Campsite and B&B

In Uis, next to the Cactus & Coffee Tea Garden. Three camping stands, each with power and a private bathroom: R330 p.p. (max six people). Tented chalets from R1 980 p.n. for two B&B. Rates in the deluxe Hillside stone cottage from R2 503 p.n. for two B&B (sleeps four). There's a splash pool and a cactus garden.

☎ 00 264 64 504 106

☎ 00 264 81 842 5465

🌐 daurebisib.com

KAVANGO RIVER

79 Camp Ndurukoro

About 50 km west of Divundu. Good value for money. The campsite has electricity, new decks with a river view, and you get a free bundle of firewood for your braai every day. Camping stands from R200 p.p. En suite safari tent (twin-sleeper) R850 p.n. Self-catering chalet R1 200 p.n. for two people or R1 500 p.n. for four people.

There's a lapa with a swimming pool. Basic breakfasts and meals like hamburgers can be arranged beforehand. A sunset river cruise (4–10 people) costs from R300 p.p. – you get two beers or cooldrinks on the house. Enquire about fishing outings and rod hire. Also enquire about a discount if you

stay for three nights or more.

☎ 00 264 81 124 1051

(Leon Nederlof, WhatsApp)

80 Mobola Island Lodge

About 30 km north-west of Divundu, on a beautiful part of the river. Camping R210 p.p. Self-catering twin-sleeper bungalow or luxury safari tent from R1 850 p.n.; four-sleeper bungalow from R3 700. You get a discount if you stay two nights. No card machine – pay upfront via EFT or bring cash. There's no restaurant but you can request breakfast (R210 p.p.). Dinner is R400 p.p. Book at least three days beforehand.

☎ 00 264 81 230 3281 (info only, no bookings)

✉ booking@mobola-lodge.com

🌐 mobola-lodge.com

81 Riverdance Lodge

This immaculate lodge is 25 km north-west of Divundu. The campsite has four stands, each with a bathroom, power point, picnic table and braai: from R290 p.p. (max four people). Lodge rooms from R4 700 p.n. for two people; four-sleeper family rooms from R7 050 p.n. DB&B. SADC residents get 20% discount on room rates. Restaurant and free Wi-Fi.

☎ 00 264 66 258 401

☎ 00 264 81 288 6005 (Chris)

🌐 riverdance.com.na

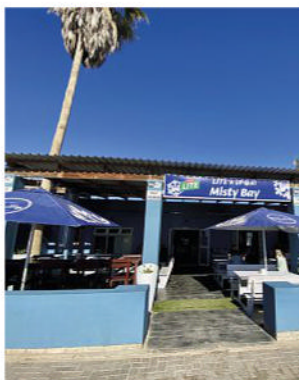
82 Popa Falls Resort (NWR)

At Popa Falls, just south of Divundu. Ten stands with power: R170 p.p. (max eight people). The gardens look a bit tired, but the reception area, restaurant and some chalets have been renovated – there's a deck with a bar at the falls.

Bush chalet from R1 520 p.p. sharing (sleeps two). Family chalet from R1 520 p.p. sharing (sleeps six). Luxury river cabins connected with an elevated walkway R1 820 p.p. sharing. Breakfast is included in the rate, except if you're camping.

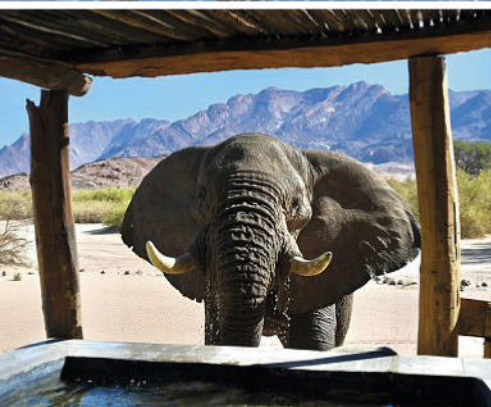
✉ ct.bookings@nwr.com.na

🌐 nwr.com.na



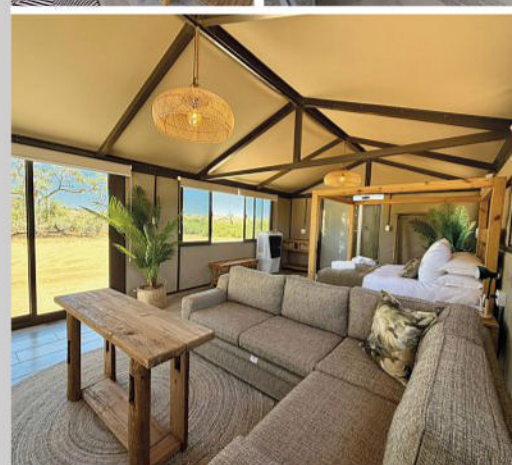
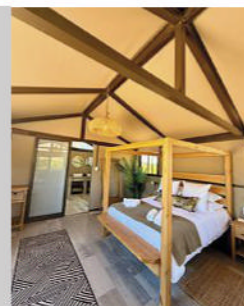
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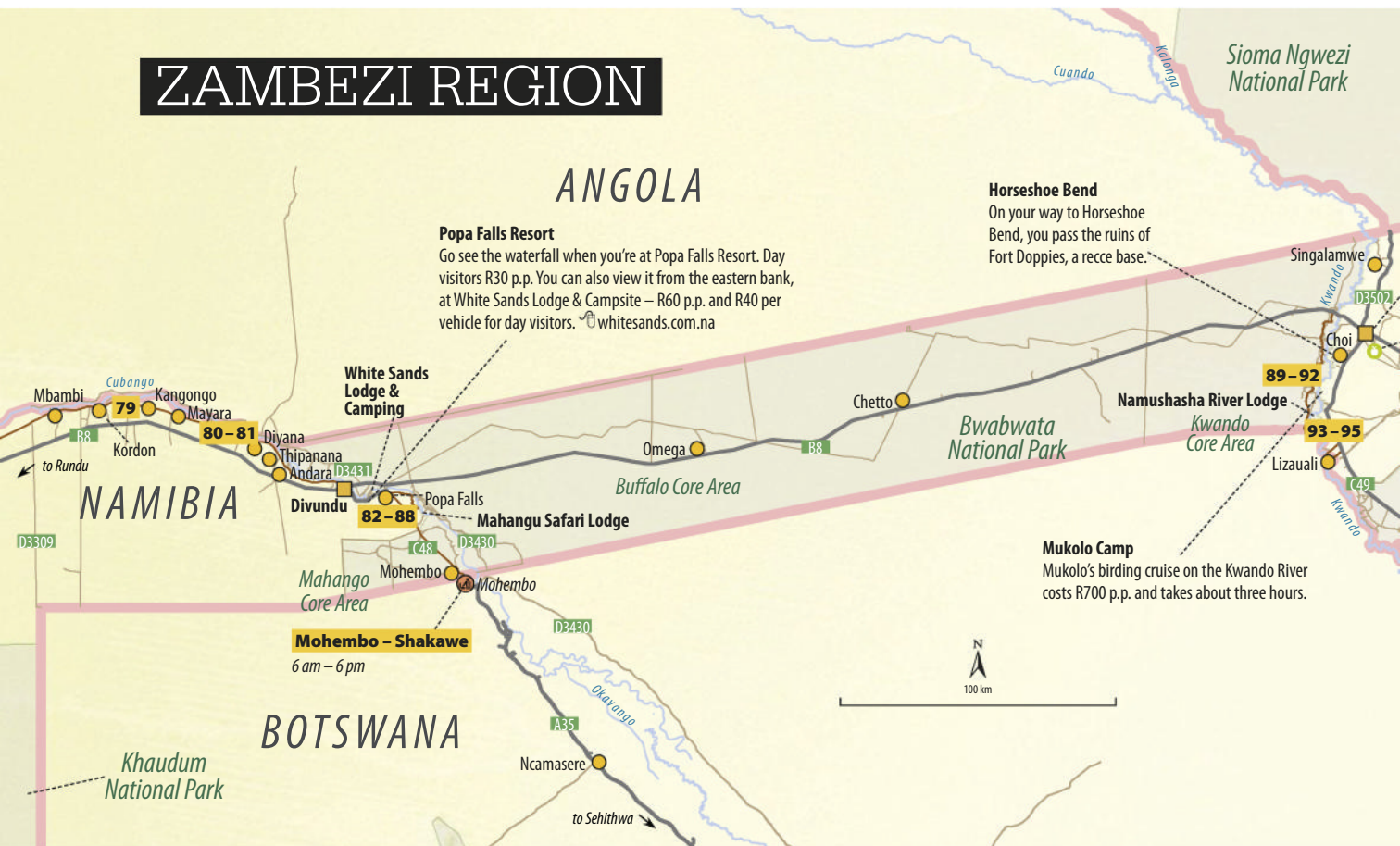
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ZAMBEZI REGION



Popa Falls Resort

Go see the waterfall when you're at Popa Falls Resort. Day visitors R30 p.p. You can also view it from the eastern bank, at White Sands Lodge & Campsite – R60 p.p. and R40 per vehicle for day visitors. 📞 whitesands.com.na

White Sands Lodge & Camping

Mohembo – Shakawe

6 am – 6 pm

83 Shamet River Lodge

Camping from R320 p.p. The campsites are not on the river but they're private and each has a lovely bathroom. Chalets and luxury tents from R2880 p.p. sharing DB&B. SADC rates on request. Book a game drive to nearby Mahango, or a boat ride – even a mokoro trip to Popa Falls.

📞 00 264 61 237 294

📧 shametriverlodge.com

84 Rainbow River Lodge

Father-and-son team Deon and Geon de Waal run this lodge – they're both former Namibian national freshwater anglers. The lodge is on the banks of the Kavango River about 300 m downstream from Popa Falls. The campsite has stands right on the riverbank.

Camping R290 p.p. for a stand with power, grass and shade (some also have private ablutions).

Chalets from R950 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)

📧 rainbowriverlodge.namibia.com

85 Nunda River Lodge

This well-run lodge is 7,5 km south of Divundu. The campsite has nine stands with power. Camping R280 p.p. En suite bungalows from R1830 p.p. sharing B&B. All meals available. Sunset cruises, fishing trips, mokoro trips, game drives and birding walks. Enquire about discounts for SADC residents.

📞 00 264 81 310 1730 (WhatsApp)

📧 nundaonline.com

86 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 (solar power from 10 am until 10 pm), bush huts and river-view tree houses available. Enquire about SADC rates.

📞 00 264 81 202 8200

📧 ngepicamp.com

87 Ndhovu Safari Lodge

Ndhovu is 20 km south of Divundu. One of the campsites is right on the riverbank: R295 p.p. The other campsites are immediately behind: R230 p.p. All have braai facilities, power, water and shared ablutions.

For the glampers, they have

10 meru-style safari tents: R1300 p.p. sharing DB&B. There are two River Tent Suites floating on the Kavango, and three Land Suites with river views: R2300 p.n. for two people DB&B. Book via the e-mail address below and ask about SADC discounts.

📞 00 264 61 224 712

(bookings)

📧 ndhovu@resdest.com

📧 ndhovu.com

88 Mahangu Safari Lodge

About 19 km south of Divundu. The campsite has six stands, all with power and a river view. Camping R290 p.p. Safari tent and bungalows (sleep 2–4): R1410 p.p. sharing DB&B (SADC rates). A stay of two nights includes a free breakfast cruise. All meals available.

📞 00 264 66 259 037

📧 mahangu.com.na

NORTH PLACES TO STAY



NAMBWA CAMPSITE, #89

LE ROUX VAN SCHALKWYK

96 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 a private bathroom R480 p.p. A self-catering chalet for six people costs R2 200 p.p. sharing. Limited solar power available. They offer guided walks in the adjacent Wuparo Conservancy, and they offer mokoro trips (seasonal). It's a birder's paradise.

☎ 00 264 81 209 5807

📧 livingstonescamp.com

97 Rupara Rest Camp

It's 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. See page 118.

98 Nkasa Lupala Tented Lodge

This tented lodge is on the border of Nkasa Rupara National Park. En

suite tents from R7 060 p.n. for two people sharing DB&B.

☎ 00 264 61 224 712

📧 nkasalupalalodge.com

ZAMBEZI RIVER

99 Caprivi River Lodge

About 4,5 km east of Katima Mulilo. En suite double rooms from R3 300 p.n. B&B. En suite family room from R4 100 p.n. (for three) B&B. Meals and Wi-Fi available, and guests are served tea every afternoon. SADC citizens get a 20% discount on accommodation. Sunset river cruises, fishing and birdwatching trips available.

☎ 00 264 66 252 288

📧 capriviriverlodge.com.na

100 Caprivi Houseboat Safari Lodge

About 6 km east of Katima Mulilo and an excellent birding spot. Camping (two stands, each with power) R190 p.p. Glamping unit in tented camp R430 p.p. with a private bathroom. Safari tent

from R1 000 p.p. sharing; R1 250 B&B. Other units from R1 000 p.p. sharing, or R1 150 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 R1 450 p.p. excluding fuel, drinks and food.

☎ 00 264 66 252 287

📧 caprivihouseboatsafaris.com

101 Caprivi Mutoya Lodge & Campsite

A great spot 24 km east of Katima on a tar road. A special on all accommodation until the end of the year: Camping (four stands) R280 p.p., plus R60 per day for the charging of fridges etc. Four budget safari tents (twin-sleepers) R1 000 p.n. Standard rooms from R2 193 p.p. sharing B&B. Other meals also available. All rooms have air conditioning. Contact the lodge for SADC discounts. There is a small spa on the premises.

☎ 00 264 81 234 5678

📧 info@caprivimutoyalodge.com

102 Zambezi Mubala Lodge & Camp

This spot is 40 km east of Katima and one of the best options in the region. The camp next to the Zambezi River has 10 stands and eight self-catering safari tents (each sleeps four). Camping R341 p.p.; Camping2Go safari tents from R1 084 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 R3 309 p.p. sharing B&B. (Discount if you have a Gondwana card.) Take note: The lodge was closed due to flooding in March. Call beforehand to check conditions.

☎ 00 264 61 427 200

📧 gondwana-collection.com

103 Zambezi Kingfisher Lodge

Perfect for fishing and bird-watchers! Twin-sleeper, self-catering chalets from R1 665 p.p. (Ask about SADC rates.)

☎ 00 264 81 305 4581

📧 duenorthnamibia.com

📧 kingfisher@duenorthnamibia.com

104 Chobe River Camp

This is the only affordable accommodation on the Chobe River in Namibia. This secluded camp is 4 km from the Ngoma border post. Six stands with private ablution facilities but no power: R341 p.p. Luxury tent on a deck with a view of the river: R2 364 p.p. sharing, with breakfast. There's a swimming pool, restaurant and a bar. Day visitors are welcome to partake in activities, but book beforehand directly with the lodge.

☎ 00 264 81 800 0762 (lodge)

☎ 00 264 61 427 200 (bookings)

📧 gondwana-collection.com

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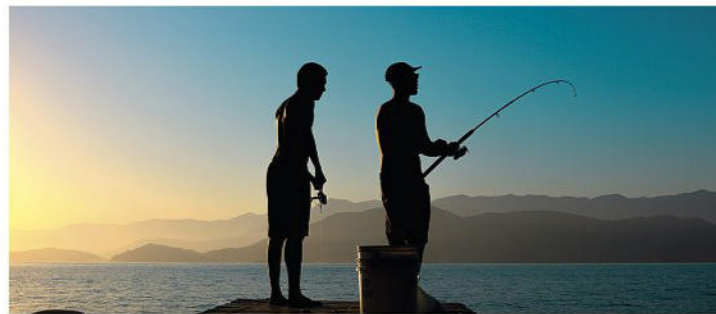
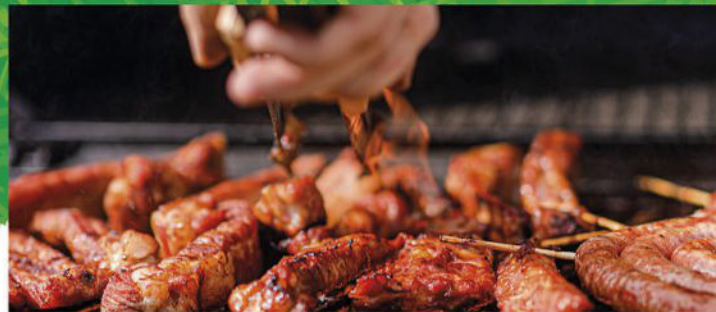
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- 4 back-to-back camp stands
- Large clean ladies and gents bathrooms
- Shared washing lines and mud sink

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WHO IS HAN? The Hospitality Association of Namibia has, since its inception in 1987, grown from an initial 16 members to over 400 members. HAN represents the full spectrum of the hospitality industry, from hotels to guest houses, guest farms, lodges, rest camps, restaurants, conference centres and catering services. Over the years, more and more tourism and hospitality-related businesses also joined the Hospitality Association, making HAN a true umbrella body and an important factor in the tourism & hospitality industry of Namibia in general. HAN is committed to optimising the full potential of the Namibian Hospitality Sector and to serve its members' needs and building partnerships.

To achieve its mission, HAN works within an acceptable behaviour framework, which is expressed through HAN's five foundational values of

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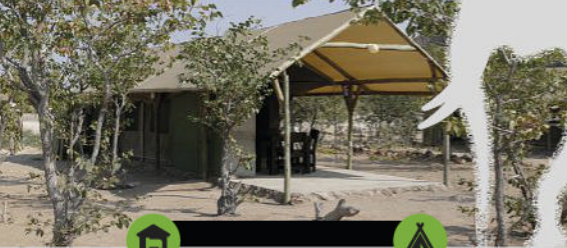


KHOWARIB
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NORTH-WEST NAMIBIA,
ON THE HOANIB RIVER
(Damaraland side)



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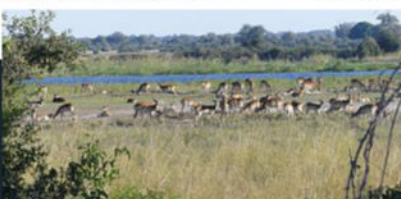
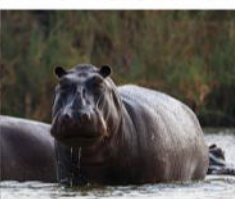
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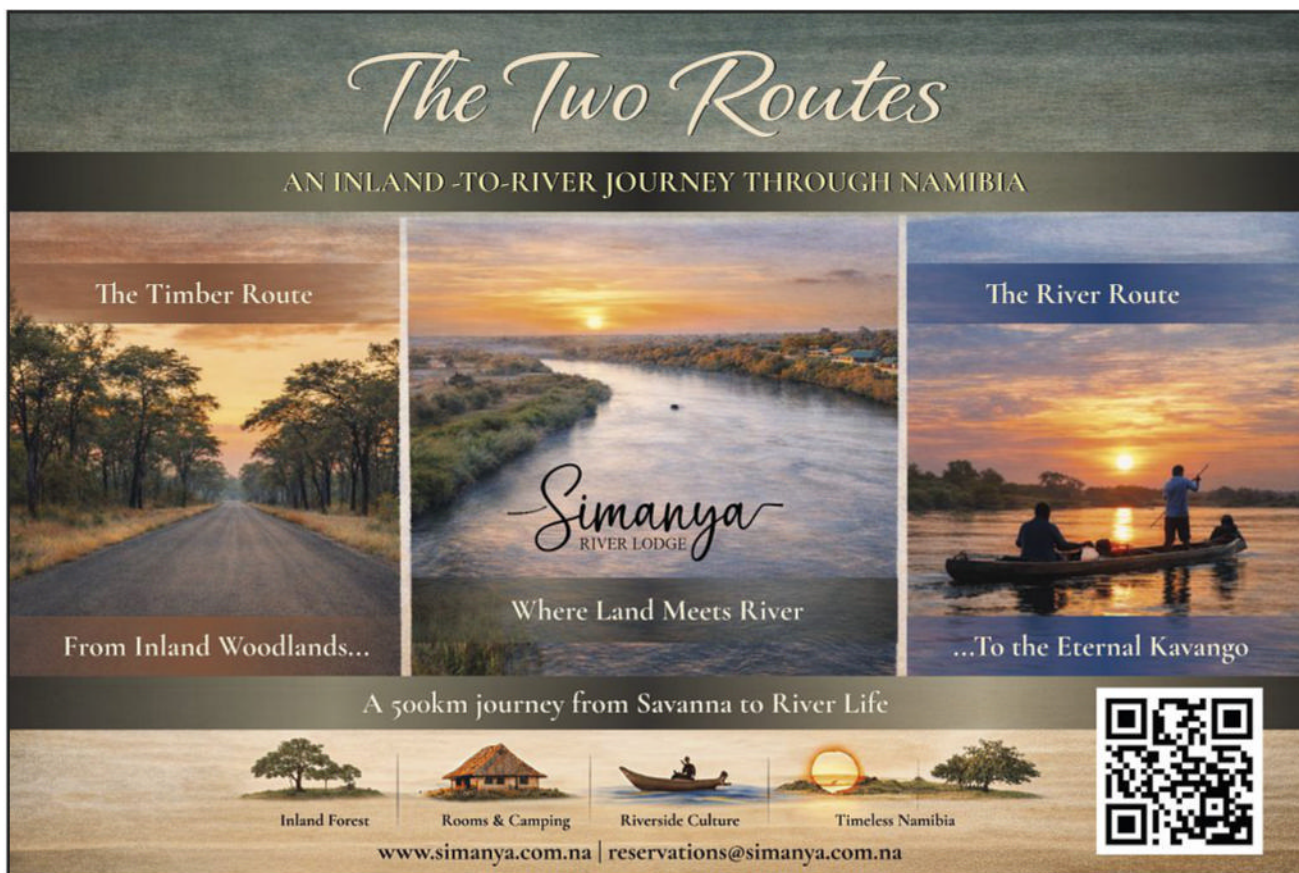



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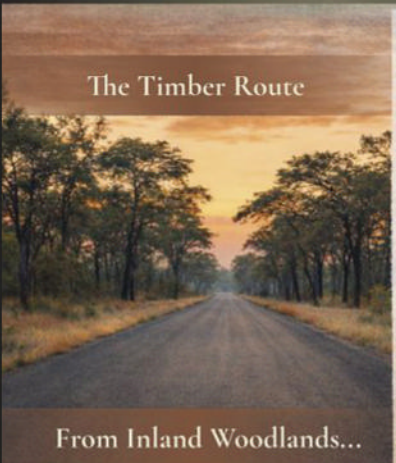
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The Two Routes

AN INLAND -TO-RIVER JOURNEY THROUGH NAMIBIA

The Timber Route

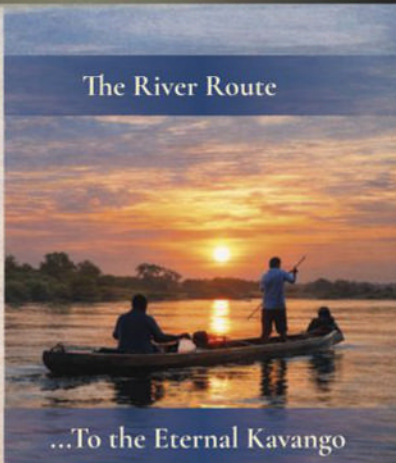


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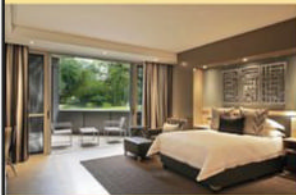


ESCAPE TO TRANQUILITY IN TSUMEB, NAMIBIA



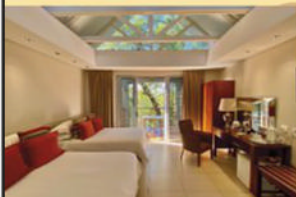
23 CAMPSITES

Shaded campsites, braai area, universal electrical outlets, drinkable water, laundry facilities, ablution blocks



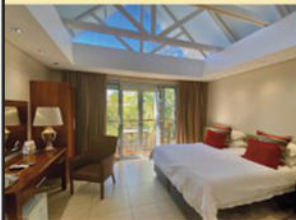
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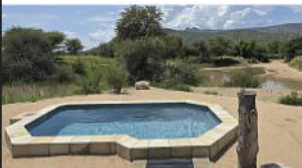
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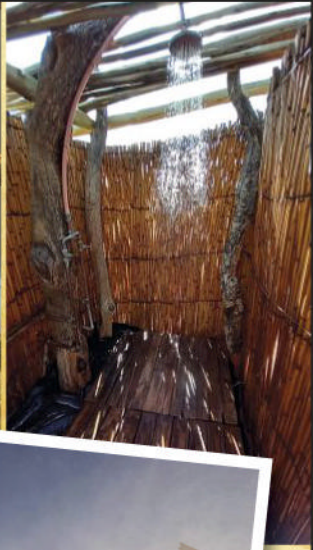
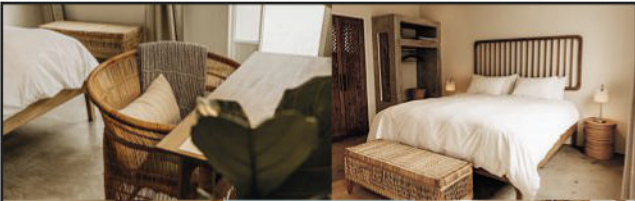
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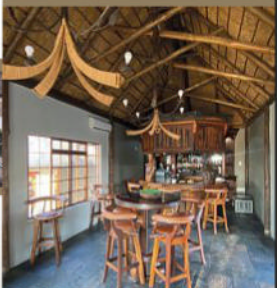
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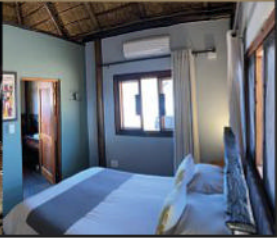


Kalahari REST Lodge

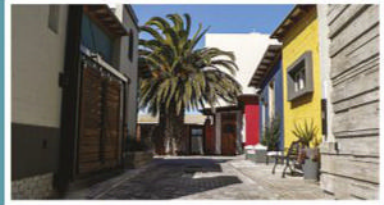
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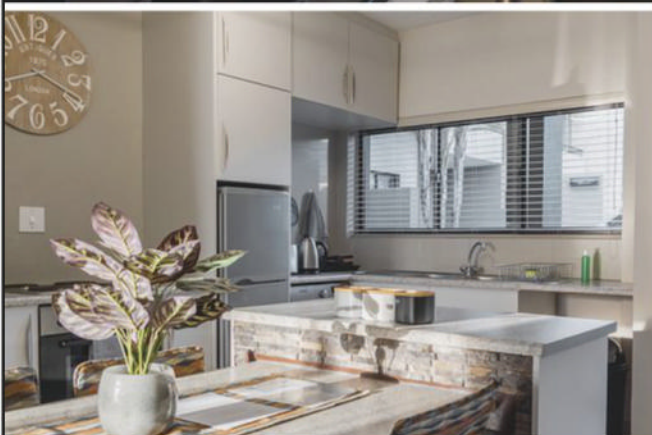
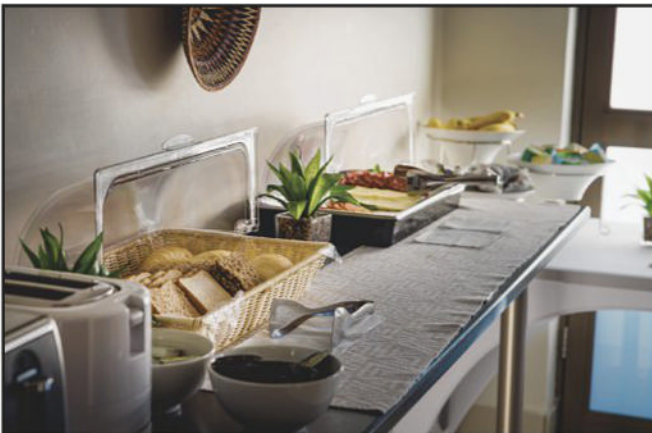
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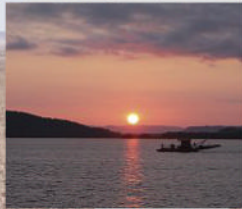
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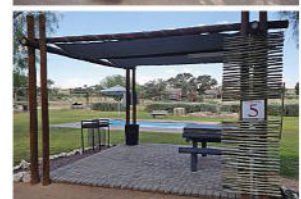


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CHECK THIS!



When I daydream about Namibia's back roads, this one often comes to mind. It's the Remhoogte Pass on the C24 (also labelled as the D1261 on some maps) between Solitaire and Rehoboth.

Unlike its more intimidating neighbours that also link the Namib Desert and the Khomas Hochland – like Spreetshoogte and Gamsberg – this pass is easy to drive. It's not as rugged or as steep.

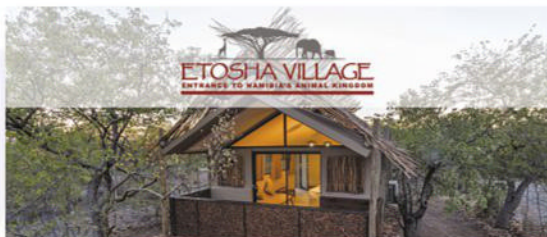
Yes, Remhoogte Pass might only be about 5 km long, but it has the most gorgeous curves along the Randberg. The thick trunks of phantom trees reach up from the slopes and you'll cross drifts through the Noab River and some of its tributaries.

Here's an idea for a 145 km scenic drive: Get coffee and something to nibble at the bakery in Solitaire, then follow the C14 south to Ababis Guest Farm (14 km). Turn east onto the C24 to Rehoboth. Drive 42 km, via Remhoogte, to the turn-off to Lepel. But you're not going to Lepel – continue straight to Nauchas. Near Nauchas, hook a left and drive down Spreetshoogte Pass to the C14.

You'll be back in Solitaire in time for lunch.

PICTURE **SOPHIA VAN TAAK**

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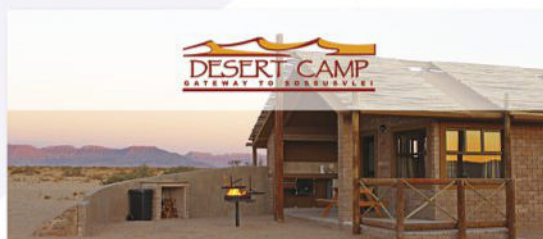
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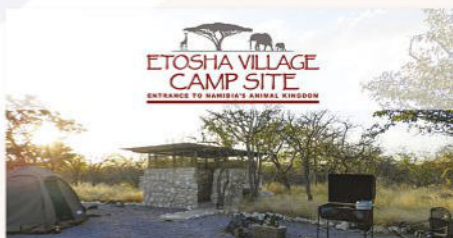
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CAMPING OPTIONS just outside the National Parks in Namibia



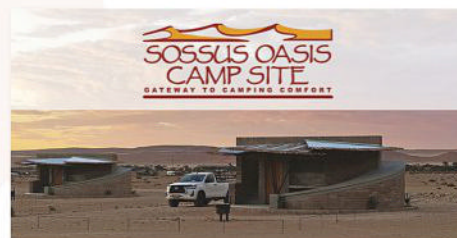
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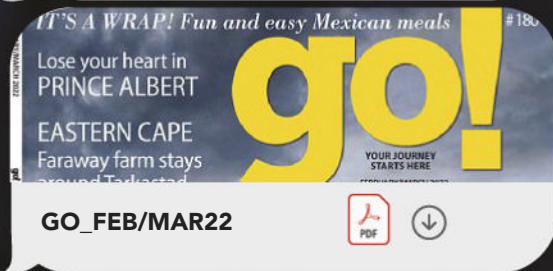
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