

ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

News and Updates

[General Updates](#) | [Specials](#) | [First-Hand Feedback](#)

NAMIBIA
May 2024

GENERAL UPDATES

Ultimate Safaris is happy to introduce the opening of the new Onduli Spa, for the enjoyment of guests staying at both Onduli Ridge and Onduli Enclave. The Spa is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure and consists of a guest waiting area, treatment room (which can accommodate 2 guests, should couples' therapies be requested) a bathroom and a small deck. Guests staying at Onduli Enclave have the option of in-suite or in-villa treatments.

Big Sky Lodges has made a number of enhancements to their offering at **Ai Aiba Lodge**, adding Nespresso coffee machines, mini-bar fridges and block-out curtains in all rooms. All restaurant staff are now barista-trained, and uncapped fibre wi-fi is available in the main area. A new guided mountain bike activity on Specialized Turbo Levo E-bikes has also been added. Finally, they will also be adding a new Conservation Levy of NAD150 per person per night in 2025.

Okonjima Collection has announced some updates to their policies and offerings at the Bush Suite, effective immediately, and now welcome children of all ages. As part of this update, children will be permitted to participate in an amended game drive experience (excluding tracking and other specialised activities). We believe this adjustment will enrich the family-friendly atmosphere of the private Bush Suite.

Pelican Point Lodge

Arrival and departure information:

Escorted self-drives with a 4x4 are a complimentary service adding to the guests' experience. For self-driving guests with a 4x2, a pick-up must be pre-booked and their vehicle parked at their own risk.

Pick-up time: The complementary, escorted self-drive experience on arrival day departs from the meeting point to the lodge at 15h00 and is automatically confirmed upon booking.

Meeting point:

Co-ordinates: 22°58'18.86" S, 14°29'14.81" E

A dynamic-zoom Google map showing the meeting point and Pelican Point Lodge will be provided upon booking confirmation

Fly in guests:

Complimentary pick-up at Walvis Bay airport on ETA of the flight, subject to pre-booking. Supplements for pick-up at the Swakopmund and Arandis airports apply as per the rate sheets under 'other extras'.

Onduli Namibia has advised that Full Board Plus rates are the only rate bookable at Kalahari Red Dunes, Etosha Oberland and Namib Outpost. This rate includes all meals and all local drinks (premium brands excluded). Guides are on a Full Board rate, excluding drinks. Namib Outpost has re-opened its doors after completely renovating and refurbishing. They have added a second pool and shaded spaces, as well as the Namib Lounge as an extra pool bar in the main area, and a spa overlooking the serenity of the Namib Desert. All suites have been upgraded and now boast additional living room space, large terraces, private decks, outside showers and star-gazing beds.

Onguma has introduced the following changes with immediate effect:

Children: 7yrs and above are allowed to join on the game drives. 7yrs and below must take a private vehicle.

Mokuti Airstrip transfers: included free of charge.

Groups Policy: the terms & conditions have changed. Onguma will honour existing confirmed bookings.

Young Explorers Walk: now offered in the mornings and afternoons.

Onguma Sunrise Drive: a new game drive on Onguma Nature Reserve, priced the same as the Sundowner Drive.

Changes to note for 2025:

Camp Kala: Now includes a 60-minute spa treatment in per-person-per-night price.

B&B Rate: This will no longer be offered at Bush Camp and Forest Camp due to it not being utilised very often.

Conservation Levy: This has changed from a Rhino Levy to a Conservation Levy and has increased for 2025.

Europcar cannot secure Group P (Nissan X-Trail) fleet for the remainder of 2024; therefore this group will remain closed until further notice.

Wolwedans Collection Desert Lodge is on schedule for the reopening of Desert Lodge on 01 June 2024.

Renovations are progressing smoothly, and each of the 10 tented rooms will now boast its own Wolwedans

Chiller (small pool), along with a new tent layout and stunning interiors designed to maximize the surrounding views.

Boulders Camp has extended the exclusive-use-only date validity. This offers arrivals on any day of the week, while per-person rates are available between 1 April and 30 November with fixed arrivals. All stays at Boulders require a minimum of 3 nights.

Namibia2Go introduced an after-hour pick up service and charge. They do not hand over vehicles after 17:00. If guests want an after-hour vehicle pick up from Namibia2Go, there will be an additional charge and the vehicle will be handed over at The Weinberg.

SPECIALS

NAMIBIA

Journeys Namibia specials are valid from 01 May 2024 through end June 2024. T&Cs apply.

- Hiking at Fish River Lodge:
 - A 3-day and 2-day guided and supported hike in one of the world's top hiking destinations, the Fish River Canyon.
- Hobatere & Ondudu Lodge including a complimentary sundown drive.

Onguma Collection is offering a Honeymoon Special: book 3 or more nights DBB or All Inclusive at any Onguma property and they will include a Bush Breakfast or Bush Dinner free of charge. Additionally, if a couple books a full body couples' massage, they will receive an extra scalp or foot massage each, to a specific value.

FIRST-HAND FEEDBACK

Tonateni had the opportunity to visit the Chiwani Camps, as well as the Onguma Collection of lodges.

Mowani Mountain Camp welcomed us warmly, and the staff made us feel right at home. At our welcome, we received a cool, damp cloth and a welcome drink in the main area. Management and other staff members helped us with our luggage, which they brought into the main hall where we waited for our room allocation.

We each received our room keys and headed to our rooms. All were en-suite, spacious, comfortable and offering all the luxuries you could need, including an outside shower built into the boulders. The swimming pool is close to the main area and once again built within boulders and has the nicest views.

In the late afternoon, we went on the Twyfelfontein excursion, which included stops at Burnt Mountain and the Organ Pipes. Our guide was a knowledgeable, skilled driver, and thoroughly explained everything to us. After returning to the camp, we had a sundowner on top of the viewpoint. Drinks and snacks are offered from the bar, that is built within boulders. This was an incredible experience, with the sun hot but a cool breeze blowing in from all sides. The sundowner spot on the viewpoint is ideal for clients who would prefer to not drive out of camp immediately after arrival or who are exhausted from the long drive.

The next morning, we got into our car and went for a nature drive along the Huab River. We stopped at different areas and at a viewpoint to enjoy the beauty of the riverbed from a higher point in the mountain range. On our drive, we were fortunate to encounter a herd of desert-adapted elephants, which we photographed before stopping at another location for tea and snacks. The meals were delicious. We loved our stay at Mowani Mountain Camp, which was all worth it.



Onguma The Fort and Onguma Safari Camps are situated on the eastern border of Etosha National Park.

We had an early morning wake-up due to the distance we had to cover that day. After breakfast and saying goodbye, we continued our journey, driving to Onguma Private Reserve, [34 000 hectares of private wilderness] where we stayed at Onguma the Fort for 3 nights. We took the tarred road from Khorixas to Outjo, Otjiwarongo, and Tsumeb. The drive was fairly long; it is only recommended if you are unable to find accommodation on the southern side of the national park.

We arrived at the lodge shortly after noon, we were welcomed by the excited Onguma Fort staff with song. We were given a tour around the main area, the spectacular swimming pool overlooking the waterhole, the spa facilities, curio shops, and gallery featuring hand-drawn pictures that are on sale. Before going to our rooms, the staff briefed us on the safety, placing a strong emphasis on the fact that the lodge is not fenced off and there are predators around, thus we cannot walk to the main area or from the main area to our rooms. We should always request a transfer.

All rooms are private, spacious, and luxurious; each room offers views of the waterhole and has a stocked bar fridge and air-conditioning. All rooms have an inside and outside shower. Only guests in the 2 closest rooms to the main area are allowed to walk. Activities on offer and that we participated in are the pm nature drive on Onguma Private Reserve, the Etosha game drive, the Onkolo hide, and morning walk on the private reserve, which takes place in a clear area so as to not endanger the clients or the guide. At the end of our morning walk, we had a bush breakfast setup which put a lot of smiles on every one of us in the group.

The service was top-notch here, and we enjoyed our stay to the fullest. In the afternoon, we went on an afternoon game drive in Onguma Private Reserve with our guide Markus. He was knowledgeable, entertaining, and provided detailed explanations. During our drives, we saw a variety of birds, including kori bustards, as well as giraffes, wildebeest, black rhino, springbok and other antelopes. On Onguma Reserve we were fortunate to spot a lone female lion and two cheetahs (mom and her cub) at the waterhole. You could assume they were preparing to hunt.

During our stay, we inspected the Dream Cruiser, Onguma Camp Kala, Bush Camp, and Forest Camp. In Etosha National Park, we were fortunate to see elephants, a black rhino with its calf, a hyena, and a lioness attempting to hunt giraffes. Unfortunately, the late hour prevented us from watching the events unfold as we needed to be out of the park by sunset. We were treated to a surprise Boma dinner; the setup was fantastic, and featured performances by a group of youngsters from Tsumeb. This is highly recommended if you have a group of 2 or more people, and it should be booked for and paid for in advance. We thoroughly enjoyed our stay at Onguma, and the staff treated us like VIPs.

Onguma Tented Camp was recently refurbished with all new canvas tents and extended decks featuring wood-fired hot tubs. Inside the tent, new furnishings include a Nespresso coffee station, and Smeg bar fridge & kettle, to ensure access to refreshments. Complementary beers, house wines, and whiskey, cognac and gin are offered. Onguma Tented Camp also has a butler service upon request.

Onguma the Fort: African feel with spectacular views over Etosha National Park

Onguma Tented Camp: Mixture of relaxation and elegance

Camp Kala: Fitted for honeymooners or couples

Onguma Bush Camp: Ideal for families

Onguma Forest Camp: Mixture of comfort and privacy



Sharon Kandukira, a Journey Specialist in our Namibia office, had the privilege of being invited to attend an Ultimate Safaris educational trip to Damaraland. She spent one night at Camp Doros and one night at Onduli Enclave, with a site inspection of Onduli Ridge.

Our hosts were Katja, the inbound manager and Franco, the guide for Ultimate Safaris. We enjoyed a picnic lunch under a tree in the Omatjete area en route to Damaraland.



Camp Doros: Upon our arrival at Camp Doros, we were welcomed by a group of staff members who offered us refreshing welcome drinks and cool, damp face cloths. They then guided us to the common lounge area while they took our luggage to our assigned rooms for the night. Shivute, the camp manager, provided us with an overview of the camp. The cosy en-suite rooms feature a modest design and a deck with a view of the riverbed.

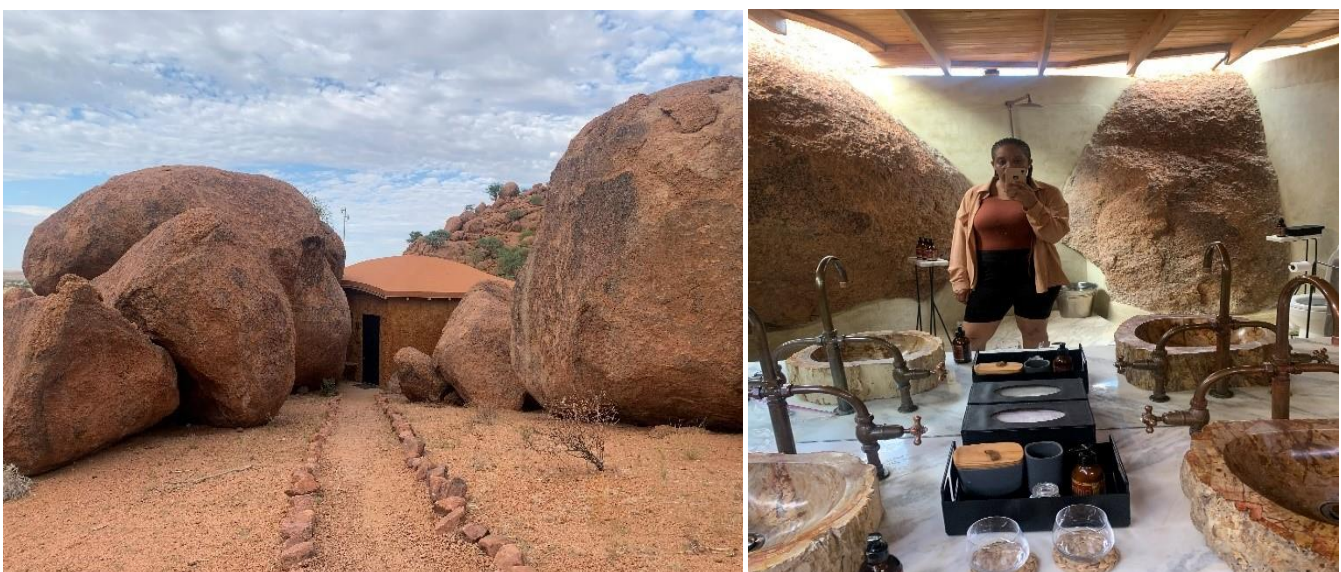
Guests can enjoy a shared plunge pool and sun deck, as well as amenities such as a communal lounge, dining room, campfire circle, and a deck where we gathered for happy hour. The attentive team ensured our comfort and wellbeing throughout our stay. The meals were delightful, with breakfast standing out for its variety, and the coffee was exceptional.

The following morning, we had the opportunity to join a rhino tracking activity, during which we encountered a rhino and later stopped for a refreshing lemonade break. We received insights from the Rhino Rangers, learning about the collaboration between Ultimate Safaris and the conservancies on conservation efforts. Camp Doros offers a unique wilderness glamping experience off the beaten track, focusing on rhino conservation, with the option to include a river/elephant drive on a 3-night stay. It is advisable to discuss accommodation standards in advance to ensure the guests expectations are managed effectively.

Following the rhino tracking activity, we said goodbye to the Rhino Rangers and proceeded to Onduli Ridge.



Onduli Ridge: Upon our arrival at Onduli Ridge, we were once again greeted with a refreshing beverage and cool face towels. We conducted a site inspection and the suites were nestled among the granite boulders, offering a breath-taking blend of rustic charm and luxurious touches. We had the opportunity to view the spa room, which was still in the process of being constructed. The property also features a wine cellar, an infinity pool, and a waterhole for observing wildlife.





Onduli Enclave: Moving on to Onduli Enclave, located not far from Onduli Ridge, we were introduced to a new level of luxury. This exclusive villa boasts three spacious glass-fronted super king size suites. Each suite included a private deck with wood-fired hot tubs, sun loungers, and a shaded seating area. The rooms were generously sized, with bathrooms featuring both indoor and outdoor showers. The star beds in the rooms can be moved outside for a unique sleeping experience. Guests have access to a phone in their rooms and are attended to by a dedicated butler throughout their stay. A private chef and guide are assigned to guests at the Enclave. Our butler/manager, Kali, provided exceptional care during our visit.

Our time was limited, so we were unable to partake in the activities offered at the enclave, but we did have a wine tasting, which was both informative and enjoyable. This was followed by a fun evening of crafting our own pizzas, with a variety of toppings to choose from. After dinner, we retired under the sky. The next morning, we enjoyed a leisurely early morning walk with Franco.

Onduli Enclave caters to upscale clientele and focuses on giraffe conservation, as well as offers activities such as elephant nature drives and visits to the Twyfelfontein engravings. Rhino tracking is available for guests staying three nights or more, with additional options including e-biking and nature walks.

