

## ASSOCIATED PRODUCT





# FIRST-HAND FEEDBACK

[South Africa](#) | [Namibia](#)

November 2025

## SOUTH AFRICA

<b>Destination:</b>	<b>&amp;Beyond Phinda Game Reserve, Kwa-Zulu Natal</b>
Suits which type of traveller:	The six lodge options at Phinda cater to mid-range, high-end leisure travellers, and family-friendly budgets.
Recommended activities:	<p>We were surprised and spoilt to experience an activity called <b>Beyond the Senses</b>. We went for a night game drive with a vehicle fitted with high-definition thermal imaging and infrared cameras and we had wireless headsets. We saw a lion, hippos and porcupine – a nice experience to see animals at night and I would highly recommend this activity. It can only be booked at the lodge directly.</p> <p><b>E-biking excursion</b> – with rangers leading from the front and the back. We had a cyclist from the local community accompanying us, and the activity was fun and amazing, as were riding through sand forest trees; it took roughly an hour. I would recommend this activity for those who are fit, or comfortable on a bicycle.</p> <p><b>Game drives</b> – Phinda's vehicles are 6-seaters, where everyone gets a window seat. The landscape is different in the north of the reserve, with sand forest trees, while other parts of the reserve are flat and sandy. During the drive we saw lion, cheetahs, white rhinos, giraffe, nyala, herds of elephants, wildebeest and zebras.</p> <p>Our guide was good, and knowledgeable about the animals and the areas we were driving in. We stopped for a sundowner drink with snacks, gin and wine.</p>
Cuisine:	<p>The food was delicious with various options to choose from. You order from the menu, and they cater for different dietary requirements including gluten free and lactose intolerance. There was also an option to have prawns as a starter, which was good to see</p> <p>Breakfast, which is normally served from 9am, has options of a continental breakfast or a la carte.</p> <p>For lunch, served at 1pm, you order from the menu which also catered for different dietary requirements. Lunch was delicious, served on the deck of the main area.</p>
Highlights during visit/stay:	<p>The reserve is 73,800 acres / 29,866 hectares in size, with 30% of the world's remaining sand forest located on the reserve in South Africa. It is home to one of the world smallest blooming orchids, while seven distinct habitats make the wildlife &amp; activity experiences unique &amp; different to any other traditional safari experience.</p> <p>&amp;Beyond Phinda Mountain Lodge is a beautiful property located in the south of the reserve facing a mountain. We stayed at Phinda Mountain Lodge for two nights.</p>

	<p>The main area of the lodge has a lounge area with the views of the mountain, as well as a safari shop, a boma, swimming pool and gym.</p> <p>I stayed in a spacious suite with an en-suite bathroom and indoor and outdoor showers, mini-bar and tea/coffee station, air-conditioning, a safe, and a plunge pool with a veranda.</p> <p>Phinda Forest Lodge is looking beautiful after going through a refurb, and the amenities of the lodge (pool, gym, firepit, boma and safari shop) are spread out over a short walking distance.</p> <p>The rooms are in the sand forest canopy and the rooms are spacious, with floor to ceiling windows offering views of the forest from your bath; they also have an indoor shower, mini-bar, tea/coffee station, air-condition, a safe and a private deck.</p> <p>The highlight of the trip was the incredible staff at both Phinda Forest and Mountain lodges, the amazing sightings we had during the game drives with experienced rangers and trackers, and of course the lovely meals from breakfast to bush dinners, experiencing the e-bike activity through the sand forest, as well as the Beyond the Senses activity. Both lodges are looking great.</p>
	  

## NAMBIA

<b>Destination:</b>	<b>Driftwood Guesthouse, Swakopmund</b>
Suits which type of traveller:	Medium budget leisure travel (or corporate) – family friendly
Recommended activities:	No activities on site (Town accommodation offering B&B)
Cuisine:	<p>Tea/Coffee facilities in room</p> <p>Complementary sherry in the room</p> <p><b>Breakfast:</b> An array of bread/pastries with marmalades for the table, homemade muesli, fruits &amp; yoghurt</p> <p>Set menu for hot breakfast Items, from omelettes to frittatas</p>
Highlights during visit/stay:	Family-owned small but bold boutique-style guesthouse comprising 8 rooms with various room-type options, situated in close proximity to the beach.



	<p>Rooms are very cosy offering smart TV, ample space and a mini bar.</p> <p>Tranquil gardens with various seating nooks.</p> <p>24-hour security and centrally located within walking distance to shops and the beach.</p> <p>Most welcoming and friendly staff – hosted by Mildred</p>
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<b>Destination:</b>	<b>Ai-Aiba Lodge, Omaruru</b>
Suits which type of traveller:	Family friendly – avid hikers – cultural experience – photography lovers
Recommended activities:	Nature drives. sundowner walk, e-biking & San Living Museum visit
Cuisine:	<p>Tea/Coffee facilities in room</p> <p><b>Dinner:</b> Bread Rolls served at the table with a variety of butters 3-Course set-menu with 2 options per course</p> <p><b>Starter:</b> Fresh Salade Niçoise</p> <p><b>Mains:</b> Beef fillet with a pepper sauce, cous-cous and vegetables</p> <p><b>Dessert:</b> Lemon posset drizzled with passion fruit</p> <p><b>Breakfast:</b> Tray with rolls &amp; croissants, selection of cheeses and cold meats, as well as marmalades delivered to each table. Hot breakfast can be ordered from a small menu and there are cereals and coffee/tea at a self-service station</p> <p>Vegetarian options are available</p>
Highlights during visit/stay:	<p>Pool overlooking beautiful scenery with trees under which you can sit and relax</p> <p>Sundowner walk was very informative and it is close to the lodge</p> <p>Nespresso machine in the room with a nice view of the valley</p> <p>Evening boma fire which also overlooks a waterhole</p> <p>Camping chairs set up away from the boma fire also overlooking a waterhole</p>