



W I L D E R N E S S



WILDERNESS NAMIBIA GUIDE RICHEL AIBES

Richel Aibes is a passionate Wilderness guide based at Serra Cafema in Namibia. With over nine years of experience, she brings deep knowledge, warmth, and enthusiasm to every guest journey. From cultural guiding to stargazing, Richel shares Namibia's wonders with pride. A role model for aspiring women guides, she inspires others through her story, expertise, and love for nature.

With an infectious passion for nature and a natural ability to connect with people, Richel Aibes has been guiding with Wilderness Namibia for over nine years. Currently based at Wilderness Serra Cafema, she brings a wealth of knowledge and warmth to every guest experience.

Born and raised in the central town of Khorixas, Richel's journey into guiding began while volunteering with a sports NGO teaching leadership and development skills to marginalised communities in Tsumkwe. As part of her work, she guided exchange volunteers on cultural tours through Khorixas and the surrounding areas. Her close encounters with the San community during this time were life-changing, sparking a deep and lasting connection to nature and a desire to pursue a career in guiding.

In 2015, Richel completed Level 1 and 2 guiding courses through a United Nations Youth Development Programme, funded by the US Embassy in Namibia. She furthered her training through the NATH/Wilderness Namibia partnership, completing Levels 1 to 3, and later achieved her Level 4 certification from the Namibia Training Authority (NTA). Since joining Wilderness in 2016, Richel has worked at both Kulala Desert Lodge and Little Kulala, gaining experience across diverse Namibian landscapes.

Through continuous training and hands-on experience, Richel has expanded her knowledge of fauna, flora, astronomy, and geology, while also developing expertise in cultural guiding and boat excursions. She is certified in First Aid and holds a Gold Star Leadership Certification. Richel says Wilderness has empowered her, providing equal opportunities and encouraging growth. "I've always felt free to be my authentic self here. It's a place that truly values and uplifts its people," she says.

Whether she's on a game drive, briefing guests, or stargazing around a campfire, Richel is in her element. Her enthusiasm is contagious, her stories unforgettable. She sees every guest as a chance to share Namibia's beauty, and to learn about the world in return.

"I love being an ambassador for my country," Richel reflects. "My dream is to inspire more women to step into this industry and show them that they can be anything they like".



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About Wilderness:

Founded over 40 years ago, Wilderness is a world-leading conservation and hospitality company, offering immersive journeys to a range of environments in Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Wilderness is part of a global collective working to conserve the world's iconic unfenced, untamed and unpredictable wilderness areas. With more than 60 exceptional camps and lodges, Wilderness helps protect some 2.3 million hectares (6 million acres) of land across its eight African destinations. Its goal – to double that by 2030. Four decades on, the company's purpose is stronger than ever: To increase the world's wilderness, together.

www.wildernessdestinations.com

