









SOSSUSVLEI



DAMARALAND



KAOKOVELD – PALMWAG



KAOKOVELD – SKELETON COAST



KAOKOVELD – KUNENE RIVER



EXPLORATIONS

# Contents

## **SOSSUSVLEI**

Little Kulala / Kulala Desert Lodge  
Pages 8 - 23

## **DAMARALAND**

Damaraland Camp / Doro Naws  
Pages 24 - 39

## **KAOKOVELD – PALMWAG**

Desert Rhino Camp  
Pages 40 - 49

## **KAOKOVELD – SKELETON COAST**

Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp  
Pages 50 - 59

## **KAOKOVELD – KUNENE RIVER**

Serra Cafema  
Pages 60 - 69

## **EXPLORATIONS AND PRIVATELY-GUIDED JOURNEYS**

Desert Dune Safari / Diverse Namibia / Rivers of Kaokoland / Desert Oases  
Pages 70 - 85

## **MORE ABOUT US**

Pages 86 - 99



## THE STORY OF *Wilderness*

After cutting our teeth pioneering ecotourism in Botswana's Okavango Delta in 1983, we ventured west to the arid wilderness of Namibia and immediately fell in love. Not just with the space, uniquely adapted wildlife and the traditional cultures, but with the vast, unexplored nature of it all ... the feeling that we were privileged to be discovering what has been described as an "arid Eden." The freedom, remoteness and subtly insistent call of the landscape for one to reconnect with oneself appealed to us and perfectly suited our early overland adventures that sought out the wildest and most untouched locales.

By 1993, we had built our first camp, and in the years to come we continued to seek out what we regarded as the best areas, partnering with rural communities, anyone who shared our vision and was driven by the same cause – to build what today is without a doubt the best circuit of environmentally-sensitive and perfectly-placed lodges in the country. Through it all we have never deviated from that vision: to conserve and restore Africa's wilderness and wildlife by creating life-changing journeys and inspiring positive action.



*After falling in love with Namibia's wilderness and wildlife, we exported our pioneering ecotourism model to the country and began offering life-changing journeys with Purpose.  
Photos above circa 1990-2004.*







# Namibia

A country of astonishing contrasts, Namibia is celebrated for its vast open landscapes – an abundance of space in which to inhale deeply and reflect on our place in the world. Its immensity is accentuated by the fact that it is the driest country south of the Sahara; there are many places where its lunar-like surface seems to deny the existence of all life. But life there is, and in many diverse and unique forms ... from the Himba people, one of the last true nomadic tribes on Earth, to the distinctive desert-adapted elephant, the bizarre welwitschia plant and the superbly-adapted tenebrionid beetles.





**SOSSUSVLEI**

LITTLE KULALA / KULALA DESERT LODGE



*A seemingly endless tapestry of sand*





## *Little Kulala*

The closest luxury camp to the remarkable Sossusvlei dunes, Little Kulala's exquisite fittings, pastel tones and use of natural light merge into the timeless desert landscape. Aside from excursions to the dunes (accessible through a private gate), the unadorned beauty of the Namib is explored via game drives and walks on Kulala Wilderness Reserve, providing sightings of desert-adapted wildlife and plants, from ungainly ostrich to charismatic bat-eared fox. Scenic sundowners take in awe-inspiring views that stretch endlessly to a distant horizon, while a sleep-out deck offers slumber under some of Africa's clearest skies.

- 11 rooms (1 family) • sleep-out deck • Wi-Fi • nature drives and walks
- Sossusvlei • Sesriem Canyon • quad biking • hot air ballooning • massage treatments • Olympus photography

CLASSIC







*“We arrived at this gorgeous oasis to a hospitable staff, a beautiful lodge and spectacular rooms. There are no words to describe how beautiful the dunes are...”*







## THE MIRACLE OF *Restoration*

In 1996 we purchased and began the ambitious task of restoring first one former livestock farm (goats, sheep and cattle), and then later two others, today totalling 40 000 hectares (almost 100 000 acres) on the edge of the Namib-Naukluft National Park. Following the removal of livestock, and all internal fencing, an overgrazed and ecologically bankrupt piece of desert began to reclaim itself. Wildlife such as ostrich, oryx and springbok returned, but even more tellingly, so did the previously persecuted population of small carnivores: species like the bat-eared fox, aardwolf, black-backed jackal, Cape fox and even brown hyaena.

The Kulala Wilderness Reserve is now a vital extension of the national park and part of a growing private conservation network.







## *Kulala Desert Lodge*

With vistas looking directly onto majestic red dunes, Kulala Desert Lodge is the closest location to Sossusvlei, and perhaps the lodge with the most spectacular views. Its accessibility and large, friendly lounge and dining area with wrap-around veranda make this oasis in the desert perfect for families and friends. Visits to the dunes and vleis of Sossusvlei are highlights, along with fascinating desert wildlife and the overwhelming magnitude and sense of adventure on the Kulala Wilderness Reserve.

• 23 kulalas (2 family) • sleep-out deck • Wi-Fi • nature drives and walks • Sossusvlei • Sesriem Canyon • e-bikes • hot air ballooning

ADVENTURES



*“Exactly what you expect from Wilderness Safaris’ camps. Well thought out lodging. Service beyond the norm. Food expertly prepared and unparalleled sights and experiences.”*





## CHILDREN IN THE *Wilderness*

Children in the Wilderness, the environmental and life skills educational programme supported by Wilderness Safaris, began in Namibia in 2002, running Eco-Clubs in rural communities and closing some of our camps to paying guests to host the children instead.

Once a year, we introduce some of our young Eco-Club members to one of Namibia's natural treasures: Sossusvlei. Here the teenagers climb and roll in the famous red sands – everyone wants to complete the Big Daddy dune challenge! They also visit nearby canyons, consider weavers' nests and ancient rock paintings, and are introduced to the area's wildlife – a good opportunity to discuss human-wildlife conflict and possible solutions.





**DAMARALAND**  
DAMARALAND CAMP / DORO NAWAS





*Living with wildlife – a shared environment*

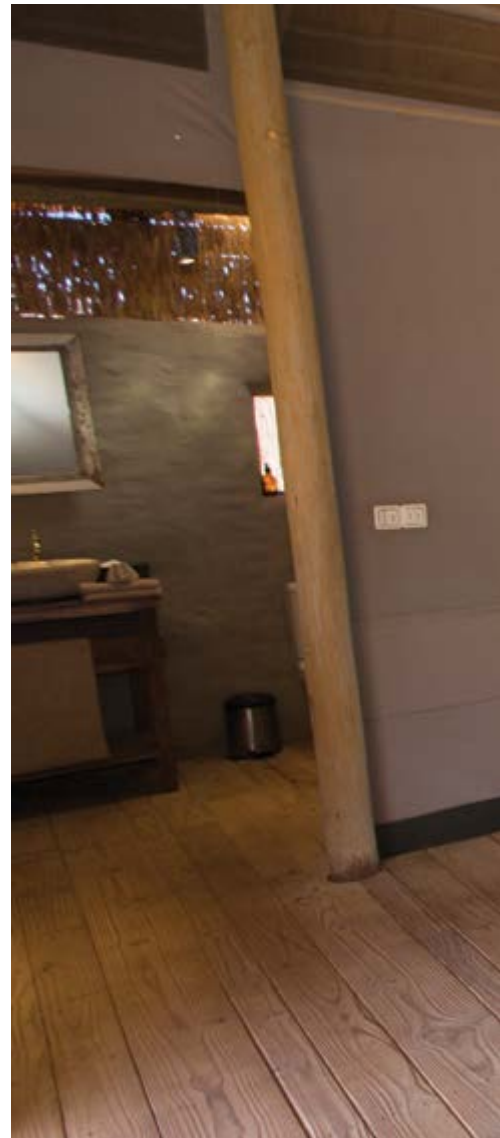


## Damaraland Camp


The original community partnership lodge in Namibia, Damaraland Camp is renowned for its welcoming, friendly and enthusiastic Damara and Riemvasmaker staff. The chic and elegant, yet environmentally-sustainable camp is as perfectly positioned for ventures into the Huab River valley in search of desert-adapted elephant as it is for visits to local villages and family outposts. In this area, people live with wildlife and are proud and passionate about sharing it – and their culture – with visitors.

- 10 tents (1 family) • no Wi-Fi • nature drives and walks
- cultural excursions • geological excursions

CLASSIC







*“The best part of the experience was the incredible team that works there. The “singing” ladies were passionate, enthusiastic, and always around. It was so refreshing to see a local manager from the community.”*





## Doro Nawas

Located in the vast dramatic valley of the aba-Huab River, the cool interiors of Doro Nawas take in the spectacular views from its position atop a small hillock. The World Heritage Site of Twyfelfontein (locally known as /Ui-//aes) is the highlight of a visit here, where thousands of 2 000-year-old engravings cover the rocks, inviting reflection on the lives of our ancestors. Other fascinating geological features and game drives in search of desert-adapted wildlife and into local communities complete the exploration of this rugged landscape. Doro Nawas is a joint venture between Wilderness Safaris and the Doro !Nawas community, benefits flowing directly to the conservancy and its members.

- 16 tents (1 family) • sleep-out deck • no Wi-Fi
- nature drives and walks • rock art at Twyfelfontein • Petrified Forest
- Burnt Mountain and Organ Pipes

ADVENTURES





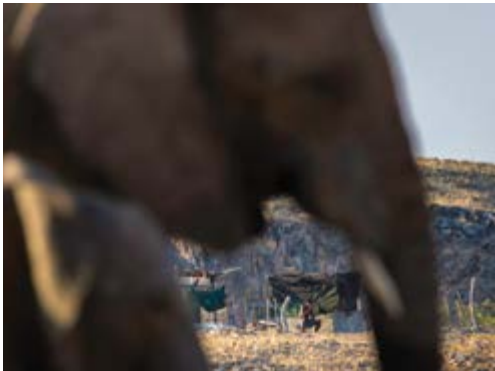






A large, leafy tree stands in the center of a dry, hilly landscape. The ground is sandy and sparsely vegetated. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the tree.

*“The rooms were beautiful, and we enjoyed sleeping outside one night. Our trip to see the desert-adapted elephants was an amazing experience.”*





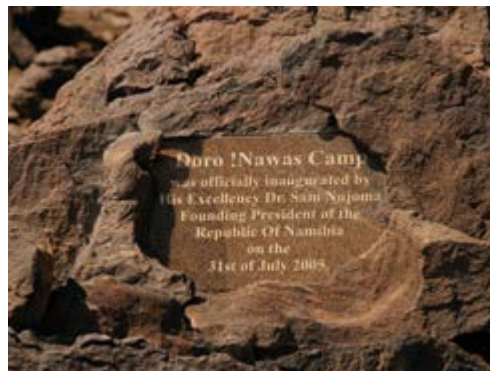
## PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

# *The Community Conservancies*

Since the mid-1990s, Wilderness has been involved in forming joint ventures with local communities in Namibia; indeed we were the first in the private sector to do so, beginning with Damaraland Camp. Here, the success of the venture enabled the community to create the Torra Conservancy, one of the first community conservation conservancies in Namibia. Such conservancies are unfenced multiple-use areas, zoned by community members in order to benefit from wildlife populations while continuing sustainable subsistence and commercial farming.

Torra's success was followed by joint ventures with Doro !Nawas (Doro Nawas), Marienfluss (Serra Cafema) and Sesfontein and Anabeb conservancies (Hoanib; Desert Rhino Camp). We provide the capital and expertise needed for the construction and marketing of lodges and undertake to employ and train community members in the ecotourism business. In some cases, revenue is shared with the community in a lease agreement; in others, communities hold an equity stake in the business. Our commitment remains long term in every respect.

Excitingly, these conservancies have seen substantially increased numbers of desert wildlife and upliftment of the local communities. Our partnerships have been acknowledged as shining examples of modern community-based ecotourism.



*Doro Nawas opened by founding president of Namibia Dr Sam Nujoma, 2005*

**KAOKOVELD – PALMWAG**  
DESERT RHINO CAMP





*Rugged, iconic, startlingly life-filled*



## Desert Rhino Camp

Set in a remote valley of the Palmwag Concession, this light-footprint camp is the result of a forward-thinking rhino conservation partnership between ourselves, Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) and the Namibian government. Privileged access to desert-adapted black rhino from this special location is enabled by skilled SRT trackers, with discussions around the campfire at night focusing on how visitors here contribute to the protection of this Critically Endangered species. The red-rock-strewn valleys, interspersed with tiny springs, are home to numbers of Hartmann's mountain zebra, giraffe, oryx, springbok and spotted hyaena too.

- 8 tents • no Wi-Fi • rhino tracking • game drives • nature walks
- night scorpion walks


CLASSIC











*“Seeing the highly endangered black rhino will be the focus of your time at Desert Rhino. The scenery, the rooms, the food, the guiding, and the wildlife (as sparse as it is in the desert) are all simply amazing.”*

# Rhino

## GUARDIANS

By 1980, due to rampant poaching, the desert-adapted black rhino teetered on the edge of extinction. In 1982, Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) was formed with the aim of conserving the remaining rhino, by employing a combination of ex-poachers and members of the local community to do so. Its focus on the protection, monitoring and understanding of the local black rhino is so successful that this is the only rhino population in the world that has survived on communal land with no formal conservation status.

Since the inception of Desert Rhino Camp, we have joined forces with this NGO. Our guests gain amazing insights into the ecology and conservation of the Palmwag area, while at the same time a portion of guest revenue goes to SRT and its rhino conservation projects.

Our partnership with SRT as well as with Namibia's Ministry of Environment and Tourism has meant that the black rhino population in this area is now able to sustain relocations of founder individuals to surrounding areas on communal land, thereby enhancing the population growth of the species.





**KAOKOVELD – SKELETON COAST**  
HOANIB SKELETON COAST





*Dunefields, riverbeds and dramatic, desolate coastlines*

## Hoanib Skeleton Coast

In a broad, dry valley that looks toward the seldom-flowing Hoanib River lies Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp, its flowing rooftops and award-winning environmentally-friendly design seemingly a permanent part of the ancient landscape. In this land of rugged mountains, gravel plains and rolling dunefields, regular encounters with a surprising array of large, charismatic desert-adapted wildlife abound, from elephant, lion and giraffe to oryx, springbok and even brown hyaena. The camp's position allows access to the legendary Skeleton Coast, with its stark shores and seal colonies, along with views of secret oases, magnificent dunes and unexpected yet thriving life.

The camp hosts researchers committed to conserving desert-adapted lion, brown hyaena and elephant.

- 8 tents (1 family) • 100% solar • no Wi-Fi • nature drives and walks
- Skeleton Coast scenic drive / flight • research centre • Olympus photography

CLASSIC









*“The location is stunning, remote, epic, beautiful and unique. The rooms are luxurious, chic and extremely comfortable. But what really stands out is the professionalism and friendliness of all of the staff.”*





# The Desert Lion

## PROJECT

The desert-adapted lion of the Namib is a flagship species for the area's growing ecotourism industry. However, pastoral communities must share the land with these free-ranging carnivores, which sometimes prey on domestic livestock. In turn, farmers respond by shooting or poisoning lions to protect their livelihood.

The future of lion conservation in the Kaokoveld is therefore dependent on human-lion conflict management so as to enable the desert lions to survive, while at the same time allowing people to maintain their traditional livelihoods. There is an ongoing need for sustainable approaches to tourism that deliver tangible benefits to the communities and somehow minimise their losses.

The Desert Lion Conservation Project, founded by Dr Philip Stander in 1998, is a long-term study that aims to learn more about this unique lion population and assist local communities with conflicts whenever and wherever they occur.

We have built a research centre and secondary home base for the Project at Hoanib and supported the making of a documentary – “Vanishing Kings” – and its sequel that has brought the plight of this population to the world's attention.







**KAOKOVELD – KUNENE RIVER**  
SERRA CAFEMA

A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a river flowing through a valley. The foreground is a dry, golden-brown field with some sparse green vegetation. The middle ground features a blue river with rocky banks and some green shrubs. The background consists of large, rugged mountains with varying shades of brown and blue, under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is a mix of arid and semi-arid environments.

*A vast, textured landscape of incredible contrasts*







## *Serra Cafema*

The most remote camp in Namibia – and perhaps the whole of southern Africa – Serra Cafema is unique. One cannot fail to be struck by the vast immensity of the area; the aeons-old impact on the geology is somehow more tangible here than anywhere else. The stylish and comfortable lodge (rebuilt in 2018) is perched on the edge of the permanently-flowing Kunene River – an anomaly in the desert – and is a cool, calm refuge from the aridity of daily expeditions by vehicle or quad bike to visit traditional Himba communities or explore the scenic drama of the endless Hartmann’s Valley.

- 8 tents (1 family) • no Wi-Fi • nature walks and drives • quad biking
- boating • cultural excursions • massage treatments
- Olympus photography • 100% solar

CLASSIC





*“The remoteness, vastness, staggering beauty and idyllic setting is transportive. You can't help feel that you are somewhere special.”*









## *The Himba*

### NOMADS OF NAMIBIA

Throughout Namibia, traditional identity is a strong theme in a country that brims with diverse cultures and histories. It is the Himba – a minority group numbering only 12 000 – who are perhaps the most visually distinctive. They seem to live on the edge of time, their unusual dress with fine leatherwork and intricate hairstyles identifying them as traditionalists clinging steadfastly and proudly to a long-established way of life. Nomadic clans follow grazing and water availability with their herds of cattle and goats, and gender and life stages are marked by rigidly-defined hairstyles and dress.

When the Himba of the Marienfluss move into the dunes close to Serra Cafema, we provide opportunities for our guests to learn about and appreciate their lifestyle through sensitive, respectful meetings and interactions. The ultimate goal is that of increasing knowledge, raising awareness and enriching all of those involved, guests and communities alike.



**EXPLORATIONS AND PRIVATELY-GUIDED JOURNEYS**





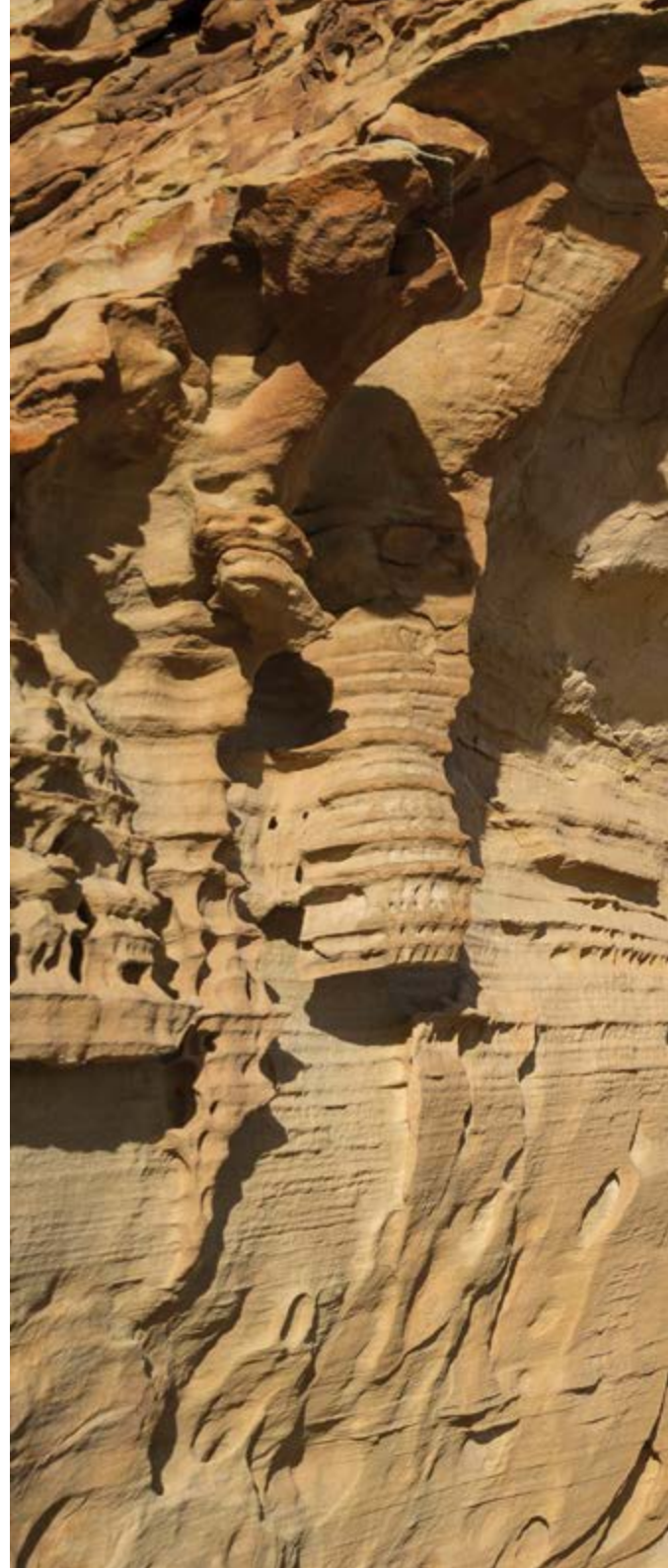
*Privately-guided journeys through the vast,  
unexplored nature of it all ...*

## EXPLORATIONS AND *Privately-Guided Journeys*

Wilderness Safaris began with mobile camping safaris as the cornerstone of our operation, where we sought out prime wilderness areas throughout southern Africa and channelled our passion into guided safaris that were educational and fun filled. Our scheduled Explorations represent both a commitment to our origins, as well as a progression in traditional safari concept – that of a guided, original journey through Africa – while our Privately-Guided Journeys allow you to design your own safari, which takes place at your own time and pace, with a private guide.

Privately-Guided Journeys in Namibia are also able to offer even more adventurous itineraries in the form of serviced camping safaris. These exciting itineraries allow guests to truly get their feet on the ground and to be at one with nature.

Whether you choose an Exploration or a Privately-Guided Journey, your safari will be conducted by one of our superlative guides. Highly trained and noted for their passion and knowledge, they lead each journey from start to finish, creating a seamless and detailed interpretive experience.







# Desert Dune Safari

13 nights / 14 days

May – mid-November

This safari takes you through some of the most remote areas on the planet, beginning at the Sossusvlei dunes followed by exploring the marine life off Swakopmund. We then discover the dramatic and secluded coastline of the Skeleton Coast and the desolate landscape of Namibia's starkly beautiful north-west where the last free-roaming black rhino rove. We end our journey in the wildlife-rich Etosha National Park.

• Sossusvlei • Swakopmund • Skeleton Coast • Kaokoveld • Etosha





# *Diverse Namibia*

9 nights/10 days

Year-round

Travelling on lesser known routes, this is a true adventure that takes in the soaring red dunes of Sossusvlei, the life-filled blue Atlantic Ocean, the desert and denizens of Damaraland, and the plains game and predators of Etosha National Park.

• Sossusvlei • Swakopmund • Damaraland • Etosha









## SUGGESTED CAMPING SAFARIS

### *Rivers of Kaokoland*

4 nights / 5 days

Year-round

This suggested itinerary entails wild, serviced camping in Namibia's Kaokoland.. The dry river systems of the arid north-west are vital oases for elephant and other desert-adapted wildlife that eke out an existence here. This is pure adventure, following sinuous riverbeds in search of an unexpected and delightful diversity of life at every turn.

• Huab River • Hoanib River • Ugab River

## *Desert Oases*

4 nights / 5 days

Year-round

This serviced camping safari offers a unique adventure in the vast, exclusive 450 000-hectare Palmwag Concession in north-west Namibia. Guests track desert-adapted black rhino in the company of an experienced guide and Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) trackers. Certain freshwater springs and the ephemeral Hoanib River will also be explored for other wildlife such as elephant, possibly lion and Hartmann's mountain zebra.

• Wereldsend • Hunkab Spring • Hoanib River















WILDERNESS AIR

*Connecting you to the Wilderness*

Our fleet of light aircraft provides seamless connections from camp to camp; the air-conditioned lounge in Windhoek a welcome retreat before international flights.

## OUR People

People are at the heart of Wilderness Safaris. Our staff is made up of individuals who share the beliefs and values of our organisation and who together form the extended Wilderness family. These warm, inspiring and enthusiastic individuals are the vital link and interface between our guests, our partners and the wilderness; their knowledge and passion gives a new meaning to service.

In Namibia, some 350 committed and dedicated people run our camps or work in the office. They come from a number of cultures and language groups and are the custodians of what we call the Wilderness Way, which means having humble pride in the bigger vision of the organisation and the difference we seek to make. They convey their enthusiasm to our guests by sharing what they have learned about the vital ecological and conservation principles on which Wilderness stands.

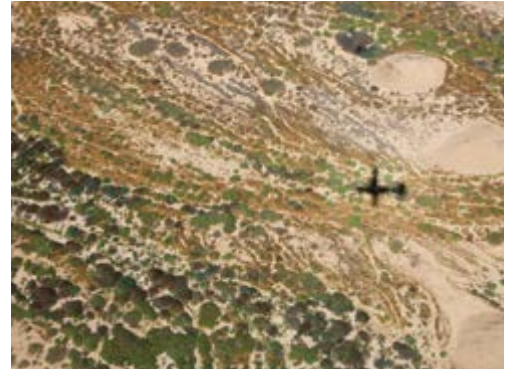






*“There is a palpable ethos, culture and sense of family at the camp. When we pulled away after our stay we felt like we were leaving friends who we had known forever.”*





YOUR JOURNEY WILL  
*Make a Difference ...*

Experiences with wildlife, being in truly remote locations and interacting with our staff are the primary reasons that our guests choose to travel with Wilderness. But more than this; when you journey with us, you are helping make a difference – to Africa, its people and its wildlife.

A portion of every bednight that you book with us is dedicated to conservation. A percentage goes to the Wilderness Wildlife Trust, our non-profit entity that supports a wide variety of projects throughout Africa: from research and conservation to wildlife management and educational bursaries.

Another share is portioned off to be used throughout the organisation in protecting and nurturing the wild places, in uplifting the communities that live adjacent to these, and in ensuring that our camps step with as light a footprint as possible on the Earth.

Our pride and joy is our Children in the Wilderness programme, which aims to educate the youth of Africa, inspiring and helping them to appreciate and ultimately protect their magnificent natural heritage.

We invite you to join us on a journey that makes a difference.



[www.wildernesstrust.com](http://www.wildernesstrust.com)



[www.childreninthewilderness.com](http://www.childreninthewilderness.com)

# Planning a safari

## IN NAMIBIA

Namibia is a vast country, the fifth largest in Africa and more than twice the size of California or Germany. It holds a spectacular array of diverse, arid-adapted wildlife, cultures, landscapes and experiences. A month of travel would scarcely do the country justice.

Very few people have a month to spare though, so planning what to see and do in your available 7-14 days is critical. We strongly recommend working with an African travel specialist in your home country in order to get the best advice. We work with a number of excellent tour operators and travel agents who know our camps and services intimately and will design the perfect safari especially for you.

When considering how to ensure the best experience from your safari, in our view the most important aspects to consider are diversity and logistics. How will you see as much variety as possible, while still having time to relax, reflect and enjoy your time? It is for this reason that we attempt to provide as seamless a journey as possible ... operating our own meet and greet services, an airport lounge, and our own 'bush airline' that flies you from camp to camp, and enables the covering of Namibia's considerable distances most efficiently.

We want a journey with us to change your life, and to change the way you see the world and your place in it.





## CAMPS

- 1. Little Kulala
- 2. Kulala Desert Lodge
- 3. Doro Nawas
- 4. Damaraland
- 5. Desert Rhino Camp
- 6. Hoanib Skeleton Coast
- 7. Serra Cafema





ELSEWHERE IN  
*Africa*

**BOTSWANA** Abu / Chitabe / Chitabe Lediba / DumaTau / Jacana /  
Jao / Kalahari Plains / King's Pool / Linyanti Tented Camp /  
Little Mombo / Little Tubu / Little Vumbura / Mombo / Qorokwe / Savuti /  
Seba / Tubu Tree / Vumbura Plains / Xigera

**KENYA** Segera

**RWANDA** Bisate / Magashi

**SEYCHELLES** North Island

**SOUTH AFRICA** Private Journeys, Cape Town

**ZAMBIA** Busanga Bush Camp / Shumba / Toka Leya

**ZIMBABWE** Davison's / Little Makalolo / Linkwasha / Ruckomechi /  
Little Ruckomechi / Chikwenya / Zambezi Touring, Victoria Falls





BOTSWANA



KENYA



RWANDA



SEYCHELLES



ZAMBIA



ZIMBABWE

