


NAMIBIA


WILDERNESS
SAFARIS

2015







"In Afrikaans, the Namibian lingua franca, our word for hospitality is gasvryheid. Translated literally it means "guest freedom". Welcome. I hope you'll experience the freedom of our camps through generous and humble hospitality, but even more importantly a freedom of the soul in our vast country."

Johann Cloete (senior guide, Desert Rhino Camp)

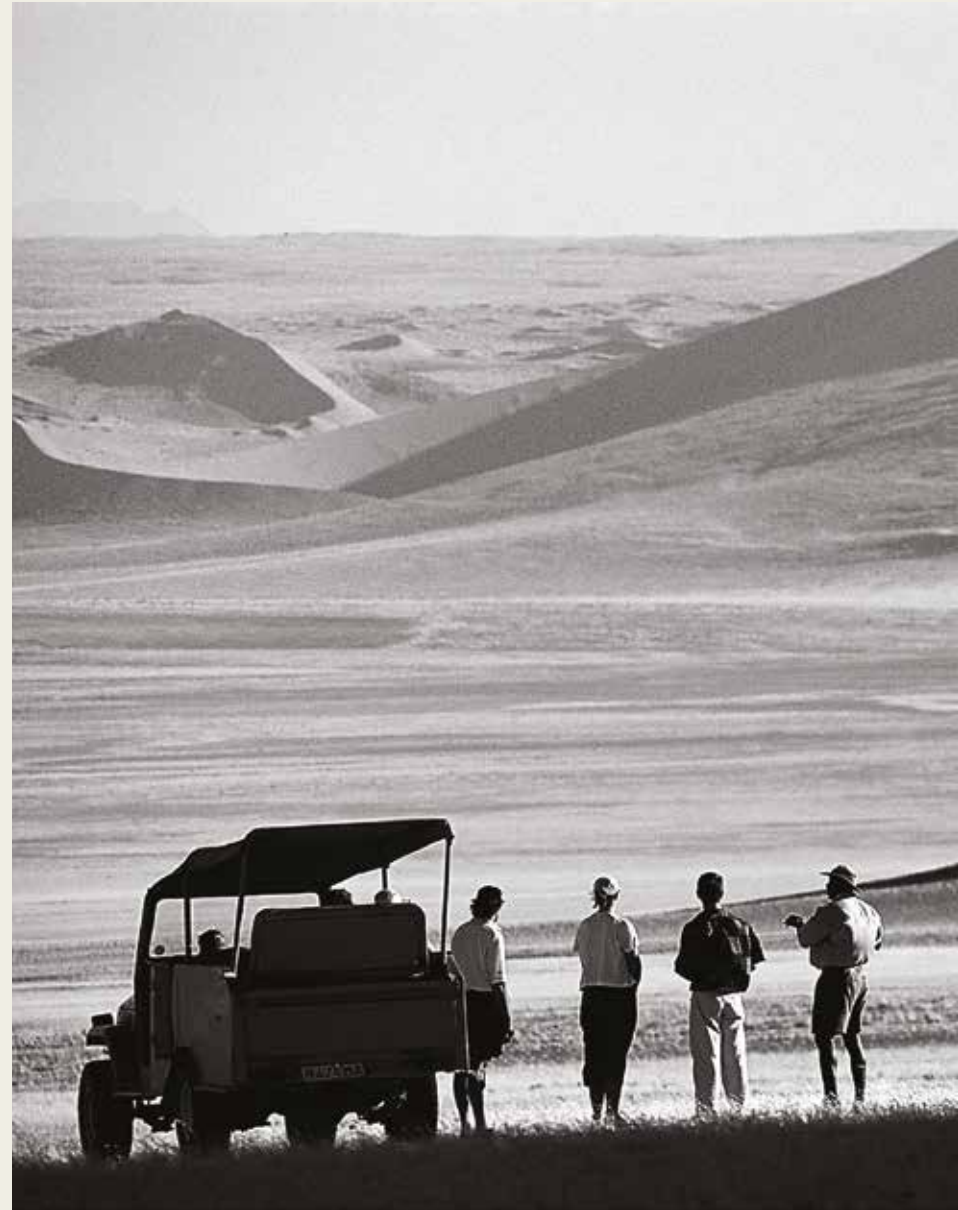


Above: the first Damaraland Camp, circa 1996

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 apparently 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, NGOs and government – 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. We are incredibly proud that our model has been replicated by others and that together we have helped make Namibia a shining light in community-based ecotourism and conservation.



Above: early days exploring the Kulala Wilderness Reserve, circa 1998



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 this 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, one of the last true nomadic tribes on Earth, to the unique desert-adapted elephant, the bizarre welwitschia plant and the superbly-adapted tenebrionid beetles.



Sossusvlei

Sossusvlei; Dead Vlei; enormous red sand dunes; vast open plains

Camps
Little Kulala • Kulala Desert Lodge

Pages: 6 – 19



Damaraland

Desert-adapted wildlife (elephant); community conservancies; rock engravings

Camps
Damaraland Camp • Doro Nawas

Pages: 20 – 33



Kaokoveld – Palmwag

Mesas; rocky valley floors; desert-adapted wildlife (black rhino); remote springs

Camps
Desert Rhino Camp

Pages: 34 – 41

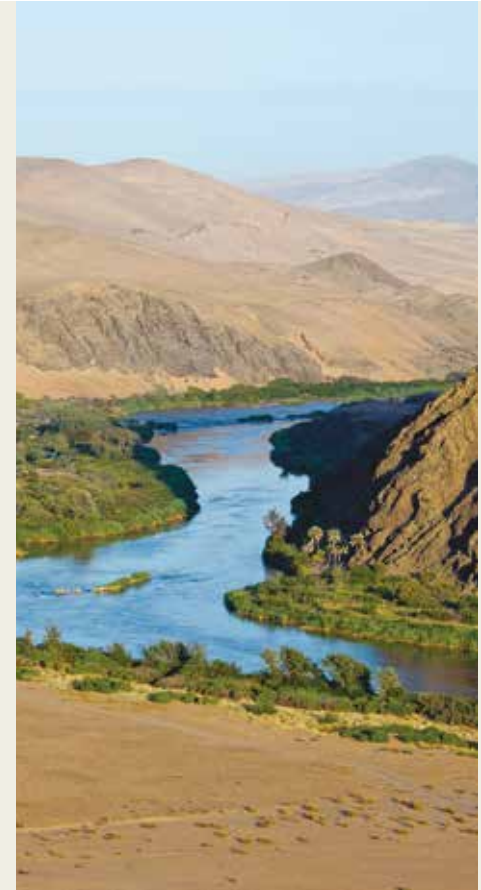


Kaokoveld – Skeleton Coast

Hoanib riverbed; abundant desert wildlife; Skeleton Coast; seal colonies

Camps
Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp

Pages: 42 – 49



Kaokoveld – Kunene River

Remote, stark landscapes; Himba culture; the verdant ribbon of the Kunene River

Camps
Serra Cafema

Pages: 50 – 57

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, 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 "star-bed" offers slumber under some of Africa's clearest skies.



- 11 rooms (1 family) • nature drives and walks • Sossusvlei excursion (via private gate)
- Sesriem visit • sleep out deck • quad biking • massage treatments • hot air balloon

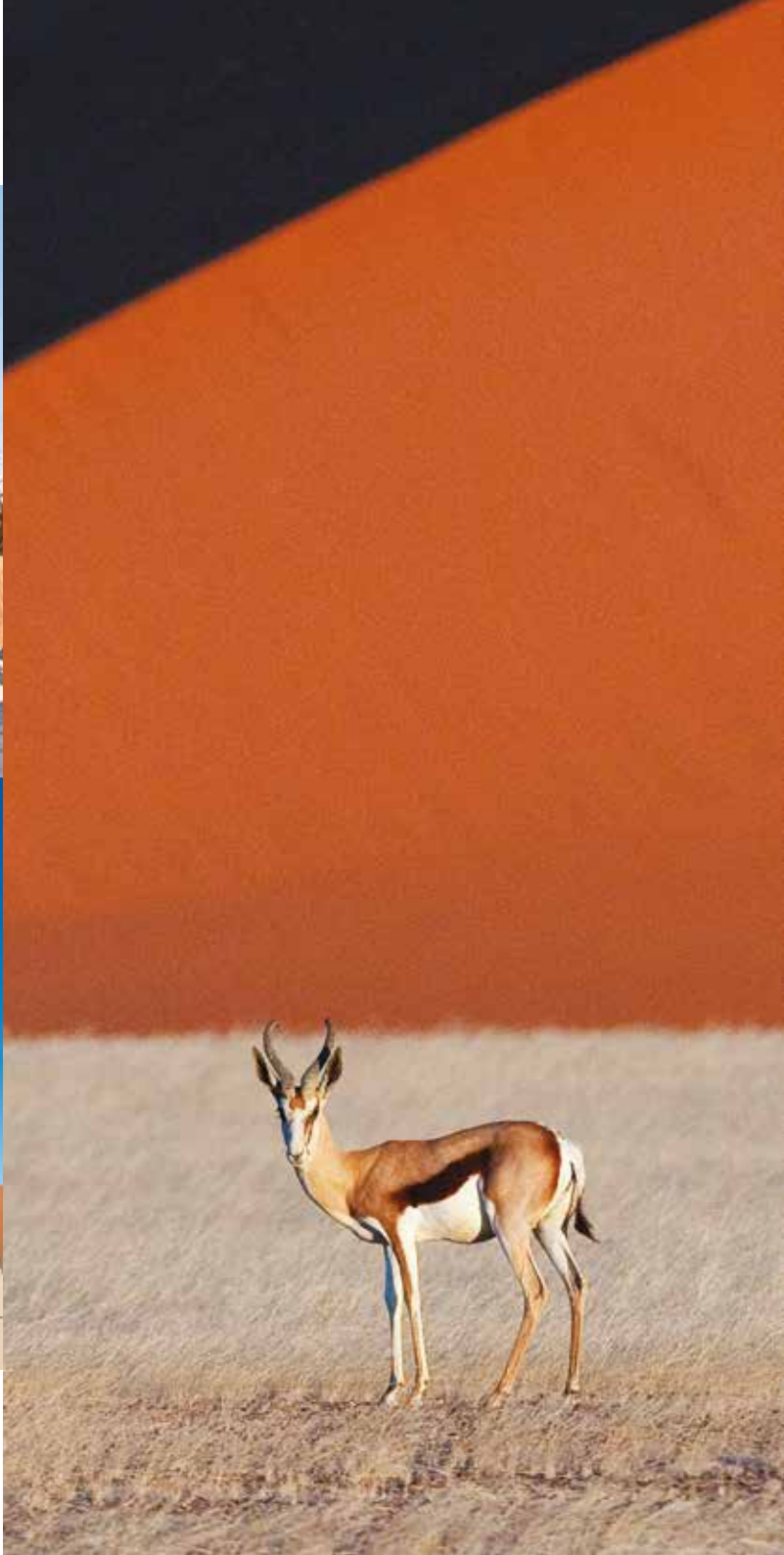






"Service levels and professionalism were high and the food was great. What we hadn't expected was to be smitten with the people – their warmth and friendliness, the sense that what they do isn't just a job, but something they take personal pride in doing well."

Little Kulala guest, July 2015





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 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.







• 23 kulalas (3 family) • nature drives and walks • Sossusvlei excursion (via private gate) • Sesriem visit • sleep out deck • quad biking • horse riding • hot air balloon



Kulala Desert Lodge

With vistas directly onto majestic red dunes, Kulala Desert Lodge is the closest location to Sossusvlei, and perhaps the lodge with the most spectacular views. The lodge's accessibility, and its 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.

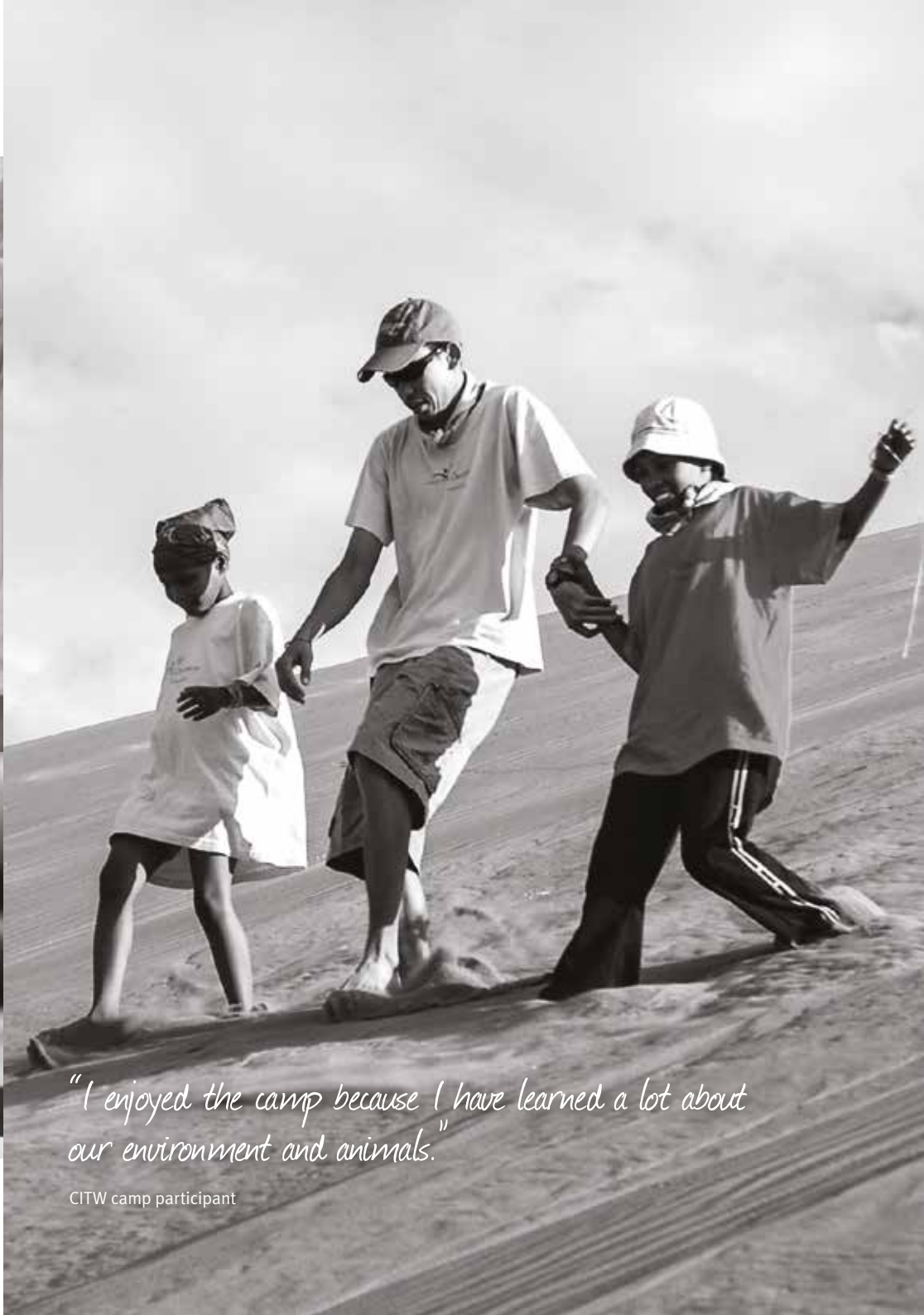




"Our children were made to feel very welcome. One night my husband and son slept out under the stars on the roof of our lodging. They said it was amazing."

Kulala Desert Lodge guest, July 2015





"I enjoyed the camp because I have learned a lot about our environment and animals."

CITW camp participant



Children in the Wilderness – sustainable conservation through leadership development

Children in the Wilderness (CITW), the environmental and life skills educational programme supported by Wilderness Safaris, began in Namibia in 2002, running Eco-Clubs in rural communities and hosting children at some of our camps. 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 bushman rock paintings, and are introduced to the area's wildlife – a good opportunity to discuss human-wildlife interactions and possible solutions.

These young visitors to Kulala have usually participated on a previous Children in the Wilderness camp and have been inspired to learn more about the environment and conservation. A thrilling event then is cheetah tracking: They learn how to use radio-tracking devices to locate collared cheetah, expertly guided and encouraged by wildlife biologists who work in the area, often called upon to translocate animals to protected lands.

As Henrico said in awe: "I saw a cheetah with my OWN EYES!"

DAMARALAND

• Damaraland Camp





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, but environmentally sustainable, lodge 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.



Steenbok ram (*Raphicervus campestris*)
Huab riverbed

- 10 tents (1 family) • nature drives and walks • authentic community visits • geological excursions





"Damaraland Camp simply feels like home but home in a beautiful, harsh landscape that brings a different sunrise every day! I fell in love with Damaraland and its special people."

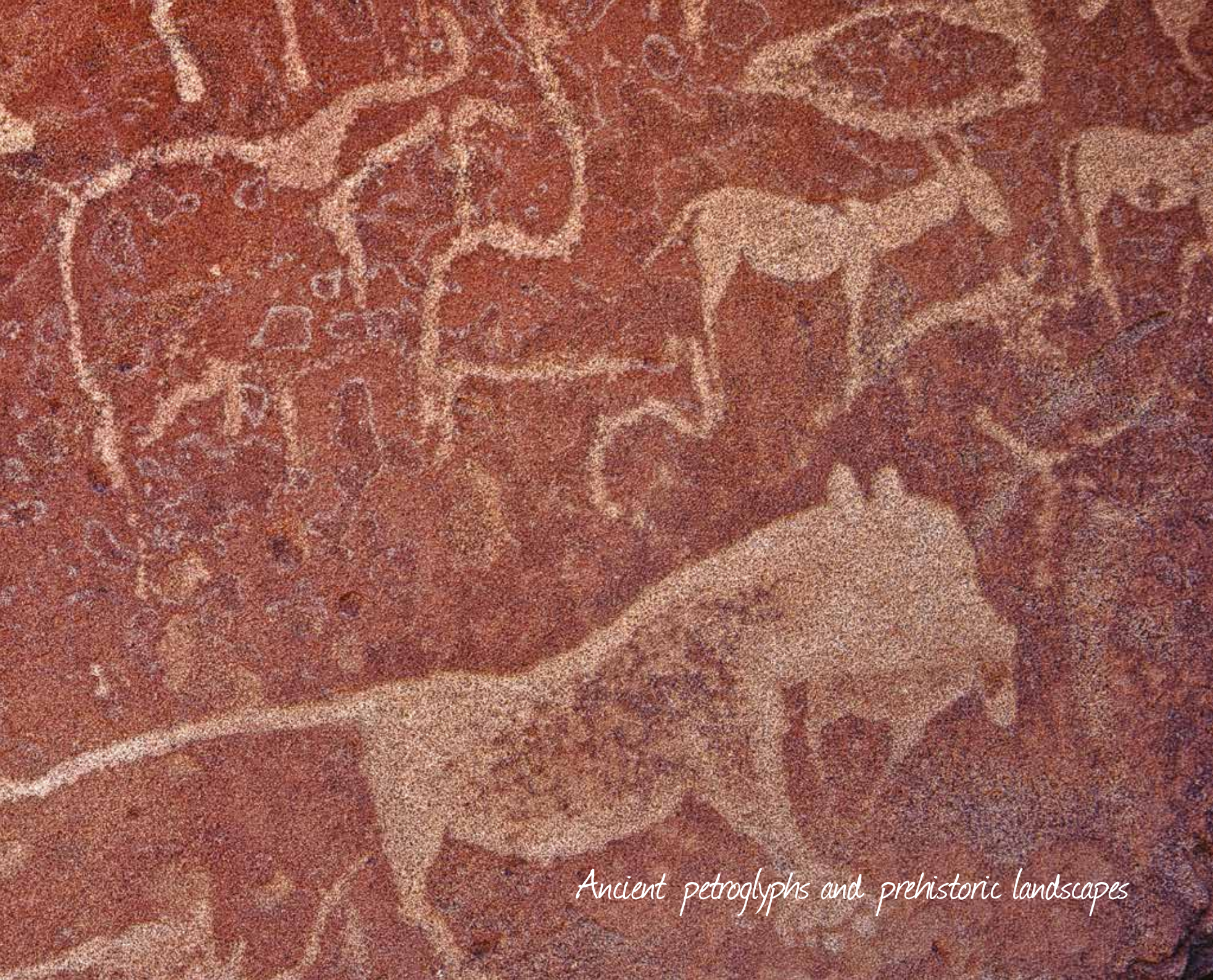
Damaraland Camp guest, July 2015



DAMARALAND

• Doro Nawas





Ancient petroglyphs and prehistoric landscapes





Doro Nawas

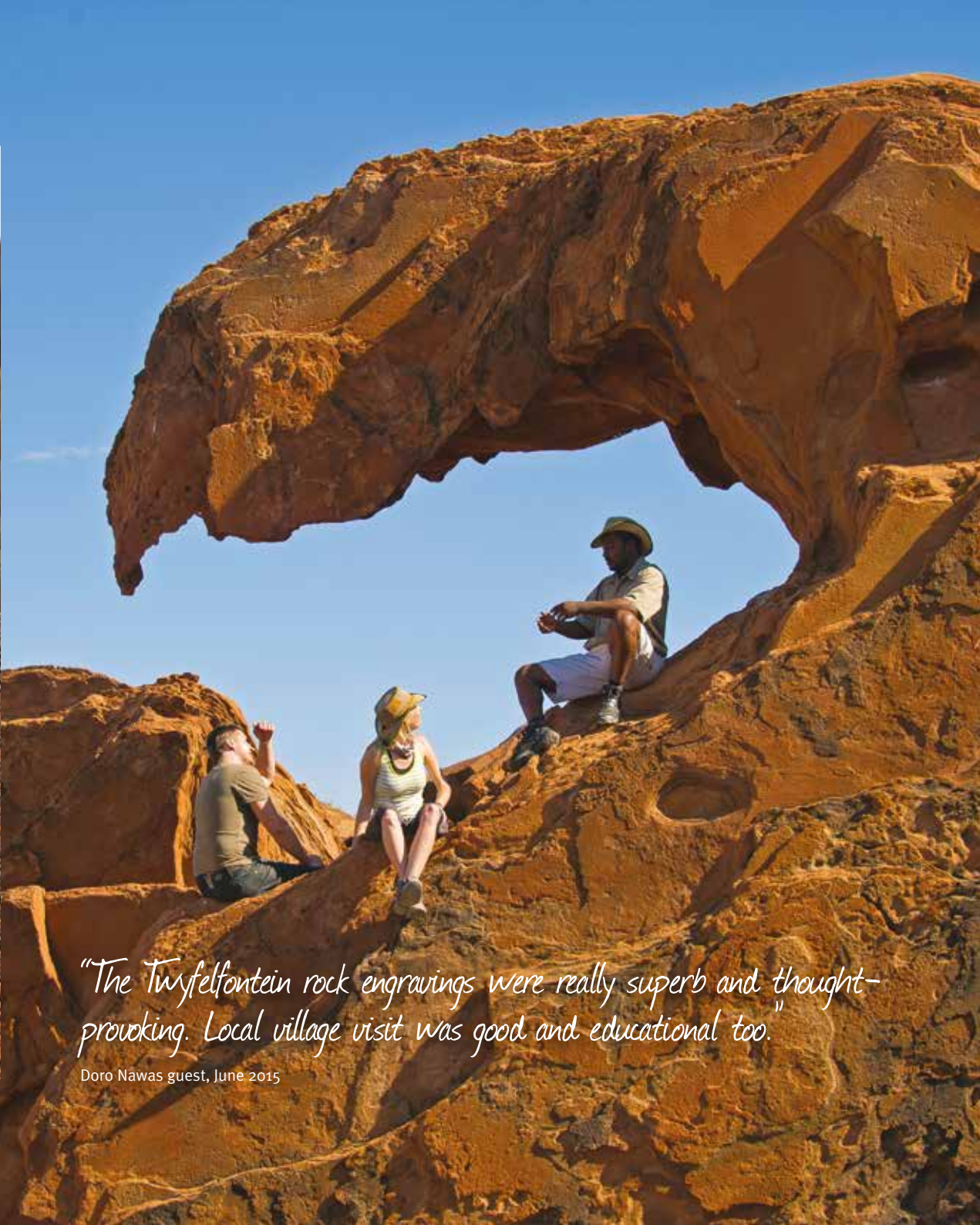
Located in the vast dramatic valley of the aba-Huab River, the cool interiors of Doro Nawas take in the spectacular views from its position atop a small hillock. The World Heritage Site of Twyfelfontein (locally known as /Ui-//aes) is the highlight of a visit here, where thousands of 2 000-year-old engravings 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.



Namibian Rock Agama
(*Agama planiceps*)
Displaying male

- 16 tents (1 family) • nature drives and walks • rock art at Twyfelfontein • Petrified Forest • Burnt Mountain and Organ Pipes • sleep out deck





"The Twyfelfontein rock engravings were really superb and thought-provoking. Local village visit was good and educational too."

Doro Nawas guest, June 2015



Image right: Doro Nawas opened by founding president of Namibia Dr Sam Nujoma, 2005



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 form such partnerships, 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, in 1998. Such conservancies are unfenced multiple use areas, zoned by the community members in order to derive benefit from wildlife populations while continuing sustainable subsistence and commercial farming projects.

The success of Torra was followed by joint ventures with Doro !Nawas (Doro Nawas), Marienfluss (Serra Cafema) and Sesfontein and Anabeb conservancies (Hoanib; Desert Rhino Camp). In our partnerships, we provide the capital and expertise needed for the construction and marketing of ecotourism camps 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, and our partnerships have been acknowledged as shining examples of modern community-based ecotourism.



KAOKOVELD - PALMWAG

• Desert Rhino Camp



A young rhinoceros is the central focus, standing in a savanna landscape. The rhino is positioned in the lower third of the frame, facing left. The ground is covered with dry, greyish-brown grass and scattered green shrubs. In the background, a range of mountains stretches across the horizon, with the nearest peaks appearing in shades of blue and purple, suggesting a hazy or atmospheric setting. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall scene conveys a sense of a wild, natural environment.

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, an NGO and the Namibian government. Privileged access to desert-adapted black rhino from this special location is enabled by skilled trackers from Save the Rhino Trust, with discussions around the campfire later 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 large numbers of Hartmann's mountain zebra, giraffe, oryx, springbok and spotted hyaena too.



- 8 tents
- rhino tracking with Save the Rhino Trust
- nature drives





"The rhino tracking experience was extraordinary. But the true treasure we found here was the people. Every member of staff was so warm, welcoming and helpful it felt as if we were part of their cherished family."

Desert Rhino guest, August 2015





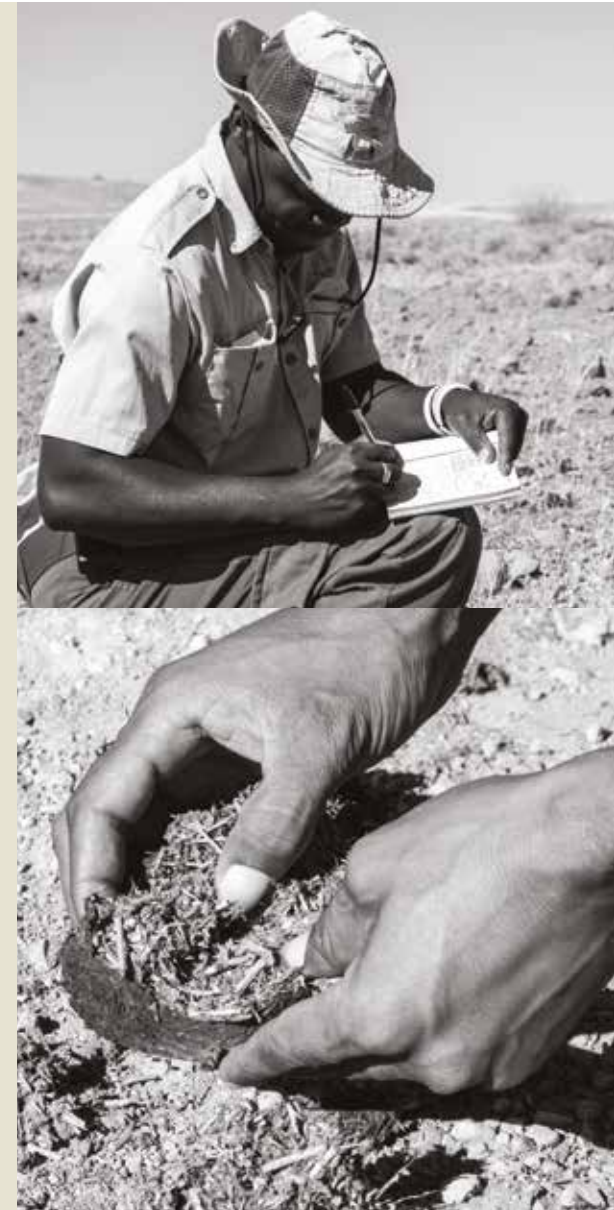


Rhino guardians

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 population 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 (MET) 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 Camp



A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a large sand dune is visible, with a small, light-colored dog standing on its crest. The dune's surface shows some texture and shadows. In the background, a prominent, dark, rocky ridge or cliff line runs across the middle ground, partially covered in sand. Beyond the ridge, more sand dunes are visible under a clear, light blue sky. The overall scene is desolate and dramatic.

Dunefields, riverbeds and dramatic, desolate coastlines

Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp

In a broad, dry valley that looks down into 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. Here 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 interspersed with rocks and seal colonies, along with views of secret oases, magnificent dunes and unexpected yet thriving life.



- 7 tents (1 family) • nature walks • nature drives • Skeleton Coast scenic drive / flight







"The region is spectacular and had such a special, remote feel to it, that you felt as if you were one of the first to explore it."

Hoanib guest, July 2015





The Desert Lion Project

The desert-adapted lion of the Namib is a flagship species for the growing ecotourism industry in this area. However, their presence means that the local 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. This knowledge will help in the successful conservation of the species and benefit both the tourism industry and the local communities, to say nothing of the lions themselves.

This project is based part of the time at Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp.



KAOKOVELD – KUNENE RIVER

• Serra Cafema



A vast, textured landscape of incredible contrasts





Serra Cafema

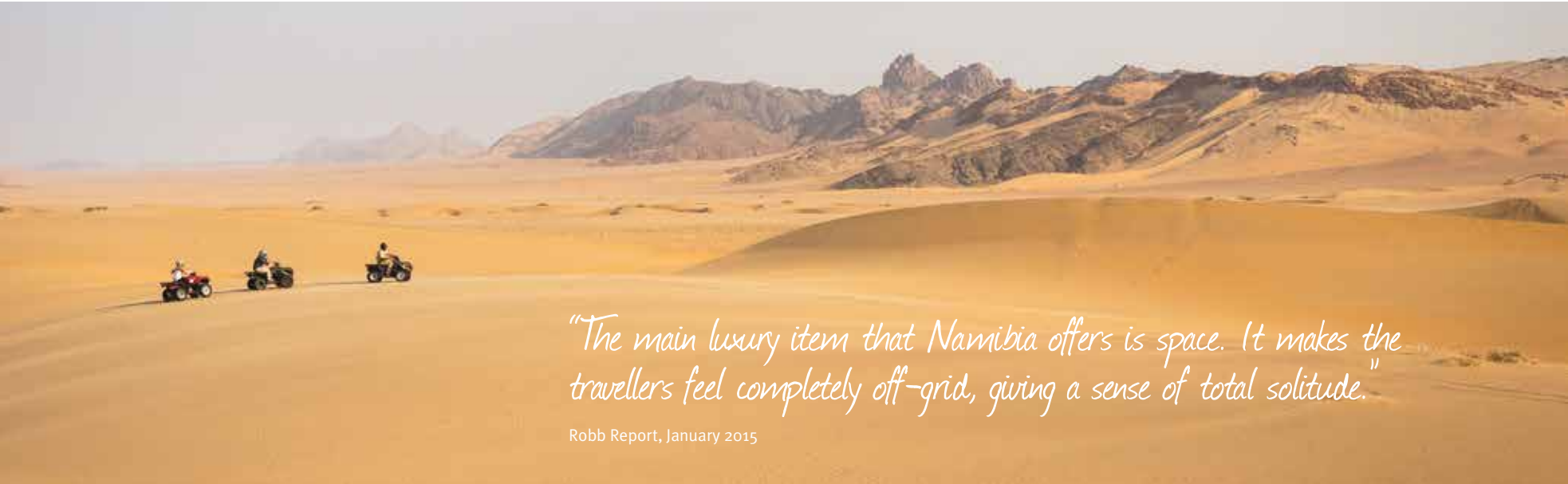
The most remote camp in Namibia – and perhaps the whole of southern Africa – Serra Cafema is unique. One cannot fail to be struck by the vast immensity of the area; the aeons-old impact on the geology is somehow more tangible here than anywhere else. The stylish and comfortable lodge is perched on the 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.



*Himba necklace
Typically worn by
married woman*

- 8 tents (1 family)
- nature walks and drives
- quad biking
- boating
- Himba community





"The main luxury item that Namibia offers is space. It makes the travellers feel completely off-grid, giving a sense of total solitude."

Robb Report, January 2015







The Himba - Nomads of Namibia

In 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.







Wilderness Air ... connecting you to the wilderness



EXPLORATIONS



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





Explorations

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 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.

Each Exploration is privately guided 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.

Aside from our exciting set itineraries, Tailor-made Explorations – personally-crafted itineraries for private groups – are available.





Desert Dune Safari

*Journey through the dune-filled desert
and the Skeleton Coast*

Brief Itinerary

Days 1 & 2: Kulala Desert Lodge, Sossusvlei

Days 3 & 4: Hansa Hotel, Swakopmund

Day 5: Terrace Bay Lodge, Skeleton Coast National Park

Days 6 & 7: Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp, Palmwag and
Skeleton Coast

Days 8 & 9: Desert Rhino Camp, Palmwag Concession

Day 10: Return to Windhoek



Diverse Namibia

*From Sossusvlei to Etosha and
everywhere in between*

Brief Itinerary

Days 1 & 2: Kulala Adventurer Camp, Sossusvlei

Days 3 & 4: Hansa Hotel, Swakopmund

Days 5, 6 & 7: Via Cape Cross seal colony to Damaraland
Adventurer Camp, Kaokoveld

Days 8 & 9: Andersson's Camp, Etosha National Park

Day 10: Return to Windhoek



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 to have a 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.

"Your success is your wonderful caring staff: professional, kind, knowledgeable, attentive to our every need. Alpha was the best guide and took care of us like we were his parents. Our stay was tremendous - hoping to see you next year!"











Your journey will make a difference ...

Experiences with wildlife, being in truly remote locations and interacting with our staff are the primary reasons why 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 these 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 thus protect their magnificent natural heritage.

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



www.wildernesstrust.com



www.childreninthewilderness.com



PLANNING A NAMIBIA SAFARI



- Camps
1. Serra Cafema
 2. Hoarib Camp
 3. Desert Rhino Camp
 4. Damaraland Camp
 5. Doro Navas
 6. Kulala Desert Lodge
 7. Little Kulala



Namibian flag
The sun at top left symbolises life and energy; the colours represent the sky and Atlantic Ocean (blue, top), the heroism of the people in achieving independence (red, middle) and the sustenance of the land (green, bottom). The diagonal white lines signify unity.



The Namibian Coat of Arms
Aside from the flag emblazoned on the shield, three species characteristic of the country are included. The African fish-eagle is a symbol of farsightedness in the country's leaders. The two oryx represent courage, elegance and pride. The wellwitschia embodies the nation's fortitude and tenacity.

Population: 2 million (2014)
Country size: 824 292 sq km / 318 696 sq mi (double the size of California, or Germany)
Capital: Windhoek
Official language: English
Currency: Namibian Dollar (NAD)
Ethnic groups: Owambo, Herero, Damara, Riemasmaker, Nama, San, Karango, Caprivian, Afrikaner, German

Planning a Namibia safari

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, a touring and transfer business 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.



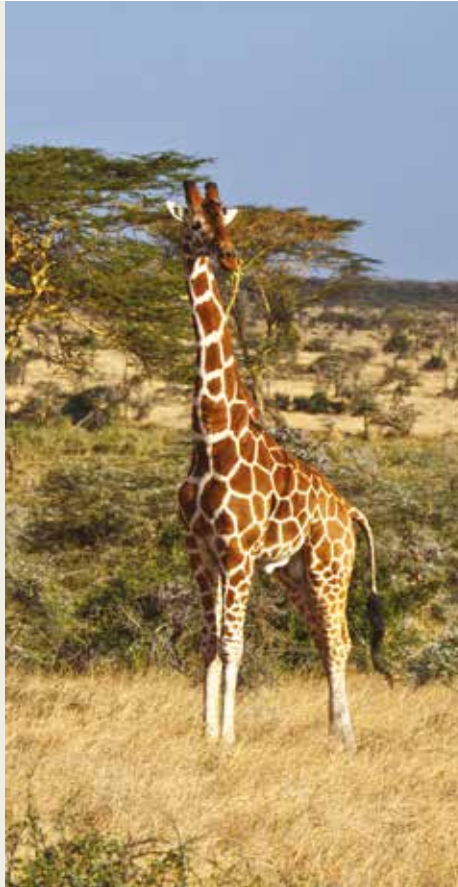
Images, from top: Airport lounge at Hosea Kutako, Windhoek • Wilderness Air: pre-departure briefing • Wilderness Air: Cessna Caravan C208B • Friendly welcome on arrival at camp



Botswana

Camps:

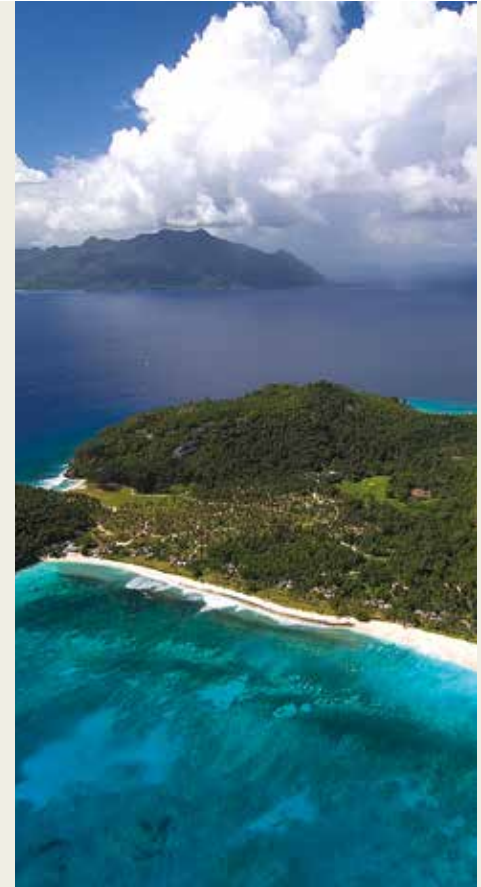
Abu, Chitabe, Chitabe Lediba, DumaTau, Jacana, Jao, Kalahari Plains, Kings Pool, Kwetsani, Little Mombo, Little Tubu, Little Vumbura, Mombo, Savuti, Seba, Tubu Tree, Vumbura Plains, Xigera



Kenya

Camps:

Segera Retreat



Seychelles

Camps:

North Island



Zambia

Camps:
Shumba, Busanga Bush Camp, Toka Leya



South Africa

Camps:
Rocktail



Zimbabwe

Camps:
Davison's, Little Makalolo,
Linkwasha, Ruckomechi





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www.wilderness-safaris.com



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