

Michelangelo

FREE COPY

IN FLIGHT. IN ROOM. IN AFRICA

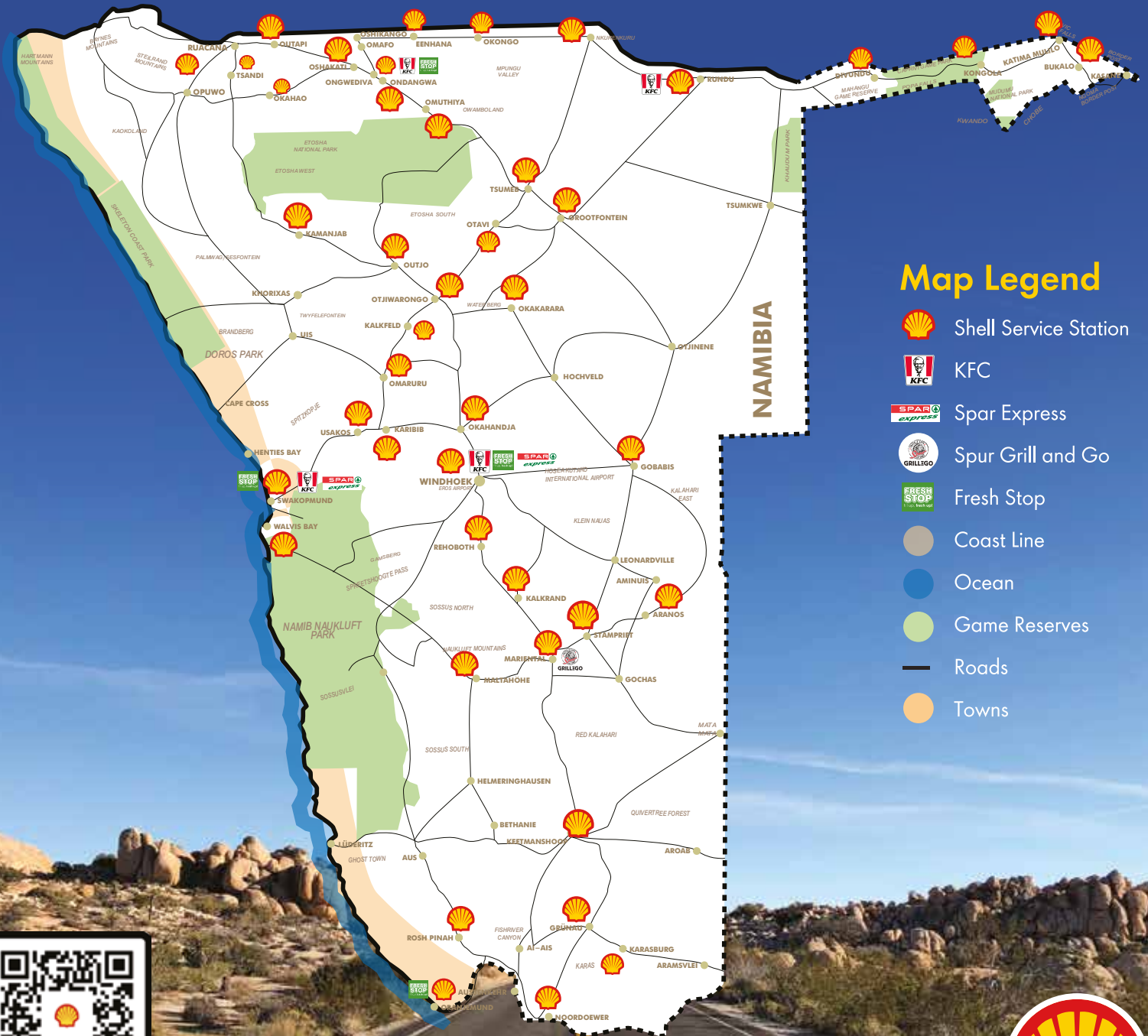
MAY 2025

Africa



Born in Namibia,
Read Globally.

Whatever your journey, Choose Shell



SCAN ME



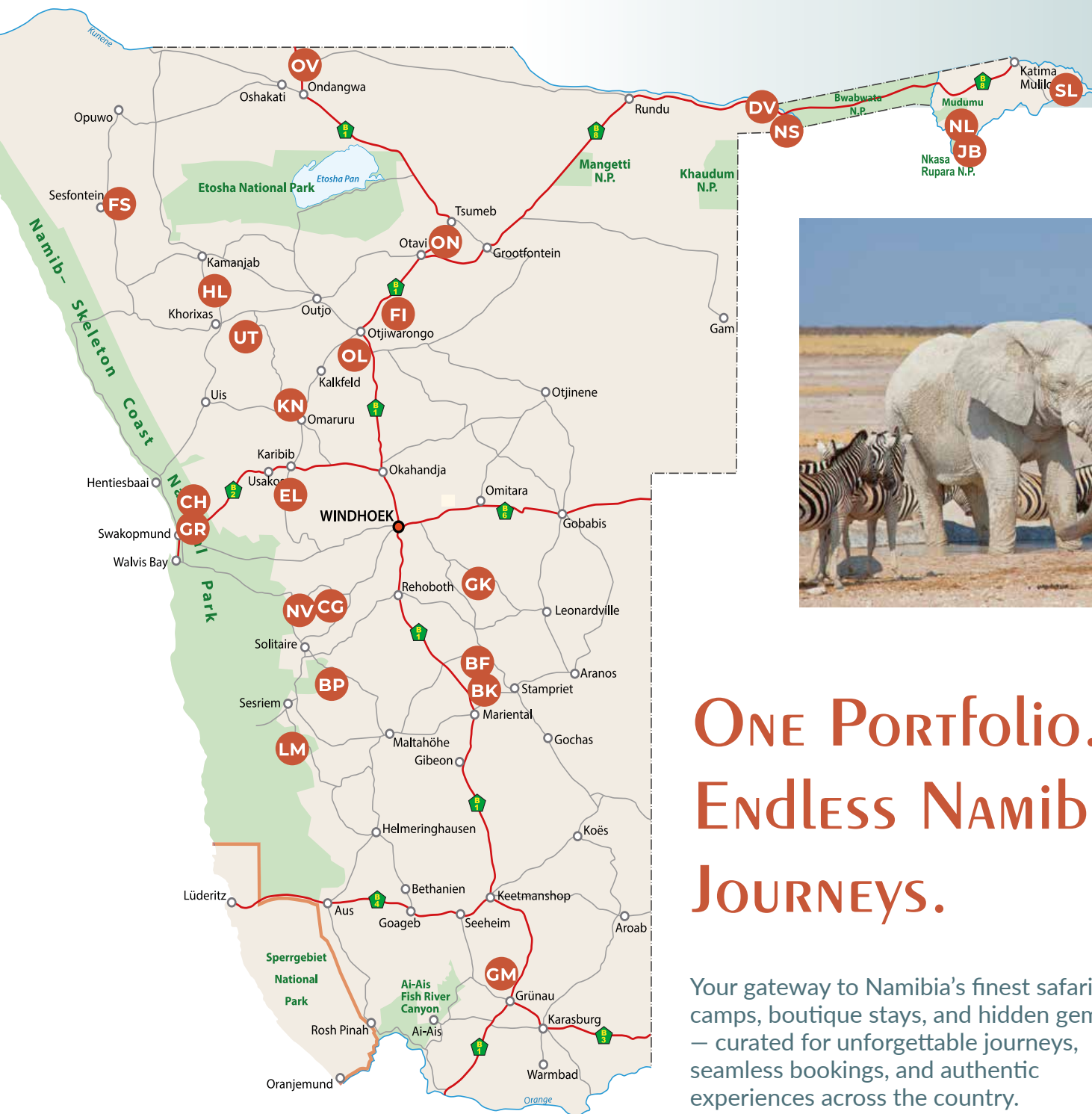


**HERE'S TO KEEPING
IT 100% REAL,
WHEREVER THE
JOURNEY TAKES YOU.**

REAL BEER FOR REAL PEOPLE



**Not For Persons Under The Age Of 18.
Enjoy Responsibly.**



ONE Portfolio. ENDLESS NAMIBIAN JOURNEYS.

Your gateway to Namibia's finest safari camps, boutique stays, and hidden gems – curated for unforgettable journeys, seamless bookings, and authentic experiences across the country.





BF



Bagatelle Kalahari Boutique Farmhouse
www.bagatelle-lodge.com/farmhouse/

BK



Bagatelle Kalahari Game Ranch
www.bagatelle-lodge.com

BP



Bullsport Lodge & Farm
buelisport-naukluft.com

CH



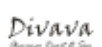
Cornerstone Guest House
www.cornerstoneguesthouse.com

CG



Corona Guest Farm
www.coronaguestfarm.com

DV



Divava Okavango Resort & Spa
www.divava.com

EL



Etusis Lodge
www.etusis.com

FS



Fort Sesfontein
www.fortsesfontein.com

FI



Frans Indongo Lodge
www.indongolodge.com

GK



Guest Farm Kikipotib
www.kiripotib.com

GR



Gecko Ridge
www.geckoridge.com.na

GM



Goibib Mountain Lodge
www.goibibmountainlodge.net

HL



Huab Lodge
www.huab.com

JB



Jackalberry Tented Camp
www.jbcamp.com

KN



Kashana Namibia
www.kashana-namibia.com

LM



Le Mirage Resort and Spa
www.mirage-lodge.com

NV



Namib's Valley Lodge
www.namibsvallay.com

NS



Ndlovu Safari Lodge
www.ndlovu.com

NL



Nkasa Lupala Tented Camp
www.nkasalupalalodge.com

OV



Ongula Village Homestead Lodge
www.ongula.com

ON



Ohange Lodge
www.ohange.com

OL



Otjiwa Eagle's Rest
www.otjiwa.com.na

OL



Otjiwa Mountain Lodge
www.otjiwamountainlodge.com

SL



Serondela Lodge
www.serondelalodge.com

UT



Ugab Terrace Lodge
www.ugabterracelodge.com



RESERVATION DESTINATION
ResDest.COM

www.the-portfolio.co

Reservations: Tel: +264 61 224 712 | Tel: +264 61 250 725 | E-mail: reservation@resdest.com
 Marketing: Tel: +264 81 223 1837 | E-mail: info@the-portfolio.co



Namibia Ushers in a New Dawn

 On 21 March 2025, for the first time in the history of Namibia, Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah was sworn in as Head of State, heralding a new era for the country and representing endless possibilities for the girl child. Her inauguration marks a significant milestone, as she joins the ranks of African women who have ascended to the highest office in their respective countries, contributing to the growing representation of female leadership on the continent.

Born in 1952 in Onamutai, a village in northern Namibia, Her Excellency Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah was Namibia's first female Vice President and currently, Namibia's fifth President. She rose through the ranks of the SWAPO Party Youth League, where she was appointed its Northern Chairperson and tasked with mobilising young people toward the attainment of independence. Her role led to her imprisonment in 1973, and following her release, she went into exile. There, she was entrusted with various roles ranging from Administrator to SWAPO Representative and Deputy Representative, respectively. During her time in exile, she also served as a member of the SWAPO Central Committee.

Upon her return to Namibia in 1989, she was appointed as a Member of Parliament and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 1996, she became the Women's Affairs Director General and thereafter, since 2002, she has served in Cabinet in multiple portfolios, including Minister of Women's Affairs and Child Welfare, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Minister of Environment and Tourism, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation.

A staunch advocate for the inclusion of women in governance, as demonstrated by her many Cabinet appointments and strategic leadership roles, Dr Nandi-

Ndaitwah played a pivotal role on the international stage. Notably, she initiated the discussion in the UN Security Council on women and peace, which led to the unanimous adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on 31 October 2000.

In March 2025, she was also unanimously elected as the first-ever female President of the SWAPO Party; a historic milestone for a movement that has existed for over 60 years.

She brings with her a wealth of knowledge, enriching insight, and a peerless level of leadership and governance experience.

'Namibia, Land of the Brave' is a befitting name for a nation whose courage and determination in pursuit of the best interests of its people know no bounds. By electing a woman as President in a country – and a continent – with deeply embedded patriarchal values, Namibia distinguished itself as a force to be reckoned with, delivering unto itself leadership that transcends gender.

Through her various portfolios, Dr Nandi-Ndaitwah has demonstrated unwavering commitment to social cohesion, socio-economic development, women's empowerment, international relations, infrastructure development, healthcare, education, and research and innovation.

Her Excellency Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah embodies the aspirations of the Namibian people, driven by a firm conviction in the power of unity in diversity, natural resource beneficiation, and youth empowerment for sustainable development.

Her mantra for this administration, "It will not be business as usual," inspires confidence and hope in her transformative agenda and quest to ensure effective service delivery for all Namibians.✿





From Usakos to the Boardroom

*A Namibian Journey of
Purpose, Perseverance,
and Legacy*

Garth Petersen

Garth Petersen
Managing Director
Liberty Life Namibia

Many years before the world-renowned Michelangelo Magazine was created, Liberty Holdings Limited was founded. The year was 1957. Sir Donald Gordon - a prominent South African businessman and philanthropist - believed that everyone should have the opportunity to grow their wealth and leave a proud legacy for their family.

Just like Sir Donald Gordon, there was a boy with a dream — a dream to one day contribute to the development of his country by helping people build wealth and leave the world a better place than they found it. That dream began in the dusty streets of Usakos, Namibia. That boy was me.

Raised in a modest household by a nurse from Keetmanshoop and a diesel-electric fitter from Windhoek — both civil servants — I learned early the values of hard work, perseverance, good manners, and integrity. These principles became the foundation of my success. My parents instilled in me a spirit of resilience and a deep love for this country.

Education was my gateway to opportunity. I studied full-time and worked part-time, and with determination, I completed a BTech in Accounting and Finance. My time at what was then the Polytechnic of Namibia flew by. There was little time to enjoy student life. Mornings were spent riding my bicycle to class, afternoons preparing for my shift as a waiter in the evenings and on weekends. It was tough, but I saw it as a temporary sacrifice for a greater goal.

That BTech qualification became the springboard to two Postgraduate Diplomas at the University of Stellenbosch Business School. My journey through Namibia's economic landscape began there, gaining experience in accounting, business, banking, investments, and wealth management, all of which led me to where I am today. This wide-ranging exposure reinforced my passion for education and, especially, for financial literacy as a critical lever for national growth.

My entry into the financial planning and insurance industry was driven by curiosity and a desire to help

others build secure futures. In just over 15 years, I had the privilege of becoming the Managing Director of Liberty Life Namibia at the age of 39.

As Managing Director, my mission extends beyond profitability. I am committed to ensuring that Liberty Life plays a meaningful role in uplifting communities, investing in youth development, promoting financial literacy, supporting rural outreach, and championing inclusive economic growth.

It is this passion for growth and giving back that drives me to volunteer my time and share my knowledge wherever I can. I also mentor young people who need guidance in starting or continuing their journeys. I know first-hand the impact that mentors have had on my own life, and I consider it a privilege to now be that person for someone else.

My motto in life has always been: "Winners never quit, and quitters never win." This quote was part of my speech when I was nominated as a SRC member at Jan Mohr Secondary School, and it has stuck with me ever since. It's something my wife and I instill in our two sons, aged 7 and 4, and a principle I apply daily — whether at work or during a CrossFit session.

Namibia, with its vast landscapes and small but richly diverse population, is a country where dreams are born and have the space to grow. Travelling through this land reminds us of that potential. One day, you're surrounded by the lush greenery of the North. The next, you're in the arid South. And the following morning, you might find yourself driving across one of the world's oldest deserts, having lunch on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean.

Just as Sir Donald Gordon believed in the power of growing wealth and leaving a proud legacy, I held that belief for my own family — including my parents. Today, that dream has grown into something much larger. My family is now Namibia — and beyond. ❖



ON THE COVER:

A Taste of the True Kalahari

Five farms, four days, and one unforgettable journey through Namibia's rain-kissed Kalahari.

(See pages 14 -15 for the full stay)

www.whippswilderness.com



Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of Michelangelo International Wine and Spirits Awards Business Trust.



Contents

14 A Taste of the True Kalahari

Exploring the 5 Kalahari Farms Hikes

16 Glorious Camping at Onguma

Onguma, on the eastern border of the legendary Etosha National Park in northwestern Namibia, offers two superb camping options within their private 35,480-hectare reserve — a haven of extraordinary wildlife, landscapes, and experiences.

20 Green Game- Changer

Namibia's world-first solar and hydrogen triumph delivers zeroemission iron for sustainable steel.

26 Dear Diary

Into the Mist: A Journey to Uganda's Mountain Gorillas.

30 Let There Be Drums: Jess!

From stage to sea, Jessica Hoeksema drums up a rhythm that rocks Namibia.

32 Untamed, Unsaddled and Unrestricted

The wild horses roam free but are threatened by population growth, tourism, poaching and road traffic.

36 Wouter Van Zijl

A Quiet Ode to Connection and Creation.

40 Take your Mama Out

The Public Holidays in May are Perfect for Escapes with Mom.

42 Evidence-Based Conservation

The N/a'an ku sê Journey from Rescue to Research.

46 My Morning in The Light Room

A quiet morning in a space designed for more than just scans — where care, calm, and kindness take centre stage.

48 Why Fairs Matter

The Project Room Returns to RMB Latitudes 2025



51 Slice of Life:

Condensation & Imminent Rain.

52 Fancy Fritz – A Night to Remember

The Fritz Collection stands as a beacon of restoration and preservation in Swakopmund, dedicated to reviving the historical charm of the town's bed-and-words breakfast establishments.

58 British Wildlife Photography Awards

The winners of the British Wildlife Photography Awards 2025 have been unveiled. An image of a red fox on patrol through Bristol city centre has taken the top prize in this prestigious competition.

64 Living on the Surfside – A Calm, Coastal Transformation

Perched quietly along the shoreline of Swakopmund, Surfside has long held the bones of a holiday home—but not the soul.



72 Namibia Through Our Eyes

A Land Reborn After Rain.

78 A Champion of Community and Press Freedom

In the month of World Press Freedom Day, celebrated annually on 3 May, we focus on the contributions of Dr Dean Kock to his community.

80 Youngest Master Distiller in the World

Youngest Master Distiller at age 25, Benedikt Blomendahl of Blomendahl Distillery is now managing the family business in both South Africa and Germany.

82 The Last Word

Before social media made us flawless, people handed down wisdom that actually mattered.

ISSN: 2026-8998

Managing Editor

Anne Schauffer

Editor@greatbrandsmedia.com

Design & Layout

studio@media-namibia.com

Proofreader

Cecilia Bermúdez Horsten

Advertising Sales

Levona Mostert

+264 81 766 4486

sales@greatbrandsmedia.com

Tourism & Hospitality Support

Chris Coetzee

+264 (0)81 668 0697

chris@greatbrandsmedia.com

Travel & Brand Ambassador

Jessi Willemsse

+264 81 4444 064

Jessi@greatbrandsmedia.com

Michelangelo Magazine

Shop #2 Ferreira's Garden

Centre, Maxwell Street, Southern Industrial Area, Windhoek, Namibia

Printer

Solitaire Press (Pty) Limited

Windhoek, NAMIBIA

"Good Level Contributor"

according to the NPPC BEE scorecard

ISO 9001:2015 Certified company

Disclaimer

All material is strictly copyrighted.

All rights are reserved.

Reproduction in whole or part is prohibited without prior written permission from the publisher.





TANNERY & MANUFACTURING

made in Namibia - since 1980

Our Stores

WINDHOEK

Gustav Voigts Center
Independence Ave.
+264 61 224 209

WINDHOEK

Nakara Factory Shop
3 Solingen Street
+264 61 429 107

SWAKOPMUND

The Arcade
+264 64 405 907

www.nakara-namibia.com



We rise by lifting others



DR WEDER, KAUTA
& HOVEKA INC.



www.wkh-law.com





A Taste of the True Kalahari

Exploring the 5 Kalahari Farms Hikes

words by Alta Bredenkamp

photographs by supplied by Whipps Wilderness Safaris

Tucked away in the heart of Namibia's Kalahari Desert, the 5 Kalahari Farms Multi-Day Slack-Packing Hike — offered by WWS (Whipps Wilderness Safaris) — is a rare opportunity to explore breathtaking landscapes, savour rich culinary traditions, and experience warm rural hospitality. After a season of generous rains, the red dunes and typically arid plains were transformed into a lush, green paradise — the perfect setting for an authentic Kalahari adventure.

Over four days, we traversed five neighbouring farms in the Blumfelde area, each offering a unique glimpse into farm life. At Doornboompan, Talita and Fanie Horn welcomed us with open arms — and open ovens. Talita's homemade sourdough croissants, breads, cookies, and specialities like labneh (a creamy Middle Eastern cheese) and Makataan curd became cherished treats during our brunch breaks.

A particular highlight was breakfast at Andre and Susan du Toit's picturesque Farm Olifantwater Ost, where Susan cooked a hearty farm breakfast on her classic cast-iron Aga stove — a traditional heat-storage cooker that keeps the kitchen warm and meals slow-cooked to perfection. Her yoghurt made from goat's milk, labneh, preserves, and homemade boerewors added a deliciously local touch to the meal. Meanwhile, at Eckhart Förtsch's Farm Olifantwater West, we wandered through his organic vegetable garden, picking fresh herbs and greens that later flavoured our campfire meals.

Our route also crossed Farm Ellingerode, owned by Uwe and Silvia Kühnel, and Farm Neumark, home to Manfred and Tanya Förtsch. Along the way, these farmers joined parts of the hike, sharing personal stories and their deep connection to the land. Their insights turned a scenic trek into a living history lesson, reflecting the resilience and warmth of Kalahari life.

At the end of each day, WWS provided an oasis of comfort. Luxury Sahara tents, mobile hot showers, and delicious meals — featuring kudu and oryx steaks alongside fresh farm produce — ensured we experienced the best of Kalahari cuisine. Meals were prepared over open fires, blending authentic flavours with simple elegance.

What makes the 5 Kalahari Farms Hike truly special is not just the striking scenery, but the genuine hospitality of the people who call this land home. It's a journey where every meal tells a story, every dune hides a secret, and every encounter leaves you with a deeper appreciation for the soul of the Kalahari.

If you're seeking an adventure that blends comfort, culture, and wild beauty, this extraordinary hike through the Kalahari's heartland is an experience like no other. 🌿



Upcoming WWS Hiking Safaris – May & June 2025

Looking for your next great adventure? Join Whipps Wilderness Safaris for one of these unforgettable, fully catered slack-packing hikes through Namibia's most breathtaking and remote landscapes:

WÜSTENQUELL "AFTER THE RAINS" HIKE

9–14 May 2025

N\$15,000 per person sharing

Explore the granite hills and arid beauty of the Namib Naukluft Park, transformed by fresh rains. A 3-day, 40km hike perfect for beginner hikers and geology lovers.

5 KALAHARI FARMS HIKE

22–27 May 2025

N\$20,000 per person sharing

A specially curated 4-day, 80km hike across five private Kalahari farms. Enjoy red dunes, green savannahs, farm hospitality, and homemade Kalahari flavours along the way.

NYAE NYAE BUSHMAN HIKE

6–11 June 2025

N\$27,500 per person sharing

Walk 95km over 4 days through the ancient landscape of the Nyae Nyae Conservancy with San Bushmen guides. A powerful cultural and wilderness experience under baobab skies.



Glorious Camping at Onguma

Onguma, on the eastern border of the legendary Etosha National Park in northwestern Namibia, offers two superb camping options within their private 35,480-hectare reserve — a haven of extraordinary wildlife, landscapes, and experiences.



If you're a camper, you probably have a checklist of what makes a great campsite. Add Onguma to it — because between their two different options, they've got everything covered. Both camps are easy to reach from the main gate of Onguma, which is just 50 meters from the Etosha von Lindequist Gate leading to Namutoni in Etosha National Park.

Guests may not take their own vehicles onto Onguma Nature Reserve, but game drives (into Etosha as well), sunset and sundowner drives, interactive walks, Onguma's

water-level Onkolo Hide, and their sensational Dream Cruiser sleep-out experience under the stars can all be booked at reception. Fancy a spa treatment at one of the lodges? Just make the call. If you are looking to spoil yourself with the ultimate fully inclusive glamp-camp experience, Onguma recently launched its brand new Onguma Trails Camp in April which offers 2- or 3-night walking safaris in the wilderness over the winter months, staying in just 4 luxury bell tents with en suite bathrooms under the stars and wood fired hot tubs.

Michelangelo

—TRAVEL & LEISURE—



In his earliest comic appearances, Superman couldn't fly. This ability was added later in radio serials and animated cartoons.



So, which campsite is for you – Tamboti or Leadwood?

Tamboti Luxury Campsite is just as you imagine it. Private sites with personal shower rooms and separate toilets. You'll also have ample washing-up space, plugs to keep cameras and computers charged, and free Wi-Fi in the bar and at the swimming pool. The campsite is serviced daily, so you can focus on relaxing rather than chores. One of the joys of camping is doing your own thing – but if the mood strikes to take a breather, Tamboti makes it easy. Enjoy a meal at the restaurant overlooking the waterhole for a change of pace.

Leadwood Campsite features six sites nestled under shady leadwood trees, surrounded by bush yet conveniently close to Onguma Bush Camp – where you're welcome to enjoy the lodge facilities. Leadwood offers the best of both worlds and is ideal for the Etosha camper. Each site has its own shower, toilet, and power point, with daily servicing to keep everything fresh and convenient.

Leadwood is ideal for a family or group of friends – book all six sites, and the entire campsite is yours. 🍷



Green Game- Changer

Namibia's world-first solar and hydrogen triumph delivers zero-emission iron for sustainable steel

word by Linda de Jager | photographs supplied



In a world hungry for sustainable solutions, Namibia's HyIron has fired up a game changer — producing “green hydrogen” and using it to refine iron ore. The Oshivela pilot project, near Arandis in the Erongo Region, is not only a first for Namibia but a world first in carbon-free iron production.

With a solar-powered facility and cutting-edge hydrogen technology, HyIron is setting the stage for a revolution in the steel industry. The project is the first in the world to use green hydrogen for processing iron oxide to produce direct reduced iron (DRI), a crucial component in sustainable steel production.

The Oshivela project, located on the Bloemhof farm, is supported by €13 million from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs & Climate Action (BMWK). HyIron is a consortium of German companies with a Namibian partner, HyIron Green Technologies.

Construction of the facility began in 2024. Within six months, HyIron had successfully installed 44,000 solar panels across 25 hectares, capable of generating 25MW of renewable energy. The facility operates only during daytime hours, supported by the 25MW solar farm and 13.4MW of battery storage capacity.



GEiSt (short for green iron for the steel industry) piloted the technology in Lingen, Germany, in cooperation with RWE (a multinational energy company) and Benteler (a German steel company).

The Oshivela project applies the technology at an industrial scale. With an initial production capacity of 15,000 tonnes annually, the plant demonstrates that large-scale production of green iron is technically achievable and can be economically viable. The modular construction model enables easy scalability for future expansion.

“The primary aim of the pilot plant,” says HyIron’s Namibian CEO and co-founder Johannes Michels, “is to enhance the process and evaluate different iron ores while refining the products used across the value chain.” Its peak production capability is 5,000kg per hour.

The company intends to increase production to 25,000kg per hour by the end of 2027, while also extending operations to a 24/7 production cycle. A comparable project is being initiated in Australia, and the company is evaluating further opportunities in Angola, Brazil, and up to four additional sites in Namibia.

The Oshivela plant produces hydrogen using a 12MW electrolyser unit supplied by China’s Peric Hydrogen Systems. This electrolyser, which generates green hydrogen, is the largest of its kind in Southern Africa. It operates within a smart microgrid, “which means there is no grid connection and the production is aligned with the available stored or generated renewable energy,” Michels says.

Powered entirely by solar energy, the plant is expected to begin DRI production by mid-April. It aims for an initial output of 15,000 tonnes per year, targeting 2 million tonnes by 2030.

HyIron-Oshivela has secured its first offtake agreement to supply a large portion of its first-stage production to German steelmaker Benteler, which also has the option to purchase part of the Phase 2 product.

The initial phase required an investment of €30 million (about N\$595 million), of which more than 40% came in the form of grants from the German government. The remainder was raised through private investment from the company’s founders.

HyIron expects to begin the second phase of

The true identity of Satoshi Nakamoto, **the mastermind behind Bitcoin, remains unknown as of 2024.**



development at the end of this year. This phase aims to significantly increase solar power capacity and will require an investment of €230 million (about N\$4.56 billion). “The funds for this will come from equity investors and debt funders,” says Michels.

The third phase, expected to begin in 2027, aims to boost capacity tenfold once more. It will require an additional €2.3 billion (about N\$45.6 billion). By 2030, HyIron aims to produce 2 million tonnes of DRI per year.

“HyIron’s DRI manufacturing method is completely free of carbon emissions, as it uses hydrogen as its energy source. The water used in the process is endlessly recycled, ensuring that no water sources are being exhausted,” Michels says.

James Mnyupe, Namibia’s green hydrogen commissioner, says this is a significant milestone. “While Namibia has significant natural capacity to produce hydrogen at low cost, the government is not solely focused on marketing hydrogen itself. Instead, we are promoting a stable and conducive environment, rich in the resources needed for cost-effective hydrogen production.



“We aim to establish sectoral legislation and a favourable fiscal framework that will enable the use of hydrogen for industrialisation in Namibia. This will allow us to produce a variety of goods with low-carbon content for international trade.

“Therefore, our focus is not just on hydrogen production, but on the development of sustainable industries in Namibia. And HyIron is a case in point.”

Central to this project is HyIron’s innovative technology to reduce iron ore in a rotary kiln using green hydrogen — making the process entirely carbon-neutral.

Says Michels: “Every tonne of iron produced this way replaces 1.8 tonnes of CO₂ in the traditional process. Net-zero industrial manufacturing of iron is, already today, economically competitive.”

The most energy-intensive part of iron production is the reduction process, in which iron ore is stripped of its oxygen content. Every year, about 1.9 billion tonnes of iron are produced globally. Two-thirds of that comes from primary production (the extraction of iron ore), while one-third comes from recycled materials.

Today, iron production relies entirely on fossil fuels. As a result, the iron industry accounts for about 8% of annual global greenhouse gas emissions, making it one of the largest contributors to climate change. The demand for iron is projected to increase to 2.2 billion tonnes per year by 2030 — an annual increase of 50 million tonnes.

Michels explains the technical process: “Iron ore is an oxide that needs to be reduced by separating it from its oxygen content before it is further manufactured into steel or cast iron. For this process, a reduction agent is required to draw the oxygen from the iron ore.

“Fossil fuels such as coking coal are the most commonly used reduction agents. At HyIron, we replace these with green hydrogen to produce DRI, which is then turned into hot or cold briquetted iron (HBI or CBI) — all of this with zero emissions.”

The product can then be used directly in foundries or steel factories and eventually finds its way into daily life as steel or cast iron.

Of course, for solar power to be economically viable, such plants need guaranteed extended periods of sunshine. According to a recent report by the International Energy Agency, solar photovoltaic systems in Namibia can generate twice as much electricity as comparable systems in central Europe.

The potential for solar energy is also available in South Africa, one of the most sun-rich countries in the world.

According to the World Data Centre for Meteorology, the sunniest place in the world from November to February is the Upington district in South Africa’s Northern Cape province, with a peak of 367 hours a month and an average of nearly 12 hours of sunlight per day. Over a full 12 months, Keetmanshoop in Namibia ranks as the sixth sunniest location globally (after Yuma and Phoenix in Arizona, two towns in Egypt, and one in Chile). 🌞

This article was originally published in the Financial Mail in April 2025.

Alexander Hamilton wrote the proposal that led to America’s first central bank.
He believed a national bank was essential for economic stability.

Experience the Distinctive Essence of Namibia



As travel enthusiasts worldwide begin to map out their next adventures, the expansive and stunning landscapes of Namibia remind us of the brilliance of the stars and the limitless potential of the night sky. This country serves as a tranquil haven for those seeking solitude, a rich cultural heritage, and a steadfast dedication to peace.

In this captivating land, time seems to pause, allowing the natural rhythms and the warmth of the African sun to slow life's tempo. Whether you're hiking the impressive dunes of Sossusvlei, discovering the ancient rock art at Twyfelfontein, or simply enjoying the golden hues of sunset, Namibia's exceptional combination of space, calmness, and timelessness will leave you feeling revitalized and prepared to embrace the world.

The Namibia Tourism Board (NTB), along with local tourism stakeholders, plays a vital role in promoting and enhancing the authentic experiences, cultural richness, and natural beauty that define Namibia's tourism sector.

Space: The Expansive Desert Landscape

Picture yourself at the brink of the world's oldest desert, where the sky unfolds endlessly in all directions. The Namib Desert is a paradise for stargazers, boasting some of the clearest skies on Earth. Witness the sunset over towering dunes, then look up at the star-studded night sky, experiencing the vastness of the universe before you.

Peace: A Sanctuary in a Chaotic World

In a world that moves at breakneck speed, Namibia provides a peaceful retreat from the chaos. From the gentle whisper of desert grasses to the calming sounds of the Atlantic Ocean, every moment spent here is a chance to relax and reconnect with nature. Enjoy a leisurely drive through the undulating hills of the Khomas Hochland or take a stroll along the serene shores of Etosha Pan National Park, allowing your worries to fade away.

Time: An Exploration of Ancient Landscapes

Uncover the rich history and cultural diversity of Namibia. Discover ancient rock art sites where timeless paintings narrate the tales of civilizations long past. Wander through Windhoek, the capital city, known for its German colonial architecture and lively markets. Immerse yourself in the world of the San Bushmen, who have coexisted with this land for millennia.

Essential Information

Getting There: Arrive at Windhoek Hosea Kutako International Airport (WDH).

Visa: A visa is required; the Visa on Arrival (VOA) process has recently been introduced. For more details, visit the NTB website (www.visitnamibia.com.na).

Language: English is widely spoken, along with German and Afrikaans.

Currency: The Namibian Dollar (NAD) is the local currency, and credit cards are accepted.

Best Time to Visit: Namibia is a year-round destination, but from May to October, it's ideal for game viewing and exploring landscapes, while November to March is perfect for surfing and swimming.

Accommodation: Options range from luxurious lodges to budget-friendly guesthouses and camping sites.

Safety: Generally safer than many other African nations, but it's advisable to review the safety brochure from the Namibia Tourism Board at www.visitnamibia.com.na

The Namibia Tourism Board invites you to experience the country's unique combination of vastness, tranquility, and time. Embrace the importance of slowing down to truly appreciate Namibia's natural beauty. They emphasize the benefits of disconnecting from technology to reconnect with yourself.



So, what are you waiting for?

Plan your trip to Namibia today!



Namibia Tourism Board

NAMIBIA TOURISM BOARD OFFICES

Head Office/ Windhoek
C/O HADDY & SAM NUJOMA DRIVE
PRIVATE BAG 13244 WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA
TEL: +264 61 290 6000
INFO@VISITNAMIBIA.COM.NA

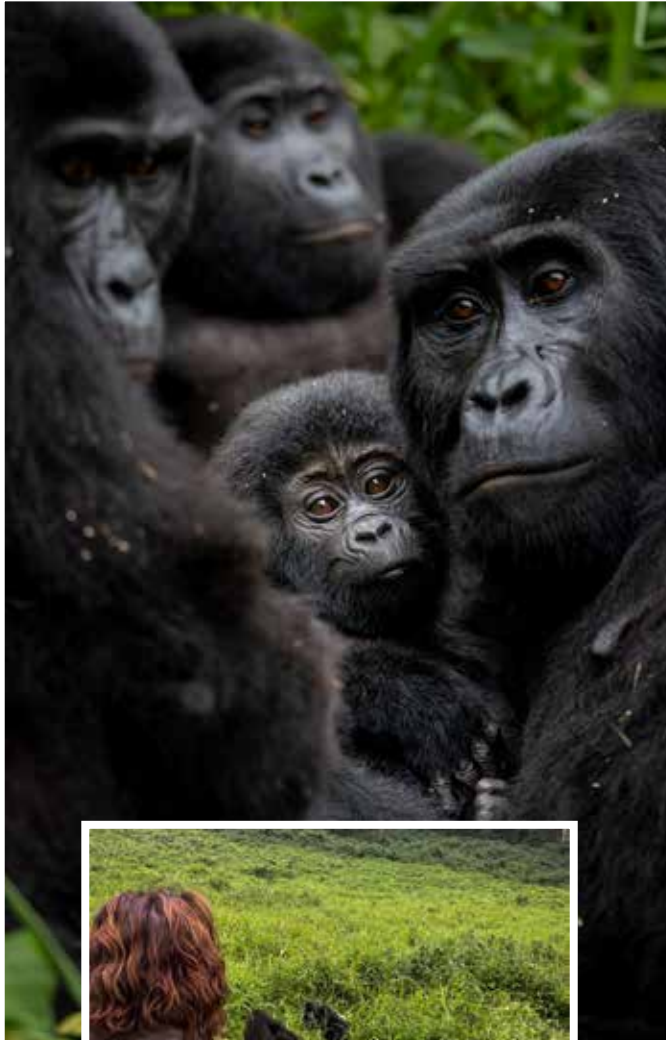
CHINA OFFICE

RM405, NO. 7, BUILDING
A, LANE 300, PANYU ROAD,
CHANGNING DISTRICT,
SHANGHAI, 200052,
P.R.C. SHANGHAI
E: ZHUZHENG0312@126.COM

EUROPE OFFICE

KAISERSTR. 77
60329 FRANKFURT M.
GERMANY

Dear Diary



Photography by Jule Heubach



Into the Mist

*A Journey to Uganda's
Mountain Gorillas*



From Windhoek to Bwindi, a Namibian dreamer follows her 37-year wish into the heart of the rainforest.

I always had this dream of Africa. A romantic impression of its wilderness and untamed spirit. Its variety of landscapes — the desert, the oceans, the savannas, the rainforests, and the endless sky.

And I always had the secret dream that one day, I would live my life in Africa. And here I am — living that dream in the country of my choice: Namibia, with its desert, ocean, savannas, endless sky, wildlife, and people. I simply can't get enough. Every day brings adventure.

But there was another dream I carried for 37 years: to see the mountain gorillas and visit them in their natural habitat — the rainforest. I watched the movie *Gorillas in the Mist* and was deeply moved by the story and passion of Dian Fossey, and her conservation work to save the mountain gorillas. It left a big impression on me — as did the gorillas themselves.

I can't quite explain why, but perhaps it's because they're so human-like. Still, words fall short.

This year, finally, that dream came true. I planned a trip to Uganda with one clear goal: to meet the mountain gorillas. I was beyond excited! These are not animals you just see anywhere — there are only about 1,063 left in the rainforests of Uganda and Rwanda. They're officially classified as endangered. But thanks to intense conservation work and effort, their numbers are slowly increasing.

Maybe that's another reason I find them so fascinating.

After a short flight from Entebbe, I arrived at Bwindi Impenetrable National Park — the rainforest. It was so green and moist. Immediately I could feel it on my skin; even my hair felt softer. The air was filled with the earthy scent of wet leaves and forest floor.

I sat on my balcony and listened to the many languages of the birds. I breathed in the forest smell and stared at the stunning variety of greens, just outside my balcony.

After a short briefing on how to behave around the gorillas and the work of the rangers and trackers, I set off in a small group of eight to find a gorilla family.

I felt a mixture of excitement and nervousness — would we have to hike for hours? Would the trails be difficult in the damp, humid conditions?

But I was lucky. We hiked and slid downhill for just 25 minutes before the rangers said,

"The gorilla family is just in front of us."

My excitement spiked! I walked carefully, watching my footing, my eyes scanning the greenery.

And then — there they were. In the middle of an open clearing, enjoying their breakfast.

I had tears in my eyes. I was overwhelmed — a mix of years of longing, finally being there, and witnessing their calmness, patience, and peaceful way of being.

In moments like these, I feel humbled, grateful, at peace — deeply connected to nature.

We were allowed exactly one hour with them, and it passed in what felt like seconds. We watched them move, eat, and interact with each other in the most natural, peaceful way. It left a lasting impression on me.

The next day, we tracked another family — this time deeper into the forest. This group was larger, with 17 members. Some were up in the trees, throwing fruit to others below. Some were eating. Some were grooming each other.

A nine-month-old baby entertained us (and its family!) with climbing stunts and even seemed to seek interaction with us humans. I was amazed at the many similarities to us — their curiosity, relationships, body language.

Even though it was my second encounter, it was just as exciting, grounding, and emotional as the first.

This was one of the most special experiences of my life, and I am so grateful for the opportunity.

After eight days in Uganda and many unforgettable impressions, I was ready to return to Namibia — the country I chose and can now proudly call home.

Do you have an experience of a lifetime to share?

Send me your story at: deardiary@myeishanamibia.com

Until next time,

Sandra 🍇



MYEISHA

is love

Photography by CreativeLab



+264 (0) 81 145 6729
www.myeishanamibia.com



LÜDERITZ NEST HOTEL



+264 63 204000/2



reservations@nesthotel.com



www.nesthotel.com



Let There Be Drums: Jess!

words by Klaus Rennack | photographs by Wilmar Willemse/@wjw_photography;
Sue Nieuwoudt/Disorganized Chaos Photography; Fabian Rennack/Fabrikatur

Kurt Vonnegut Jr., in his short story *The Kid Nobody Could Handle*, lets the music teacher say: “Our aim is to make the world more beautiful than it was when we came into it. It can be done. You can do it. Love yourself, and make your instrument sing about it. A-one, a-two, a-three!”

Drummeress Jessica Hoeksema, known as Jess, doesn’t just give you kicks on Namibia’s B1 or B2 highways en route to the coast — she also captivates with her sticks in true A1 style!

Born and bred in Windhoek, Jess is one of the rare species of female drummers, and though she usually plays from behind her kit, her outstandingly outgoing personality brings her into the spotlight as a front woman in spirit and stage presence.

Having started out in school and church bands at just 13, she now emerges onto stages like the live music café-bar MUSO’S near Ausspannplatz in central Windhoek, and plays festival venues such as Sphinxblick Open Air, with her band ALTERNO — a Namibian rock experience gaining serious momentum.

At MUSO’S, you can retreat, jam, and relax with Hartmut’s team. Not only can you buy drum kits and musical gear, but you’ll also find music lessons and advice — a true music haven.

ALTERNO is a band project a few years in the making. The name, inspired by “Alternative,” keeps the door open for genre-bending. “We didn’t want to be too defined,” says lead singer and guitarist Izzy Martin. The band came together out of a desire to perform live — the best way to grow — and Jess gives them their backbone with her dynamic drumming.

Her favourite drummers are Steven Adler (Guns N’ Roses), Matt McGuire (The Chainsmokers), and she’s a fan of “grand-style bands” like Red Hot Chili Peppers, Queen, and others in that league.

Playing drums in Africa might sound like carrying coals to Newcastle, but here, in this rhythm-rich continent, the scope of percussion is vast. Jess taps into a natural feel for beat and roll — her style merges powerful rock elements: prolific drum kicks, distinct snare beats, resonant tom-toms, crashing cymbals, and a hissing hi-hat, all spun together with flair by a dedicated drummer, or in this case, drummeress.

Being a drummer demands both mental sharpness and physical stamina to obtain and maintain the art of



coordination of hands, arms, legs, feet and body. Jess keeps herself in peak condition with cycling, swimming, gym, and running — a splendid lifestyle that translates into cool, electrifying performances.

A proud Namibian, Jessica loves the parts of the country where sand meets the sea, be it Sandwich Harbour, the Skeleton Coast.

That joining, breaking line between elements inspires her. It’s where her waves of sound are born, breathing in and out the smoke on the water. For her, drumming is a way of life.

She approaches life with fire and gratitude — and she doesn’t only keep her rhythm to the drums. Jess also slaps the cajón, a box-shaped percussion instrument originally from Peru, with her bare hands. It only takes a guitarist and vocalist to turn that into a bandlike experience.

But music isn’t her only world. Jess is also studying law at Stadio Higher Education in Windhoek, a demanding path that requires focus and resilience. Still, she lives for garage band rehearsals, loves her growing number of gigs, and is looking forward to recording ALTERNO’s original tracks in a Namibian studio soon. That would be: Jessica in Wonderland. Let There Be Drums: Yes! 🍷



© Leanne Dryburgh

Untamed, Unsaddled and Unrestricted

The wild horses roam free but are threatened by population growth, tourism, poaching and road traffic.

word by Linda de Jager | photographs by Linda Louw (Kaapse Hoop),
Leanne Dryburgh (Kleinmond), and Telané Greyling (Namib Horses)



The wild-horse colonies of Southern Africa are a bit like the creature of Loch Ness: they capture the imagination. But unlike Nessie, they are regularly spotted.

Three colonies exist across vastly different landscapes — from the rugged Rooisand on the edge of the Namib Desert to the wetlands of the Overberg and the lowveld of Mpumalanga.

One colony inhabits an area similar to Nessie's — the Bot River lagoon, which is part of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, near the Overstrand village of Fisherhaven on the shores of the Bot River estuary, close to the towns of Kleinmond, Onrus and Hermanus.

The late FJ van der Merwe, author of *The Wild Horses of Kleinmond*, described how feral vleis horses have adapted to their environment. Their large, saucer-shaped hooves are suited to the wet conditions in the places where they roam.

They graze in the marshes, feeding on grass and coastal fynbos.

Van der Merwe observed that many African nature reserves host large mammals. Old travel journals indicate that hippos were there in the 19th century, contributing to the environment by creating paths through dense reed beds that opened up essential drainage channels, a role now performed by the horses. Today, a few hippos survive and live further east in the Nuwejaars wetlands on the Agulhas Plain of the Overberg.

Van der Merwe found that early Dutch settlers introduced horses to the Kleinmond area. He suggested that they were culled when they were no longer needed on farms after tractors and harvesters were introduced. Some survived, however, and are believed to be descendants of the Boland wagon horse, a robust local breed.



© Linda Louw



© Telané Greyling



© Leanne Dryburgh

After Van der Merwe died two years ago, photographer Leanne Dryburgh became a campaigner for the 27 remaining horses in the area.

Dryburgh and her husband, Peter Hassall, own Wild Wellness, a company that offers hikes on which you can get a glimpse of the horses. The best place to see them is on the R44 road (Clarence Drive), which skirts False Bay and the coast, and goes on to the Bot River estuary and the Rooisand Nature Reserve.

Dryburgh says population growth poses a serious danger to the wild horses because it has led to increased

land sales and the erection of fences, both of which hamper the horses' ability to roam freely.

"While there is still ample land for them, the area is also experiencing an increase in visitors. This is their greatest threat," Dryburgh says. Visitors often approach the horses, which "tames" them, she says. She suggests that the horses should be viewed from a safe distance. "It's the only way to preserve the heritage."

Last year, the nonprofit organisation Rooisand Horse Watch was established. Dryburgh produces an annual calendar, which is sold to cover the expenses of signage

and veterinary services. She emphasises that the horses are healthy and need a vet only in emergencies.

In contrast with Kleinmond's environment, the area where Namibia's wild horses can be seen is from a structure near Aus, en route to Lüderitz. It was built by Namibia's Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) in collaboration with the Namibia Wild Horses Foundation.

A three-month sabbatical in the Namib Desert offered me insights into the horses, enhanced by discussions with Dr. Telané Greyling, who has studied their behaviour for nearly 30 years.

Namib horses have adapted to the desert, says Greyling, by enduring dehydration better than domestic horses because of their clever behaviour, saving energy by staying calm.

A blood-typing study by the University of Kentucky in 2001 revealed that Namib horses are most closely related to the Arabian horse cluster, specifically the Shagya Arabian population. This supports the theory that the Namib horses' lineage goes back to the Kubub stud farm, south of Aus, founded in the early 1900s and owned by Emil Kreplin, who was interned during World War I and lost his assets when he left for Germany in the early 1920s. "At that time, there were no fences in the area, so the horses, left to fend for themselves, would have followed the availability of grazing and water," says Greyling.

At Garub, there was a reliable source of borehole water for steam trains. There, the horses likely mingled with military horses that remained after South African troops were shelled by retreating German forces during the war.

Van der Merwe also believed the Namib wild horses exhibit the physical traits of cavalry-type riding horses that were bred for police and the military in what was then German South West Africa between 1890 and 1914.

Since February 1999, lucerne bales have been supplied to the horses occasionally during droughts. Around that time, debates emerged around the wild horses in the Namib-Naukluft National Park. This park spans 4,976,800ha and is managed by the ministry.

Conservation officials are often at odds with landowners and tour operators. Some argue that the horses are a "mistake of history." The conservationists say the horses' overgrazing harms the local ecosystem by uprooting grass, which is vital for termites and species like lizards and birds.

Greyling does not agree. "The only long-term grass in the horses' area is *Eragrostis nindensis*, which remains unaffected by the horses... No significant differences in biodiversity were found between horse-occupied areas and adjacent park regions. In fact, areas used by horses exhibited a greater variety of species and a healthier ecological balance."

The wild horses also bring about a different conflict. A clan of fierce spotted hyenas has found them an easy food source, nearly halving the wild horse population. In 2017, the foundation was allowed to temporarily feed the hyenas to distract them from the horses. In 2018, the ministry agreed to capture the hyenas and move them to a different area. "The horse population has been around 80 horses for the past five years," says Greyling.

Hundreds of kilometres away, Kaapsehoop — a village in Mpumalanga — is home to about 49 wild horses, but poaching has become a concern, along with tick-borne diseases and road traffic.

Residents of Kaapsehoop have arranged for the production of Wild Horse Gin to raise money for the support of the horses, and 10% of the profit goes to the initiative. The local Wild Horse Fund relies on volunteers to take care of the animals.

The Kaapsehoop colony is believed to have originated in about 1980. The horses roam across 40,000ha surrounding the village, extending to the adjacent and unfenced Blue Swallow Nature Reserve. The herd is steadily declining, as are the blue swallows that are found in the area.

"You come to Kaapsehoop for a sense of wellbeing," says Kaapsehoop Horseback Trails owner Christo Germishuys. His company offers tourists rides on its well-trained horses through breathtaking landscapes where Kaapsehoop horses sometimes emerge from the morning mist, moving dreamlike through the forest. These animals embody resilience and adaptability in facing challenges such as climate change.

Throughout history, the bond between horses and humans has been undeniable. Wild horses remind us that we, too, can break free to explore new frontiers. ❖

This article was originally published in the Financial Mail in April 2025.



Wouter Van Zijl:

*A Quiet Ode
to Connection
and Creation*

word by Linda de Jager | photographs supplied



It all began with a single file. I knocked on the door of Wouter Van Zijl, the owner and founder of The Document Warehouse. Located at 106 Hans-Dietrich Genscher Street in Windhoek, the facility towers into the sky.

I was there to get some tips on how to archive a video library. Van Zijl is a master of mind mapping, and it didn't take long before we were both scribbling on large sheets of paper, connecting ideas, diagramming and planning.

What sets Van Zijl apart is his ability to transform dreams into reality while taking ordinary people along on the journey. He's a sixty-something soft-spoken, can-do individual I would envision as a humble, unassuming character in a Cold War movie if I were the casting agent.

Upon closer inspection, however, it becomes clear Van Zijl can be quite formidable.

As an entrepreneur, he has a large document warehouse, a quant lifestyle village, a luxury golf estate, and a remote tourism camp on his scoreboard of successes – with more taking shape.

Birth Of A Paper Warehouse

When someone mentions the term 'visionary', you can almost hear Van Zijl's eyes roll, followed by hesitant mumbling.

Eventually he'll round up something like: "Right then, let's connect the dots here on this piece of paper. And then we can slap some numbers on a giant-sized paper over there . . ."

The Document Warehouse specialises in providing comprehensive document management solutions, focusing on both physical and electronic document and record management services.

Well-oiled systems and dedicated people form the backbone of the enterprise. Every cog in this intricate wheel operates according to client specifications.

The facility features an ever-growing collection of 7.2 million indexed files and more than 800 tonnes of recycled paper.

"In 2005, I initially hired people who were skilled in building databases for companies. While visiting prospective clients' offices, I noticed they had boxes of documents and papers scattered around, which they didn't know how to manage.

"I decided to offer a document warehousing and filing service."

The Document Warehouse now has branches at Walvis Bay, Ongwediva, and in Windhoek, with a total of 90 staff members. Van Zijl has employed several individuals from Namibia's deaf community, as he says they are "highly employable in what we do".

Not Your Regular File Guru

While the focus is on paper-based processes, there is also a strong emphasis on transitioning to digital systems. When all else fails, Van Zijl also offers a secure service to destroy your paper secrets.

Again those Cold War movie character vibes!

He insists he's not exactly a file guru, though.

The only thing he truly understands is a water pump, he claims. "For water pumps to work properly, you actually need water," he says. Who would have guessed?

Van Zijl studied mechanical engineering at the University of Pretoria and later returned to Namibia, where he worked for over two decades as a partner in the consulting engineering firm Burmeister and Partners.

His extensive experience in all aspects of infrastructure development in Namibia, after bidding Burmeister and Partners farewell, has been invaluable in co-creating the luxury Omeya Golf Estate between 2010 and 2012 with business partner André van der Walt.

Situated 30km from Windhoek it offers houses, apartments, and plots, and promises an exceptional golfing experience in Africa.

"I can't play golf – I haven't played one round yet," Van Zijl dryly quips.

Man With Many Hats

His diverse interests were already clear as a student.

"I spent more time in the Africana Library than at the engineering faculty as a student. I later enrolled in additional studies at Unisa (the University of South Africa), where I obtained a BA in Psychology and African Politics."

Shortly after graduating in 1980, Van Zijl took a sabbatical and travelled the world for more than a year, gathering new

perspectives. But he's quick to emphasise that Windhoek, Namibia, will always be his one and only home.

This brings me to communal spaces and The Village on Liliencronstrasse, which features interlinked courtyards Van Zijl envisioned with architect Leon Barnard. The space has become a vibrant social hub, a home to many.

"Filing papers is not necessarily enjoyable for me, it's something I do, but this, The Village and the community that has evolved around it, along with the people it attracts, this is lekker."

The Village comes alive with its weekly market on Sundays, and lekker it is. The area is filled with people enjoying music, food, and laughter. I chat to manager Dean Spall, also known as 'The Village chief', who describes Van Zijl as naturally skeptical, and a person who "wears many hats".

"Wouter always emphasises that a vision should be aligned along one axis, while the ability to execute should be aligned along another axis, and both of these elements must be balanced," Spall says.

One of the most appealing features of The Village is its rooftop, which few people get to experience. It boasts an urban farm created by Urban Harvest, using hydroponic systems to grow a variety of leafy greens and herbs. These fresh ingredients are supplied to nearby restaurants.

The complex currently boasts six unique eateries, boardrooms and the Opera House, serving both as a venue to rent and a performing space for artists and community builders.

For someone who runs a paper hub, it seems ironic that part of this vision was a commitment to not cutting down a single tree during the construction of The Village.

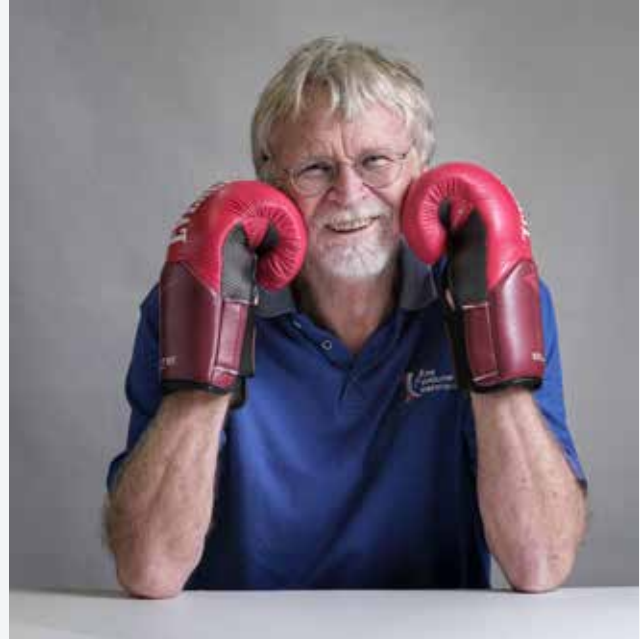
Talking about trees, some 900 km away a lush wilderness also features stunning trees: wild figs, makalani palms, and baobabs. Epupa Camp is yet another of Van Zijl's creations.

"We are situated on the southern bank of the Kunene River. This is about as far north as you can drive in Namibia," he says.

Van Zijl says he bought the camp on a whim in 1997.

He was part of a team that had just conducted a feasibility study in the area, using the camp as a temporary base. "I loved the experience; the environment there is beautiful. So, I offered to buy it," he recalls.

"However, the distance from Windhoek was a significant challenge, especially back then."



The camp offers three types of accommodation: tented rooms, self-catering tented campsites, and traditional campsites.

“Our facilities include a private island, two swimming pools with a river view, an outdoor bar with free Wi-Fi, a lounge with a library, and a dining room.

“Activities available to guests include guided cultural tours, sundowner drives, nature walks, and rafting on the Kunene River. Seasonal rafting trips are offered from May to November.”

Initially, he says, the goal of Epupa Camp was to create a meeting space for traditional and European mindsets, fostering an enriching exchange of knowledge for both parties.

Win-Win Conversations

Van Zijl emphasises that the key to renting land from communities in a conservancy is to engage in win-win conversations. It's important to value people for who they are and what they bring to the table, he says.

“Being willing to have very long and extended discussions is part of the process,” he notes.

This year in May, he will celebrate yet another milestone by opening an information centre at Epupa Camp.

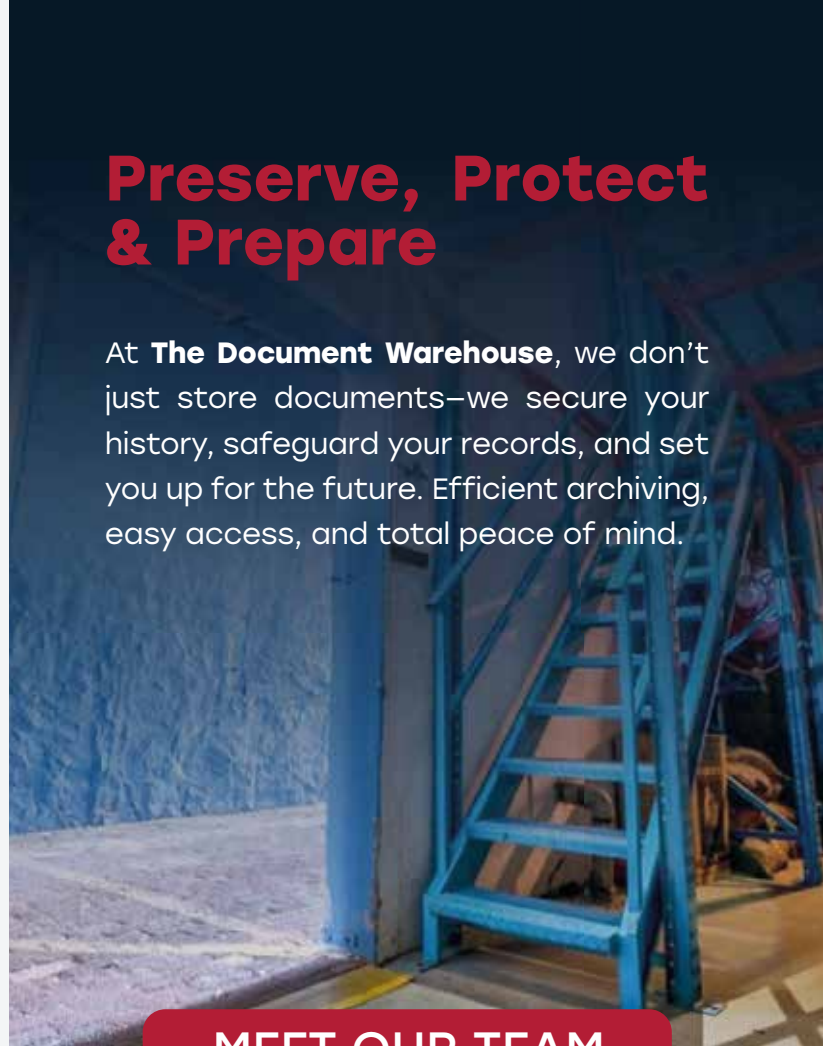
“The information centre aims to make local knowledge, art, history, and culture more accessible for visitors while strengthening our relationship with the local conservancy,” he says.

As an engineer he knows how to build bridges between things, but instead he builds bridges between worlds, cultures and people – without much fanfare. 🍷



Preserve, Protect & Prepare

At **The Document Warehouse**, we don't just store documents—we secure your history, safeguard your records, and set you up for the future. Efficient archiving, easy access, and total peace of mind.



MEET OUR TEAM



Amy | +264 81 128 5645
sales@documentwarehouse.com.na



Sunny | +264 81 144 7513
sunny@documentwarehouse.com.na

WE OFFER



Archiving &
Storing



Scanning &
Digitization



Secure
Destruction

M-Files
The Smarter Way to Work.

 **the
document
warehouse**

www.documentwarehouse.com.na

Take your Mama Out

The Public Holidays in May are Perfect for Escapes with Mom

Text: Annette Beyers | Images: Gondwana Collection Namibia | Layout: Conrad Hegarty

As a kid, I often had thoughts like, "One day, when I'm big and rich, I'll take my mom to watch The Three Tenors". I know I'm not the only one either, I have a friend who, with her first paycheque, bought her mom a massive flatscreen TV and a subscription to DStv, or the little boy who in the car exclaims, "Mom, when I'm a dad, I'll buy you a Ferrari!"

I can't speak on behalf of anyone else, but I can say that this woman—who spent about 18 years feeding me, clothing me, wiping my tears, putting plasters on my wounds and moulding me into the person I am today, has not received enough thanks for her efforts.

I listened to the Scissor Sisters' song, "Take Your Mama" and it got me thinking—when last did I actually treat her to more than a quick coffee? Instead, I walk into her house, open the fridge, and complain that she has nothing "interesting" in the refrigerator. Then, I ask if I can leave the kids there while I look for a new dress. Her answer is always yes, while my dad mumbles from the couch, almost like he knows what a little brat I am.

So here comes May, with its five public holidays (none of which fall on a Saturday) and Mother's Day smack-bam in the middle of all of them. I see an opportunity—a long weekend where neither you nor Mom needs to take leave for more than a day. The only challenge will be to get dad and hubby/wife on board. That said, who would be so selfish as to deny you the opportunity to spend quality time with your only mother (cue puppy dog eyes)?

The reality is, as adults, we rarely get moments alone with our mothers. There's always someone else around—partners, kids, siblings, or friends. When was the last time you had your mom all to yourself for more than a few hours? When did you last have an honest conversation that wasn't interrupted by someone needing something or a phone call that couldn't wait? A weekend away offers that rare chance to reconnect, share stories, and see each other as the adults you've become.

The fun part comes next—finding the perfect place to take Mom. I don't know your mom, but I know mine, and Hakusembe River Lodge has her getting lost in the sounds

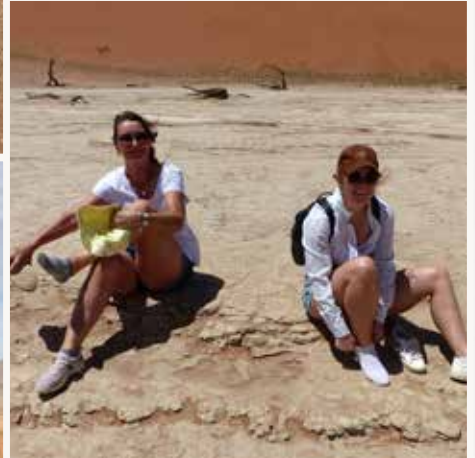
of nature while staring across the river. However... Okapuka Safari Lodge is much closer to Windhoek... On the other hand, the Kalahari Collection is only a few hours' drive away, and I know she'll adore Kalahari Farmhouse! That said, Desert Grace is in a class of its own, and heaven knows, that woman deserves to be spoiled! Ooh, and if we go to the Desert Collection, we could also spend a night at Namib Dune Star Camp—now THAT'S an experience. Etosha also won't be a bad idea, and then we have a choice of Etosha Safari Lodge, Etosha Safari Camp and Etosha King Nehale. Not to mention The Delight Swakopmund. Maybe this isn't a choice for an indecisive person like me.

There's always next year, and maybe we could even make this an annual thing... That I can live with!

Gondwana Collection properties are perfect for these mother-child getaways because they blend luxury with authentic Namibian experiences. Whether your mom is the adventurous type who wants to spot wildlife in Etosha or the relaxation-seeker who prefers to lounge by the pool with a good book and occasional spa treatment, there's something to suit every mother's taste. The staff at these lodges understand the importance of these special moments—they go out of their way to make them memorable.

And let's be honest, there's something magical about watching your mom away from her usual environment. Seeing her eyes light up at her first glimpse of an aardvark in the wild or hearing her laugh as she tells you stories from her childhood over a sundowner. These are the moments that no material gift could ever replace.

So, join me in taking Mama out for a weekend getaway this May. She deserves it, and it's about time you make your younger self proud and keep a promise you made back then...even if it can't be a Ferrari.





Evidence-Based Conservation

The N/a'an ku sê Journey from Rescue to Research

words by Dr. Rudie van Vuuren | photographs by N/a'an ku sê Group of Companies

Michelangelo

—CONSERVATION—



Both my family and Marlice's family were livestock farmers in the Nina and Drimiopsis areas. My grandfather farmed on Lorraine near Nina, while Marlice's grandfathers farmed on Tennessee and Nicholsrus. During the 1970s and 1980s, commercial farmland in Namibia was highly valued if it had minimal wildlife presence, as wildlife competed for grazing resources and predators such as cheetahs, leopards, and caracals posed significant risks to livestock.

At that time, Harnas was the only place in Namibia that accepted injured, orphaned, or problematic animals from farmers who preferred not to shoot them. Marieta van der Merwe and her family lived there, and she, along with Marlice, became synonymous with wildlife care.



Fast forward 30 years: we established Naankuse, located 45 km east of Windhoek, primarily because Marlice needed a place to care for animals brought to her or sent by her mother from Harnas. Living on Nelson Mandela Avenue in Klein Windhoek, where Utopia is today, was impractical, especially when a lion from Harnas required veterinary care.

In 2007, we opened Naankuse, providing Marlice with a dedicated space to care for animals. During this time, I met Florian Weise, a young biologist interested in studying the conflict between farmers and carnivores. I found his research intriguing and collaborated with him to establish the Naankuse Research Unit. Our goal was to investigate human-wildlife conflict and explore potential mitigation strategies. It became evident that not all animals brought to Marlice should be kept in captivity indefinitely; we needed effective ways to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and keep wild animals in their natural habitats.

Our journey began in 2008, expanding from our initial research on carnivores to various other species that come into conflict with humans. We gained significant insights, and Florian eventually completed his PhD in 2016. We discovered the drivers of conflict and learned that relocating a carnivore, like a cheetah, from a conflict zone to a safe area requires a minimum threshold distance to prevent homing instincts. We also found that cheetahs quickly become habituated to humans, which leads to poor outcomes if they're released into open ecosystems.

We also learned that 80% of Namibia's cheetahs live outside protected areas, on commercial and communal farmlands, making farmers crucial stakeholders in conflict mitigation. By collaring and releasing "problem" carnivores caught by farmers and sharing collar data with them, we reduced conflict by 80%, as farmers often realized the perceived problem animal was not the real issue.

Olive trees are remarkable for their longevity – some live for more than 2,000 years and can regenerate even after being burned or cut to the ground.

Michelangelo

—CONSERVATION—



Many landowners became actively involved in the research, offering valuable insights into the behaviour of collared carnivores.

Our research continues today, supported by several permits and numerous published scientific articles. We conduct research to solve real-world challenges, producing evidence that informs laws, regulations, and strategies to conserve Namibia's landscapes, protect wildlife, and improve the lives of its people. Our work is focused on evidence-based conservation and social upliftment programmes, not merely academic achievement. ❄️



My Morning in The Light Room

*A quiet morning in a space
designed for more than
just scans — where care,
calm, and kindness take
centre stage.*

words of a NAMRAD patient | photographs supplied by NAMRAD | artwork by Heidi Louw



I arrived at the hospital's Radiology Department a little before my scheduled appointment. The reception area was quiet and softly lit — clean, almost to the point of feeling untouched. After checking in, I was directed to something called “The Light Room.” I’d never heard that term before and wasn’t quite sure what to expect.

It turns out The Light Room is a colloquial name for the radiology procedure suite where outpatient imaging is performed. Bone density scans, CTs, X-rays, ultrasounds, mammograms, and image-guided biopsies are some of the services offered.

The space itself surprised me. It was warm and calming — softly lit, thoughtfully decorated, with calming background music. Clearly, it was designed to help patients feel less anxious. I definitely appreciated the effort.

Inside, the staff were calm and kind, with that quiet confidence you hope to see in medical professionals. One of the radiologic technologists greeted me, walked me through the procedure (an image-guided biopsy), and made sure all my forms were in order. They confirmed my identity and explained each step clearly, without being cold or overly clinical.

The room had a large imaging monitor, a procedure table, and what I assumed was an ultrasound machine. Everything was set up with care: clean, organized, and efficient, but not sterile in a way that felt intimidating.

What stood out most was how human the whole experience felt. The staff checked in with me constantly — asked how I was doing, dimmed the lights a bit so they weren’t harsh on my eyes, and talked me through each motion before they made it. It made a huge difference.

As I lay on the procedure bed, I found myself staring up at the ceiling lights, letting the low hum of the equipment and the quiet, professional chatter between staff distract me from the procedure. It wasn’t exactly pleasant, but it was over quicker than I expected — and not nearly as scary as I had imagined.

Afterward, they monitored me for a bit, made sure I was okay, and handed me clear post-procedure instructions before sending me on my way.

Walking out, I realized The Light Room wasn’t just a place for scans and procedures. It was a space designed with intention — for precision, for safety, but most of all, for people. 🌿



Jo Rogge, *Dawn River*, 2025



Jo Rogge, *Tangerine Dream*, 2025



Lynette Musukubili, *Untitled 1*, 2025



Lynette Musukubili, *Untitled 2*, 2025

The human brain uses approximately 20% of the body's energy,
despite accounting for only about 2% of body weight.

Why Fairs Matter:

The Project Room Returns to RMB Latitudes 2025

Written by Laschandre Coetzee for The Project Room

This year, The Project Room returns to the RMB Latitudes Art Fair, taking place from 23–25 May 2025 in Johannesburg, with a compelling presentation of works by Namibian artists Jo Rogge and Lynette Musukubili. Now in its third edition, the fair continues to distinguish itself as a reimagined, immersive art experience — intimate yet expansive.

For the Namibian gallery, deeply committed to amplifying local voices, platforms like Latitudes offer more than exposure — they create vital opportunities for visibility, connection, and exchange.

Held at Shepstone Gardens, a three-acre venue of marble halls, lush gardens, and rooftop pavilions, RMB Latitudes offers a unique indoor-outdoor stage for diverse artistic voices from across the continent and diaspora. For The Project Room, this setting provides a fitting backdrop for Rogge and Musukubili — artists whose practices are rooted in personal memory, lived experience, and cultural narrative.

Jo Rogge, a long-standing figure in Namibian art, presents a layered body of work exploring heritage and identity through a multidisciplinary lens. With decades of practice across Namibia, Mexico, and New York, Rogge brings depth and richness to this year's showcase.

Lynette Musukubili returns to Latitudes with a new sculptural direction. Known for her plastic-crocheted tapestries, Musukubili draws on techniques passed down by women in her village of Bukalo, near Katima Mulilo. Her work evokes rural life, tradition, and quiet resilience. This marks her second showing at Latitudes, following her 2024 debut and recent appearance at the Investec Cape Town Art Fair.

Beyond recognition, participation in RMB Latitudes sparks broader conversations about the role of art fairs for galleries and artists. These events are more than marketplaces — they're cultural arenas where global and continental art communities converge.

For a Windhoek-based gallery like The Project Room, fairs offer critical moments of visibility, enabling Namibian artists to connect with continental peers and be discovered by collectors, curators, and institutions who might not encounter their work otherwise.

Networking at such events is indispensable. Over just a few days, connections with fellow gallerists, collectors, and curators can lead to future collaborations, exhibitions, and relationships with both private and public institutions.

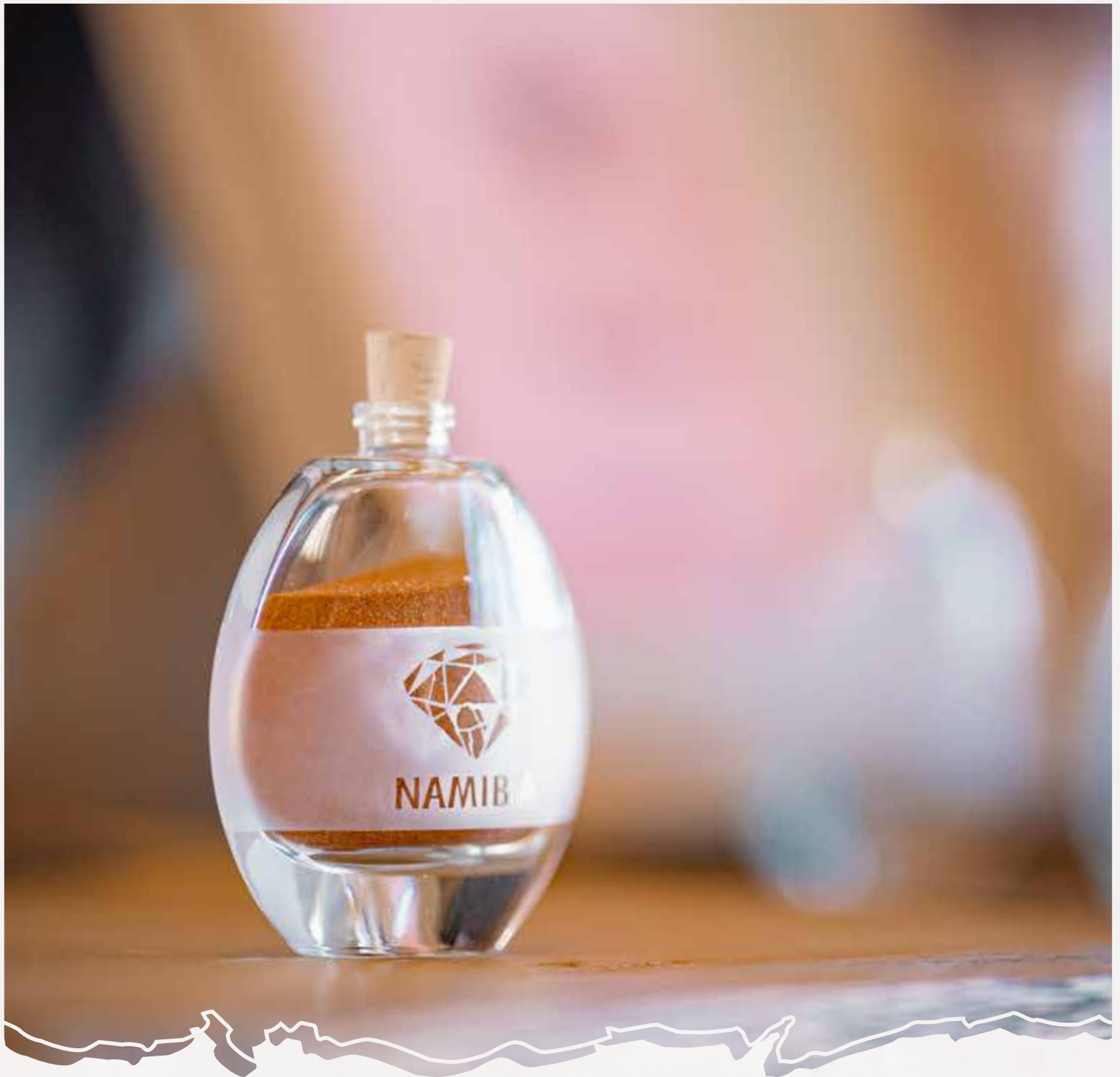
Latitudes' programming — talks, tours, and educational events — further enriches the experience, reminding us that art isn't just for consumption but for dialogue, curiosity, and deeper engagement.

The Project Room remains committed to equipping Namibian artists with the tools and platforms they need to grow. Participating in RMB Latitudes is an extension of that mission — a chance to champion both established and emerging voices within the wider African art community.

As the African art world gathers momentum, it is spaces like RMB Latitudes that help shape its future. For smaller galleries, these fairs are not just calendar events — they are opportunities for connection, growth, and possibility.

The Project Room's participation is once again proudly sponsored by RMB Namibia, a valued partner in its journey. 🍷

SPOIL YOUR MOTHER AT
The Desert Grace
THIS MOTHER'S DAY



*The perfect get away for you and your mom.
Spoil her she is worth it!*



Slice of Life:



Condensation & Imminent Rain

This summer has been a unique one. Hot, heavy days with an uncommon humidity thickening the air. The ideal place to be is sprawled out under an air conditioner with an ice-cold something to sip on. Alas, in Namibia, no air conditioner can hold us. No, we would rather brace the heat while spending time outside, enjoying the fresh air.

Hence, how I find myself sitting on the stoep (terrace), reclined and staring out across the garden and the skies beyond. A fresh glass of ice water stands on the side table nearby. Thick, dark, heavy clouds are looming along the horizon, teasing me with the idea of a quick shower to cool off the earth.

What makes matters further frustrating is that we aren't even in summer anymore. This should be autumn, with cooler, shorter days and golden leaves on trees. Instead, here I sit, beads of sweat collecting at the nape of my neck. I watch the ice in my glass melt, jingling against the glass as the cubes move and shift. Condensation begins to drip down the sides.

Looking up again, there are the clouds, lingering and taunting me.

Huffing, I try to focus on something else. There are no birds in the sky — even they are hiding from the heat. The dogs are stretched out across the tiles, lightly snoring. Stretched out across the tiles—maybe that's an idea.

A fat fly buzzes into frame and hovers annoyingly around my head. Lazy in the heat, it doesn't think much of my swatting hand; there's barely a chance for me to hit it anyway.

Turning my attention back to the clinking coming from my glass, I note the condensation pooling around its base. How I wish to dive into that tiny, icy little puddle...

Looking up again, I catch my breath. Is it possible? Have the clouds moved closer? Maybe a little? Surely, just a little? Probably not.

With a sigh, I rise and head back into the house, disappointedly searching for the aircon remote. It would be a few more hours before the clouds were finally prepared to shower the earth with a cool spray of relief.

It didn't feel like it at first, but the process was worth it. It probably won't feel worth it with the next build-up, but for now, I lie back and listen to the sound of the drops on the corrugated iron roof. Music to my ears. ❖





Fancy Fritz – A Night to Remember

The Fritz Collection stands as a beacon of restoration and preservation in Swakopmund, dedicated to reviving the historical charm of the town's bed-and-breakfast establishments.

words by Anne Schauffer | photographs supplied



The Fritz Collection bed and breakfast in Swakopmund welcomes you to a trio of enchanting B&Bs. Fancy Fritz is a proud member of the Fritz Collection, a family-owned group of boutique guesthouses that also includes the distinguished Fritz Manor.

Together, these properties represent the family's shared vision: to revive the golden age of hospitality, when service was deeply personal, spaces were rich in character, and every guest felt truly cared for.

At Fancy Fritz, every detail has been intentionally curated to evoke a sense of old-world charm, blended seamlessly with modern comforts. From the moment you step inside, you're surrounded by a warm, nostalgic atmosphere — plush textures, antique furnishings, and soft lighting that harken back to a more elegant era. The family's love for heritage and art is reflected throughout the property, where an intimate collection of original paintings and illustrations is on display, celebrating both local and classic influences.

Michelangelo

—TRAVEL & LEISURE—



The star ZTF SLRN-2020 was observed to suddenly brighten by more than 100 times, indicating that it was in the process of consuming a planet.

Michelangelo

—TRAVEL & LEISURE—



Each suite is individually styled, offering guests a unique and luxurious experience. The Deco, the Elegant, and the Regal suites feature high-end amenities - from Nespresso coffee machines and Le Creuset mugs to carefully selected linens for ultimate comfort. Whether you're curling up with a book in one of the cozy corners or enjoying your morning coffee in bed, every element has been designed to make you feel at home - and just a little bit spoiled.

Above all, Fancy Fritz is about connection - between past and present, guest and host. The family's passion lies in creating spaces that feel intimate, soulful, and entirely unforgettable. 🍷



Begin Your Namibian Journey in Unmatched Tranquility!

A Haven for Bleisure Travelers

For those who blend work with exploration, Droombos offers the perfect balance. Imagine starting your day with a fresh cup of Namibian coffee in the lush gardens before diving into a productive morning in one of the serene pods. Afternoons invite moments of adventure, with Windhoek's cultural gems just a short drive away. And as the sun sets, unwind with a fine glass of wine, surrounded by the tranquil beauty of nature.



DROOMBOS

Where tranquility meets luxury .  Every moment is an escape

 reservations@droombos.com.na

 Windhoek

 www.droombos.com.na



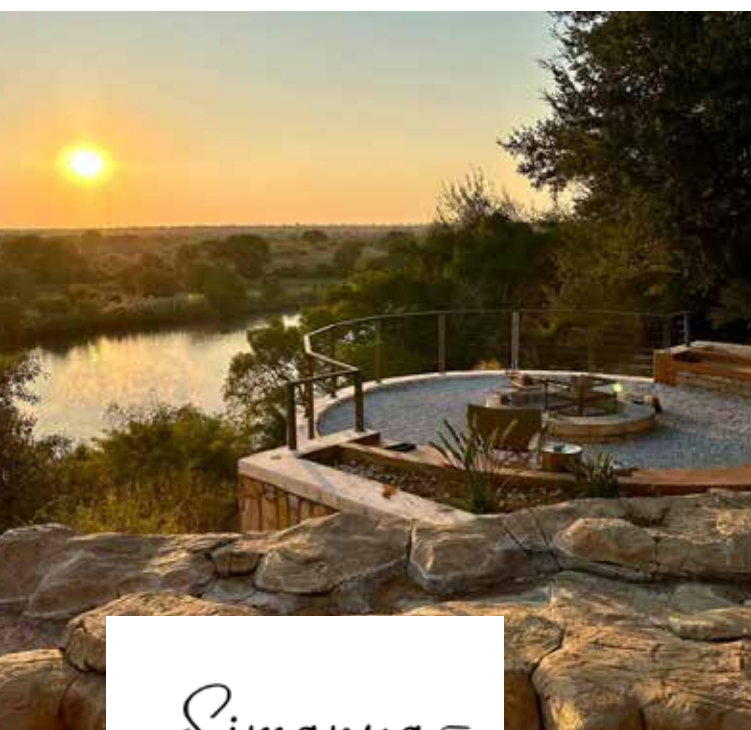


An Award-Winning Conference Destination

Recently crowned the 'Best of Namibia Conferencing' winner, Droombos is more than just a meeting venue — it's an incubator of ideas. Its unique setting fosters creativity, making strategic sessions and team-building exercises both productive and enjoyable. Surrounded by nature's tranquility, teams find themselves engaging in dynamic brainstorming sessions, building stronger connections, and unlocking new levels of innovation.

A Culinary Experience Like No Other

The Droombos restaurant is an experience in itself. As you dine under towering trees, lovebirds flutter gracefully between branches, adding to the enchanting atmosphere. The menu is a delightful tribute to Namibia, featuring locally inspired dishes crafted with the finest ingredients. Each bite is a journey through the rich flavors of the region, served in an ambiance of pure tranquility.



DID YOU KNOW?

Our sister lodge, Simanya River Lodge, has reopened after renovations and now offers the perfect riverside retreat for your Namibian adventure. The most upscale retreat in Kavango West, Simanya offers luxury accommodations with stunning river views near Rundu. Just 13 km from Nkurenkuru, it features fine dining, a pub, an infinity pool, river cruises, and cultural experiences. Easily accessible via the B15 "Timber Route," it also offers conference facilities and private campsites.



Simanya
RIVER LODGE



Overall Winner - British Wildlife Photographer of the Year: Urban Explorer by Simon Withyman

British Wildlife Photography Awards

words by Anne Schaffer | photographs by British Wildlife Photography Awards



Overall Winner - Young British Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2025: *Curlew O'clock!* by Jamie Smart

The winners of the British Wildlife Photography Awards 2025 have been unveiled. An image of a red fox on patrol through Bristol city centre has taken the top prize in this prestigious competition.

More than 13,000 images were submitted to this year's British Wildlife Photography Awards competition, with amateur and professional photographers competing for the £3,500 grand prize.

Simon Withyman was chosen as this year's grand prizewinner for his image.

"I had been photographing this vixen for three years," says Withyman. "This streetwise fox was a successful mother and had a family of young mouths to feed. I was instantly drawn to the interesting perspective effect of these railings and wanted to showcase some beauty in this everyday urban scene."

The British Wildlife Photography Awards is a revered showcase of nature photography in Britain, and a crucial reminder of the value our woodlands, wetlands, and other ecosystems still hold.

The Young British Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2025 was awarded to 9-year-old Jamie Smart for her beautiful image of a curlew among dandelions in the early morning light.

Michelangelo

—PHOTOGRAPHY—



60 | MAY 2025

Winner - Coast & Marine: *Blue Shark* by Nicholas More



Winner - Habitat: *Kingdom of the Hare* by Drew Buckley

Some stars are incredibly bright: **The Pistol Star, for example, shines 10 million times brighter than the Sun.**



Winner - Wild Woods: *Storm Light Over the Caledonian Forest* by James Roddie



Winner - Animal Behaviour: *Butterfly Face-off* by John Waters



Winner -Hidden Britain: *Roosting Dragons* by Daniel Trim

The oldest known human math tools are tally sticks – bones with carved notches.
One, called the Lebombo bone, is more than 44,000 years old.

Michelangelo

—PHOTOGRAPHY—



Winner - 12-14 Years: *And Take-off – Gannets at Bass Rock* by Kiran Simpson

“The BWPA continues to showcase the extraordinary beauty and diversity of Britain’s natural world,” says Will Nicholls, Director of BWPA. “This year’s competition not only celebrates the artistry and dedication of the photographers but also serves as a powerful reminder of our responsibility to protect these wild spaces. We hope this collection inspires others to appreciate, respect, and safeguard the wildlife that makes Britain so unique.”

Photographers competed in 10 different categories in the adult competition: Animal Behaviour, Animal Portraits, Botanical Britain, Black & White, British Seasons, Coast & Marine, Habitat, Hidden Britain, Urban Wildlife, and Wild Woods. There were three age groups in the youth competition: 11 and Under, 12–14 Years, and 15–17 Years.

All awarded images are published by Bird Eye Books in a hardback coffee-table book, available online at bwpawards.org, with a foreword by actress and writer Evanna Lynch.

The 2026 competition is now open for entries. 🍇

www.bwpawards.org.

Nitzsche Reiter
Since 1934

LET YOUR SIGHT SOAR...

... and discover the wild like never before with Canon.



+264 61 231 116
+264 81 143 2295
nitrei@iway.na
sales2@nitzschereiter.com

Canon

For more information, visit: www.nitzschereiter.com or find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nitzschereiter



Living on the Surfside – A Calm, Coastal Transformation

Perched quietly along the shoreline of Swakopmund, Surfside has long held the bones of a holiday home—but not the soul. Now, with its recent transformation, this self-catering seaside escape has been reborn as a warm, elegantly curated destination, carefully redesigned for stylish, barefoot living

Words by Melanie Redecker van der Merwe & Lee-Anne Palmhert, Women Unleashed Interior Design Artistry

Photographs by Jana Kiesewetter



Our design brief was as much about honouring the existing character of the home as it was about breathing new life into it. Working closely with the homeowner, our challenge was to reimagine Surfside using a mix of existing furniture and new elements, with a focus on enhancing both comfort and visual harmony.

From the outset, the house's striking stilt architecture and elevated ocean views gave us the perfect canvas. The interior approach was all about softness—layered textures, a calming coastal palette, and pieces that invite you to sit, stay, and simply be. The colour story leans into gentle neutrals and earthy tones, designed to echo the beach below and set a slow, serene pace for its guests.

The heart of the home—the main bedroom and courtyard patio—received particular attention. The bedroom now exudes restful luxury, with updated finishes and tactile fabrics, while the courtyard offers a private oasis perfect for alfresco dining or a quiet morning coffee, wrapped in sea breeze and sunlight.

“We wanted to give the home a sense of quiet luxury—softness, light, and comfort—with a few surprises along the way.”

—Women Unleashed Interior Design Artistry

Michelangelo

—TRAVEL & LEISURE—



Human memories are not static; **they can be influenced and changed over time by new information or suggestions.**

Michelangelo

—TRAVEL & LEISURE—



A highlight of the project is the completely reimagined flat, which now feels like a standalone boutique retreat. While the main house speaks a language of relaxed boho meets coastal farmhouse, the flat tells a different story: classic, refined, and romantic. Designed for two, it's a luxurious nest—tailored for couples seeking a private getaway. With its own kitchenette and patio, it's perfectly equipped for a self-contained, upmarket stay.

Whether you're drawn to the expansive views or the gentle pace of Swakopmund life, Surfside is more than a holiday rental—it's a calm, considered space designed to help you unwind in style. 🍷

Liza van Straaten: Lisa@newliving.com.na

Explore the **NWR Collections** and discover your perfect Namibian adventure

Whether you seek tranquility in the embrace of nature, timeless elegance in historic settings, or exhilarating adventures amidst breathtaking landscapes, NWR offer something for every discerning traveller.



1. Onkoshi Resort
2. Dolomite Resort
3. Sossus Dune Lodge
4. Popa Falls Resort
5. Namutoni Resort
6. Halali Resort
7. Okaukeujo Resort
8. Waterberg Resort
9. Gross Barmen Resort
10. Hardap Resort
11. /Ai-/Ais Hot Springs Spa
12. Olifantsrus Campsite
13. Terrace Bay Resort
14. Torra Bay Campsite
15. Khorixas Camp
16. Mile 108
17. Mile 72
18. Jakkalsputz
19. Naukluft Camp
20. Sesriem Campsite
21. Shark Island
22. Hobas Lodge
23. Boplaas Campsite





Unforgettable Experiences Await in Namibia with NWR

Nestled amidst breathtaking landscapes and teeming with diverse wildlife in exclusive locations of the Protected Areas and National Parks, Namibia offers an unparalleled escape for discerning travellers seeking exceptional experiences. Namibia Wildlife Resorts (NWR), the country's premier hospitality group, invites you to embark on an unforgettable journey through its three distinct collections, each catering to a unique sense of adventure & experience.



Embrace the Untamed Beauty of the Eco Collection

Immerse yourself in the pristine wilderness of Namibia's most extraordinary natural landscapes with the Eco Collection. Discover remote desert oases, lush riverine environments, and towering mountain ranges, all while enjoying the ultimate in sustainable luxury. From the stark beauty of the Namib Desert to the verdant splendor of the Babwata national Park, NWR offers a sanctuary for the soul, where tranquility and adventure intertwine seamlessly.



Indulge in Timeless Elegance with the Classic Collection

Step into a world of refined sophistication with the Classic Collection. Experience the grandeur of Namibia's colonial heritage, where historic lodges and contemporary amenities blend harmoniously to create an atmosphere of timeless elegance. Savor exquisite culinary delights, impeccable service, and breathtaking vistas, all while basking in the warmth of Namibian hospitality.



Embark on Thrilling Adventures with the Adventure Collection

Unleash your inner explorer with the Adventure Collection, designed for those seeking adrenaline-pumping experiences and unforgettable encounters with Namibia's diverse wildlife. From heart-pounding desert safaris and exhilarating white-water rafting and unforgettable wildlife encounters, the Adventure Collection promises an unforgettable journey for the intrepid traveler.

Visit <https://www.nwr.com.na> to explore the NWR Collections and embark on your unforgettable Namibian adventure today.



CONTACT US ☎ +264 61 285 72 00 @ reservations@nwr.com.na

🌐 www.nwr.com.na

EXPERIENCE THE ULTIMATE
RELIABLE HIGH
SPEED
INTERNET

speedlink

SUPREME CONNECT

- Free installation for 36-months contract (residential only)

Speedlink lite

Package/Contract Period	6Mbps	8Mbps	10Mbps
Download Speed (up to)	6Mbps	8Mbps	10Mbps
Upload Speed (up to)	2Mbps	2Mbps	2Mbps
Internet usage	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
CPE	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
Monthly charge (N\$) (12-month)	379	439	479
Monthly charge (N\$) (24-month)	339	399	429
Monthly charge (N\$) (36-month)	319	379	409

Speedlink Prepaid

Package	6Mbps	8Mbps	10Mbps	25Mbps
Download Speed (up to)	6Mbps	8Mbps	10Mbps	25Mbps
Upload Speed (up to)	2Mbps	2Mbps	2Mbps	10Mbps
Internet usage	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
CPE	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
(12-month service duration including installation)	5,119	5,579	5,819	8,059

Speedlink liteplus (Asymmetric)

Package/Contract Period	25Mbps	50Mbps	75Mbps	100Mbps
Download Speed (up to)	25Mbps	50Mbps	75Mbps	100Mbps
Upload Speed (up to)	10Mbps	15Mbps	25Mbps	35Mbps
Internet usage	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
CPE	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
Monthly charge (N\$) (12-month)	749	879	1,159	1,979
Monthly charge (N\$) (24-month)	679	789	1,039	1,779
Monthly charge (N\$) (36-month)	639	749	979	1,679

Speedlink liteplus (Symmetric)

Package/Contract Period	10Mbps	15Mbps	25Mbps	50Mbps
Download Speed (up to)	10Mbps	15Mbps	25Mbps	50Mbps
Upload Speed (up to)	10Mbps	15Mbps	25Mbps	50Mbps
Internet usage	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
CPE	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
Monthly charge (N\$) (12-month)	799	989	1,299	1,979
Monthly charge (N\$) (24-month)	719	889	1,169	1,779
Monthly charge (N\$) (36-month)	679	849	1,109	1,679

- All prices are VAT exclusive
- Installation charges for Residential customers: Free for 36 months contracts ONLY (excluding non-fibre-ready areas)
- Installation charges for Residential customers: Standard installation charges apply for 12 months & 24 months contracts
- Installation charges for Business customers: Standard installation charges apply

Promotion valid until 23 April 2025

For more information, visit your nearest Teleshop or call us toll free on 11000.

Terms and Conditions Apply

www.telecom.na



Sharing your world

telecom
namibia



YOUR MEMORIES, OUR LEGACY NAMIBIA BY LEGACY

Amidst the golden dunes of the desert and the rugged beauty of the coastline, experience the beauty of Namibia at **Swakopmund Hotel & Entertainment Centre** or delve into the heart of Namibia's capital city, where modernity meets tradition at **Windhoek Country Club Resort**.

Book YOUR unique experience with us!

Windhoek Country Club Resort

Email: windhoek@legacyhotels.com | Phone: +264 (0) 61 205 5911

Swakopmund Hotel & Entertainment Centre

Email: swakres@legacyhotels.com | Phone: +264 (0) 64 410 5200



+27 11 806 6888 | hotels@legacyhotels.com
www.legacyhotels.com



1 9 &L 1 9

LEISURE

NAMIBIA THROUGH OUR EYES



NAMIBIA THROUGH
OUR EYES

A LAND REBORN AFTER RAIN

In the heart of southwestern Africa lies Namibia, one of Earth's driest countries—a land where ancient deserts stretch endlessly toward the horizon and rainfall is rare and precious beyond measure. For years, this remarkable country has endured the harsh grip of drought, with the 2023/24 season being particularly challenging. Below-average rainfall and extended dry spells necessitated widespread drought relief efforts as the parched country and its people yearned for water.

But 2025 has brought an extraordinary transformation.

Heavy rainfall has drenched vast stretches of our typically arid country, creating a spectacular revival that few have witnessed in their lifetime. The landscape now resonates with abundance—a tribute to nature's resilience and the life-giving power of water.

A RARE NATURAL SYMPHONY

The evidence of this remarkable change is everywhere. Rivers that have remained dry for years, sometimes decades, have been in full flood. The Swakop River has completed its journey to the Atlantic Ocean—a rare sight that drew hundreds of residents from Swakopmund and Walvis Bay to witness water meeting sea. The last occurrence of this phenomenon was on 16 February 2022, when the river flowed into the ocean after an 11-year pause.



At Sossusvlei, the normally bone-dry Tsauchab River transformed into a raging torrent, sending floodwaters into the famous clay pan. Visitors stood in awe, their approach paused halfway along the 60-kilometer road where the usually dry river crossing became impassable.

The Fish River, famous for carving the magnificent Fish River Canyon over millennia, has delivered a massive influx to the Hardap Dam—Namibia's second-largest reservoir that stood nearly empty just months earlier. Its waters, critical for irrigating surrounding agricultural lands, have been replenished, breathing new life into farming communities.

Other dams and boreholes across the country have also received significant inflows, providing welcome relief to towns like Windhoek, which had implemented strict water conservation measures just six months ago.



EXPERIENCE MAGIC AT OUR LODGES

MOKUTI ETOSHA

At Mokuti, gateway to Etosha National Park, the opportunity to capitalise on this transformation is a mere 40 metres away. The vast Etosha Pan, having received substantial rainfall, has become a temporary lake that attracts thousands of flamingos and waterbirds in a spectacular natural gathering — one of Etosha's most breathtaking wildlife displays.

The surrounding savanna, usually dry, has transformed into a lush green paradise providing ample grazing for elephants, giraffes, zebras and various antelopes. And in the tall grass, predators like lions and cheetahs lurk, hoping to grab a snack from this abundance. This, in turn, creates remarkable predator sightings and photographic opportunities during safaris.



A COUNTRY TRANSFORMED

From people to animals to insects and birds, the entire country seems to sigh with collective relief. Farmers rejoice as their fields flourish. Namibians, known for their warmth, appear even more upbeat and friendly—a natural response to the blessing of rain in this water-scarce country.

The transformation is especially striking in the world's oldest desert. The ancient Namib, usually in shades of reds and browns, now showcases flashes of green as dormant seeds burst into life. This extraordinary bloom in one of Earth's most arid environments is a vibrant sight few ever witness.

STRAND HOTEL SWAKOPMUND

Besides enjoying elegant comfort at the Strand Hotel and the exquisite food at three world-class restaurants, guests can witness a truly rare phenomenon—the Namib Desert in full bloom. The oldest desert in the world is alive with flowering plants and green grasses—a sight only a handful of people observe in their lifetime. The contrast of the blooming desert against the wild Atlantic coastline creates a wonderfully sensory experience.



CHOBE WATER VILLAS ZAMBEZI

Along the life-giving Chobe River, the view from our Water Villas is spectacular as nature's bounty is at its fullest. There is simply more of everything—more water flowing, more lush greenery along the banks, more animals gathering at the water's edge and more birds filling the air with song. This is a paradise for photography and wildlife viewing.



MIDGARD OTJIHAVERA WINDHOEK

At Midgard, our tranquil mountain paradise retreat in central Namibia, the trees are greener, the plants lush and the wildlife seemingly happier in their rejuvenated habitat. The Otjihavera mountains that frame this peaceful sanctuary now shimmer with life, creating a green oasis that invites deep relaxation and connection with nature's renewal.



MAY 2025 – PERFECT TIME TO EXPERIENCE NAMIBIA THROUGH OUR EYES

This fleeting moment of extraordinary abundance makes 2025 the perfect year to experience Namibia's wild heart. With the month of May blessed with numerous public holidays, there's no better time to plan an extended getaway to witness this rare natural spectacle. As temporary waters recede and the cycle of seasons continues, the memories of witnessing this rare transformation will remain—proof of having seen Namibia spring gloriously to life.

BOOK NOW AND SEE NAMIBIA THROUGH OUR EYES

We kindly request you to include the booking reference **MA-26462** when communicating with us for booking arrangements.

sales@ol.na | +264 61 431 8111 | ol-leisure.com



We can help with quick and easy cross-border transactions

The power to make cross-border payments lies at your fingertips. By simply using the **FNB App** or **FNB Online Banking**, you can easily transact with South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini (CMA countries) as well as the rest of the world.

Make a global payment on the FNB App

1. From the Menu, select 'Forex' then select 'Global Payments'
2. Select 'Beneficiary list'
3. Select 'Pay' next to the beneficiary
4. Select the account that payment will be made from and enter payment details
5. Select BoP code (reason for payment)
6. Accept the terms and conditions
7. Confirm that the details are correct
8. Accept quote
9. Select 'Finish'

Make a global payment with FNB Online Banking

1. Select 'Forex'
2. Select 'Pay' next to the beneficiary
3. Select the account that payment will be made from and enter payment details
4. Select BoP code (reason for payment)
5. Accept the terms and conditions and click 'Confirm'
6. Accept quote
7. Select 'Finish'

Please note that all transactions to CMA countries must be initiated as a forex transaction and not EFT.

061 299 8733

CMArandpayments@fnbnamibia.com.na

Quality Service Since 1907

With compassionate,
Christian-based healthcare,
we address physical needs
while nurturing psychological,
mental, and spiritual well-
being, guiding patients
toward healing and peace.

SERVICES:

Out Patient

- 24/7 Casualty
- Consultant Out-Patient Clinics

Inpatient

- Intensive care unit
- Internal medicine/surgical
- Wards

Theatres & Specialties (Surgeries)

- General & Endoscopic
- Orthopedic & Trauma
- Spinal
- ENT
- Urology & Laser
- Cardio-Thoracic
- Vascular
- Brachytherapy

Auxiliary

- PathCare
- Medical imaging
- Living Waters Pharmacy
- PH Studies
- Dialysis Center
- Roland Physiotherapy
- Sacred Heart Center (CATH LAB)

Emergencies: 061 270 2143
HEART ATTACK CENTRE: 085911



**OVER
6000**

HEART INTERVENTIONS
SINCE 2012

WE ARE VERY SAFE
(complication rate <1%,
mortality rate 0%).

YOUR HEART in Expert Hands

**State-of-the-Art Care for Heart Attack
Patients at Sacred Heart Centre**

At **SACRED HEART CENTRE**, we offer urgent, life-saving care for patients with suspected or confirmed heart attacks.

Led by skilled cardiologist Dr. Simon Beshir, our team provides compassionate, personalized treatment. With heart disease as a leading cause of death, trust your heart to our expert care.

SERVICES:

- Coronary Angiogram & Cardiac Catheterization
- Balloon Angioplasty & Stent Placement
- 24/7 Heart Attack Care
- Pacemaker & Loop Recorder Implants
- Heart Failure Management
- Treatment for Palpitations & Blackouts
- Heart Ultrasound (Echocardiography)
- ECG, 24-hour Heart & Blood Pressure Monitoring
- Stress Test (Exercise ECG)
- Bypass Surgery (CABG)
- Heart Valve Replacement Surgery
- Various other heart procedures



Dr Du Toit
Cardiothoracic Surgeon



Dr Hugo-Hamman
Paediatric Cardiologist



Dr Simon Beshir
Cardiologist

Inquiries: 083 373 2400
EMERGENCIES: 085911

Every minute counts during a heart attack
—the faster you get treated, the better your chances of recovery and saving your heart.



**SACRED
HEART
CENTRE**

Dr. Simon I. Beshir & Associates



words by Linda de Jager | photograph supplied

A Champion of Community and Press Freedom

In the month of World Press Freedom Day, celebrated annually on 3 May, we focus on the contributions of Dr Dean Kock to his community.

Kock, a valued member of the Namibian coastal community, is well known for his dedication to keeping the local newspaper Namib Times thriving.

He also runs his own dental practice in Walvis Bay.

Born in Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), Kock became part of the Namibian community in 1990 when he married his wife, Cathy.

What motivated you to buy Namib Times in 2001?

Namib Times has a respected legacy among the coastal community, which drew me in. I wanted to contribute to its voice during the peak of print media. After reviewing its financials in 2001, I was impressed with its strong prospects and chose to invest.

It's believed that newspapers have no place in society anymore, and many struggle financially. What is your take on this?

Print media is unlikely to regain its former status due to digital transformation and changing consumer habits, accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic. While circulation and advertising revenue have been hurt, newspapers are still relevant.

The industry's downsizing reflects the impact of digital platforms. It's important to balance business needs with personal values, especially regarding job retention. Despite perceptions of newspapers being outdated, there is potential for adaptation.

We must confront these challenges directly and make things work. I have a wonderful business partner, Desmond Frankfort, who helps me achieve our goals.

Considering your personal history, what does press freedom mean to you?

Growing up was challenging. It was marked by separate amenities for marginalised communities and a lack of freedom of movement and speech.

My situation was not unique. It was vital for me to have a voice and to be treated as an equal, as I sought to overcome being seen as a second-class citizen. This motivation pushed me to earn my degree in an unequal society.

Later in life, I saw the newspaper as a platform to freely express my opinions without fearing any repercussions.

How does Namib Times contribute to your community?

Community newspapers are vital in fostering a sense of belonging and strengthening communities. They highlight local success stories, celebrate everyday heroes, and provide a space for opinions and complaints.

By focusing on local businesses and economic growth, they positively impact society. Namib Times in particular has consistently contributed to coastal communities, offering a platform for engagement and constructive criticism on relevant issues.

How do you balance the demands of running a dental practice with those of the paper?

I've built a strong management team for my dental practice, allowing operations to run smoothly even when I'm away. Managing multiple businesses is challenging, but investing in quality systems and technology has simplified my work.

I can now perform dental impressions remotely and send them to my lab via email, expediting dental laboratory work. This investment in technology frees me up to focus on other priorities.

In addition to treating patients during the day, I check in with my other businesses after four o'clock in the afternoon to ensure everything is functioning well.

At the newspaper, we have an excellent editorial team taking care of deadlines, fact-checking, gathering content, advertising, and marketing opportunities. I believe your human resources are always your best asset.

What do people not know about you, and what principles guide you?

I have a morbid fascination with American politics!

On a more serious note, I am dedicated to shaping young minds and creating job opportunities. Positively impacting young minds brings me great satisfaction.

I really dislike losing. I focus on my own journey rather than competing with others. In addition to shaping young minds, I value achieving my goals and having a positive impact on society.

My motto is that it should never be about oneself; it should always be about how you can influence the world around you.

What makes a good dentist?

A successful dentist should be compassionate, empathetic, and patient to help ease patients' anxiety. Clear communication and trust are essential for a positive experience. Listening to patients is crucial, as it helps build strong relationships.

Seeing patients as individuals and treating them with respect is essential, as this approach fosters loyalty and contributes to the success of a business.

I want to emphasise the significance of technical expertise and the importance of proper education. Dentistry is a hands-on profession that requires a steady hand and great attention to detail. It's essential to continually educate yourself and invest in the right technology to provide world-class dental treatment.

Investing in cheap equipment is not beneficial. You also need to invest in good people and compensate them well, as this fosters loyalty among your staff. Additionally, having strong problem-solving skills is crucial.

You lead by example and are a well-loved and respected member of the coastal community. How do you define success?

Success is relative. For me, it's not about wealth or material possessions. True success lies in positively impacting society, creating job opportunities, and improving people's lives. I struggle to connect with those who equate success solely with monetary gain.

Healthcare and medical insurance are facing increasing challenges. What is your advice to patients in this climate?

This is so important — especially when planning for retirement. This topic deserves a broader discussion with all stakeholders involved.

In short, if you're downsizing your medical insurance cover, avoid cancelling your hospital plan at all costs — especially in retirement — as it often represents your largest expense if you require extensive medical care.

Regular visits to your dentist are essential.

Many of us are not exactly 16 years old anymore, so invest in quality dental care before retirement while you still have your full medical aid benefits. 🍷



Youngest Master Distiller in the World

Youngest Master Distiller at age 25, Benedikt Blomendahl of Blomendahl Distillery is now managing the family business in both South Africa and Germany.

edited by Anne Schaffer | photographs supplied

Last year, 25-year-old Benedikt Blomendahl of Blomendahl Distillery achieved the distinction of being the youngest Master Distiller ever to pass through the doors of the esteemed Chartered Institute of Brewing and Distilling (CIBD) in the UK. Two years earlier, he had emerged as the top student for the Diploma in Distilling, CIBD being one of the most accredited and established institutions of its kind worldwide.

For Benedikt, “distilling has been what I love and always dreamed of doing. As soon as I could walk, I was walking around my dad’s distillery, helping him put caps on the bottles. When we moved to South Africa in 2003, I was foot-stomping grapes in my dad’s cellar.” Spending his formative years in the distillery with his father, Franz, was not only where Benedikt learned a great deal but also where he built up the confidence to take bold steps in their multinational business.

In 2009, the Blomendahls set up a 1,000L pot still in Cape Town, South Africa. As soon as Benedikt completed his matric, he began developing new brands and launched the Blomendahl Spirit Range: “My dad, a qualified Wine Engineer and Master Distiller who has been distilling since 1982, was my biggest inspiration and role model, and I always had the most fun when I was around him in the cellar.” Once he turned 18, Benedikt could finally distil his own gin, whisky, brandy, rum and other spirits. In 2019, a few of his gin recipes received double gold awards, and one even a platinum award, at the Michelangelo International Wine and Spirits Awards.

Benedikt completed his initial distilling certificate in 2020 in South Africa, but he wasn’t going to stop there. “It was always important to cover both aspects - the distilling and the business side - so in February 2025, I wrote my final exam for the Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) through CIMA.” Benedikt also studied for his Bachelor of Commerce part-time: “I did this alongside all my studies thereafter so I could still focus on the distillery and get practical experience.”

Today, as his dad passes the baton to him to manage the German and South African distilleries — with ongoing advice whenever needed — Benedikt oversees everything from production, distilling and distribution to finance and accounting. “My current role is very broad, as is generally



the case in a small to medium family-run business. In essence, we help people start their own brands of spirits and also set up distilleries,” he explains. “My goal is to build up our various spirit brands into recognisable, well-established names, and to help others looking to set up their own distillery by offering training and equipment to fulfil their dream.”

One of his most satisfying projects last year? “We sold a full distillery setup to an entrepreneur in Ghana, which I subsequently set up by myself there. I offered training to the client so they’d be able to operate it and distil good-quality local vodka and gin.” Benedikt designed the still components, had them manufactured, assembled them in South Africa to ensure everything was perfect, and then travelled to Ghana to complete the installation. He laughs, “I also developed a few gin recipes for them which integrate local botanicals and fruit.”

For Benedikt, now Director and Distiller at Blomendahl, the journey is deeply rooted in family: “My dad Franz is my biggest inspiration and role model. If I need advice, he’s always there, and I consider myself enormously fortunate to have his support and depth of skills always at my side.”

And the benefits of his Master Distiller qualification? “For one thing, it’s helped expand the business by acquiring new customers who want and value a qualified producer.” 🍷

The Last Word



words by Chris Coetzee

Over the years, people seem to love tossing pearls of wisdom your way — life lessons carefully polished by their own missteps, usually offered in the hopes of making the world a little less chaotic.

My mother once sighed and said, “The only thing in life that’s truly free... is trouble.”

And then, at the tender age of 20, my landlord — grizzled, mysterious, and possibly burned by some courtroom romance — looked me dead in the eye and declared, “Never marry a lawyer.” No explanation, just a heavy pause and a haunted stare.

A decade later, someone else hit me with this gem: “You should see divorce as a clearance sale.” Lighten the load, walk away with what still serves you, and rebuild.

Life is full of surprises and the kind of wisdom you don’t find in books — just in people who’ve been through some real stuff.

But lately, I’ve noticed something: people don’t really share those kinds of truths anymore. Social media’s turned everything into a highlight reel of polished perfection. There’s no space for the real moments — the honest mistakes, the quiet regrets, the messy truths we pass around as survival tools.

And that’s a shame. Because real wisdom doesn’t come with filters or clever hashtags. It comes from life — and the courage to talk about it.

Life’s too short to plan how to live someone else’s story. It was never meant to be scripted — it was meant to be lived.

Fortunately, there’s still truth left in the world — and the White House Guest Farm is one of them.

Tucked away in the deep south of Namibia, just north of Grünau, it’s a place where time slows down, the stars stretch endlessly, and the welcome feels like you’ve come home. Here, dinner is not just a meal. It is hearty and full of soul.

In 1912, Friedrich Haschke purchased the farm Mickberg — 15,000 hectares of untamed beauty — for just GBP 2,500. At its heart stands the White House, a charming farmhouse built in the early 1900s. It’s not luxurious, but it’s honest. It’s not polished, but it’s real.

There’s something deeply nostalgic about it. You stand there, surrounded by the vastness of the Namibian landscape, and somehow feel more connected, more grounded — more loved than ever.

I spent a night there some years ago with a cousin of mine, en route from Stellenbosch to the Outjo/Otavi district for a quick weekend on the farm. Just one night. But it’s still with me. Still memorable. My pearls of wisdom. This is a place of truth, and a Michelangelo-Approved Destination. ❖



Unearthing deeper connections in the corporate sector

How does mining and other industries in the corporate sector bolster an economy that impacts Africa? And how does finding new ways of doing things create a better future for all? When you see unexpected connections, you see sustainable growth.

Enhance your operations and profitability through specialised and innovative financial solutions from Nedbank Corporate and Investment Banking.

Contact Nedbank CIB in Namibia

Tel: 264 81 959 2504

Email: cib@nedbank.com.na



see money differently

Terms and conditions apply. Nedbank Namibia Ltd Reg No 73/04561. Licensed financial institution and credit provider.



Welcome abroad.

Say goodbye to juggling
multiple SIM cards
while roaming.

Enjoy SIM-less connectivity with
MTC e-SIM roaming.



SCAN OR Visit:
esim.mtc.com.na
to get started.



Ts & Cs Apply

make the connection
mtc