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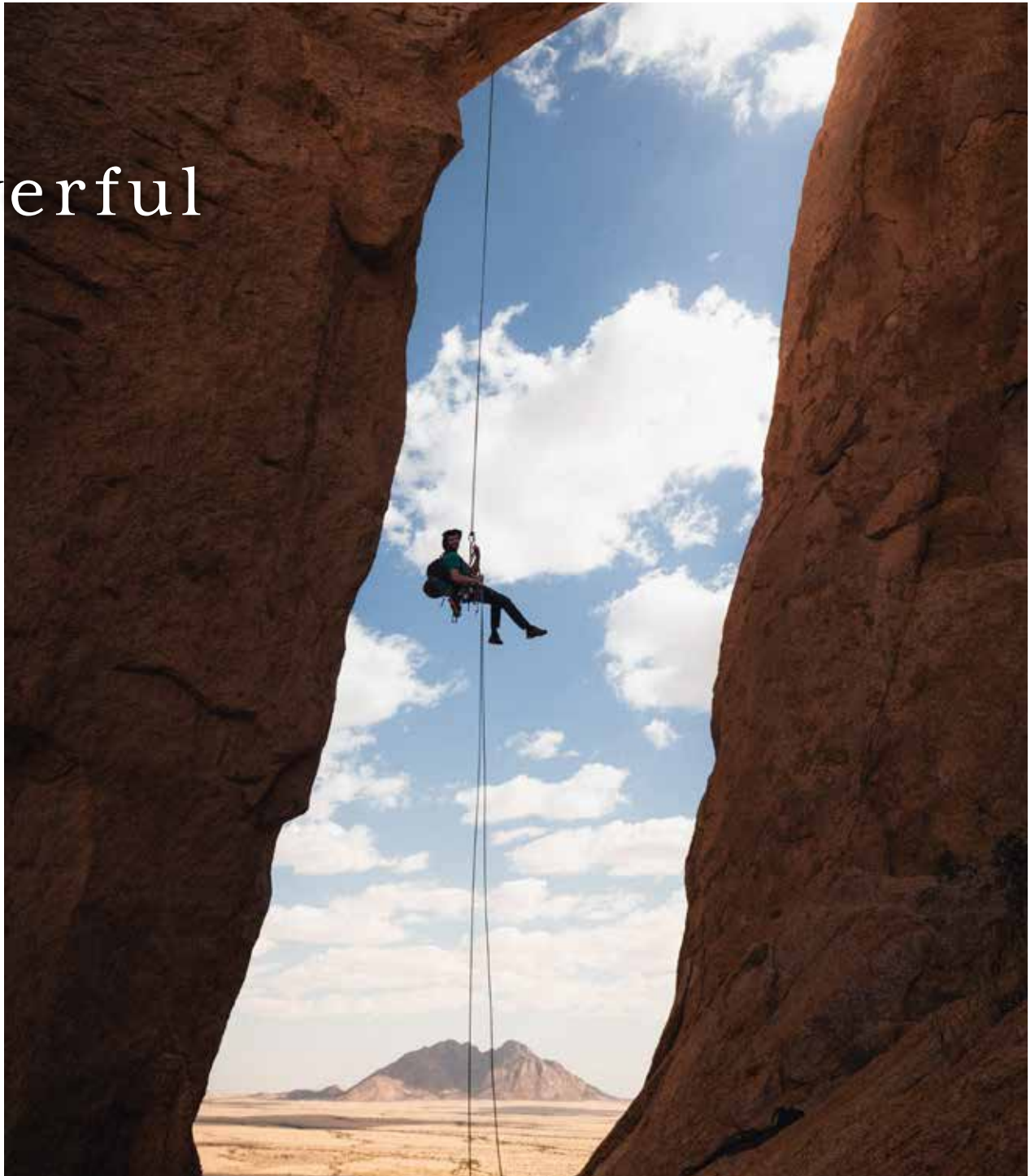
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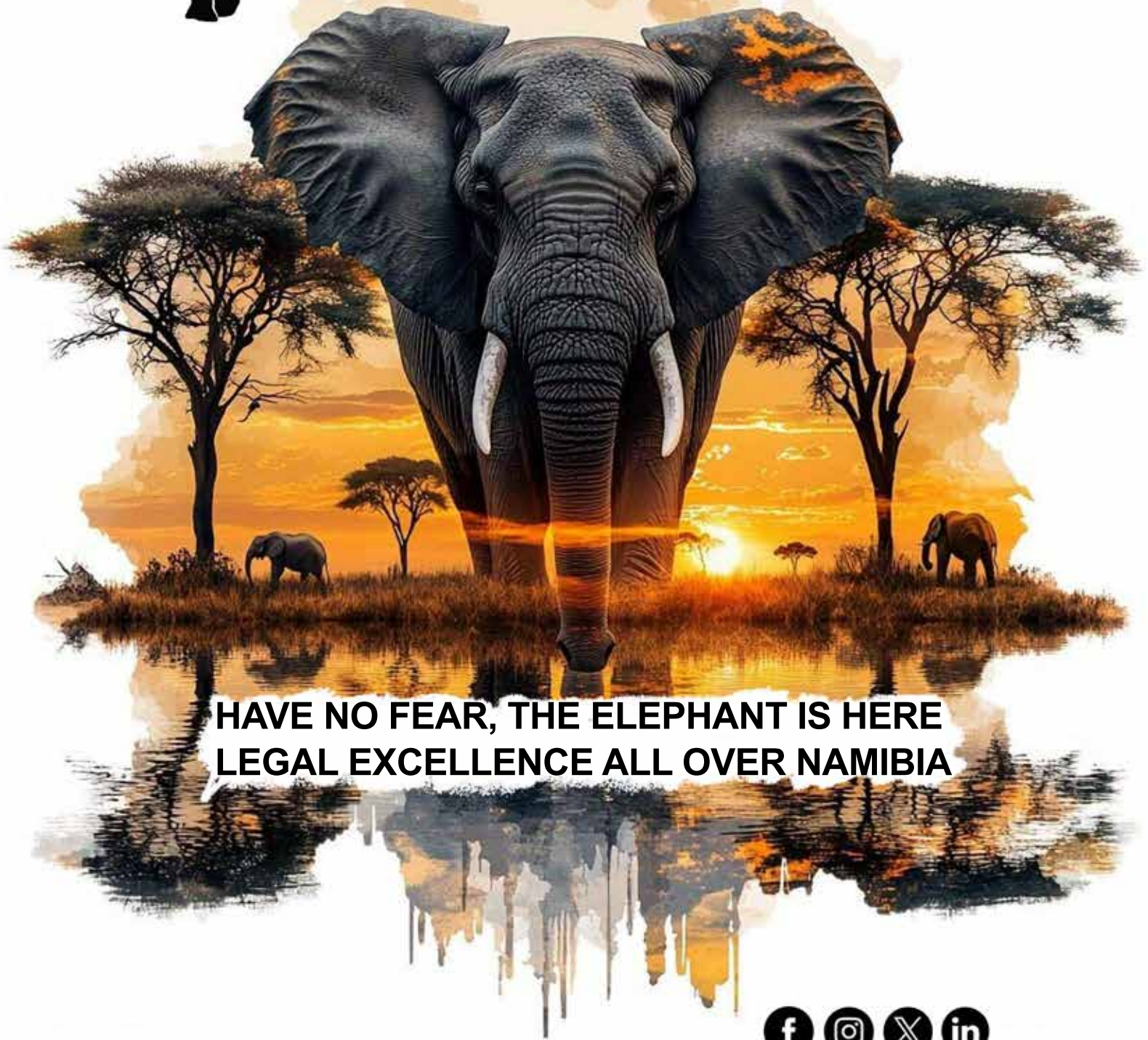
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The Quiet Power of a Namibian Sunrise



Her Excellency
Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah
President of the Republic of Namibia

“We are a country of vast open spaces and even greater people. A land you don’t just visit - you feel it.”

It has been an incredibly full and purposeful time in office. While the work has kept me grounded in service, I want to share a secret, one that many have forgotten.

In Namibia, and yes, perhaps in other places too, though never quite like here in the Land of the Brave, there is a sacred silence in the morning.

It arrives just before the world begins to stir. For a few rare moments, it feels as if the entire world belongs to you alone.

That is the quiet power of a Namibian sunrise.

The entire day stretches ahead—unwritten, unspoiled, and full of promise.

And in that stillness, I feel the pulse of a nation ready to begin again, together.

Science tells us the mind is most alert and creative at sunrise. But Namibia reminds us that the spirit is too.

We are a country of vast open spaces and even greater people. A land you don’t just visit - you feel it.

And so, to every traveller drawn here by her mystery:

Welcome. Take your time. Let Namibia speak to you. She always does.

As I take up my responsibility with vision and resolve, know that I will give nothing less than my very best - always with the future of our children and the soul of this great Namibian nation in mind.

It is with great confidence and pride that I share: the next letter will be written by Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Emma Theofelus, a fellow leader chosen with care, ready to carry this conversation forward.

I will remain engaged, and I will check in from time to time - not out of duty, but out of deep love for this land and her people.

Enjoy the September edition of Michelangelo Magazine, recently awarded **Best Luxury Tourism Magazine – Southern Africa** by MEA Markets.

Born Namibian. Read Globally. 🌍



At the Helm, Between Two Horizons

*Reflections from H.E.
Albertus Aochamub as his
six-year journey as Namibia's
Ambassador to France, and
beyond, comes to a close,
honouring duty, family, and the
privilege of serving a nation of
three million.*

Albertus Aochamub

H.E. Albertus Aochamub

Ambassador to France, Spain, Italy, Portugal and Monaco
Republic of Namibia

“Life is a flower of which love is the honey,” wrote the French poet and author Victor Hugo. I have found, over the past six and a half years, that service to one’s country is much the same; the blossom is our nation, the honey is the privilege of being entrusted to represent her.

When my family and I arrived in Paris on a crisp morning, 14 December 2018, the River Seine glistened under the winter light. I carried with me the hopes of a nation of just over three million souls. Namibia had placed in my hands a duty both humbling and exhilarating: to serve as Ambassador to France, with the honour (and occasional calendar-stretching challenge) of concurrent accreditation to Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Monaco.

Diplomacy, I soon discovered, is equal parts chess and marathon. Some days are filled with the gentle art of persuasion over coffee; others demand the stamina of a relay runner navigating back-to-back meetings in three countries in as many days. And then there is the multilateral front, representing Namibia in the Executive Board of UNESCO, the Executive Council of UN Tourism in Madrid, the Bureau of International Expositions (BIE) in Paris, and the OECD. These roles speak to the enormous importance our foreign policy attaches to keeping the world safe and fair through a rules-based international order within the ambit of the United Nations.

There have been glittering nights beneath chandeliers, state banquets where one could almost hear history breathing, and quiet, unseen victories in meeting rooms without windows. There have also been lighter moments that make the work human, such as introducing Namibian biltong to French friends (“un peu salé, mais délicieux!”) or explaining why our desert elephants are not a poetic metaphor but a living, gentle reality.

In representing Namibia, one learns that patriotism is not a loud declaration but a steady thread. It is the quiet correction when our flag is hung upside down at an event; it is the deep breath before a difficult negotiation; it is the lump in the throat when hearing our national anthem played thousands of kilometres from home.

Shakespeare reminds us in *Henry V* that “the fewer men, the greater share of honour.” In a world of nearly eight billion people, being one of a handful chosen to speak for a nation is a rare and profound honour. I have never taken that lightly.

As my tour of duty to the French Republic draws to a close, having served as an emissary to three Namibian Presidents, I find myself both reflective and expectant. The horizon ahead is not yet in full view, but perhaps that is as it should be. There is a certain beauty in standing at the quayside between two journeys, feeling the tide change.

What I know is this: the lessons, friendships, and quiet triumphs of these years will travel with me like well-worn passports, stamped in both ink and memory. My heart remains tethered to Namibia, a country that, in the words of Victor Hugo again, “is loved not because it is great, but because it is ours.”

And so, to all who have walked this path with me — colleagues, friends, and partners in diplomacy — I offer my deepest gratitude. This journey was never mine alone. My family walked every step with me, enduring the vagaries of diplomatic life in the French capital with grace and humour — from school runs through Paris traffic to mastering the art of surviving bureaucratic French paperwork. They have been my anchor in the whirlwind.

The chapter ahead is unwritten, but my compass remains true: to serve, to build, and to keep Namibia’s name spoken with respect in every room I enter. ❀



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Climb Spitzkoppe's domes and the Erongo peaks with Namib Adventure for a rush like no other.

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www.namibadventure.com



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



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ISSN: 2026-8998

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Michelangelo Magazine

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Industrial Area, Windhoek,

Namibia

Printer

Solitaire Press (Pty) Limited

Windhoek, NAMIBIA

"Good Level Contributor"

according to the NPPC BEE

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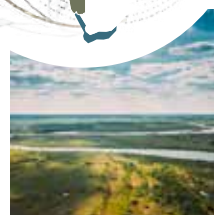
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BANS — VS — BENEFITS

Kenya and Namibia have adopted starkly different approaches to hunting. Namibian conservationists say the results speak for themselves.

words by Linda de Jager | photograph supplied

Namibia's unique historical context has significantly shaped its conservation efforts. Today, about 22% of its land area is protected under communal conservancies.

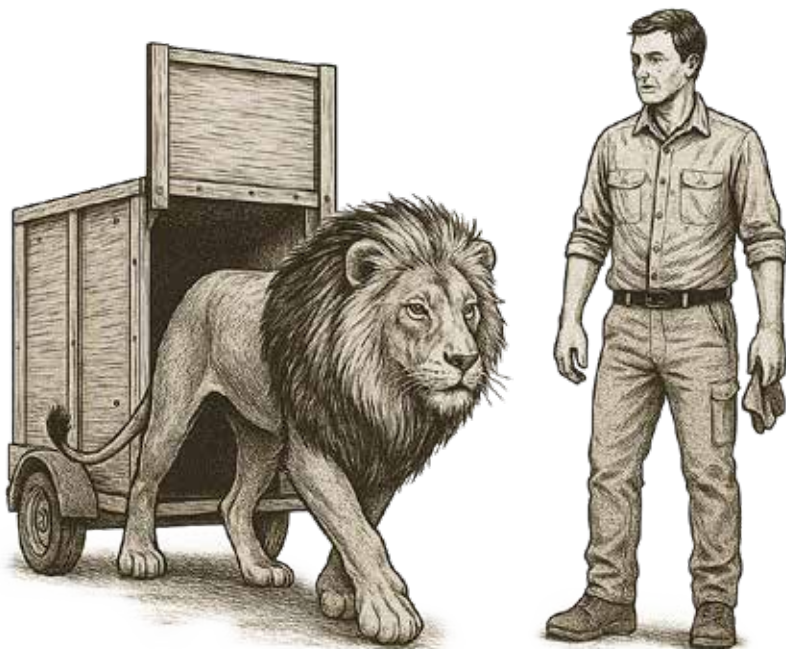
Before gaining independence in 1990, communal farmers in traditional areas had no rights over wildlife, as it was owned by the state. After independence, the country sought to address this issue.

To do so, Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE) CEO Chris Brown says Namibia “implemented legislation that allowed local communities to identify and establish conservancies — areas where they could manage wildlife collectively. This approach has led to the formation of 86 conservancies across the country, which now employ about 58,000 rural people.”

Brown says the impact has been profound.

“More than half of Namibia's communal areas are now managed as conservancies, involving about a quarter of a million people as members. The benefits at household level have been notable, with a dramatic resurgence of wildlife in many regions.”

According to the Namibia Statistics Agency, the national unemployment rate stands at 36.9%. And where there is poverty, poaching follows.



In a recent NCE video produced by MaMoKoBo Films, Bennett Kahuure, director of parks and wildlife at the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, says: “We’ve seen quite a lot of improvement in the livelihoods of our people from a policy perspective, because before independence our communities were effectively banned from using, in any form, the rights over wildlife. And with the conservancy legislation that came in 1996, we’ve seen a complete change, not just in the legislation, but also in the benefits that accrue to rural residents through this communal conservancy programme.”

Nevertheless, there are repeated calls from anti-trophy hunting lobbyists - including from some European countries such as England - for a ban on the importation of hunting trophies.

This view aligns with influential interest groups such as World Animal Protection (WAP). “The British people do not want the body parts of endangered species imported here, because they care about these majestic species and want them to continue to exist,” says WAP UK campaigns director Peter Kemple Hardy.

In response, Kahuure says a ban could lead to the collapse of Namibia's communal conservancy sector. He says hunting revenue accounts for about 45% of the funds supporting this sector, emphasising its importance.

Like many others, South African activist Smaragda Louw, director of Ban Animal Trading, opposes hunting on moral and ethical grounds. She dismisses hunters' claims of ethical practices, especially around canned hunting, viewing the creation of self-regulated rules by trophy hunters as lacking true ethics. "Hunters often label some hunting as unethical, but ultimately, they just define what's acceptable to themselves, not what is morally right."

Namibia Professional Hunting Association president Axel Cramer points out that trophy hunters make up just 3%-5% of tourists, but generate 20% of tourism revenue. He says bans could lower funding for tourism in Namibia and lead to retrenchments, as hunting farms employ twice the labour force of agricultural farms.

However, Louw asserts that "an industry rooted in immoral and unethical practices can never serve as a sustainable foundation for job creation. Trophy hunting exemplifies such an industry. As a sport — if it can even be called that — killing animals to collect trophies for display is fundamentally unethical. Such activities should not be endorsed or regarded as acceptable."

Brown argues that proposed bans reflect a

misunderstanding of Africa's wildlife as a national resource and asset.

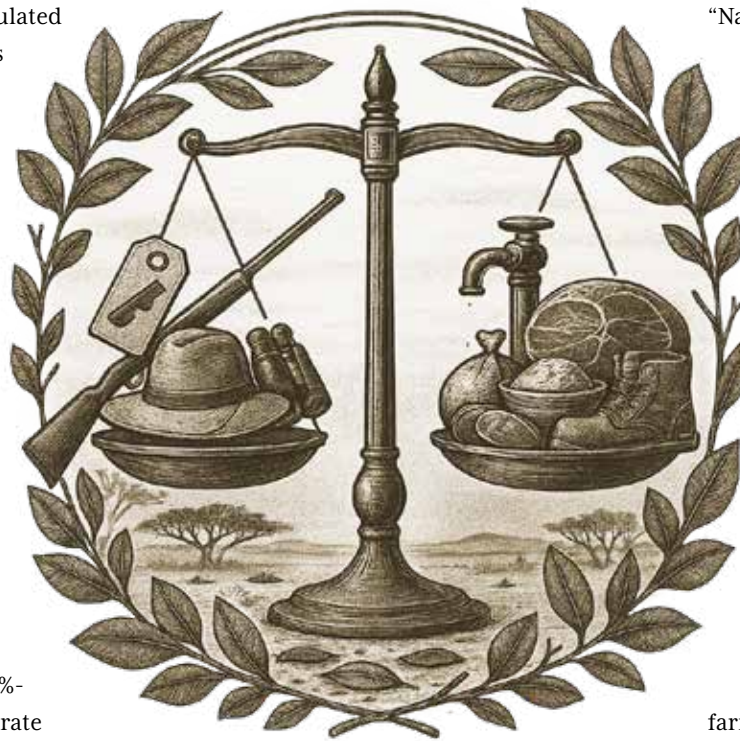
"And they reflect a lack of respect for the sovereignty and management ability of those countries doing a good job. The UK has lost most of its megafauna within modern human history — the elk, bear, wolf and lynx, for example — and has made no attempt to reintroduce them.

Its farmers and citizens would likely not tolerate such reintroductions.

"Namibia has preserved all its biodiversity, including much more challenging species to coexist with than small furry mammals and wolves — such as elephant, hippo, crocodile, buffalo, lion, leopard and hyena."

Namibia has created mechanisms to incentivise farmers to live with difficult and potentially damaging animals. Trophy hunting, with revenue going back to farmers and communities, is a significant part of that package.

"So successful has this been that our elephant population has increased from about 7,500 animals at independence in 1990 to about 25,000 today. Trophy bans will undermine these incentives and make the cost of living with elephants, for example, greater than the benefits. Any sensible person would then remove the elephants from their land. And this is being propagated by a sovereign state [the UK] that ranks 132nd in the world in terms of its megafaunal management track record and capability, compared with Namibia, which is ranked second in the world after Botswana."



Conservationist Margaret Jacobsohn, though not a hunter herself, highlights Kenya as a case study on the ineffectiveness of hunting bans. She notes that the country banned all hunting in 1977. “I am citing a 2016 study by Ogutu and colleagues, who examined the period from 1977 to 2016 and found that Kenyan wildlife populations declined by 68%, with some larger mammals experiencing declines of more than 80%. There has been a simultaneous rise in livestock numbers. The point is, when hunting contracts end, wildlife habitats are taken over for farming and small-scale mining.”

Brown adds: “Over this period, wildlife in Kenya declined from about 1.5-million animals to about 500,000. Over the same period, Namibia’s wildlife increased from 500,000 to about 3-million. The sustainable-use policy approach of Namibia, versus the anti-hunting approach of Kenya, is responsible for these different trajectories.”

As arguments from pro- and anti-hunting lobbyists intensify, climate change is adding yet another twist to the debate. Climate resilience may inevitably require both sides to adapt.

“Namibia is heating up faster than the global average,” says Brown. “We’re already over 1.5°C hotter than we were in 1920. We’ve modelled the effects climate change will have on Namibia and they are essentially driving rainfall north and east. This means more and more of the country is becoming uneconomical under conventional farming practices, and we’ve already seen areas going bankrupt. The farms don’t work, so people are turning them over to wildlife and tourism.”

To control populations, private and communal lands take off wildlife, mainly for meat — about 1% of the herd annually — plus trophy hunting and live sales. Trophy hunting, though small in scale, yields much higher values per animal. For example, an oryx valued at N\$3,500 for meat could be worth N\$40,000 as a trophy, reflecting its added value as a service experience.

Activists such as Louw warn that legal hunting often leads to illegal hunting: “Trophies — the heads, tusks, horns and other body parts of magnificent wild animals — are what we will leave behind for the next generation.” ❖

TROPHY HUNTING — BY THE NUMBERS

Wildlife Population Changes (1977-2016)



Kenya (hunting banned): Wildlife declined 68% overall, with some large mammals down 80%+

Namibia (sustainable hunting): Wildlife increased from 500,000 to 3 million animals

Economic Impact of Trophy Hunting



Trophy hunters represent only 3-5% of tourists but generate 20% of tourism revenue

Hunting revenue accounts for 45% of funding for Namibia’s communal conservancy sector

Elephant Population Recovery



Namibia’s elephants increased from 7,500 (1990) to 25,000 (today) - more than tripled

Employment & Land Management



86 conservancies across Namibia employ approximately 58,000 rural people
22% of Namibia’s land area is now protected under communal conservancies

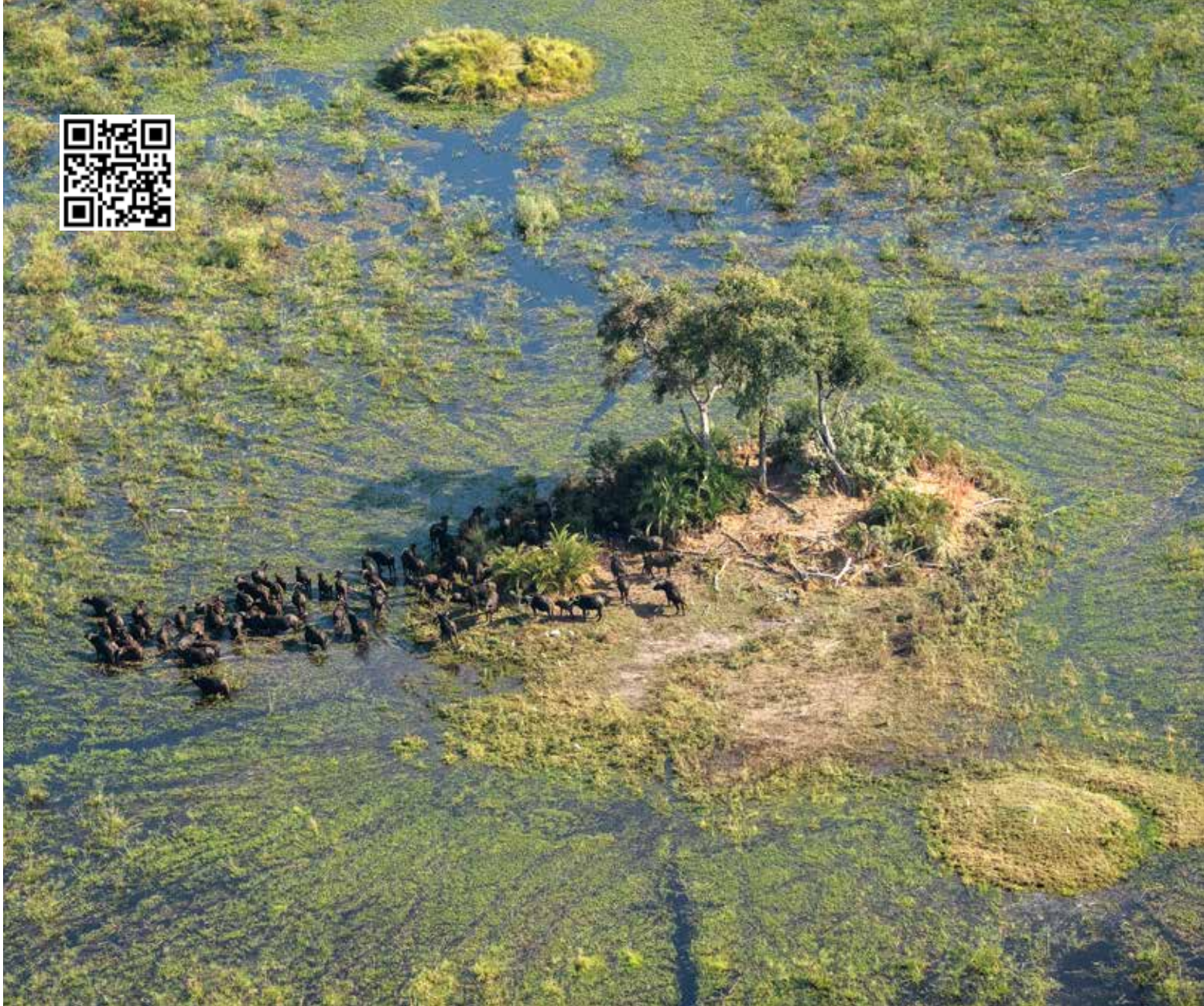
Trophy Value Multiplier



An oryx worth N\$3,500 for meat becomes worth N\$40,000 as a trophy (11x increase)

This article was first published in the Financial Mail in August 2025.

Baby elephants can laugh.



Take to the Skies

If you're staying at Ndhovu Safari Lodge on the Namibian side of the Okavango River, there's a brilliant option for those yearning to visit Botswana's Delta. Choose from one of two helicopter trips...

words by Anne Schauffer | photographs supplied



Close to Popa Falls with a glorious view across to Buffalo National Park, Ndhovu Safari Lodge overlooks the Okavango River. For guests who long for a trip over to Botswana and the northern delta, but perhaps don't have the time or budget to add Botswana as a full destination, Ndhovu has made a plan. Two plans, actually, both involving helicopters and Helicopter Horizons.

Plan A begins with a two-hour road trip from Ndhovu to the Okavango Panhandle Heliport. From there, you'll lift off and experience breathtaking views of the panhandle region from above. In this area of permanent water, you're guaranteed to see the infamous snaking waterways and channels, with the opportunity to witness wildlife in their natural habitats.

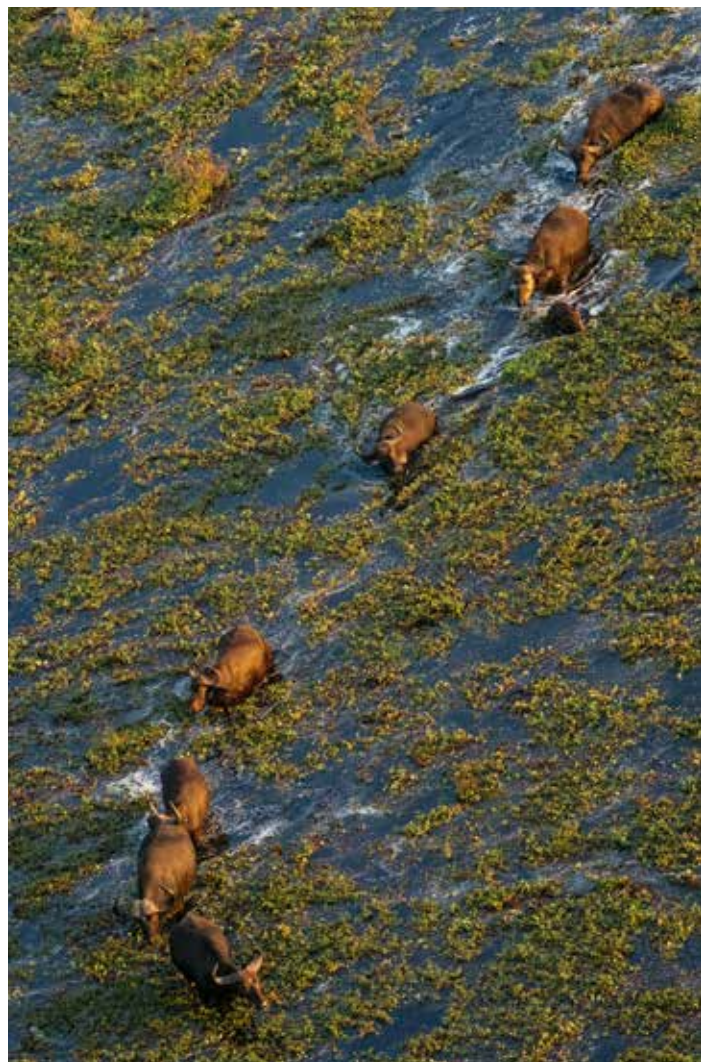
Once you land, it's a short boat trip to your game-drive vehicle for a five-hour excursion deep into the remote Okavango Delta bushveld. The untamed beauty of the Jumbo Junction concession offers large concentrations of wildlife year-round, so expect a diversity of animal encounters. Included in the game drive is a wonderful bush-stop lunch.

You'll return to the heliport and once again rise above the extreme beauty of the deep Delta channels, home to so many different species.

One more thing... there's an optional additional 30-minute doors-off scenic flight, allowing you to explore further into otherwise unreachable areas with the unique perspective of having the doors removed for an entirely unrestricted view (additional rate applies). Think about it.

Michelangelo

—TRAVEL—





Plan B offers a one-night Delta Bush Camp Experience. Your journey begins at Ndhovu Lodge with an early morning drive and transfer to Swamp Stop Lodge. From there, you'll take a scenic boat transfer across the iconic Okavango Panhandle, soaking in the sights of the waterways and abundant birdlife.

You'll arrive at the charming village of Seronga and be whisked away to Jumbo Junction, your gateway to the Delta wilderness, arriving in time for a hearty lunch. Thereafter, you'll set off on an unforgettable boat cruise through the intricate Delta channels, gliding past lush vegetation and wildlife. You'll stop for an immersive bush walk and traditional mokoro (dug-out canoe) experience, connecting with the heart of the Delta.

You'll reach your Bush Camp around 16:30, where a magical sundowner dinner awaits. As night falls, venture into the wild on an exhilarating Night Safari Drive - discover the secrets of nocturnal life, with the chance to spot elusive predators and other creatures under the stars.

End your day with a peaceful sleep at the Bush Camp, surrounded by the sounds of the Delta.

On Day 2, you'll depart on an early-morning game drive. Witness the Delta's magic as the sun rises, with opportunities to see predators on the prowl and herds moving across the plains. Pause mid-morning for a packed bush breakfast as you revel in the untouched beauty of your surroundings.

You'll return to Jumbo Junction by midday for a delicious lunch to refuel after your morning adventures. Then, early afternoon, take to the skies with a helicopter transfer from Jumbo Junction to Helicopter Horizons' Sepupa Helipad. Soar over the Delta's breathtaking mosaic of waterways, islands, and wildlife for an unparalleled bird's-eye view of this natural wonder. From the helipad, complete your journey with a road transfer back to Ndhovu Safari Lodge.

Plan A or Plan B... which one's for you (and your camera)? Chat to the team at Ndhovu, because a combination of time spent at the Lodge, and a trip over to the Delta, is a bucket list must! ❖

WELCOME TO NAMIBIA

TRAVEL WELL TRAVEL SAFE



CLIMATE AWARENESS

- **Hot days, cold nights**
pack light clothes and warm layers.
- **Hydrate regularly**
desert conditions can dehydrate quickly.
- Always use sunscreen, a hat, and sunglasses.



ROAD SAFETY

- Drive on the left.
- Gravel roads require slow, careful driving.
- **Avoid driving at night**-wildlife is often active.
- Ensure your vehicle is roadworthy and carry a spare tire and fuel.



PERSONAL SAFETY

- Keep valuables out of sight, especially in urban areas.
- Avoid isolated areas at night.
- Respect local customs and traditions.
- Ask permission before photographing people.



WILDLIFE SAFETY

- Do not feed or approach wild animals.
- Remain inside vehicles in game parks.
- Store food safely when camping and follow park rules.



HEALTH & EMERGENCIES

- Travel insurance is essential.
- Take malaria precautions when visiting the north.
- **All-round emergency:**
10111 or 999 or 112 and MVA National Accident
Response: 9682



GENERAL TRAVEL TIPS

- **Currency:** Namibian Dollar (NAD) – equal to South African Rand (ZAR).
- **Language:** English is official; local languages and Afrikaans are widely spoken.
- **Help us protect Namibia's beauty** – leave only footprints.

Safety Alert Know your rights

Only use accommodation and shuttle services registered with the Namibia Tourism Board (NTB).

- ✓ All lodges, guesthouses, and transport providers must have valid NTB registration.
- ✓ You have the right to request proof of registration.
- ✓ Look for the official NTB certificate at reception or ask your shuttle driver to show registration.
- ✓ When unsure, check or report with NTB

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Fire Brigade:
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THE DESERT'S **VERTICAL** PLAYGROUND

edited by Anne Schauffer | photographs supplied

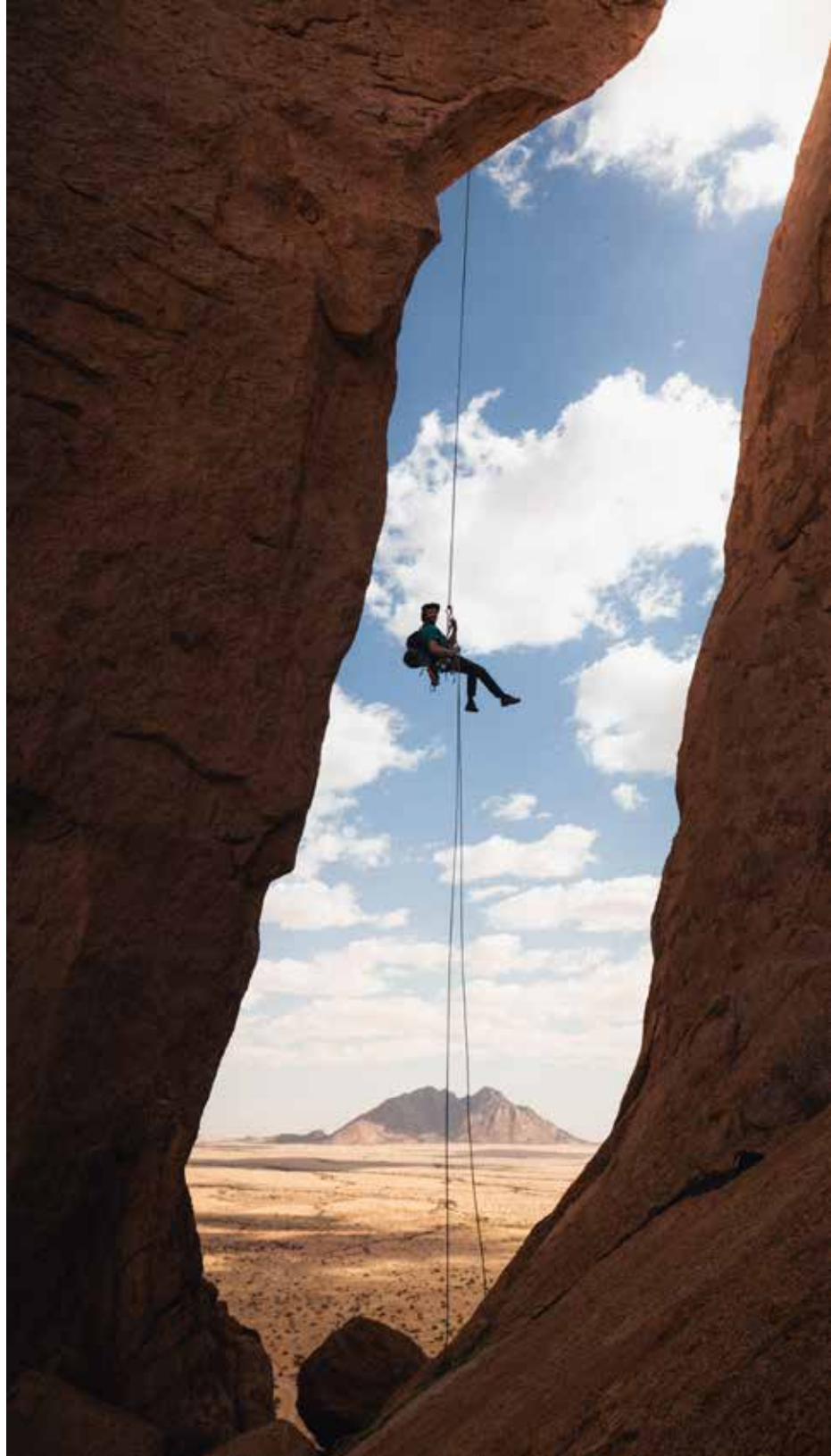
From the red granite domes of Spitzkoppe to the wild Erongo peaks, Namib Adventure takes rock climbing — and your adrenaline — to new heights.

If your idea of a perfect vacation includes new experiences and exciting challenges, look no further than a rock-climbing excursion in Namibia. Richard Morsbach of Namib Adventure will take you to truly unique locations, including the Spitzkoppe, Erongo Mountains, and more. He takes care of all the details — you just reach for the stars.

Richard grew up in the magnificent desert country of Namibia. With both his father and grandfather working in nature conservation in Southern Africa, he developed deep knowledge, passion, and a great love for the outdoors. Involved in adventure sports and tourism for over fourteen years, he's certainly the right person to guide you.

Michelangelo

—TRAVEL—



An estimated 5 billion photos are taken every day.

Michelangelo

—TRAVEL—

Reviews from climbers who've joined Richard – many of them seasoned international adventurers – say it all. Andreas Aschaber, a climber from abroad, explained: “Having an experienced Namibian with you for your climbing and hiking trips gives you a great backup. Bear in mind, there is no helicopter rescue like in the Alps. We were happy to have Richard with us, who helped and therefore increased our safety. He is very knowledgeable and is the go-to address for your climbing adventure in Namibia.”

So, what do you need to go rock climbing? Richard is a SAMDT-certified guide who not only knows the terrain intimately but also all the tools and rules: “The minimum age for single-pitch rock climbing is seven years, and for multi-pitch rock climbing, 12 years.” He's a strong advocate for parents and children sharing this kind of experience, seeing it as a great bonding opportunity. “We have kit to hire, but some items are personal, such as climbing shoes and water bladder packs, so bring your own if you can.” Every participant receives a suggested kit and clothing list, and additional equipment is provided – ropes, harnesses, protection gear, trad gear, carabiners, a first aid kit, and more.

With Richard's extensive experience, you'll feel secure in his hands. Participant Edward Fryer summed it up: “Richard is an expert and local tour guide who has been guiding tours around his country for years. Not only is he a great guide with vast knowledge of Namibia, but most importantly, he has a genuine passion for exploring the beautiful desert country he calls home. He maintains a very patient and naturally protective demeanour while leading clients from one adventure to the next, and is an encyclopaedia of amazing information about nature and the wildlife that call Namibia home. I highly recommend letting this man take you on your next adventure.”

That says it all. If you're ready to scale Namibia's heights, get in touch with Namib Adventure. They also offer hiking, biking, and photographic safaris – so this could be the start of many more adventures. 🍌

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Eating a banana near a bee's nest can cause them to become aggressive.

Dear Diary



Sunset.
My favourite
time of day.

Not just because the light turns everything golden and magical (although that, too).

But because it gives me a quiet moment — to breathe, to reflect, to let go.

To raise a glass to the day that was: the highs, the lows, the things I managed, and the things I'm still learning to carry with a bit more grace.

And maybe most of all — to toast to myself. Just for showing up. Again.

Out here in Namibia, the sundowner is more than just a tradition. It's a way of life. And somehow, it has become one of the most cherished rituals in mine.

It started long before me, of course — back in colonial times, when dusty safari boots and tired faces were rewarded at day's end with a gin and tonic (supposedly for the quinine to ward off malaria — although let's be honest, that was probably just a very good excuse to enjoy a drink while watching the sun melt into the bush).

But here, the sundowner has grown into something deeper. More soulful. More sacred.

Namibia is a place that teaches you to be still. To watch. To listen. To feel the space between moments.

Where else can you witness the sun setting behind the blood-red dunes of Sossusvlei, or watch the sky catch fire as elephants move quietly across the Etosha plains? Where silence isn't empty, but full — of wind, of birdsong, of something ancient and grounding.

Here, a sundowner isn't about what's in your glass — it's about what's in your heart. It's the pause between doing and being. It's the breath before the night.

Often after a long day — whether it was filled with meetings, emotions, dusty roads, or just life being life — I find myself sitting outside, barefoot, wrapped in a blanket, the dogs by my feet, and the sky putting on its evening show.

Some evenings I laugh. Some I cry. Sometimes both at once. But every time, I feel connected. To this land. To myself. To something much bigger than all of us.

And when I share this ritual with others — around a fire, in the bush, on the porch with a friend — it becomes even more special.

It's not about perfection. It's about presence.

No phones. No pressure. Just a moment to exhale and say, "Today, I made it through. That's worth celebrating."

So if you ever find yourself under African skies, don't miss it. Find your sundowner spot. Pour something you love. Watch the sun go down without needing to do anything at all. Let the earth remind you that everything has its rhythm. Even you.

And if you're not in Namibia (yet), you can still try it. Even a balcony sunset with a cup of tea can become a sacred pause — if you let it.

Until next time,

Sandra. 🌿

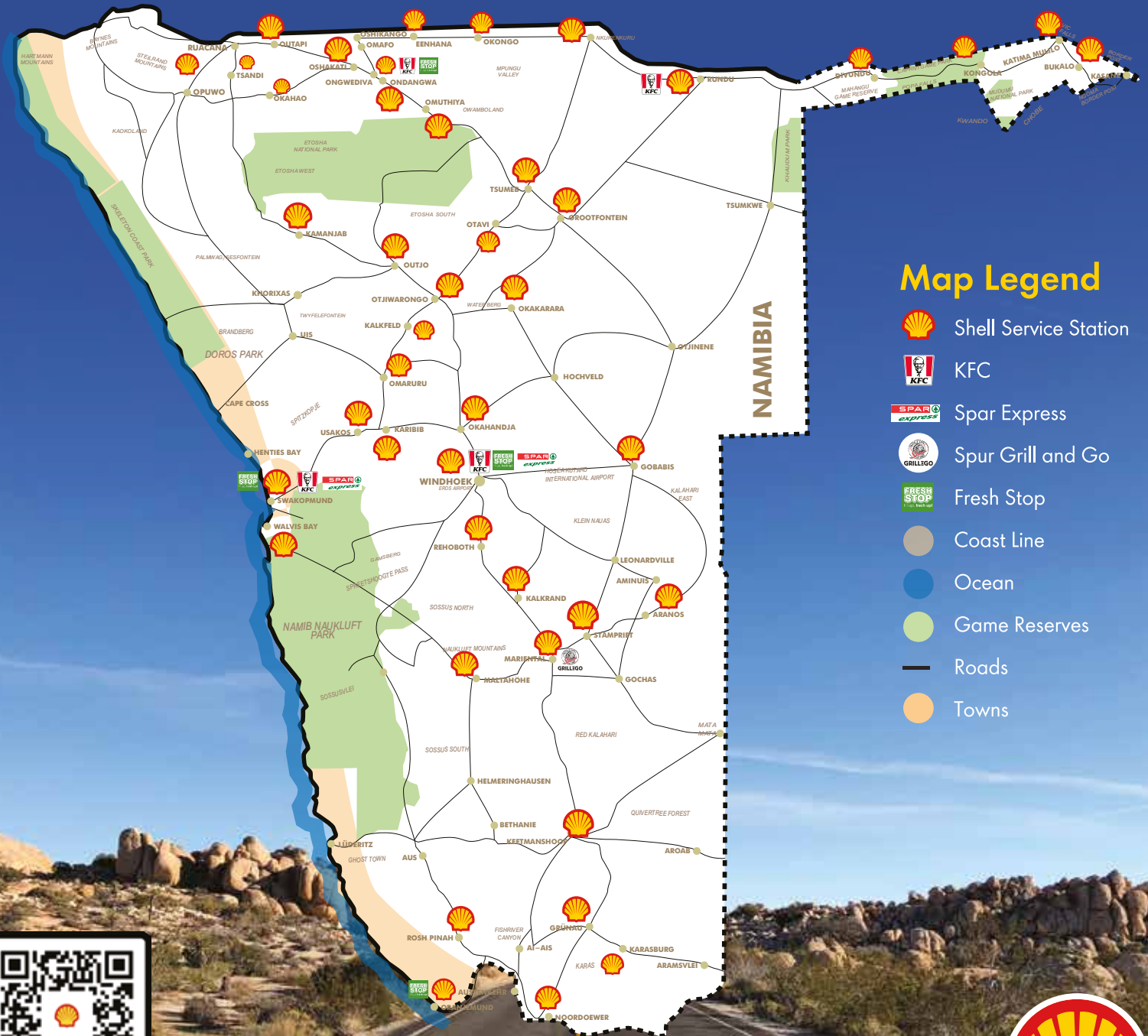
P.S. If you've got a sundowner story of your own — whether it's under the African sky or on your own back porch — write me at deardiary@myeishanamibia.com. I'd love to hear how you pause.

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*NamRad's Crucial Role
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Youth*

**"It is not about what it is, it's
about what it can become."**
—Dr. Seuss

photographs supplied by NAMRAD

This simple but profound quote speaks to the boundless potential of a child. Every child holds the promise of tomorrow – a future doctor, artist, scientist, or leader. Yet, when illness, especially cancer or other life-threatening conditions, strikes early, that potential is heartbreakingly at risk. In Namibia, where the average age is just 21.3 years, the health of our youth is not only a medical priority – it is a national imperative.

According to Kaholongongo and Mashingaidze-Mano (2023), cancer is the leading cause of death in children, particularly in developing countries. Namibia is no exception. Childhood cancers often present subtly and progress rapidly, making early detection and accurate diagnosis not a luxury, but a life-saving necessity. This is where NAMRAD (Namibia Radiology) stands as a silent guardian in the nation's healthcare ecosystem.

Most childhood cancers – whether brain tumors, bone cancers, leukemia, or lymphomas – are invisible to the naked eye and cannot be diagnosed through symptoms alone. They require specialized imaging technologies such as MRI, CT scans, ultrasound, and X-rays to reveal what lies beneath. NAMRAD brings these powerful tools to life, transforming uncertainty into answers.

But NAMRAD's role doesn't end with detection. Radiology is the cornerstone in formulating an effective treatment plan. Oncologists, surgeons, and pediatricians rely on radiologists to:

- Determine the location, size, and spread of the tumor
- Guide biopsies and minimally invasive procedures
- Monitor treatment progress
- Detect relapses early

NAMRAD's imaging is not just a picture – it's a roadmap that guides every step of a child's medical journey.

As a parent, there is no greater fear than seeing your child in pain and not knowing the cause. I experienced this firsthand when my own child began suffering from unexplained health complications. After countless visits,

symptoms, and uncertainty, it was an MRI scan that finally gave us answers: blood clots in the lungs.

Without that scan, we might have continued down a path of asthma pumps, guesswork, and dangerous delays. Thanks to advanced imaging and the clinical precision of radiology, we were able to move swiftly toward a treatment plan that saved his life. That moment was a powerful reminder: radiology doesn't just help diagnose – it helps protect dreams. It gives parents like me a chance to breathe again.

With more than half the population under the age of 22, Namibia is a young country with young dreams. Every child diagnosed with cancer or a life-threatening illness represents a future at risk – and a family devastated. The stakes are even higher when healthcare systems are stretched and early warning signs are missed.

NAMRAD bridges this gap, ensuring that access to advanced diagnostic imaging is available within our borders, eliminating the need for costly delays or travel abroad. Their commitment to excellence and compassion gives families something often lost in the face of childhood illness: hope.

When a child is lost to a disease that could have been detected earlier, it is not just a life lost – it is a future unfulfilled. "It is not about what it is, it's about what it can become." If we don't protect that potential, it becomes nothing.

NAMRAD, the small giant and unsung hero in medicine, ensures that Namibia's children have a fighting chance – not just to survive, but to thrive. Every scan, every diagnosis, every early detection is a step toward preserving the promise of what that child could become.

As Namibia continues to develop, institutions like NAMRAD are not just service providers – they are nation builders. They stand at the intersection of technology, compassion, and purpose, making sure that no child's potential is cut short because the signs were missed.

In the fight against childhood cancer and other silent threats, NAMRAD is more than a radiology centre. It is a lifeline. A vision. A guardian of what Namibia can become. 🍷

Reference: Kaholongongo, R., & Mashingaidze-Mano, B. (2023). Paediatric cancer burden in low-resource settings: Challenges and response strategies in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Journal of African Pediatric Health*, 14(2), 87–94.

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CPE	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
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PAUL B. DIXON
29/10

Time in the Wild

— A 30-Year Journey

In a time when wildlife faces ever-increasing threats, art becomes more than an act of beauty — it becomes an act of preservation. The Fine Art Gallery in Swakopmund celebrates the art and advocacy of award-winning wildlife artist Paul Dixon.

words and photographs by Martina von Wenzel

For Paul Dixon, capturing the wild has never been about decoration. It's about presence, reverence, and remembering what we risk losing. Now, as he marks 30 years as a professional artist, the Fine Art Gallery in Swakopmund proudly presents Time in the Wild – A 30-Year Journey — a landmark exhibition showcasing Dixon's latest body of work, created in celebration of three decades of artistic excellence and conservation commitment.

Born in Scotland and raised in the artist enclave of St. Ives, Cornwall, Dixon's early days were spent sketching birds and countryside scenes with nothing more than a pad and pencil. His artistic journey took a transformative turn in 1981 when he emigrated to South Africa.

There, face to face with African wildlife in its raw

habitat, his passion was ignited. He began working in pastel, a medium he made entirely his own — layered, soft-edged, atmospheric — evoking the golden haze of a Namibian dawn or the still tension of a lion's gaze.

An Internationally Recognised Career

Dixon's distinctive style quickly caught international attention. Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, his work featured in prestigious wildlife art auctions, including Christie's in London, often selling out during these events. Today, his paintings are held in private and corporate collections across more than 25 countries - from the palaces of Oman to five-star hotels in the Middle East, and throughout Southern Africa.

Michelangelo

—CULTURE—



Eating too many carrots can turn you slightly orange.

He is a Signature Member of the Society of Animal Artists (New York) and the Pastel Society of America. His honours include Wildlife Artist of the Year 2020 (Earth's Wild Beauty, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation), the Golden Turtle Award 2024 in Moscow, and the 2019 Over-60s Competition from *The Artist* (UK); he has also been a finalist and featured artist in *International Artist* and *Pastel Artist International*, with work on the *Art & the Animal* touring exhibition across leading US museums.

A Painter with a Purpose

Dixon is celebrated not only for his artistic mastery but also for his unwavering dedication to wildlife conservation. Over the years, in close partnership with the Fine Art Gallery, he has helped raise more than N\$100,000 for Namibian wildlife organisations. Key beneficiaries include the Desert Lion Conservation Trust, the Cheetah Conservation Fund, and in-kind contributions to ongoing conservation and anti-poaching efforts.

In May 2025, one of Dixon's paintings was sold via online charity auction to benefit the Desert Lion Conservation Trust, fulfilling the philanthropic wishes of the Kebbel family and reinforcing Dixon's role as an artist deeply committed to giving back to the wild.

"I believe art should give something back," says Dixon. "To the viewer, to the collector — but above all, to the wild places that gave it life."

The Exhibition

Time in the Wild – A 30-Year Journey unveils a selection of Paul Dixon's newest works, created exclusively for this milestone event. These paintings — rendered primarily in oil and pastel — are intimate yet vivid, capturing quiet moments in the African bush with an eye that is at once observational and poetic.

Whether it is the haunting stillness of Etosha's dry plains or the kinetic grace of a kudu in flight, Dixon's latest pieces are infused with the same passion that has driven his career since the beginning. He continues to live and work part of each year in Namibia, where the stark beauty of the land remains his greatest inspiration.

For art lovers, collectors, and wildlife advocates alike, this exhibition is more than an anniversary — it's a tribute to a lifelong bond between an artist and the wilderness he so powerfully serves. ❖



EXHIBITION DETAILS

Venue: Fine Art Gallery, Swakopmund, Namibia

Title: Time in the Wild – A 30-Year Journey

Dates: 22 August – 19 September 2025

Gallery Hours: Mon – Fri 10:00 – 17:00 | Sat 10:00 – 13:00

Admission: Free entry

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Beneath Ancient Skies: A weekend in the Gondwana Canyon Park

Gondwana has consistently conducted annual game counts for 22 years, keeping an observing eye on the park, and ensuring the correct methodology is implemented to gain an overview of the status of birds, antelopes, and other mammals. With 116,000 hectares, the park is not small. I decided to join in on the fun of a game count, alongside people I have never met, to primarily contribute to the greater Gondwana conservation efforts and to educate myself on why it is so important to preserve this sacred piece of land.

This is what I learned:

Firstly, the Canyon Park Guards monitor the quality of the grassland all year round and conduct an annual photographic assessment of a set number of prime locations. Over the years, these are compared to previous years' results, and action is taken accordingly. Through various vegetation surveys, the team can determine and anticipate the grass biomass availability, essentially establishing how much sufficient grass can be assigned per animal head count and type.

About 25 years ago, after Canyon Lodge and Canyon Roadhouse were well established inside the park, just 14 kilometres from the Fish River Canyon, great efforts were put into the management of the park, as it is known today. Bordering on the /Ai-/Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park, the minimal intervention into nature, paired with sustainable park and environmental management, allows the flora and fauna to be self-sustainable, and the number of animal species to rise and fall instinctively, depending on the condition of the veld based on prior rain fall.

To monitor the population itself, annual Game Counts are held at the same time every year in winter - to ensure better visibility. The count is vital in determining the species observed, recording the estimated population sizes per type per park area, and to notice any injuries or interesting occurrences. With the data of the last two decades, game counts add very important and insightful statistics, and visually represent the growth and decline of population, rain fall, and bio mass. As the graphs fluctuate, the park





guards can investigate how animal behaviours shift and where they prefer to graze, as there are no fences to contain them.

Beyond conservation, the counts are also hosted to invite guests, nature lovers like myself, and employees for a weekend of learning, teamwork, and fun. I was initially afraid of the cold weather conditions, but to be honest, we barely noticed the freezing winter temperatures on the open vehicle; we were too fascinated by potential animal sightings. It feels less like an activity, and more like a get-together to go on a game drive with friends.

So, what does the data of 2025 tell us?

While most animal species numbers dropped significantly, the park management sees no reason to panic. Due to the open movement of the park, herds tend to spread out and favour certain areas over others, proving good quality grasslands that rotate depending on seasonality and rain fall. This tells us that the harmony between scientific data and responsible eco-management allows wildlife to thrive as it should in their natural habitat.

Since 2006, Gondwana has dedicated nearly two decades to rewilding the park with native game species and has developed park management systems that support both ecological integrity and tourism-led conservation.

What once was open land, was divided into farmland around 1990, separated by hundreds of kilometres of fence borders, leading to severe overgrazing and restriction of animal movement. That was until Gondwana Collection Namibia stepped in and acquired some of the land, and with the vision to revive the ecosystem and animal population, removed all fences and gifted the freedom of movement back, exactly how it used to be. Gondwana Canyon Park was created.

And I got to experience a day in the life of a game warden and what it requires to safeguard nature, so that others can cherish it in its natural state for many years to come.

Text: Elke Tietz | Images: Monique Tredoux | Layout: Geena Visagie



Kazondwe Lodge and Camping

Nestled in Namibia's Mashi Conservancy, Kazondwe offers a blend of adventure and relaxation with breathtaking views of the Kwando floodplains.

edited by: Anne Schaffer | photographs supplied

Michelangelo

—TRAVEL—



Kazondwe Camp — part of the Due North Namibia portfolio — is a small, unique establishment stylishly developed with attention to detail. From stargazing to birdwatching, fishing to game viewing... there's a great deal to do at Kazondwe.

Their accommodation is delightfully varied, ranging from twin en suite tents secluded by reed walls for privacy, to a four-person family tent with outside ablutions.

You'll find five shaded campsites, each large enough to fit two or three vehicles, with private ablutions, a washing-up facility, covered picnic area, braai pit, power, and a donkey for hot water. There are two Dune Studios with air conditioning and en suite facilities, and a delightful double-storey treehouse for a couple's retreat. Built on stilts, the treehouse offers an all-round view of the Kwando floodplains. The bottom level is equipped with a kitchen and dining/living area, while stairs lead you to the top floor with a full bathroom and sleeping area.

Michelangelo

—TRAVEL—



The Muppets' Miss Piggy and Yoda are voiced by the same person.



You'll love Kazondwe's lodge area, which features a lounge, bar, infinity swimming pool, dining area, and deck with the most expansive view over the Kwando floodplains. You can watch hippos in the hippo pool below. The camp is unfenced, and hippos often roam onto the lawns, while elephants and other wildlife also walk through the camp.

Depending on the water levels of the Kwando River, Kazondwe offers boat rides and fishing trips. Game drives can be arranged to visit Bwabwata or Mudumu National Parks.

Kazondwe offers a few different booking options, so depending on which accommodation you choose, you can select dinner, bed and breakfast, or self-catering. Dinner is served as a set three-course menu.

Due North Namibia's Kazondwe Lodge and Camping presents you with the full spectrum of opportunities to do everything - or very little. It's a true holiday, whichever way you choose to live it. ❀



The Wheat Cabin

A very private two-person cabin on a working farm in the Swartland – perfect for unwinding and feeling closer to the earth.

words by Anne Schaffer | photographs supplied



Just 18 km outside Malmesbury in the Swartland, along the R45 towards Paarl, lies the generational farm of Dassenheuvel. The journey to the farm gates takes you along a charming gravel road for about 7 km, winding through a glorious landscape until you reach sweeping views of the Porseleinberg Mountain, the Berg River, and the Riebeek Valley. This farm has been at the heart and soul of one family for decades, and under the loving care of Lida and Kobus, it continues to thrive. Wait until you see it. You'll explore the property - its cattle, sheep, and grain fields - and come to appreciate the harmony between natural beauty and the hard work that underpins it all.

The Wheat Cabin is a secluded, stylish one-bedroom cabin nestled at the farm's edge on the tranquil slopes of Porseleinberg. Entirely off the grid, it offers a true escape from the hustle of everyday life. Step onto the porch and take in a sweeping 180° panorama, where the valley unfolds before you.

Michelangelo

—TRAVEL—



It is possible to survive on only **potatoes and butter**.



Inside, you'll find an open-plan kitchen, fully equipped for a self-catering stay. While there's no oven, you'll have everything you need - from a gas hob and microwave to a Nespresso machine and fridge/freezer.

The wooden deck out front features a cargo net for lounging and chairs for soaking up the view. At the protected rear of the cabin, you'll find a wood-fired hot tub and a braai area. The bedroom boasts a king-size bed dressed in luxurious Egyptian cotton linens. It's en suite with a shower, and you'll relish the views.

Staying at Dassenheuvel offers a golden opportunity to experience real farm life. Enjoy peaceful nature walks across the property, and for birders, over 130 species have been recorded. Once you've defragged and feel ready to venture beyond your little haven, you'll find yourself in the heart of the Swartland wine and olive route. You won't be disappointed. 🍷

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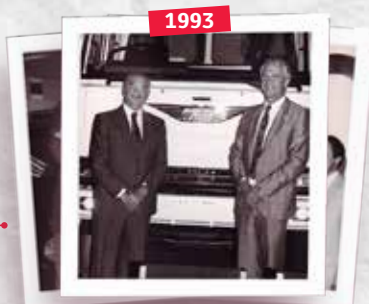
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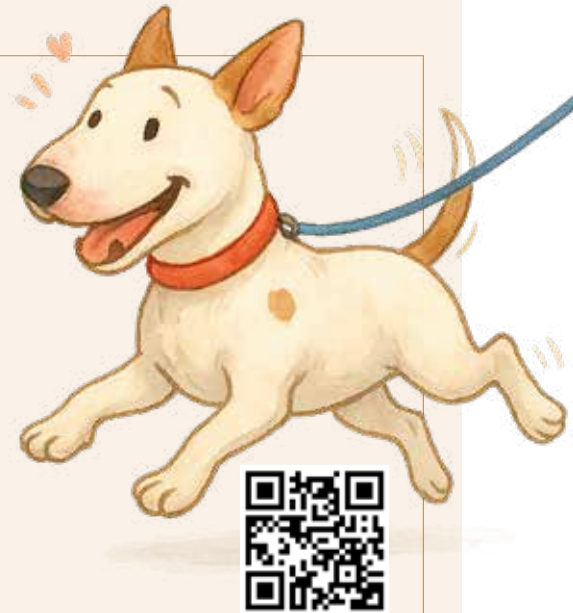
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Slice of Life

by Jescey Bekker

Adventures to the Vet, Trauma & Exasperation



Pets add colour and flavour to life, don't you think? They are incredible companions; they make for fascinating room mates (if you're that way inclined) and they know just how to comfort you in moments of need. Usually.

Freya is a five-year-old little English bull terrier. Petit in size, but big in personality. We recently needed to take a precautionary trip to the Vet on a Sunday evening. Now, for context, Freya is not aggressive in the slightest, however she is exceptionally excitable. When she gets excited, she starts bouncing like a rubber ball and to add insult to injury she gives these high pitches squeals and yelps; which typically cause anyone (human or otherwise) who isn't familiar with the breed to cower in fear.

We arrive at the Vet a full twenty minutes before they open to ensure that we avoid any other patients. This is not my first rodeo. Unfortunately, a few other people had similar ideas, within minutes another car stops, and another. Freya is sitting on the front seat beside me, vibrating with excitement and anticipation. Excitement-winds adding to the ambience of the car.

There! The Receptionist steps out to unlock the pedestrian gate.

We pounce. If Freya and I can get into the office first, we could likely avoid all other witnesses (besides the Reception and the Vet). The car door swings open, and Freya launches herself out – but another patient is out of their vehicle too. An old, sausage dog is waddling over to the gate. Freya is beside herself with joy and excitement. A Friend! Well, the poor sausage dog and its owners nearly keel over in fright at this seemingly crazed bully

bouncing toward them. Thank goodness for leashes. Pull back. I wrestle her back into the car, throwing myself in behind her and slam the door shut. Freya yelps in disappointment, there goes the friend. And other, and another. So much for being early...

A short lifetime later, I call Reception and arrange to wait in their back garden. A pause, no patients are moving about. We rush in, I'm moving so fast, Freya barely has chance to make sound ... who am I kidding, she screams like a banshee all the way through the reception and offices. We burst into the little garden where we usually end up waiting during Freya's visits to the Vet. I feel my face glow red, slightly winded and very embarrassed. And there we stay for another lifetime. Watching Pomeranians pass by, and Yorkies visiting with their families. Every so often a child's face pops around the corner with a grin, Freya's whole body bounces and she pulls forward to say hallo. A nervous parent pulls the child back into the office and Freya sits back down, depressed. Eventually, the Vet is ready to see us.

Freya does well and gets a cookie for her performance; I get a bill.

We make our way back to the car, Freya still excited for the adventure. Back into the car, back home. Upon arrival Freya's labrador brothers await, followed by a Toddler – all as excited to see her as she had just been to try and make new friends. At least she can always come home to family who adore the chaos and energy she brings to every moment of her day. I sit back, watching the chaos and laughter unfold. Thankful for the moments and for the glass of wine I get to enjoy them with. ❖



Hotel manager Heino Küstner studied at the prestigious Institut Hotelier César Ritz in Switzerland.

Be my guest...

Hansa Hotel: Celebrating 120 years since its humble beginnings in 1905, Swakopmund's grand dame of hospitality continues to embody the true meaning of the words "be my guest".

words by Linda de Jager | photograph supplied



Linus Hafenhanye Carlos, who worked his way up to become a restaurant manager, prepares the hotel's renowned signature "Classic Hansa Coffee".

Many pub crawlers inevitably find themselves at the Hansa Hotel in the centre of Swakopmund, and it could be argued they've been doing so for over 120 years. This year marks a century and two decades of hospitality for this grand dame. Recently, following the somewhat unsteady gait of a good friend, I ended up there to enjoy the hotel's legendary signature "Classic Hansa Coffee."

Linus Hafenhanye Carlos, who worked his way up to become a restaurant manager, has been a team member at the Hansa Hotel for 35 years. He enjoys the ritual behind the hotel's signature drink. Says Carlos, "Many Swakopmunders and tourists often end up on the doorstep of the hotel (hearing about the unique coffee by word of mouth)." They finish an evening of camaraderie with the last drink of the night — sometimes only to find that the bartender still remembers their previous order.

The unique recipe featured here was developed by the Hansa Hotel's previous general manager, Stephan Wacker, and is shared with Michelangelo in the spirit of celebrating 120 years.

The Hansa Hotel in Swakopmund was founded in 1905 by hairdresser Paul Miersch, who moved his business to a new building on Schlucht Street, renting out extra rooms to travellers. Over the years, the hotel gained fame, especially after the arrival of gastronomes and hoteliers Mr and Mrs Rummel in 1954, who transformed it into a luxury establishment with their skills in cooking and interior decorating. Sadly, Sebastian Rummel died in a plane crash in 1968, but his wife Elisabeth continued his vision, running the hotel with her second husband from 1970 onward.

In 1992, notable Swakopmund businessman Eric Lang bought the hotel, maintaining its tradition of excellent service. The original building from 1905 still exists today on Daniel Tjongarero Street, now housing shops on the ground floor and hotel rooms above.



'Classic Hansa Coffee'

1 shot Coffee Liquor (Kaffeelikör)

1 shot Advokaat (Eierlikör)

1 shot Brandy/ Cognac (Branntwein)

Heat up and flambé (if you want to)

*Fill up with strong black coffee, and finish
with some whipped cream on top*

Finished !

*We hope you enjoy this little piece of
'Hansa Hotel' at home!*



Michelangelo

—TRAVEL—



Chef Petrus Asheeke has spent over 46 years at the Hansa Hotel. He specializes in delicious Kabeljou and Steenbras. A master at turning local fish into tasty dishes. Bon appétit!

“The hotel’s style and character have been preserved over the years,” says hotel manager Heino Küstner. His journey into hospitality began in rural Namibia, where early experiences at Guest Farm Corona in the Khomas Hochland sparked a passion for service. Studying at the prestigious Institut Hotelier César Ritz in Switzerland further refined his outlook on hospitality. He describes his work as more than a job; it’s a way of life, driven by a desire to connect with and serve others. This ethos extends to the collaborative spirit among staff members. “I’m fortunate to have a very good staff complement and a dedicated management team who’ve come a long way with us,” he says.

For example, chef Petrus Asheeke has dedicated over 46 years to the Hansa Hotel, catering to both the wealthy and famous as well as to ordinary Namibians. Such loyalty not only ensures consistency but also encourages familiarity, helping visitors feel part of the hotel’s extended family.

I recently sampled Petrus’s fish dishes with three companions, who rated his preparation a perfect ten out of ten. I enjoyed the elegant white tablecloths and serviettes, which I always appreciate as part of refined dining.

Ultimately, the Hansa Hotel exemplifies the essence of the holy grail of the hospitality industry: the words “be my guest”. This hotel not only welcomes guests but invites them into a space where they can truly feel at home. ❖



ON THE TRACKS OF GIANTS



Sleep beneath Damaraland's sky at
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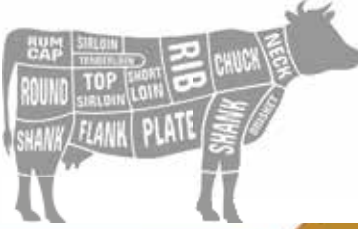


	Fillet Lean, tender cut from the tenderloin. Use: Grilled or broiled.
	Ribeye Rich, marbled cut from the rib section. Use: Grilled or broiled.
	Rump Lean cut from the hindquarter, versatile. Use: Grilled or broiled.
	Rump Picanha Culetto Lean cut from the hindquarter, versatile. Use: Grilled or broiled.
	Sirloin Lean, tender cut from the back of the animal. Use: Grilled or broiled.
	Sirloin Cube Roll A section of the sirloin, rolled and tied for roasting. Use: Grilled or broiled.
	Sirloin Defatted Leaner version of the sirloin, with fat removed. Use: Grilled or broiled.

ROUND CUTS



	Bale Round cut from the shoulder, similar to chuck. Use: Stew, braise, grilled.
	Brisket Boneless Boneless version of brisket, rich in fat and collagen. Use: Stew, braise.
	Knuckle Lean, tough cut from the hindquarter. Use: Grilled or broiled.
	Silverside Lean, tough cut from the hindquarter. Use: Stew, braise, grilled.
	Silverside Defatted Very lean cut from the silverside, fat removed. Use: Stew, braise, grilled.
	Silverside Eye Very lean cut from the silverside. Use: Grilled.
	Silverside Eye Boneless Very lean cut from the silverside, fat removed. Use: Grilled.
	Silverside Flat Flat cut from the hindquarter. Use: Grilled or broiled.



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 KATIMA MULILO: Erf 557 Trans Caprivi, Highway

MICHELLE WARDEN'S POSTCARDS TO NAMIBIA



From Grit to Grid:

Adjusting from Namibian
Roads to Auckland's Public
Transport Life



“Kia ora!” We’ve traded familiar roads for unfamiliar routes, and every bus ride feels like a small chapter in a much bigger story.

Leaving behind my old snazzy white Yaris felt like parting with more than a set of keys. In Windhoek, a car isn’t just transport; it’s freedom, identity, and, sometimes, a survival kit.

Auckland’s public transport, by contrast, has its own rhythm: efficient, but with a hint of mystery in its schedules. Our first bus ride started with cautious optimism, AT HOP cards in hand, eyes flicking between the timetable and the app. When the bus finally arrived, we climbed aboard, bracing for the kind of rattling rides stamped in our Namibian subconscious, but instead, found ourselves gliding on plush seats with USB charging ports. The only jolts came when the driver braked for a wandering bird or a pedestrian toying with the idea of stepping off the curb.

Trading my own car for a bus timetable felt, at first, like losing independence. But I’ve since discovered unexpected freedom, exploring neighbourhoods I’d never have driven to (just because I got off a stop too early, or too late, or took the wrong bus heading in the opposite direction), mastering the art of following the little blue arrow on Google Maps, and carrying full shopping bags like a seasoned city wanderer.

One early lesson came in the form of a “tap-off” mishap. In Windhoek, you simply get out of the car. In Auckland, you tap your card on and off. I once tapped the wrong panel repeatedly until a kind commuter whispered, “That’s for your soul to exit, Girly, not your fare.”

School runs revealed another cultural shift. In Windhoek, drop-off is a fine-tuned ritual of cars and caution. Parents form convoys at the gates, performing synchronized seatbelt unbuckling and opening car boots while dishing out final lectures like “Look out for cars, remember to take your aftercare bag, tuck in your shirt!”

Here, independence starts early. Kiwi kids don’t just ride – they commute. It’s not only normal and expected – it is a rite of passage. It’s common to see children – some barely taller than their backpacks – boarding buses solo, earbuds in, AT HOP cards swinging like badges of trust. One morning, I overheard a ten-year-old calmly tell the driver his usual route was detouring: “Mum said I can take the 72 if I sit near the driver and don’t talk to sketchy people.” Meanwhile, I was still trying to work out which suburb I had mysteriously landed in.

Swapping Namibian traffic for New Zealand’s public transport feels less like giving something up and more like learning a new language of movement. In Namibia, driving was instinctive – honking, swerving, scanning the horizon for a guineafowl or a baboon with a death wish. Here, transport is gentler, slower at times, but it invites a different pace: watching rain trace the windows, noticing the greenery, the polite silence of strangers pretending not to notice each other, and appreciating the quiet.

It’s not chaos versus calm – it’s just a new rhythm. And with each ride, I find myself settling into its beat. ❀



—CULTURE—



Vladimir Tretchikoff "Lady of the Orient"

Southern African Artists' Eastern Promises

words by Linda de Jager | photograph supplied

A record-breaking sale and renewed interest in Namibian and South African artists highlight the enduring pull of Eastern-influenced art.



Treat yourself to coffee and cake at Café Heinitzburg and see if you can spot the Jentsch paintings

In May, Strauss & Co., one of Africa's leading auction houses, held an event showcasing its latest offerings. A global record was set for South African artist Vladimir Tretchikoff when his 1955 portrait, *Lady from the Orient*, sold for R31.9 million (US\$1.78 million/£1.31 million).

After a dramatic sequence of 89 bids, the painting was secured over the phone by an anonymous bidder, narrowly beating a determined in-person participant at the live auction in Johannesburg.

A friend sent me live WhatsApp videos, revealing the captivating bidding process.

Breaking Records

The final price (including commissions and taxes) far exceeded the previous record for a Tretchikoff, set at £982,050 (about R24 million) in 2013 during a London auction of *Chinese Girl* (1952).

Lady from the Orient features Valerie Howe, then 21, the daughter of a Cape Town grocer.

The painting is part of a series of Tretchikoff's iconic portraits following his move to South Africa in 1946. A print version of *Lady from the Orient* gained popularity in Britain in the 1960s. Tretchikoff famously mass-produced his works so they could be appreciated by everyone.

King of Kitsch

I contacted Dr Alastair Meredith at Strauss & Co. to learn more about "the king of kitsch." Tretchikoff was born in Petropavlovsk, Russia, in 1913. He held his first solo exhibition in Cape Town in 1948 to great public acclaim,

lived in South Africa for the rest of his life, and passed away there in 2006 at age 92.

Tretchikoff's most iconic works include a quartet of exotic portraits inspired by Eastern influences, drawn from his childhood years in Shanghai, Singapore, and Java.

Cheesecake and Taoism in Windhoek

I also asked Meredith about Namibian artist Adolph Jentsch (1888–1977), for several reasons: a school friend owns the largest private collection of Jentsch paintings, and my grandfather, born in the same era, also grew up in Germany.

I recently caught a glimpse of Jentsch's work at Café Heinitzburg in Windhoek one Sunday afternoon. While enjoying their excellent cheesecake and coffee, I noticed a few small Jentsch paintings quietly displayed in a corner - my first time seeing the real deal.

Though Jentsch and Tretchikoff had little in common stylistically, both were embraced by their adoptive countries and drew influence from Eastern philosophies.

Jentsch, born in Dresden, became one of Namibia's most iconic landscape painters. According to Strauss & Co., he grew up in a cultured environment and studied at the Dresden Academy of Fine Arts alongside notable contemporaries such as George Grosz and Max Pechstein. His work is meditative and traditional.

"In 1938, opposing the rise of National Socialism in Germany, he visited a friend in then South West Africa - and never left. He devoted his career to capturing Namibia's vast landscapes, open skies, and blazing light," reads Strauss & Co.'s website.



Adolph Jentsch "South West Africa Landscape"



Adolph Jentsch "South West Africa"



Adolph Jentsch "South West African Landscape"

Jentsch was deeply influenced by Eastern philosophy, especially Taoism. He painted outdoors often and sought serenity in nature. His watercolours - subtle, calligraphic, and muted in tone - reflect a mystical and contemplative quality. His large oil paintings are rare, as he kept most for himself. Tragically, many were destroyed in a barn fire in 1975.

Meredith notes that Jentsch's works have sold for between N\$9,000 and N\$800,000 at Strauss & Co. auctions over the past five years.

Hold On to That Painting

Strauss & Co. regularly receives valuation requests from owners of Namibian art. Medium, subject, and condition influence the price.

Whether you admire a Jentsch, a Tretchikoff, or another artist (no, the printed pillow doesn't count), recent events suggest it might be time to dust off the painting your great aunt left you.

If you happen to have an original Jentsch or Tretchikoff, or **if you're keen to have any other works valued, Strauss & Co. is happy to assist. You can contact their offices in Cape Town or Johannesburg at art@straussart.co.za.** ❖

Know your art's value

Practical tips for a fair, market-related valuation with Strauss & Co.

Why valuation matters

Insurance cover that actually matches replacement value, informed sale decisions, and peace of mind.

Four easy ways

- Submit online – complete the valuation form and upload clear images
- Email a specialist – jhb@straussart.co.za or ct@straussart.co.za with images and measurements
- Book an appointment – Johannesburg or Cape Town offices
- Visit a valuation day – pop in with your work for an auction estimate
- Large collections or estates – ask for a house visit

Send the right info

- Photos front and back, plus close-ups of the signature, labels and any numbers
- Dimensions and medium, condition notes, frame details
- How and when you acquired it, receipts or invoices if you have them
- Any mentions in books, catalogues, press, or exhibition histories

Provenance and condition

A documented ownership trail and good condition can move the needle more than you think. Missing paperwork or heavy restoration can suppress value.

Reality check

- Insurance appraisals and auction estimates serve different purposes and numbers can differ
- Not every print is valuable; mass-produced editions rarely match originals
- Market taste changes; yesterday's headline price is not a guarantee for tomorrow

Talk to a specialist

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Camping with purpose in the Kalahari

Ju/'hoan San traditions and wilderness meet at Nhoma Safari Camp, a community-run retreat in Namibia's remote northeast.

edited by Anne Schaffer | photographs supplied



Nhoma Safari Camp is a small, activity orientated, tented camp, set in the north-eastern corner of Namibia on communal land of the Jul'hoan San or Bushmen (as they are commonly known in Namibia). What makes Nhoma Safari Camp unique is its position right next to the local village of Nhoma, home of the Jul'hoansi San Bushmen.

The camp lies in the Nyae Nyae Conservancy at the basin of the Kalahari desert, on top of a fossil dune, with a view over the Nhoma omuramba, a dry river bed. The landscape is dominated by large Zambezi trees which shade the tents and pathways.

Kyle de Nobrega of Journeys by Design, said, "Stunning and utterly simple, Nhoma Safari Camp sits just outside Nhoma, is entirely serviced by members of the local community, all of whom have received their training at the much-respected and brilliant San-run heritage centre !Khwatla, and has been the recipient of much praise from the trickle of travellers that make it here each year. It's not hard to see why: its Meru-style ensuite sleeping tents come with hot and cold water; it's set up on an 'extinct' and now

vegetated sand dune and possesses – unusually for the Kalahari, where elevations are an anomaly – fine views; and located in the Nhoma valley, an ancient riverbed, it benefits from being a much more wooded habitat (Zambezi teaks, marulas, and rosewoods line the dunes) than you'll find in the rest of the Kalahari."

Your stay at Nhoma centres around interaction with the village. Nhoma MD, Flora Blommaert, and the Nhoma team describes the experience: "The Jul'hoan San people, like other recent hunter-gatherer communities, are the only analogue we have for understanding how human kind organised themselves before the agricultural revolution. Activities depend on what individual people in the community are doing, so it could be cooking, preparing hides, making crafts or hunting equipment such as quivers or arrows. Traditional games and dances will also be played on one of the two afternoons of your stay. To enable guests to fully immerse themselves in the community, we request a minimum of a two-night stay. In this way, you have ample time to connect with the village and dive into the wisdom and knowledge of the hunters and elders."



And then there's the food...

In June this year, Nhoma – together with a South African chef and local foragers from the village – developed a brand-new menu and approach. This collaboration led to a fusion of veld food and fine dining, bringing bush foods in innovative ways on to guests' plates. Think...pickled gemsbok cucumber, camel thorn smoked potatoes, various slow cooked game meat dishes in their clay oven, guineafowl ravioli, and raisin bush berry dessert. No wonder the menu is garnering rave reviews from guests. In essence, the feedback is that it's added a whole new depth to the overall cultural experience.

At Nhoma, you enjoy a fully inclusive option which includes all meals, drinks and activities – meals and drinks are served in the central dining area. The shaded safari tents are equipped with double beds with ensuite bathrooms, and are spaced well apart to allow you privacy and elbow room. Each has a deck where you can enjoy the glorious landscape of massive trees, lush vegetation and occasionally, the migrating wild elephants visiting the waterhole. The elephants cannot enter the camp's premises as the camp is protected with an elephant trench.

Life at Nhoma is pure and simple, with no electrical points in the tents or camp site. The camp runs on solar power - fresh and potable borehole water is also pumped with solar energy - and hot water in the tents is via wood-fired boilers (donkeys). The water quality gets tested regularly and qualifies as good drinking water quality. The central area offers has a cellphone signal, and electrical devices can also be charged there.

Community focussed activities include a bush walk/hunt with three or four Ju/'hoan San hunters in the wild. The chances of killing an animal are rare, but the walk is thoroughly entertaining and showcases the broad bush survival skills. There is constant interaction between you and the hunters, and you'll return having learnt a host of bush skills and fascinating biological knowledge.

Another activity is witnessing the community's Healing Dance, a social affair as well as an important curing ceremony. Although the community is asked to dance for tourists, it still serves the purpose of curing the ill and is attended by most villagers. It is the expression of their religious beliefs, so Nhoma cannot force the community to perform it, but the chances of experiencing it are good when staying more than one night.



You can join a full day tour to Khaudum National Park, a two-hour drive away just over the border in the Kavango region, bordering Botswana and the Nyae Nyae Conservancy. This 3 842 square km park was proclaimed in 1989 to protect the woodland savannah biome of north eastern Namibia, the habitat for the endangered roan antelope. Wild dogs are another endangered species in the park, but are usually only seen in September and October at waterholes before the rains start. Ground hornbills and several species of raptors are among the vulnerable bird life found in the park.

The Nhoma team works hard to ensure you, the visitor, has as full an immersion into the local community life, the wildlife and the landscape as is possible. This is not a Lodge experience,

it's camping with a difference – for the curious, and for those who crave peace and beauty, you're where you should be.

De Nobrega - Journeys by Design - said, "For anyone looking for a genuinely immersive, important, and supportive cultural experience in the Kalahari, nothing's quite like the opportunity to spend time with the Ju/'hoan San of Nhoma, in Namibia. Accessed either by road or private charter, the village of Nhoma is a three-hour drive from the town of Grootfontein, a day and half's drive from Windhoek, and lies in the north-east of the country, close to the border with Botswana. Home to Nhoma Safari Camp, a simple and utterly beautiful community-run camp, it is one of my favourite places on Earth." 🍷



Namibia's Crown Jewel — The Magic of Etosha

Etosha National Park is a world-renowned wildlife sanctuary, where all manner of creatures gather at ancient watering holes under starlit African skies.

Etosha National Park is an extraordinary gem of Namibia, drawing thousands of visitors annually. Namibia Wildlife Resort's (NWR) focus is on creating memorable, sustainable tourism experiences while promoting awareness and appreciation for Namibia's natural resources.

The story of Etosha National Park goes back to 1907, when German Governor Friedrich von Lindequist proclaimed the area a game reserve. Some 50 years later, it was designated as Etosha Game Park and, in 1967, finally awarded national park status.

Von Lindequist wasn't the only major figure in the Park's early days. Explorers Charles John Andersson and Francis Galton were among the first Europeans to document the area in 1851. It was, however, already known to locals such as the Hai||om people, who lived in the area and relied on hunting and gathering. Early European settlers and German troops also had outposts in the area, such as the fort at Namutoni.

Today the Park covers 22,270 km², its boundaries having been significantly altered over the years. When first proclaimed, it was much larger at 80,000 km². Its size was reduced in 1958 and again in 1970 following the Odendaal Commission's decisions, which redefined boundaries to create 'homelands' for different communities.

The park has historically been a significant wildlife area. There have been reintroduction attempts - such as for African wild dogs - with mixed success. The park's main purpose is protecting existing wildlife, especially the critically endangered black rhinoceros. It's also known for significant populations of other iconic African wildlife, including elephants and lions.

Etosha is a major hub for ecological research, with studies focusing on species behaviour, habitat, and environmental effects on animal health. These efforts contribute to sustainable management of natural resources and the fight against biodiversity loss.

Accommodation in Etosha is varied and caters for all budgets and tastes. Camp location influences the type of animals you might see. The western area – Dolomite Camp and Olifantsrus - is more rugged with unique dolomite hills and known for biodiversity, making it ideal for spotting animals less common in the central park, such as black rhino, kudu, mountain zebra and springbok. ❖

Six Camps, Countless Adventures

All lodges have full service restaurants with the exception of Olifantsrus (kiosk).

DOLOMITE CAMP

Luxury accommodation in elevated chalets built on dolomite formations. Known for its rugged landscape and unique geological features, this exclusive camp with restaurant, offers premium comfort with no camping facilities. Great for spotting less common species in the western reaches.

HALALI

Located on the edge of Etosha Pan with a floodlit waterhole, amphitheatre-style seating, and a restaurant. It's known for its elusive resident leopard — a rare sighting. Mixed accommodation includes chalets and camping facilities.

NAMUTONI

Built around an old German fort offering unique character and lookout points. Bush chalets, double rooms, and camping available, plus restaurants, bar, and swimming pool. Excellent for birdwatching at nearby Fischer's Pan during wet season.

OKAUKUEJO

Prime location for general game viewing due to the famous floodlit waterhole. Wide range of accommodation from chalets to campsites, plus restaurant, bar, and fuel station. The waterhole provides excellent night viewing opportunities.

OLIFANTSRUS

Camping-only site with power points and communal facilities, renowned for its magnificent wildlife observation hide. This rustic camp provides an authentic bush experience in the park's biodiverse western area, perfect for budget-conscious adventurers.

ONKOSHI CAMP

Exclusive, eco-friendly camp with only 15 elevated wooden deck chalets. Former German military outpost featuring a floodlit waterhole where lions, elephants, and black rhinos drink together at night. Restaurant facilities available. No camping.

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LEISURE

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Here, elephants wade through mist, the sun deck doubles as a front-row seat to nature's theatre and boat safaris promise quiet adventure at a pace dictated by the river itself. At Chobe Water Villas, we've always understood that true luxury lies not in rigid structures but in the freedom to experience paradise exactly as you wish.



Recognising that every traveller's vision of perfection differs, Chobe Water Villas now offers three distinct ways to experience this riverside haven. Our new flexible rate options honour the truth that some guests crave the seamless embrace of our fully inclusive experience, while others find joy in creating their own rhythm of indulgence.

The fully inclusive experience remains our signature offering - an invitation to surrender completely to nature's spell, where every meal, every sunset drink and every wildlife encounter flows effortlessly into the next. For those who cherish structured serenity, this encompasses everything: gourmet cuisine that celebrates both local flavours and international sophistication, premium beverages that toast spectacular sunsets and experiences that transform ordinary moments into treasured memories.

Our dinner, bed & breakfast option speaks to travellers who desire the comfort of morning rituals and evening celebrations while maintaining the freedom to explore Kasane's offerings during afternoons. Begin each day with breakfast overlooking the river's gentle movements, then return as golden hour approaches for delightful dinners under the clear African sky.

For the truly independent spirit, our Bed & Breakfast rate provides the perfect foundation for adventures entirely of your own design. Wake to the river's whispered promises, fuel your explorations with breakfast and then let your day unfold to instinct rather than itinerary.

Choosing Chobe is choosing Namibia's paradise through our eyes, with world-class offerings and utterly exceptional experiences.

Each villa offers panoramic views of one of Africa's most dramatic wildlife corridors. The Haven Spa understands that



true renewal happens when African tranquillity meets expert touch. When adventure calls, our private boat safaris become intimate conversations with the wild. These aren't crowded excursions but personalised encounters where elephant families share their river rituals, where hippos surface with grace and where the sunset transforms the waters into molten gold. The gym maintains your wellness routine without breaking the spell of place, while the sun deck offers endless opportunities for that perfect balance between rejuvenation and contemplation.

From the seamless embrace of our fully inclusive experience to the balanced freedom of dinner, bed and breakfast or the complete independence of our bed and breakfast option - each choice invites you to discover one of Africa's most spectacular river sanctuaries in a way that truly resonates with your spirit.

This is your invitation to discover where heaven touches earth on the banks of the Chobe River. The river waits. Your villa waits. The wild waits. All that remains is your choice of how to receive their gifts.

And just beyond that choice lies an even more profound way to engage—with the land, the people and the stories that unfold across time. For those who return, who seek not just a visit but a connection, the experience deepens in unexpected and beautiful ways.



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The O&L Leisure Club celebrates the deeper sense of travel and emerges from our understanding that the most meaningful travel experiences deserve repetition, deepening and sharing with those who understand their value.

As a Leisure Club member, exceptional savings of up to 40% on accommodations and 20% on dining transform premium experiences into accessible luxuries across our entire portfolio, not only at Chobe Water Villas. Included is the coastal elegance of Strand Hotel Swakopmund, the wildlife intimacy of Mokuti Etosha and the tranquil sophistication of Midgard Otjihavera Windhoek.

Membership becomes your passport to spontaneous extensions, to ordering that perfect bottle without hesitation, to saying yes when extraordinary opportunities present themselves. Membership offers the freedom to explore Namibia as it deserves to be explored—without compromise and without limitation but with the understanding that some places reward return visits with increasingly profound revelations.

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Burden & Grace

Melodies of Burden and Grace

A wartime legacy, a fable book, and the quiet resilience carried across generations in Namibia.

words by Linda de Jager | photograph supplied & illustrations by Joachim Voigts



SWA Fabeln book cover



Flock at Dawn

A close friend gave me a book some time ago, sourced from her mother's library, SWA Fabeln by Joachim Voigts. I loved the colourful illustrations and Namibian children's stories.

Little did I realise at the time that I had carried an illustration of the same Voigts with me for most of my life, hidden away in my passport pouch. It belonged to my German grandfather. Its origin highlights a little-known chapter of Namibian history that is not widely recognised, mainly because it is complicated by the painful memories of the Second World War.

As war clouds gathered over Europe in what would become the prelude to the Second World War, many German-speaking men in South Africa and Namibia were deported to internment camps in South Africa for about six years.

Koffiefontein, in the Free State Province of South Africa, and sites such as Andalusia at Kimberley became locations of large internment camps, with Koffiefontein holding up to 2,000 Italian and German prisoners of war, together with

around 800 South Africans suspected of sympathising with the then regime. "Among the internees was F.C Erasmus and John Vorster, who became Prime Minister of South Africa in 1966 and was President of the country from 1978 to 1979. The remains of murals painted by the Italian POWs can still be viewed in the town," as can the barracks in which they were held, according to South Africa History Online.

Among the painters of murals like these was the creator of my little book of fables, Joachim Voigts. What came as a surprise to me is that the 1978, Gamsberg Verlag's children's book is a collection of fables and drawings that Namibian-born Voigts created for his first son, Burghardt, whom he first met at the age of six upon his return from internment.

This was also true for my grandfather, who would only see his young family again by the time my mother was 7 years old. The fact that my grandfather carried one of his artworks with him made me believe that his path may have crossed with that of many of the artists of the time during internment. And I found it to be true when I picked up Rolf's



Mirage

Kock incredible historical offering, a booklet *Erinnerung an die Internierungszeit* and found my grandfather's name. Along with this band of artists, he created plays, art, and music to while away the dull hours in the camp for prisoners. My grandfather was responsible for directing and writing the plays in camp. Ironically, he wrote comedies and satires to entertain prisoners.

My grandfather's story parallels that of Voigts, who, three months after his marriage, experienced the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, leading to his internment in the Andalusia camp at Kimberley in South Africa. In the camp, he met artists Otto Klar, Schmidt Mitau and Dieter Aschenborn. Together, they worked in the so-called "Painting

barracks." The men only had to line up once a day for the payment roll call, leaving them plenty of time for their own pursuits. Otto Klar mainly painted landscapes in oil and preferred spatula painting. Voigts, who had previously worked primarily as a graphic artist, was inspired to paint landscapes in oil. The inmates received an allowance of one shilling per day and could order pencils and drawing chalk from the small shop. The chemists among them mixed the preserving solution.

I made my way to learn more from Martina van Wenzel, who does fantastic work at the Fine Art Gallery in Swakopmund to preserve and tell the stories of Namibian artists before the 70's. My main reason for going was to ask



Earthy Explorer

her opinion about the drawing that once belonged to my grandfather.

Her life was also touched by the long shadow cast by the Second World War. Being German-born, she grew up in a house of women only, as many of the men in her immediate circle paid the ultimate price.

We started a conversation about the group of interned Namibian German men and the creativity that sustained them during internment, as well as how their work was created at the time and continues to ripple out and reach people today.

And she said something - loosely paraphrased - I often reflect on myself, "It is important to record the stories

surrounding conflict, because only by examining its impact can we help ensure that the war clouds are never gathered again."

Over the years I have come to understand, often through documenting the stories of war veterans, that it is the very act of integrating and claiming these stories of displacement that facilitates healing. In some cases, the next generation must carry these stories on behalf of the previous one, who suffers from that unconscious burden of the unspoken truths that had shaped their own upbringings.

We all carry melodies unseen, echoes of a time before our own, melodies we've never heard but somehow feel. A haunting foretaste from eras past, resonating within us.

Michelangelo

—CULTURE—



Hans Paul Friedrich Wilhelm as young man (1901-1970)



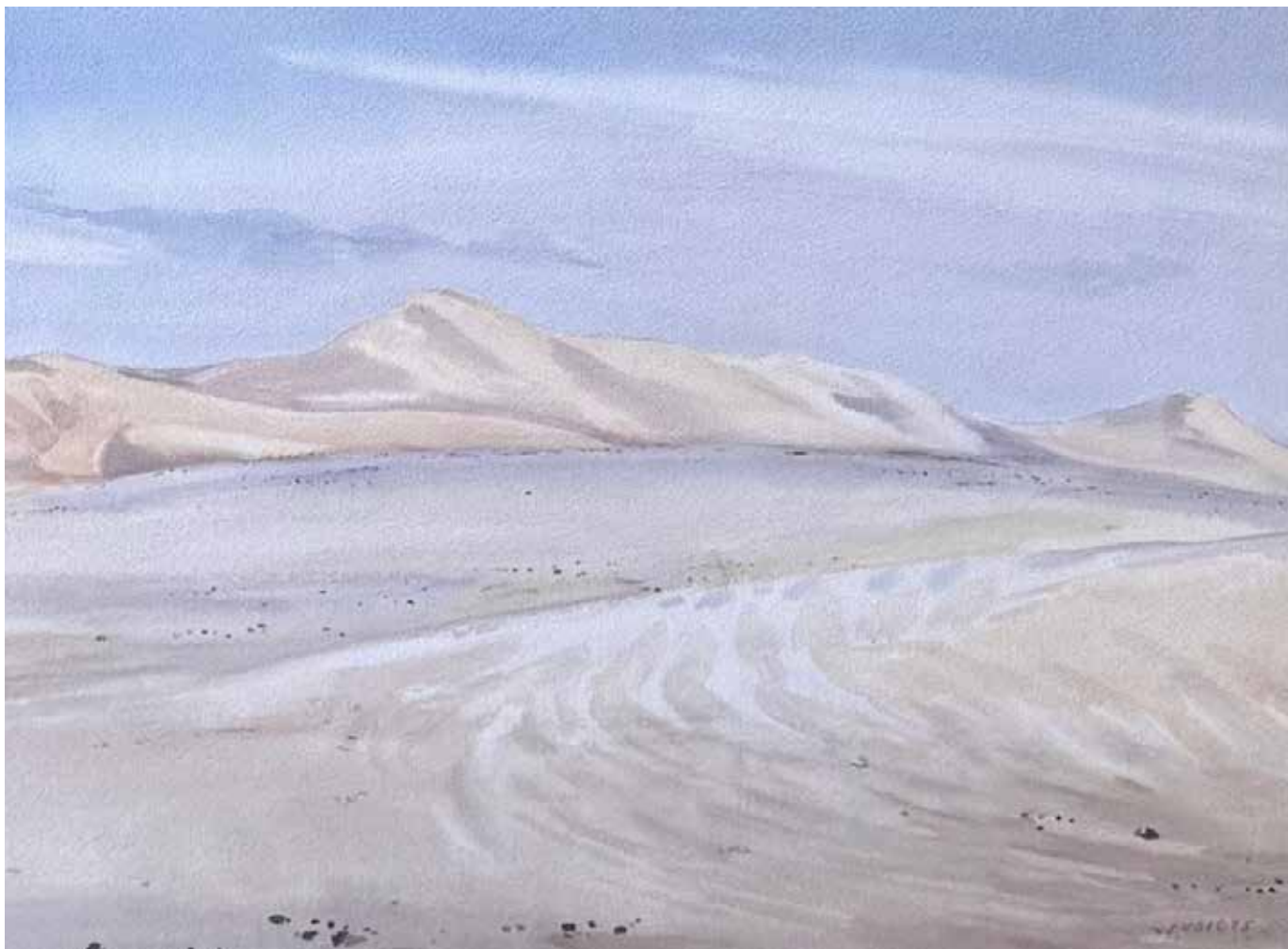
Earthy Explorer

At some point I ask van Wenzel about the likelihood of the Voigts I carry with me being an authentic depiction by the artist. Her answer is unequivocal, “I have no doubts that this is a woodcut by Joachim Voigts.” Out of the hardships of the internship, my grandfather speaks to me through this exquisite little image of a Schneeglöckchen by Voigts drooping in the winter cold, with the words, “*Und dräuft der Winter noch so sehr - es muß doch frühling werden.*” A good motto to carry with you through life and something to guide your journey by.

Loosely translated as “Even if the winter goes on in its intensity, spring will come again.” These flowers are often one of the first signs of spring, blooming in late winter, even through snow and ice: a symbol of beauty and resilience relevant to the country of my grandfather’s birth.

My grandfather, Hans Paul Friedrich Wilhelm, was born in 1901 in deep eastern Germany, in an area called Schlesien, at a place called Oels. Schlesien is the German name for the historical region of Silesia, which is now part of Poland. He died miles away, under an African sun never touched by snowflakes, much like many of his German-born contemporaries who came here. His life was marked by an effort to navigate hardships with humour, song, art, and a gentle heart.

Lighters were invented before modern matches.



Shifting Sands

It is through tracing his story of displacement that I can claim the wild gipsy in my own heart - one of the happiest periods of my life was the three-months I spent in a caravan in the semi-desert- and the subjunctive songs and wistful melodies that define my inner landscape.

When he passed away, the men who had spend time with him in internship placed a memorial in the newspapers with simple words:

“A renowned humorist has passed quietly. Over his grave, we again say thank you for the many hours of laughter you provided us during a difficult time behind barbed wire.”

And another memorial from another newspaper:

“Humor is the best antidote, that was your motto. You gave strength to many during the long years of Internierung.”

I recently read a story to a child from Voigts *SWA fabeln*. I can imagine little Burghardt sitting like this back then when he saw his father for the first time at age six, arriving with a storybook under his arm.

For a moment, I also see my mother, Renate, her pigtails tightly plaited and dressed in her Sunday best, anxiously waiting to meet a strange man after seven years, a man she would now call *Vati*...

The story I read was called *Mrs. Sparrow*; the little boy listening was mesmerised.

Little did he know, there is a bigger story behind these tales that echoes through time, like the drawing of Schneeglöckchen carrying a timeless message of hope. ❁

The Last Word



words by Chris Coetzee

It's that time again, when I sit down to pen my monthly closing thought, a small ritual usually accompanied by a coffee in hand and the slow settling of the day around me. Today, the spark came fresh from a meeting with a prospective client named Jaco.

If you've ever driven a Namibian road, you've met his kind: polite, well-informed, warm, with a handshake that feels like a promise. Quintessentially Namibian.

Yet somewhere in our exchange, a thought took root... and it has refused to leave.

The world journeys thousands of miles to witness sunsets we, here, scarcely notice while we trade them away to screens and to profits that will never mourn what we have lost.

Consider this: the average teenager now spends five hours a day on social media, part of a total screen time stretching to eight or nine. This is not merely stolen time. It is invisible pollution. Every single day, global screen time releases nearly twice the CO₂ of every aircraft in the sky combined — quietly erasing pieces of the natural world our children will never know existed.

And this is carbon poured into the air not to grow food, not to warm a home, not to carry someone to a place worth remembering — but to fuel the endless flicker of scrolling, liking, and double-tapping sunsets that will never touch their skin.

All the while, we sit indoors, faces lit not by the fire of an African sunset, but by the glow of a screen.

Even if this habit fades with age — and for most, it will not — each person will still surrender 9.5 years of life and send nearly 10 tonnes of CO₂e into the air. The same as driving the entire border of Namibia thirty times, in a petrol 4x4.

Multiply this by billions of us... and the scale becomes staggering: Enough CO₂, each day, to equal 13.3 million Windhoek–Cape Town round trips — enough to circle Namibia 8.5 million times, or the Earth itself 770 times.

And so, my mind turns to a very different place for this month's Michelangelo-approved destination: the Nyae Nyae Conservancy.

Far in Namibia's remote east lies the land of the San people, where ancient baobabs, older than recorded history, stand in patient silence. From here, the San and the Nyae Nyae have given more to humanity's survival, wisdom, and spirit than many Nobel laureates might in a lifetime.

The San, kin to the Khoi Khoi, are the world's oldest continuous human population, their DNA stretching back over 200,000 years, long before any civilisation recorded in books. They speak languages belonging to one of humanity's most ancient lineages, and they endure in one of the most unforgiving landscapes on Earth, a place where nature itself seems to have granted them a rare tolerance.

Here, among the ancient baobabs — the revered trees of life — they have given the world more meaning and perspective than we could ever hope to return. They have never needed applause, nor a podium, nor a headline. Their worth is not up for debate. It simply is. And in that being, it is beyond price, and beyond replacement.

So before you glance at that screen and share that photo for its curiosity, pause and ask yourself: Who are the souls living here, and what binds them to the ancient 'trees of life'?

And then... if you must... return to the debt-fuelled, overpriced theatre we have been taught to call living. 🍷



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