

Classic Namibia

Responsible Tourism

Onguma Game Reserve

Originally part of the greater Etosha Game Reserve, Onguma Game Reserve boasts over thirty different animal species. Plains game roam freely on the Reserve and are common residents of the area. Lions are frequently seen and often heard. There is a healthy black rhino and leopard population and hyenas are also often seen.

Black Rhino Research Drive

During the last century, the black rhino has suffered the most drastic decline in total numbers of all rhino species. The emphasis of this 2 ½ hour afternoon drive is to expose guests to Black Rhino conservation in Namibia and the research projects conducted on the Onguma Reserve.

The Namutoni Hai | |kom Trust

The San, a small ethnic group, numbering about 40,000 people in Namibia, are more commonly known as "Bushman". They are incredibly poor and it is nearly impossible for them to improve their situation by themselves. In order to assist in a way that will maintain their dignity as a people; and with the stress on self-help without hand-outs a Trust, called The Namutoni Hai | |om Trust was set up.

Community Outreach Program

Onguma Private Game Reserve is proud to launch their community outreach program from Onguma into the neighbouring community of Oshivelo. The first phase of this project is to establish a bond and provide support to the needs of the local secondary school.

Onguma Environmental Education Lessons

One of our guides, Vialli, recently began the first of six Onguma Environmental Education Lessons that Onguma will be conducting with the Uukumwe Combined School this year. Nine learners and a teacher from Uukumwe Combined School will be collected and hosted for the day on an outing into Etosha and on the Onguma Reserve.

Okahirongo Collection

Community:

The relationship between us and the community of Puros and the Himba tribes living in more remote areas is very important to us and in Puros we are involved with school project to help better the way education is delivered to the kids. As we are the only operator in this area we have an agreement to offer growth in the form of training staff in different departments of hospitality and this way we offer jobs to community members and assist them to learn more. Offering empowerment to the community. The relationship is very important to us as we would like our guests to learn about the Himba people, without making the Himba community feel uncomfortable at any time. Thus we make sure that they grow financially from a yearly company contribution. We also assist with water deliveries to further afield villages as Namibia is a dry country and very hot.

Okahirongo River Camp is situated in the Marienfluss. The community is more spread out over the area but we also have a fantastic relationship with. We assist in giving school supplies to the nearby school as it is important for the kids to be educated. With the Himba visits we arrange for guests, we include ration deliveries to remote villages which typically includes Maize Meal, Sugar, Cooking Oil, Coffee, Tea and Tobacco and deliveries of water.

The company also offers a financial contribution to the communities and this goes toward community projects to clean up the area and preserve the ecological area of the pristine Marienfluss.

Solar Power

Both our camps run on Solar power. Our generators and batteries run on invertors

No Air-conditioning

Although the area is hot, we have built our rooms and lodge to take advantage of the breezes and to remain cool without the invasive use of air conditioners. Fans are provided for additional air movement

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Mowani Mountain Camp & Camp Kipwe

Sustainable eco-tourism and community upliftment is of the utmost importance at Mowani.

Conservation:

- We have recently established a working relationship with IRDNC (Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation), AfriCat, EHRA (Elephant Human Relations Aid) and the Uibasen (Twyfelfontein) Conservancy to increase our conservation footprint in Damaraland.
- A meeting was held with Garth Owen Smith to continue our current support of the desert lion project whereby Mowani and Kipwe pay the salary of one of the two game rangers (even though it is outside our conservancy)
- We have planted a variety of local indigenous plants which are harvested and replanted around the lodge and water hole.
- The waterhole has been expanded to provide a local elephant herd of 18 (including 2 calves under 6 months old) with enough water when they visit the lodge.

Community:

Projects include;

- Winter Knights and the Medic Rush where the elders and children received blankets and where doctors and nurses are transported into Damaraland by Round Tablers to provide medical support to the community.
- A quarterly soccer tournament, where the threats of alcohol abuse are discussed.
- We supply neighbouring farms with vegetable off cuts for their pigs.
- Mowani assists local farms by fixing waterholes damaged by elephants.
- We prefer employing from within our own conservancy first.
- We also assist the local community based vegetable garden by developing skills to manage the project. This includes budgeting, sustainability and crop rotation.

Recycling and re using:

All our refuse is recycled and sent to Windhoek which is more than 400km from the lodge.

Staff upliftment:

Mowani currently has an assistant manager and head guide who started working at the lodge 13 years ago as builders and waiters. Recently, we have empowered 8 staff to supervisor level and have brought in experts to train kitchen staff as well as front office staff.

Sustainable vegetable garden:

Mowani has started their own herb garden which is maintained by the chefs. This garden is being expanded to grow a variety of vegetables as well. We do however not want to expand too much as we are also supporting a community based vegetable garden in the conservancy.

Local suppliers:

Mowani purchases vegetables from Dimab, a community based vegetable garden and assists with empowering the locals to manage the project successfully.

Solar power:

Mowani does not make use of solar power. We do however make use of gas geysers and use energy saving bulbs. The lodge was designed with a high roof and ventilation ducts which results in a temperature change from inside and outside of no more than 5 degrees on hot days.

Swakopmund Guesthouse

From its inception the Swakopmund Guesthouse has used solar geysers for hot water, which is the main consumption of electricity. The stove in the kitchen is gas operated.

By the end of 2013 we will be almost completely self-sufficient as far as electricity is concerned. We are installing a grid feeding solar electricity system that will make us virtually independent of the municipalities electricity supply – in fact we will be feeding surplus electricity back into the grid.

All the artwork in the rooms as well as lounge and breakfast room have been purchased locally to support Namibian artists. All our staff are Namibians, we source and buy all our consumables locally and go on annual educational with all our staff to ensure a better knowledge and understanding of the industry we operate in.

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Wolwedans

Since its inception 15 years ago, Wolwedans has been guided by an approach where people, nature and business were all equally important. Right from the start the commercial aim of the business has been to ensure the NamibRand Nature Reserve's financial viability, assuring the conservation of the Pro-Namib for future generations. Wolwedans strives to set an example in eco-friendly and sustainable tourism, our lodges and camps being designed to minimize environmental impact.

Wolwedans has adopted the 4C's sustainability platform, developed by the Zeitz Foundation, moulding our efforts into a comprehensive strategy.

Commerce

- High quality low impact tourism
- Sustainable strategy
- Standard operating procedures

Community

- Namibia institute of culinary education
- Desert academy
- Official inauguration of the Staff / Volunteer accommodation, NaDEET

Conservation

- Tangible results in biodiversity conservation
- 21 cheetahs and 2 leopards have successfully been released on the Reserve
- A flourishing ecosystem re-established
- Symbiosis of conservation and commerce
- Support conservation initiatives by adopting a fairy circle
- Wolwedans a faithful supporter of Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust
- Ecofriendly building style ensures low footprint

Culture / Sport

- Wolwedans introduces Soccer Cup
- NamibRand boasts significant archaeological sites

'Long Run Destination' - Global Ecosphere Retreat®

One of our big successes of 2012 is the completion of our sustainability strategy and becoming a 'Long Run Destination' - Global Ecosphere Retreat® certified on 16 November 2011. The Long Run Initiative is the flagship programme of the Zeitz Foundation, recognizing leaders in sustainable development, that work on sustainable, mostly tourism-driven enterprises, whilst fostering community development and cultural stewardship. (<http://www.zeitzfoundation.org>).

Solar

Wolwedans has further launched its state of the art solar hybrid system in early 2012, which is set to reduce fossil fuel consumption for power generation by 65%, setting a bold example to the local hospitality industry in Namibia.

We cater for visitors who become increasingly sensitized to the need for protecting the natural habitat and are conscious of this fact when deciding on their holiday destination. 'To us, luxury is not golden taps or marble bathtubs but rather the liberating experience of space.' Thus we incur tremendous costs to the visitor without him/her being aware of it.

Sustainability Tour

As of 2012 Wolwedans has introduced a guided 'sustainability tour' taking guests through our 70-strong staff village – the heart of the Wolwedans operation. This serves to engage and educate guests about various sustainability aspects such as our organic garden, grey water system, recyclable and organic waste management, new state-of-the-art 27 kWA solar farm, The Wolwedans Desert Academy vocational training school as well as other social upliftment initiatives.

Tourism for Tomorrow awards

Wolwedans has been nominated as one of three finalists under the conservation banner for the 2012 Tourism for Tomorrow awards. Every year the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) recognizes the very best in sustainable tourism. This achievement speaks volumes about the sustainability efforts the Wolwedans operation has been pursuing since its inception.

We are proud to be offering our guests the privilege of enjoying the 1 guest per 1000 hectares of private conservation land ratio.

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Dark Sky Reserve

Wolwedans Collection of Camps is very proud to expand its conservation role to include preserving the star-filled nighttime skies. In 2012 the International Dark-Sky Association has announced that NamibRand Nature Reserve is the world's newest International Dark Sky Reserve.

www.wolwedans.com/sustainability