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FESTIVE TRAVELS

WITH GONDWANA COLLECTION NAMIBIA





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Editor's Note

November 2022

Tourism and travel is finally on the mend in Africa's prettier and friendlier parts – and the tourism figures and trends from both Namibia and South Africa look very promising.

As numerous international carriers are returning to both Namibia and South Africa, and as flight frequencies are increased – we are very thankful to the discerning international travellers who are also taking advantage of the currency exchange benefit.

In Namibia, the Hospitality Association of Namibia reported that tourism arrival figures reached almost 80% of pre-Covid numbers – which is supremely encouraging – and that the average tourist spends 19 days in Namibia on average.

Consultancy firm Simonis Storm in Namibia has recently issued a hospitality statistics report finding that Namibia has reached a national occupancy rate of 61.3% in August 2022 – compared to just 20.7 % in August 2021.

The said report mentioned a shortage in both rental vehicles and flight access to Namibia – so in that light it was most encouraging to learn that FLYSAFAIR has recently obtained traffic rights between South Africa and Namibia – which will boost and contribute to business and leisure travel in both directions.

FLYSAFAIR operates the larger 737-800 aircraft and typically at significantly lower prices. Rights were obtained to service Cape Town to Windhoek return, and rights for the Johannesburg to Windhoek route is pending.

The Windhoek-Cape Town connection is very fortuitous from both a business and tourism perspective. Many tourists to Namibia enjoy the option to include the Cape Winelands in their itinerary – and the 1 hour 50 minute flight at affordable prices will be well received. The business benefits of this added option is self-evident.

Namibian airports have reported an average of 12,044 arrivals per month – compared to a sad 3,840 in the corresponding period last year.

From a Michelangelo Magazine perspective, we see this influx clearly in the massive uptake of the monthly magazine at both Hosea Kutako and Eros airports. Advertisers' messages to market are reaching exponentially more readers than just a month before.

We also see phenomenal growth in variety and consumption – as more and more visitors and business folk celebrate good food, wonderful establishments, new memories, friendships and commerce.

With hotel, lodge and game reserve rooms – and aircraft – filling up again, it reminds of the humour that inevitably follows when different cultures go exploring – and interact. What is considered good custom, hospitality, manners, and par for the course in one location, can often be interpreted – and experienced – vastly different at the receiving end.

In the end, one can but laugh – and marvel at the people “handling” these complaints and concerns, and their ability to refrain from hysterical laughter whilst considering the “complaints” – which seemingly originated in the twilight zone of another galaxy.

Here are some downright amusing “complaints” – presumably from sane, normal and otherwise well-balanced persons – whose holiday experiences seemingly did not meet with expectations:

“It took us 9 hours to fly home from Windhoek to Frankfurt. It took the South Africans only two hours. This does not seem fair.”

“We purchased a new Rolex watch from a street vendor for \$25, only to discover later it was fake. Where can we apply for a refund?”

“On our African holiday, we saw too many people “braaiing”. We do not like meat.”

Kudos to all those splendid explorers out there, and the people looking after them. May the hospitality and all other businesses affected recover quickly – and well.

Godspeed, friends.

The Michelangelo Team



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Thoughts become things.
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**ON THE COVER:
 Landscape Of The Gods**

Professional photographer Teo Mattas is a seasoned hand at photosafaris in Africa, but he says for landscape, nothing beats Namibia

(See pages 14 - 17 for the full story)

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OTJIWA

– the familiar, the favourites and the facelift

Otjiwa Mountain Lodge has had a sumptuous revamp...and you'll love the luxury! But Otjiwa caters for all pockets and tastes, so you can choose Safari Lodge, Eagles Rest or Mountain Lodge...and still love every minute

Edited by **Anne Schaffer**

Photographs supplied

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Namibia's oldest game farm, Otjiwa Safari Lodge - comprising everything from simple camping to exclusive luxury lodging - is your perfect location on the B1 on your way to Etosha or the Waterberg. One of the stand-out features at Otjiwa is that the property is family owned, each family member bringing their unique strengths to this multifaceted property, each passionate about what they do. Whether it's interior design, menu planning or farm management, there's a family member behind the scenes ensuring that their home is as loved by you as by them. It makes all the difference.

You'll be blown away by the newly renovated and refurbished Mountain Lodge, where opulence comes in the form of supreme privacy and uber luxury. The main area has been completely refurbished, and is the perfect marriage of African style with western architecture. There's an easiness about the space, with warm oak finishes and airy vaulted ceilings, décor and design perfectly complemented by superlative service and attention to detail. There are only five luxury chalets, with a maximum of 10 people at any one time. Now that's intimacy.

Hosts, Schalk and Marquerite Muller, make it their business wherever possible to accommodate personalised requests – they put everything into making your dream holiday better than even you imagined. If you're

looking for a luxurious hideaway where privacy rules, this is it. The Mountain lodge is home to only five luxury chalets, accommodating a maximum of 10 people. It's here where you get to experience the luxury of exclusivity and privacy. Each chalet is perfectly styled with a private veranda, splash pool and contemporary and stylish interior – it's fully equipped with luxurious amenities from a fully stocked mini bar to a TV and Marshal speakers. Order room service, laundry, food and beverages, and even book your preferred activities, from the comfort of your room. Don't lift a finger.

At Otjiwa Eagles Rest, there are 10 campsites, each with their own beautiful view. Campers are welcome to use all available lodge facilities, and book all available activities. Eagle's Rest is where you'll find the camping, family chalets and elegant rooms, and it's here where the legendary Taste Restaurant focuses on home-grown herbs and vegetables, with locally sourced meat. Everything is homemade, and the Barnard's passion for local cuisine shines through each course you choose.

Otjiwa is 12,000 hectares in total and has up to 22 dams, each with its own natural habitat and bird life. It supports about 25 different game species, including White Rhino, Sable and Roan. The team offers a range of private and guided activities, one of which is the privilege of





Rhino Tracking, where specialised guides accompany you on foot to track rhinos. This is an extraordinary activity, and the family loves to share the passion and love they have for these beautiful animals.

You can also choose a walking safari, Sundowner game drive, night drive or even guided cycling for guests who'd love to experience nature directly (bring your own bikes and gear – minimum of two cyclists for this activity).

Don't miss out on a spa treatment at Pure Spa – it's all part of the letting go...

Otjiwa also offers private, luxurious bush dinners, where you and your group are served drinks, a five-course meal and decadent dessert. You'll have the luxury of your own private chef, and waiters serving you in the middle of nowhere, deep in the heart of nature. Everything is cooked on the fire, while you relax and sip away at your favourite drink as the sun sets.

At Otjiwa, you'll get a sumptuous taste of Namibia – whether you're going luxurious or simple – whether en route to Etosha or the Waterberg – you'll discover something special here. ✨

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<https://otjiwa.com.na> | www.the-portfolio.com



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Landscape Of The Gods

Professional photographer Teo Mattas is a seasoned hand at photosafaris in Africa, but he says for landscape, nothing beats Namibia

Edited by **Anne Schaffer**
Photographs by **Theodore Mattas**



Theodore Mattas – Teo as he’s known - is a wildlife photographer born, raised and lives in Greece in Europe. He runs yearly photo safaris and workshops for novice and experienced photographers all over Africa, focussing exclusively on African wildlife. For him, “Becoming a wildlife photographer has been a dream of mine since childhood. As a kid, I kept buying all these nature magazines full of wonderful wildlife images and hoped that one day I would also be in a position to submit nature photos to magazines and get my work published.” He laughs, “That desire-dream of mine finally became a reality a few years ago which makes me very happy.”

It’s inspiring really. Teo didn’t study photography – he’s completely self taught: “What I did though when I started practising wildlife photography was to buy a lot of books from renowned wildlife photographers I admired at that time. This way I could study their technique, skills, perspective, artistry and gradually develop my own as time passed by.” Teo started back in 2008: “That was when my work was published for the first time, mainly because I won a few awards in some nature photo competitions. Winning awards can prove critical, as many people look at your work for the first time and see you as a potential business partner. That is what happened to me - my first contracts and business proposals started this way.”





During your lifetime, you will eat about 30,000kg of food – **that's the weight of about six African elephants.** [*My teenage son has already breached that. – Ed*]



Teo sees his Namibian safaris in a particular light: “My Namibian safaris are so interesting in comparison to other African safaris, due to the special and unique Namibian landscape. Wildlife in Namibia may not be as abundant as in other well-known safari countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, Botswana or South Africa, but the scenery is so “out of this world” that it automatically transforms every wildlife photograph you take into a compelling one, due to this one-of-a-kind Namibian landscape.”

Teo’s safaris into Namibia usually involve luxury tented camps or lodges: “They provide a comfortable stay for my guests, but having said that, there may be other occasions where I choose more basic camping facilities should we decide to visit more remote areas where lodges are nowhere to be found!” His clients are a mix of photographers and casual nature and wildlife enthusiasts, and he says essentially anybody can join him on one of his safaris, even if they don’t do photography at all: “Those who are interested in photography though will benefit so much from a trip like this because they will have the chance to learn wildlife photography

in the most direct way - not through books, nor by online workshops.... but in the bush side by side with me. We visit the most promising sites and places at the right time of the year, and discuss nature and wildlife photography in the field. That is the difference - to find somebody who knows all about nature photography and will lead you to the correct places at the correct time.”

And there are so many memories and moments which are unforgettable on Teo’s photo safaris: “Most of the time members of my groups remain good friends long after the safari is over, since they share so much that keeps them connected. This good team spirit is so important to me, and that is why I choose to socialize with my guests even when not out doing game drives - I also avoid doing any kind of photo editing on my computer during the safari. This is a job after all that can be done with ease at home!” Teo’s photo safaris are all about learning on the job – no finer way really? ✨

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The Return of Mister Brandy

Johan Venter retired a legend of South Africa's globally renowned brandy industry. Now he's back, this time with his own exciting premium drinks project.

Words by **Clifford Roberts**

Photographs supplied



They called him Mister Brandy. Having learned from legendary masters, the lad from Mbombela built a career that saw him rise to become the most influential head of South Africa's prized brandy industry. When Johan Venter retired from Distell in 2019, it was as chief of its Centre of Excellence: Intrinsic – arguably the very heart of the multinational's premium drinks portfolio.

Under his watch, brands rose to be giants; a new generation of brandy masters emerged from his tutelage; and, as a distilling and blending specialist with a Masters degree in Microbiology, he was embraced as an expert judge and panel chair in the leading local and international competitions. These include the International Wine & Spirit Competition; Michelangelo International Wine & Spirits Competition.

He might well have left it at that.

"Balance is probably the most important word in my life," he said in his speech at a farewell dinner hosted at the company's Van Ryn's Brandy Distillery. Indeed, it certainly appeared to be the last word from Mister Brandy.

But no-one gives up on a drug-like passion, especially Johan

Venter. "It's part of who I am. It's something I love. There's still plenty of education to be done and this is my own personal contribution," he tells me about this new adventure. It's somewhat significant too that this year is the 350th anniversary since brandy was first distilled on South African shores.

It's called The Inventor and comprises an exceptional range. To be clear, these are Johan's babies; the products of a true master of his craft, who has nothing but time to chip away towards perfection. To say these spirits are premium-priced collectables is an understatement.

First to launch were two brandies, of which there will be only 820 bottles each. Both are XO's made by open-flame distillation in the tradition of cognac, in small potstills, and aged in French oak barrels for a minimum of 10 years. Each employs different cultivars that were distilled separately.

In making the XO Blanco, Johan selected four barrels based on taste profile. Chenin Blanc makes up the base, giving it a softness with ripe apricot and peach flavours, Sauvignon Blanc and Ugni Blanc add balance, and a dash of Hanepoot to finish off.





The human nose contains **350 – 400 odour receptors**, but only about half are common to all people, meaning we all smell things differently.



The XO Rosso brandy harnesses Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot from award-winning Stellenbosch vineyards to produce a brandy with an intense fruit-cake character.

For Johan, the brandies and indeed the entire range, are the realisation of a long-held dream. “I’ve always wanted to make brandies that were uniquely South African, that tasted of this country and were true to themselves,” he says.

“Over 20 years of judging has not only given me an especially wide spectrum of the world’s great spirits, but it has also brought context of where South Africa ranks.”

“While our brandies are consistently recognised as the best in the world, they are also uniquely South African in the richness of their character. Surely the best you can give a drinks enthusiast is a premium South African brandy?”

He chuckles: “Even better if it’s one of mine!”

No less impressive are the range’s other stars, every one issued with a certificate of authenticity.

The recipe for the Exotic Pamplemousse Gin was developed by Johan himself, with the citrus sourced from a single orchard in the Cederberg. Just 1 150 bottles of this sipping gin have been made.

The whiskies comprise three variants, all distilled at the James Sedgwick Distillery.

The single cask, single grain whisky was initially matured in a first-fill, ex-bourbon cask for three years. It then continued its journey in second and third-fill casks. Only 270 bottles of this are available.

For the single cask, single malt whisky, 240 bottles were produced. Johan’s tasting notes declare: “an alchemy of Christmas cake, nuttiness and cherries”.

The Inventor Oloroso Single Cask Single Malt spent five years in a third-fill ex-bourbon barrel and was then finished for another four in one that formerly held Oloroso sherry. A total 600 bottles of this were made. ❄️

CONTACT:

Follow The Inventor’s progress at www.theinventor.co.za.



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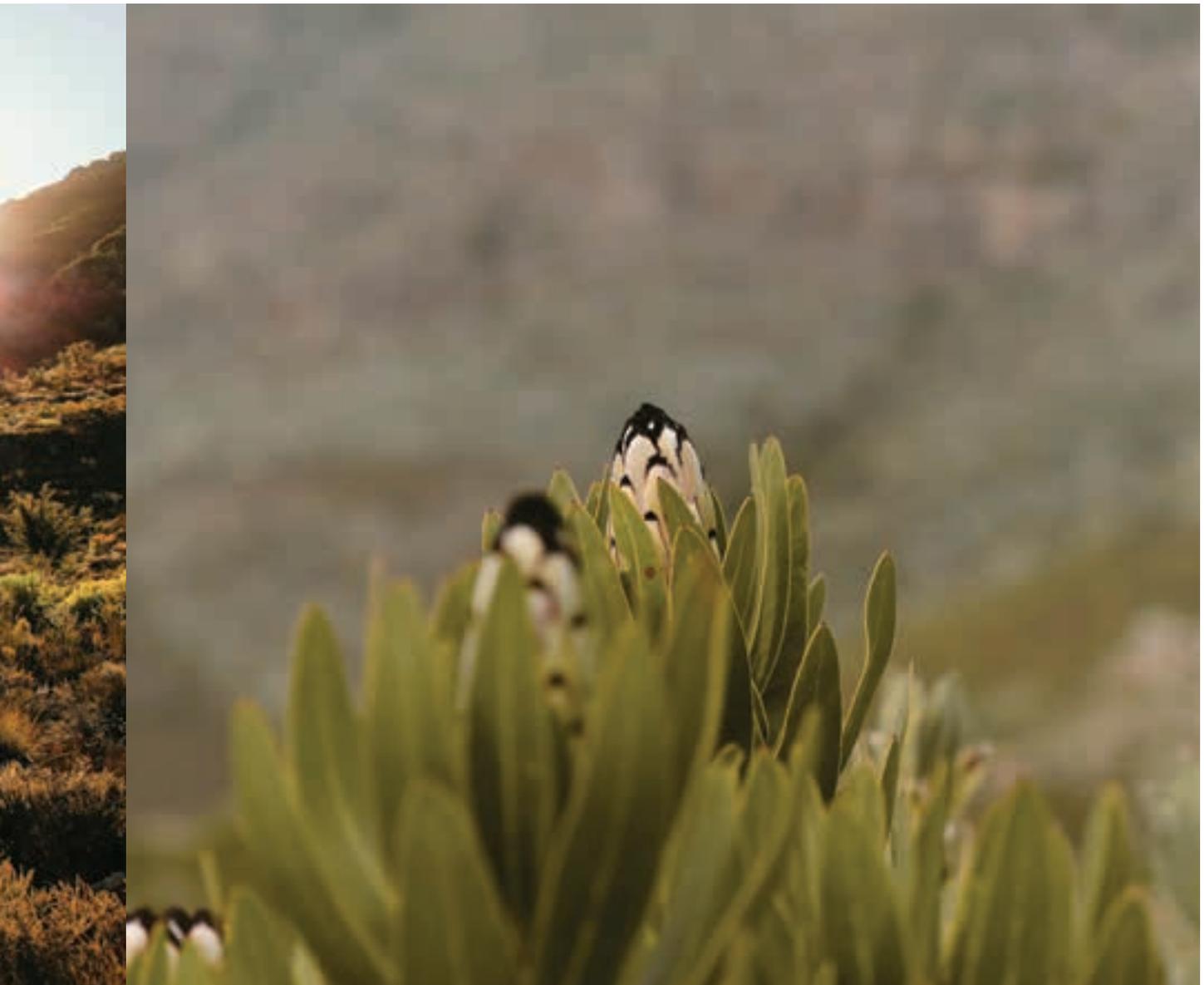
Oomblik Cabin in the Breede Valley

A glorious little two bedroomed cabin that's dog friendly in the Bainskloof Nature Reserve, the Michelangelo award-winning Monks gin distillery down the road, and hiking routes, rock pools, swimming spots and mountain biking routes (in winter, water sports like kayaking possible)

Edited by **Anne Schaffer**

Photographs supplied

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The vision behind Oomblik is of a place in the middle of nature, a piece of 'nowhere', a sanctuary, tucked away in the Bainskloof Nature Reserve. Here at Oomblik you'll find peace and wide views to settle the body, mind and soul. The Mount Bain Nature Reserve is only 90 km from Cape Town, which leaves you with no excuse at all not to explore this little corner of the Cape. The reserve is also surrounded by flower and fruit farms, little farm stalls, the Calabash Bush Pub, wine farms such as Bergsig or the famous Monks Gin Distillery, where you can pop in on weekends for a tasting or even a snack.

Tucked away in nature, Oomblik Cabin is an absolute delight of cosiness, quirkiness, open plan living, and nature at your feet. All folding doors open completely, so you'll have that indoor-outdoor living experience, doused in mountain views, fresh air and fynbos. Hello world.

Cooks will relish the generously equipped kitchen, or gravitate

towards the gas braai on the deck. Non cooks can test-drive the three-person hammock...or take a good soak in the free-standing bathtub with a view over the Bredekloof Valley (there's an outdoor shower too). Three wood-burning fireplaces stave off any winter chill, as does the wood-fired hot tub on the deck. Solar is your power, and cell reception is pretty good.

Oomblik has two bedrooms (each with king beds), two bathrooms and two loos – four guests max, and no children under 9 months (purely for safety reasons). Bring your well-behaved pooch.

Birding, hiking and rock pools are tantalising pastimes at Oomblik. The drive is a beauty on its own, only the last 100 meters require a 2x4 for direct cabin access, but Oomblik will securely park your car and bring you up that mountain in a 4x4 shuttle service (R350 for a return transfer, payable in cash to Richard).

CONTACT: www.lifetreecollection.africa | info@lifetreecollection.africa





Our brains only need about 400 calories per day, and burns it at a steady rate – regardless of what we're doing.



MONKS

– the alchemy of gin

Monks Gin Distillery has expanded their tasting room to include a small cocktail bar offering charcuterie boards to enjoy while taking in the view – it's a Must Do

Monks Gin Distillery has a lovely back story. For over a decade, Nic and Di Davis shared a farm nestled on the banks of the Breede River at the foot of Bains Kloof pass, with fifth generation Breede Valley wine farmers Coenie and Edelgard Lategan. In 2017 the friends turned their attention to the business of gin, and haven't looked back. Nic and Di built South Africa's first off-grid distillery.

Inspired by 11th century Benedictine monks - the first to distil in copper alembic pot stills - the couple design and produce their premium elixirs: MONKS Mysterium, Mary Jane and Medella, double distilled in small batches using a hybrid artisanal still called 'Jennifer', named after Nic's mother and of Nic's own design. A firm favourite, Mary Jane, is the first hemp infused gin.

Award-winning MONKS is a dry, hand-crafted gin - expect intensely flavour-forward botanicals, nine of them hand-picked and many endemic to the area. Combine with crystal-clear mountain waters and the result is a rewarding one, featuring ripples of citrus, berries and Cape Buchu.

The tasting room is open between 08h00 & 17h00 Mondays to Fridays and from 10h00 to 16h00 on Saturdays. ☘

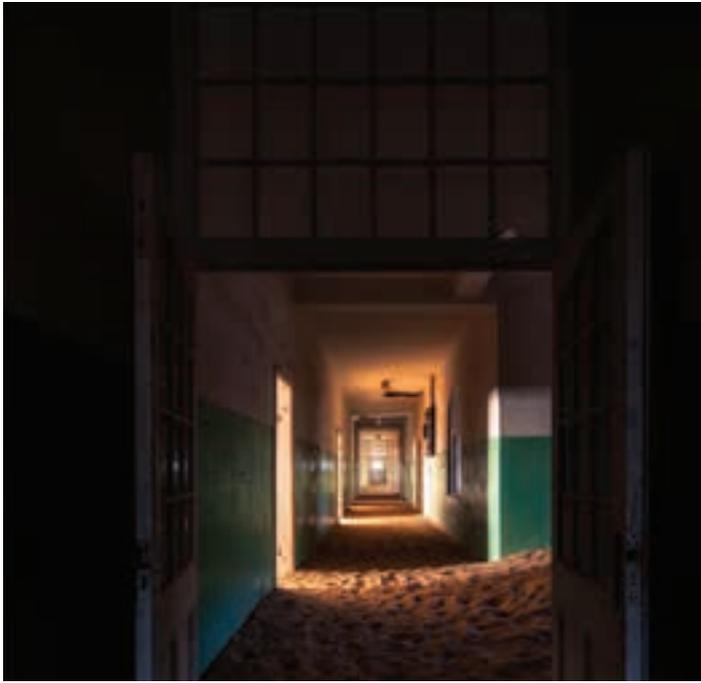
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WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE

When all is said and done, what can a few hundred words and some nice photos do to adequately convey an experience, a feeling, a spirit? Well... I have 600 words and a deadline so...

Text: Conrad Hegarty | Images: Gondwana Collection Namibia collaborations | Layout: Marlene Orffer

The world doesn't seem to be as big as it used to, maybe that's just time, maybe it's that technologies have brought the far corners of the world to us in stunning 4k at the press of a button, but every once in a while I am lucky enough to be reminded of the overwhelming vastness that lies just beyond.

In Namibia the world never feels small.

Even typing this I can look out of a window towards a horizon obscured by mountains rising and falling. Driving west from Windhoek to The Delight Swakopmund, watching hills give way to desert, like an in-person, panoramic time-lapse, begs the question; are there words big enough for this? 'Solitude' came to mind once when we stopped to take in the view, but that doesn't do it. Struck by the other-worldliness of the landscape near [place name] I recalled accounts of astronauts first view of the earth from orbit, seeing the whole world beneath their feet and being overcome by the cosmic scale of our home.

The big and small.

Scale can be deceptive, especially once we stray from our familiar reference points, but what is unmistakable is contrast; however tall a given hill maybe be, there is always one beyond that dwarfs it and one beyond that, only the haze over the furthest mountains gives clue to the distances that lie between you. On the coast, the surf cuts a clean line between the dunes and the Atlantic separating two worlds. After seasonal rains, the land turns green, and Etosha National Park becomes an endless grassland teeming with life.

Among the least densely populated places on earth.

Life in Namibia exists in balance, and perseverance is key, come drought or flood, whether that be a literal drought or a clumsy metaphor for a global pandemic that all but shut down the tourism industry that so much of the country relies on. It was under these circumstances that I embarked on my most recent adventures around Namibia (the aforementioned journeys to The Delight Swakopmund and Etosha Safari Camp), the land of wide-open space was emptier than ever, I had expected to find everyone in the same state of pandemic induced doomsaying that I was in, but found Namibia's signature hospitality on full display.

In the worst of times, Namibia endures, with care, a smile and some much-needed laughter, good company, and a view. I should make special note of the wonderful guide at Etosha who, after hearing that my mother (an avid bird-watcher) had never seen the incredibly rare Blue Crane in 20 years in the country, made it his personal mission to rectify this and, to his credit, did just that. In the worst of times, Namibia endures, and after 3 long years, Namibia is ready to again thrive.

I am grateful that I got Namibia all to myself for a while, at a time when we all had so little to be grateful for. Windswept vistas, yawning canyons, and open roads played their part. Mostly I am grateful for the small moments of personal connection, conversations, and warm smiles, for seclusion, surrounded by friends.



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Painting values

Accomplished Cape Town artist Mongezi Gum turns 52 this year, and although he's overjoyed at being a grandfather, his art remains central to his life. He looks back on his journey

Edited by **Anne Schaffer**

Photographs by **Mongezi Gum**



Born and raised in KwaLanga, South Africa's oldest township, he attended high school in what was then the Transkei. He didn't grow up in easy times, but he still describes his childhood as one filled with joy: "I fell in love with art from a very young age. I think artistry runs in my family – one of my cousins is the well-known artist Zipho 'Tony' Gum." He includes his grandfather under the artistry umbrella, "He was a tailor and a great inspiration for me."

Mongezi always enjoyed sketching: "I'd draw all day, in class, after school, and on the weekends. My neighbour collected movie posters and we would try and recreate them on the stationery we had for school. I explored art by myself a great deal when I was growing up. My first formal art lessons were when I joined one of my high school teachers' after-school art classes. The class was for adults but when she saw me drawing in one her classes, she invited me to join in after school and weekends."

Mongezi qualified with a diploma from the Johannesburg Art Foundation: "I went to school during the week, and on weekends, I attended artist workshops at the Fuba Centre at Johannesburg's Market Theatre."

Mongezi works predominantly with oil on canvas, but also with charcoal, chalk and pastel on paper. He usually works on medium to large





Leonardo da Vinci **spent 12 years painting the lips** of the Mona Lisa!
[Is that why he forgot her eyebrows? -Ed]







It is estimated that the human eye can **distinguish between 2 million and 7.5 million colours.**



size paintings, but prefers working on a larger scale. One of these days he plans to explore sculpture work.

Mongezi artwork depicts a combination of traditional African and contemporary township values: "I draw inspiration from all around me. I live and breathe art - I think in paintings," he says. "As a younger artist, I was constantly challenging myself when producing my artworks - I wanted to develop my own unique point of view and method of painting. Now I just let it flow. It's turned into more of a spiritual endeavour now, a stream of consciousness."

Mongezi described a typical day in his studio in Salt River: "I start my day slow," he grins. "I do my morning rituals to make sure I start the day the right way. I have breakfast, take a walk around the neighbourhood, and buy the Cape Times newspaper to catch up on current affairs. Once I get back home, I put on music - I listen to music all day long, sound informs my work. Then I get to work, either painting or drawing." He adds, "I also enjoy working at night, when things are more tranquil and peaceful."

When asked what's the dream, he says, "To be honest, I feel like I am living my dream; being able to wake up every day to do what I love is pretty dreamy."

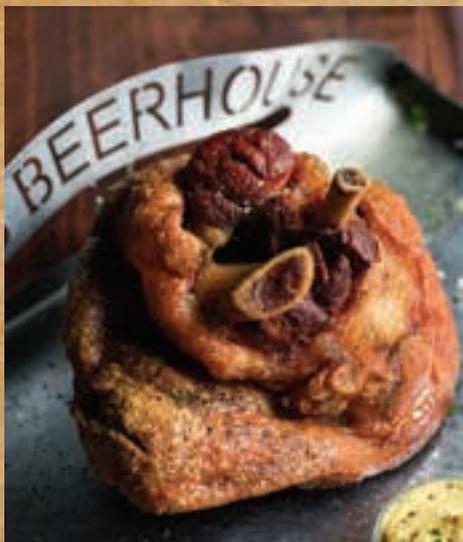
Mongezi's work is bought by both local and international investors, and he's currently represented by Fortune Yield Collection (Mpilo Ngcukana at mpilo@fortuneyield.africa). ❖

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Nibbana Farm in Tulbagh

Tulbagh, one of the Cape's oldest towns, beckons...as does the sumptuous accommodation at Nibbana Farm, the perfect bolthole for a group of up to 22 family and friends, from which to explore the wine route, art, and chill in this spectacular setting

Edited by **Anne Schaffer**

Photographs supplied

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If you haven't already, it's high time you travelled the easy 90 minutes from Cape Town to explore the charming rural village of Tulbagh in its basin of mountain ranges. No need to rush home - we have an idyllic base from which to explore the area - Nibbana, a glorious working farm just twelve minutes outside the town.

Tulbagh dates back to the 1700s, and in one street alone, you'll discover the largest number of Cape Dutch, Edwardian and Victoriana heritage sites dutifully restored – it's certainly earned its title of being the 4th oldest South African town. Roads wind through the valley, up into the vineyards, and out towards the farmlands; so whether you're a nature enthusiast, wine lover, adventure-seeker or serenity-savouring family, Tulbagh will answer your call. Tulbagh's topography is ideal for viticulture, so you'll want to spend a day touring the Tulbagh wine route, and sampling some of the finest grapes in the western wine region, including Rijk's, Montpellier and Schalkenbosch wine estates. For the arty wine lover, combine wine-tasting with an art gallery visit at either Krone's Twee Jonge Gezellen or Saronsberg wine estates.







In the United States **human blood plasma sales make up 1.6% of all goods exports** – more than what the Americans earn off the sale of aircraft annually.



Nibbana Farm is set on 190 hectares of agricultural land and lush wilderness, and the views from your front stoep, across the lawn, pool, paddocks and stately line of trees stretch to the foot of the Witzenberg mountains. It's breathtaking, and a real soul soother. The owners resurrected the existing foundations and restored the old farmhouse into a contemporary manor house with four adjoining cottages, each luxurious in its own way. It sleeps a maximum of 22 guests, with 11 bedrooms and 10 bathrooms in the Manor House and cottages.

One of the true joys – if you needed any more – is the secret garden behind the manor house, just a 10-minute stroll past the olive trees, garden sculptures and free-roaming sheep. Entered through a large gate, you'll come upon a wonderland of greenery - old oak trees, ferns, flowing streams forming crystal clear rock pools, more quirky sculptures, hammocks and recliners will occupy you for hours on end. There's even a pizza or bread oven there waiting to be fired-up to dish-up some crusty dough.

You'll love Nibbana – chunky wooden beams, flagstone floors and rough cement walls are offset by copper fittings, open fireplaces and

an impressive collection of antiques. With its crushed velvet furniture and curated artwork, it's as enchanting inside as out. Whether you're hiking the mountainous terrain, jumping from waterfalls or swimming across the large farm dams, you'll feel the happiness. Nibbana Farm has two dams for swimming, and guests are welcome to cycle and hike around the farm. Farm manager, Don, rears the sheep and landscapes the gardens, but also creates contemporary works of art with his garden sculptures, carpentry and interior design. The endless walking trails and little hidden nooks around the garden are perfect for ambling around and discovering Don's collection of contemporary art.

Don will also fill you in on all the tips and tales of the town. And there are stories aplenty.

PS. The area is fantastic for avid horse-riders, and Horse About Trails offers rides for beginners and advanced riders. For a bit of a family adventure, do the Ceres Zip Line – the longest of its kind in Africa. Eight slides, 1.4km in total, over nature, rocks and rivers in the Skurweberg Mountains. ☘

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EPSON *International* *Pano Awards 2022*

The winners of the EPSON International Pano Awards 2022 have been announced

Edited by **Anne Schauffer**
Photographs by **EPSON International Pano Awards 2022**

.....



The Vein
Jinyi He of China

Overall winner of 2022 Open Competition

"I traveled to Xinjiang last year and took this photo in Dushanzi Grand Canyon, a geological wonder. For tens of millions of years, the melting snow water of Tianshan Glacier has torn open the chest of the vast Gobi like a Hummer, and formed this natural landscape under the movement of the earth's crust and the erosion of wind and rain. 'The Vein' is stitched by 40 photos. I operated my drone to capture these 90 degree aerial view photos at 40 appropriate points (5 rows and 8 columns) of the canyon in order to get the whole canyon aerial view. Nature is an artist, and it reminds me of an abstract painting."

The Epson International Pano Awards showcases the work of panoramic photographers worldwide and is the largest competition for panoramic photography. This year, 4,129 entries poured in from 1,197 professional and amateur photographers in 98 countries - all competing for thousands of dollars cash and prizes with main sponsor Epson Australia providing sensational prizes such as printers and a cutting-edge projector. Craig Heckenberg, Managing Director, Epson Australia said, "Every year we are amazed by the amazing standard, quality and level of excellence in every one of the Pano Awards entries and this year is no different. The awards connect photographers of all levels and from all walks of life through their creative passion. Epson is not only delighted to be a long-term sponsor of these awards, but we are a very proud one too."

Competition Curator, David Evans said, "What stands out this year is the quality of the entries, both generally and for the top placing images. The Pano Awards has always been about the journey of each and every photographer who enters. We can travel the world through their eyes and it's the translation of each unique perspective into these works of art which seems to become more incredible each year. 2022 represents a leap in both creative vision and technical skill and I can't stop staring at the images!"

The judging panel for The Epson International Pano awards includes some of the world's top panoramic photographers and industry professionals.

The overall winner of the 2022 Open Competition was Jinyi He from China with three entries, 'The Vein', 'Purple World' and 'Rainbow Canyon'. Jinyi said, "It is very special for me to get recognised for work shot in my childhood hometown of Xinjiang in China. As a landscape photographer, I'm always passionate

about exploring majestic Chinese landscapes rarely known to western photographers. I dedicate myself to capturing their precious but hidden beauty. I believe the most powerful photos come from one's heart instead of one's brain. Heartfelt feelings on the road always bring me different inspirations, perspectives, and appreciations of our planet."

The overall winner of the 2022 Amateur Competition was Florian Kriechbaumer of the United Arab Emirates with his entries 'In Formation', 'The Confrontation' and 'Sunrise in the Clouds'. Florian Kriechbaumer said, "I'm a passionate photographer and traveller originally from Germany, but have spent most of the last 15 years in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, where I have been working for various technology companies. The country is an amazing playground for photography, which gave me the opportunity to slowly broaden my skillset over the years. I try not to limit myself to one discipline, but experiment in many areas across cityscape, landscape, wildlife, drone, timelapse, timeblend, astro, and everything in between. That probably means I'm not an expert in anything, but sometimes the magic happens at the intersection of domains and technologies, and that's where I strive to be."

The Epson Digital Art Prize was won by Juan Lopez Ruiz from Spain (Poison River), and The Curator's Award by Judith Kuhn from Germany (Bernese Oberland).

The Epson International Pano Awards was founded in 2009 by Australian landscape photographer David Evans (2015 AIPP Australian Landscape Photographer of the Year) with the support of Epson Australia and has since grown into a collaboration between dedicated professional photographers, industry professionals and sponsors. It is a labour of love for all involved.

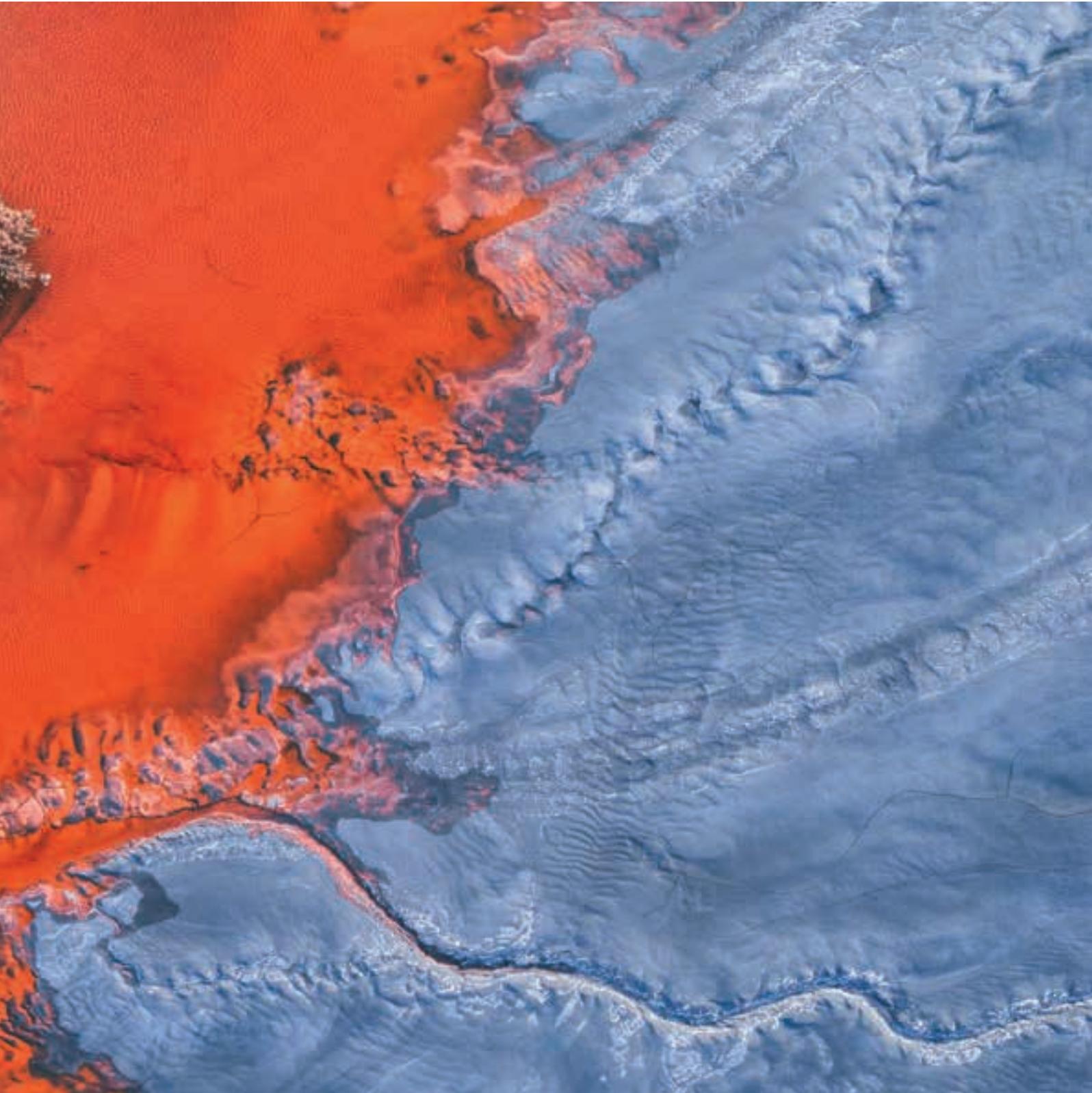


Poison River
Juan Lopez Ruiz of Spain
The Epson Digital Art Prize

“This is an aerial view of the surroundings of the Riotinto mine, Huelva, Spain. This is a reservoir close to the mine where all the mine waste accumulates, an area of polymetallic massive sulphide concentration where copper, lead and zinc are extracted, as well as gold and silver, which contributes to a great variety of textures and colours in constant change, this makes it a unique place perfect for aerial photography.”



Towards the end of 2022, the human population on Earth is expected to reach eight billion. We're expected to reach "peak human" around 2070 or 2080, at which point there will be between 9.4 billion and 10.4 billion people on the planet.





Veles
Peter Li of the United Kingdom
Winner - Open - Built Environment/
Architecture & Overall runner up in the
Open Competition



Russian President Vladimir Putin has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize twice.



In Formation
Florian Kriechbaumer of the United Arab Emirates
Overall winner of the 2022 Amateur Competition



Bernese Oberland
Judith Kuhn of Germany
The Curator's Award

"Alps in the Bernese Oberland. It is known among wildlife photographers for its ibex. A larger colony lives there, which has gotten used to the numerous walkers and shows little shyness. So I followed the call of the ibex to the Niederhorn. The landscape of the area is also not uninteresting (the triumvirate Mönch Eiger Jungfrau is directly opposite), but not a photographic hotspot. Therefore, for weight reasons, I set out early morning armed only with a camera, telephoto lens and a few spare batteries. Landscape photography was not planned. At the Burgfeldstand, a neighbouring summit, the view opened up to the north-east, hills and valleys staggered in the light haze in the backlight of the rising sun. A perspective that creates spatial depth and, fortunately for me, could only be effectively photographed with a telephoto lens. So I unexpectedly came across a wonderful landscape photo on my wildlife tour."



Cave Diving Exploration
Martin Broen of the United States
Second Place - Open Competition



As much as **95 percent of the world's diamonds** and **50 percent of the world's gold** comes from Africa.





Doorkins
Peter Li of the United Kingdom
Winner - Open - Built Environment/
Architecture & Overall runner up in the
Open Competition



Smokers reduce their life span expectancy by **11 minutes per cigarette.**



Icelandic Bridge
Carlos Solinis Camalich of Spain
Overall runner-up Amateur competition

CONTACT

For winning images and top image galleries, go to:
<https://thepanoawards.com/2022-winners-gallery>

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Mont Rouge Cottages

Picture yourself sitting around the fire, sipping a glass of Tulbagh's finest wines, gazing on to the panoramic Winterhoek Mountains, while the sounds of the Klein Bergrivier and crackling fire set you in a tranquil mood

Edited by **Anne Schaffer**

Photographs supplied



It all began with a few sketches. Mont Rouge Cottages' owners Johann and Marisha Du Plessis sketched out their dreams, and then turned them into reality as they built four riverside, self-catering cottages on their family-owned farm. Home from home, in the finest landscape designed for a family or friends chill weekend, or, of course, a wonderful wedding.

Mont Rouge Cottages are situated in the beautiful Tulbagh valley, about 90 minutes' drive from Cape Town. This working fruit farm has been owned by the family for three generations, and you'll find a glorious 45 hectares of fruit orchards at the foot of the majestic mountain, land which produces peaches, nectarines, plums, apples, pears and blueberries.

The four self-catering riverside Cottages are spacious, fully equipped with breathtaking mountain views. All those luxuries you need during your stay are there on tap: from Marisha's homemade bread and jam, to bedding, towels, cutlery, crockery as well as outdoor braai facilities, air-conditioning, wi-fi and woodfired hot tubs. The indoor fireplace warms you during the cold winters when the snow starts to cover the tips of the mountains.



For the adventurous, there are fabulous mountain bike trails, as well as hiking trails through fauna and flora. For those seeking the Big Unwind, relax in the natural rock pool or take a scenic walk through the orchards. For the curious at heart, explore the historic town of Tulbagh and its wineries and restaurants. There are many, and you'll find your favourite.

Mont Rouge is also available for special weddings, and the surroundings are spectacular: from the ceremony and pre-drinks, to an intimate garden party in a romantic outdoor setting. If you can dream it, they can make it happen...for up to 150 guests. Talk to them.

Affordable, charming and cosy, Mont Rouge Cottages are also pet friendly for those who can't leave their four-legged children behind. Arriving on the farm you will want to unpack as fast as possible to create memorable moments here. ❄️

CONTACT:

Marisha du Plessis

0724612123

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Skeleton Coast Safaris

Family owned and operated Skeleton Coast Safaris specialises in Flying Safaris in Namibia, using highly experienced and passionate pilots in Cessna 210s

Edited by **Anne Schaffer**
Photographs by **PDT Photography**

.....



This is no sugar-coated luxury safari, this is the real deal. A life-changing flying safari over the world's oldest desert where guests experience fascinating bird's-eye views of shipwreck remains along the Skeleton Coast, as well as witness diverse and ever-changing geological formations and the refuges of desert-dwelling animals such as the endangered black rhino and desert-adapted elephant.

Whether it is via the plane landing in deep valleys and on beautiful beaches or on excursions by Land Rover, you will be introduced to the scenic and ecological aspects of this magical coastline.

Skeleton Coast Safaris is owned and operated by the Schoeman Family, who has a 40 year history in the area. When Louw Schoeman - considered the pioneer of eco-tourism in Namibia - officially started Skeleton Coast Safaris in 1977, the then teenage Schoeman sons often accompanied safari groups. The Schoeman brothers Bertus, Andre, Leon and Henk learnt to love and understand the complexity of the Skeleton Coast, its fauna, flora and geology. Reputably the best pilots in Namibia – and rated as experts on the Skeleton Coast and semi-



desert areas of Namibia - the Schoeman brothers have extensive flying experience and unsurpassed knowledge of the Skeleton Coast. They take great delight in sharing their understanding and knowledge of the region, the local culture and everything in between, and for any who join them on a flying safari, the privilege will be all yours.

By the late 1970s, Louw Schoeman – lawyer - had been closely associated with the Skeleton Coast Park for nearly 20 years. He became increasingly captivated by the extraordinary beauty and diversity of the landscape, and has a long history with nature conservation in Namibia. His journey with conservation makes for good reading and warm feelings, and he clearly passed on this deep love and knowledge of the area to his sons.

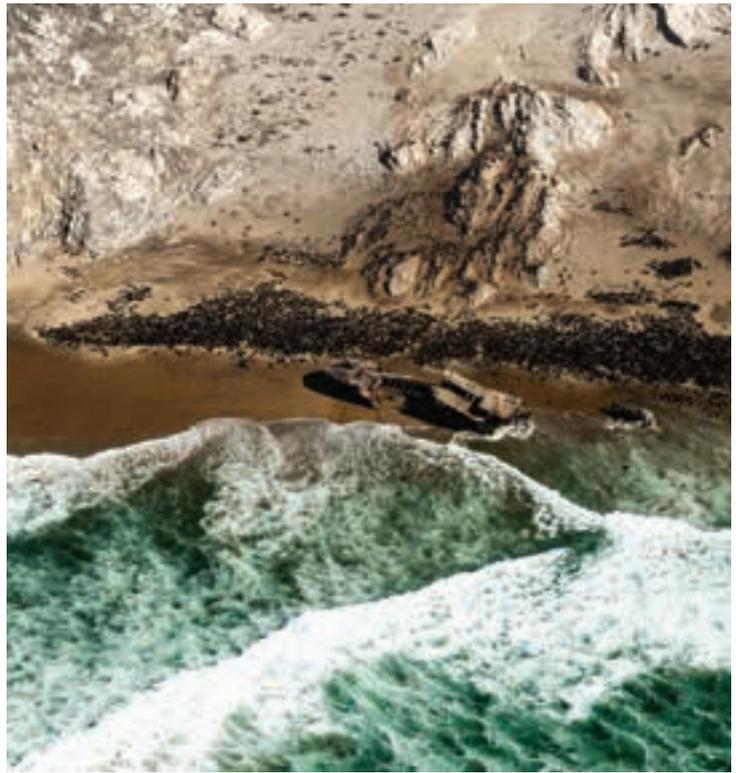
Helga Schoeman – wife of the oldest brother (Bertus) – is also a pilot and tour guide, and has been with Skeleton Coast Safaris since

1998. She's currently running their head office in Windhoek: "We offer five different itineraries," she says, "ranging from four to six days flying safaris, and on occasion, we add on one or two days. We're happy to plan add-ons or variations with our guests." As a family business, the Schoemans love to invite guests to their home, and regale them with stories about the wonders of the region.

Skeleton Coast Safaris does all the hard work for clients, so there's nothing left to do but truly enjoy this magical land and experiences. Accommodation is glamping, with three tented desert camps tucked into the natural environment. The first of these is in the lower reaches of the Huab River in the Erongo Region (Damaraland), the second on top of a beautiful ridge overlooking the Hoarusib Valley in the Kunene Region (Kaokoland), and the third on the north-western Namibian border overlooking the Kunene River.



The human pain threshold for sound is about **120 decibels**, and at **150 decibels the eardrums can burst**.



Helga is passionate about the Skeleton Coast Safari experience, and waxes lyrical: "It's a life altering experience. Your eyes feast on the contours of the landscape and the diverse colours fill your soul with a new found peace and vibrance. But equally, it's awe-inspiring and exciting, as the Cessna sweeps over the desert. She adds, "And in the evenings, accompanied by a spectacular sunset, gin and tonic in hand, the sweet taste of silence, you'll relive the experience in a place you won't ever forget."

A few of the highlights are: A desolate coastline with adjoining roaring dunes; Ugab rock formations; colourful red lava and yellow sandstone of the Huab environs; ancient Bushman rock engravings; the living "fossil" tree, Welwitschia Mirabilis; visit to a settlement of the nomadic Himba people; panoramic vistas of the Hartmann Valley, which extends to the Kunene River on the Angolan border.

This is bucket list travel...deeply knowledgeable guides, highly skilled pilots, a family with a history as colourful and interesting as the coastline itself. Take a look at the itineraries...whether you're a photographer (this is a photographer's dream) – amateur or professional – or a curious visitor who wants to see it all from a different vantage point, this is the trip for you. ✨

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MOKUTI RE-IMAGINED

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In March 2023 Mokuti Etosha will rise from the ashes, having undergone a total transformation that is sure to capture the hearts and minds of everyone. Over the past thirty-three years this property has been part of the O&L Group and has stood the test of time – emerging bigger, better, more beautiful and exhilarating over time.

THE VERY BEGINNING

Farm Kleinbegin No.941, as it was initially called, next to the Etosha National Park at the Namutoni gate was purchased by Werner List on 12 August 1987. On 10 September 1987 the plan was unveiled for the development of a lodge which would ultimately offer accommodation to 200 - 240 people and was to be named 'Mokuti'. In Ovambo the word means bush or 'in the bush/forest'.

Werner was the first businessman to develop the concept of erecting a lodge/camp a stones-throw-away from one of the entrances of the country's most prized game reserves. Being the closest lodge to the national park – only 40 metres from the Von Lindequist Gate - tourists could stay just outside Etosha, enjoy their daytrips into the game reserve and return to the beauty and luxury of Mokuti at sunset. By tackling this project Werner also proved his commitment and confidence in the new Namibia as he saw a bright future for the country and its people. When the lodge opened its gate, he was lauded by many as a visionary.

Development on the original project was started in August 1988 and the lodge was officially opened on 1 September 1989. The thatched roofed buildings included the guest rooms, pool bar and a huge boma near the pool area with a pool bar and kitchen from where light meals were served. Other amenities included swimming pools, tennis courts, an aircraft landing strip and a snake park.

HISTORY IS MADE

as John Travolta lands at Mokuti. The first stop of a historic flight of a DC-4 "Skymaster" from Johannesburg in South Africa to Oshkosh in the USA was at Mokuti Lodge on 19 July 1994. The most famous of the 25 passengers on board the vintage flight was John Travolta who was greeted at the airfield by Werner and Hildegard List. John Travolta, a pilot and aircraft-owner himself expressed his excitement in crossing the Atlantic in a DC-4, fifty years after the first Skymaster had crossed the Atlantic Ocean for the first time.

Photo:
Dirk Heinrich

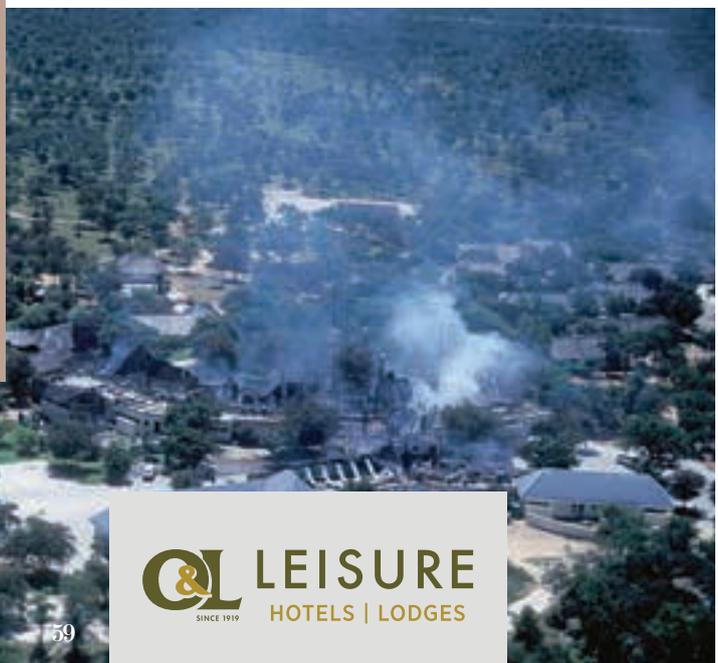


NO APRIL FOOL'S JOKE

MOKUTI BURNS

In the early hours of 1 April 1997, a fire broke out in the curio shop within the convention centre and Mokuti started to burn. The fire brigade in Tsumeb was called but shrugged it off as an 'April-fool's' joke and subsequently did not respond. Although every effort was made to contain the fire, it started spreading. Employees managed to rescue a lot of the kitchen equipment as well as crockery, cutlery, tables and chairs. Mokuti management advised O&L Head Office and a light aircraft was dispatched to the site. When the fire brigade eventually arrived, it was too late. Luckily no one was injured and there was no loss of life. The fire had destroyed both the restaurant and the convention centre - only the walls remained. Rebuilding started almost immediately and throughout the renovations Mokuti remained open to guests. By December 1997 work had been completed and Mokuti rose out of the ashes and presented itself in all its glory.

Photos: Dirk Heinrich



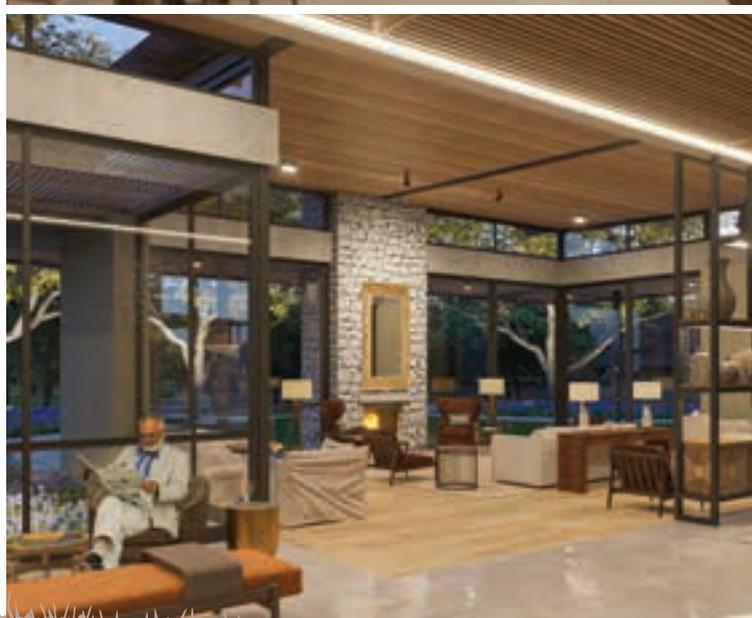
2022 AND BEYOND

At the beginning of March this year, O&L announced the closure of Mokuti Etosha for major renovations. Norbert Wurm, O&L Leisure Managing Director said that excitement was high for another one of the O&L Leisure establishments to be transformed into a contemporary destination, whilst preserving its 32-year character and heritage.

"This grand dame is ready for a facelift and keeping in line with our Purpose at O&L, 'Creating a future, enhancing life'; we want to ensure the lodge will remain at the forefront of the hospitality industry in Namibia. It is with faith in our future and the future of Namibian tourism, despite the unprecedented challenges we faced, that O&L is investing in Mokuti once again to create new realities and set new world-class standards for our industry and country," Wurm said.

MOKUTI RE-IMAGINED

"We are confident that the new Mokuti will wow and impress beyond all expectations," says Etienne Fourie, General Manager. "Without giving too much away at this stage, we promise service excellence delivered by our people and look forward to presenting you with more than just a lodge in the bush. You can embrace being part of sustainably growing and protecting our people, our environment, our country, bush walk with the local Haikom Bushmen, pampering at Omulilo Spa, property and night drives and sky safaris, the Ontouka reptile park and so much more. We look forward to welcoming you at Mokuti in 2023 – guaranteed to be an unforgettable, re-imagined experience."



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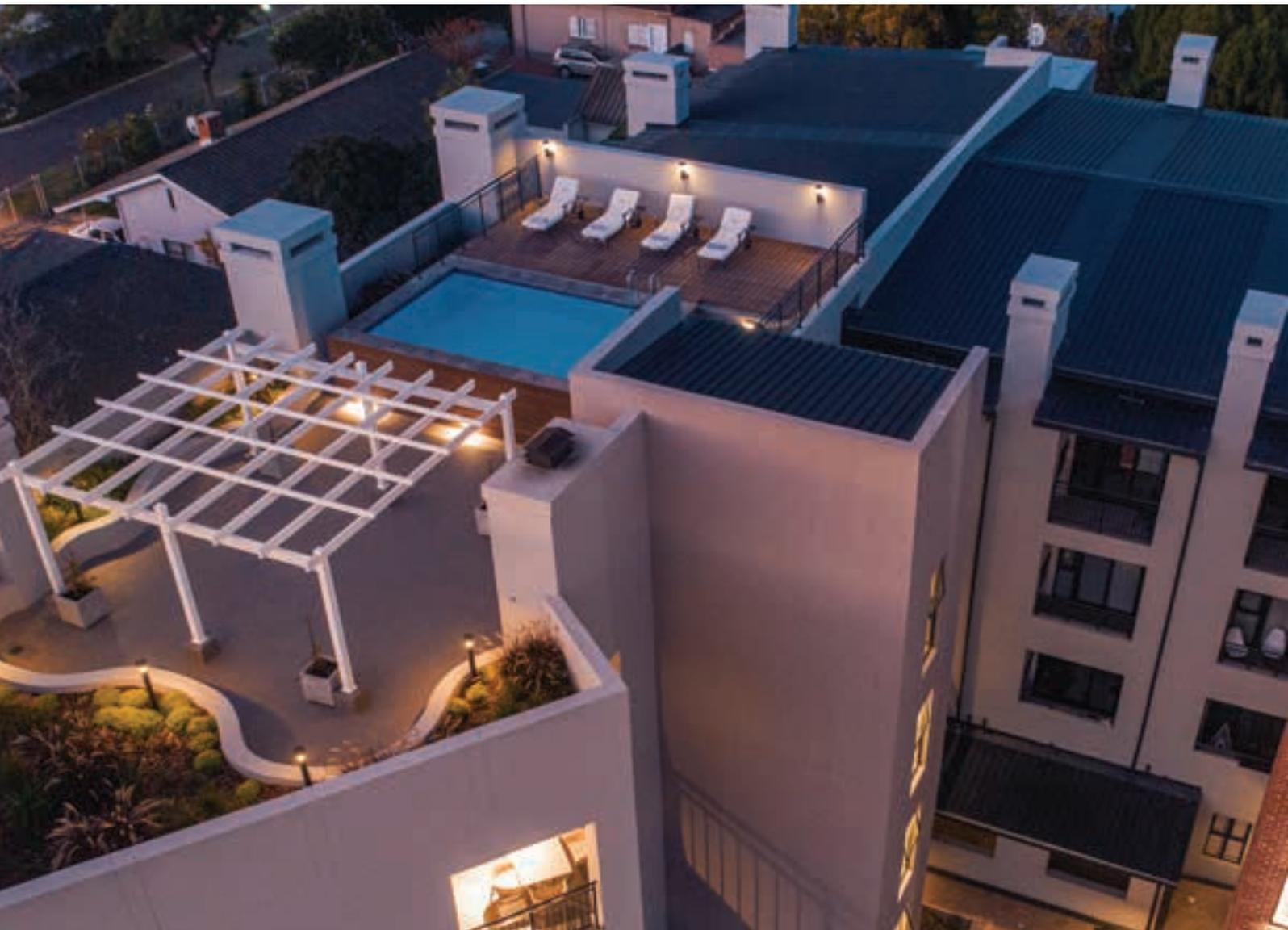
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The Den Apartments

On a trip to Stellenbosch, you can go compact and contemporary at Raw Africa Boutique Collection's The Den Apartments

Edited by **Anne Schaffer**

Photographs supplied

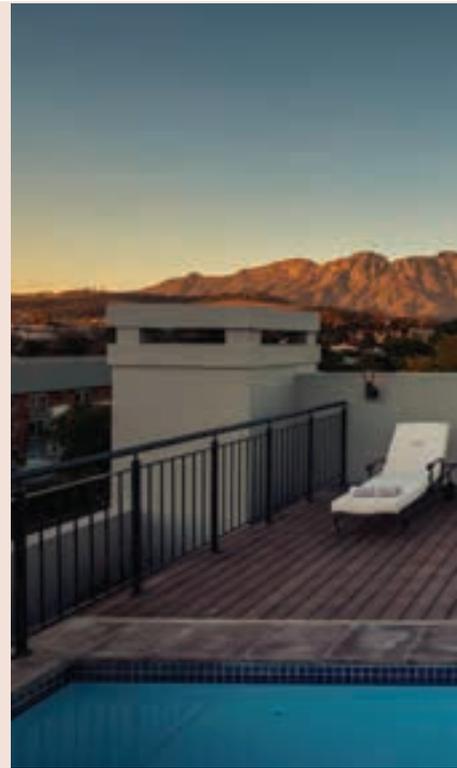


Want to visit Stellenbosch but prefer to spend on activities rather than accommodation? Or perhaps you're sneaking in a holiday...but need to do a little work too. Be their guest. The Den Apartments - one of Raw Africa Boutique Collection's - are only a 5 minute walk from the Stellenbosch University Campus, so perfect if you're visiting the kids. You can choose from 15 open plan studios on the top level (6th floor) – and 3 two-bedroom units with separate bedrooms, en-suite bathroom, kitchen and lounge. They're all really contemporary and full of those niceties like air-conditioning, complimentary uncapped high-speed fibre internet, a lift, safe parking, high security and flat-screen TVs (DStv and Netflix).

Soft grey, white and light wood create a modern palette, featuring Grohe saniware with interior design by Clara's Interiors.

They're really funky.

The Standard Studio Apartment features a double bed, tastefully decorated and dressed with 100% pure cotton percale. You'll get a bathroom with shower, and an open plan bedroom, living room and kitchenette. Think Smeg appliances, dishwasher, Nespresso, aircon, and, hey, the private patio with braai facilities.





When we touch something, we send messages to our brain at 200 km/h.



The Luxury Apartment features two bedrooms, bathroom with shower, and an open plan living room and kitchenette. Bedroom one has a double bed, and bedroom two has 2 single beds, each tastefully decorated and dressed to kill.

The Private Terrace includes braai facilities and the communal rooftop pool, and it's available to all.

There is no restaurant but being centrally situated, the Apartments are close to many of Stellenbosch's top restaurants, and with easy access to all roads that travel through the winelands, are perfect for tourists, holidaymakers, wedding guests, groups wanting to travel the internationally acclaimed Cape wine route, people visiting long-stay hospital patients, or parents visiting their student-children. The Den Apartments by Raw Africa Boutique Collection are available for two or more night stays. ✨

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Bahnhof Hotel Aus



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26 en-suite twin rooms elegantly and tastefully decorated, inclusive of 1 wheelchair friendly unit and one 4 bed family room.

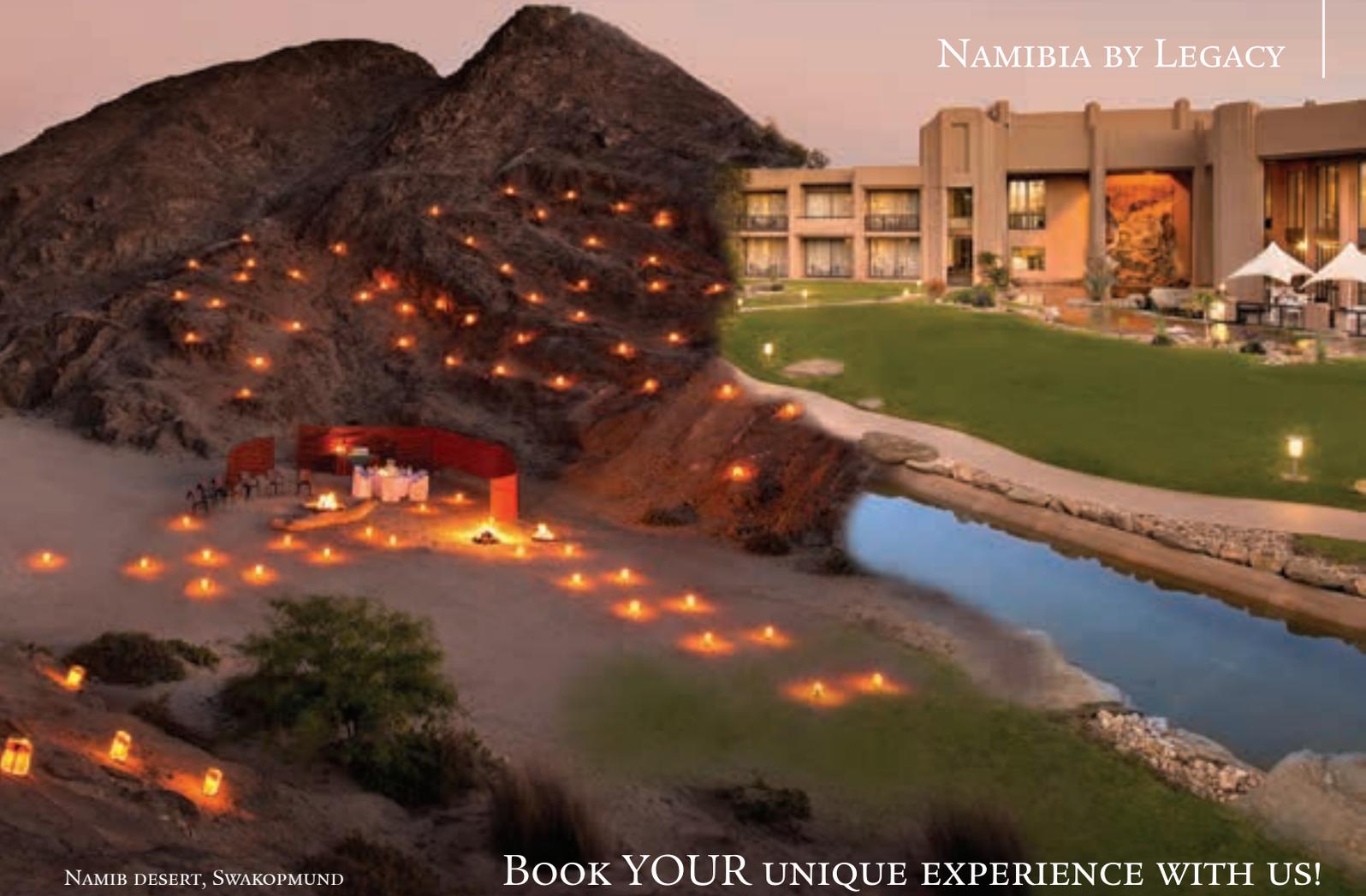
Accommodation includes breakfast, the kitchen is open throughout the day for always freshly prepared light meals as well as outstanding à la carte dishes, daily fresh home baked bread and cakes, a large selection of South African wines, tastefully decorated restaurant, widely known friendly and helpful staff.

Meals can also be enjoyed on the sundeck, in the sheltered beer garden or in the historic bar.

<p>Available Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">           	<p>Contact Number: +264 67 240-901/2 +264 811 276 391</p> <p>Email: reservations.bahnhof@travel-weaver.com</p> <p>Website: www.hotel-aus.com</p> <p>Physical Address: 20 Lüderitz Street, Aus, Karas Region, South Western Namibia</p> <p>GPS Co-ordinates: "S 26 40 078 – E 16 17 628"</p> <p>Credit cards: Master Card; Visa;</p>
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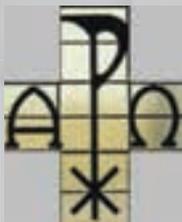
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Roman Catholic Hospital

Quality Service Since 1907

Roman Catholic Hospital is a quality based health care facility, it is situated in the heart of the city Windhoek, Namibia. It is located in Werner List Street, Windhoek, Khomas, Namibia.

SERVICES

Out Patient Services:

- 24/7 Casualty
- Consultant Out-Patient Clinics

Inpatient Services:

- Intensive care unit/ High care
- Internal medicine/surgical
- Wards

Theatres/ Specialties:

- General and Endoscopic Surgery
- Orthopedic and trauma Surgery
- Spinal Surgery
- ENT Surgery
- Urology and Laser Surgery
- Maxillo-Facial Oral Surgery
- Cardio-Thoracic Surgery
- Vascular Surgery
- Brachytherapy

CATH LAB Service:

- Sacred Heart Center

Auxiliary Services:

- Path care
- Medical Imaging
- Living Waters Pharmacy
- PH studies
- Dialysis Center



CONTACT DETAILS

Practice Rooms Private: Roman Catholic Hospital, 3rd Floor, Suite 5, Windhoek
 Tel: 061 246 000, Fax: 061 253 635, Email: namheartcentre@gmail.com
 State Cardiac Unit: Windhoek Central Hospital (WCH), 1st Floor (1 West)
 Cardiac Clinic at WCH: 061 293 3186



OUR CARDIAC INTERVENTIONAL TEAM HAS VAST EXPERIENCE & EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS

- ♥ Over 6000 heart interventions since 2012 (stents, angiograms, pacemakers)
- ♥ We are very safe (complication rate <1%, mortality rate 0%).
- ♥ 24/7 Emergency Cardiac Service at Roman Catholic Hospital
- ♥ The team attends international Cardiology congresses every year to keep our knowledge and skills up-to-date

YOU ARE SAFE IN OUR HANDS



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 F: +264 (0) 61 253 635
 E: whk.heart.centre@gmail.com

SERVICES PROVIDED

- ♥ Coronary Angiogram – Cardiac Catheter
- ♥ Balloon angioplasty & stent implantation
- ♥ Heart Attack management 24/7
- ♥ Implantation of pacemakers, Loop ECG recorders (Reveal)
- ♥ Heart failure management
- ♥ Management of palpitations and blackouts
- ♥ Echocardiography (heart sonar)
- ♥ ECG, 24-hr ECG and Blood Pressure monitors
- ♥ Exercise ECG test
- ♥ Bypass operation (CABG)
- ♥ Heart Valve Replacement by open heart surgery
- + many other procedures

OUR HEART SURGEON & CARDIAC THEATRE TEAM

- ♥ Since 2012 we performed over 1200 open heart operations
- ♥ Surgical results comparable with the best world heart centers
- ♥ Experienced surgeon in-house = safety for our patients !!



EMERGENCIES = PATIENTS WITH POSSIBLE HEART ATTACK, BLACKOUT, SEVERE ARRHYTHMIA, PALPITATIONS or BREATHELESSNESS:
 Please call our emergency cardiac number **085-911** or come **urgently (send your patient)** to **Casualty at Roman Catholic Hospital**

URGENT REFERRAL TO CARDIOLOGIST = PATIENTS TO BE SEEN or ADMITTED WITHIN A FEW DAYS
 Please send **SMS** or **WhatsApp** to **0818-764-807** with the patient name and contact number and the patient will be contacted a.s.a.p.

ROUTINE REFERRALS or **APPOINTMENTS** KINDLY CALL OUR SECRETARY ON **061-246-000** or FAX THE REFERRAL TO **061-253-635**



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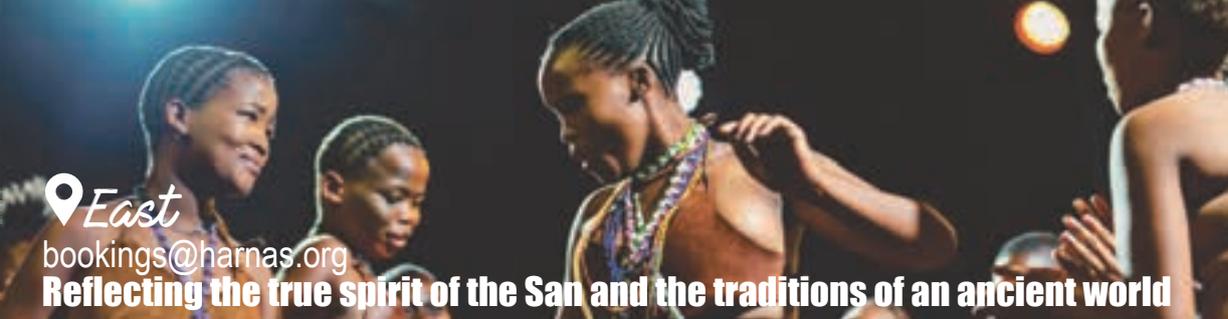
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