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Honourable Emma Inamutila Theofelus
Minister of Information, Communication,
and Technology
Republic of Namibia

Namibia in Winter's Embrace

*July invites us to slow down,
warm up, and rediscover the quiet
authenticity of Namibia's landscapes,
wildlife and winter skies.*



Dear readers,

The end of June introduced colder mornings across Namibia as winter finally crept in and settled comfortably. The mornings are crisp, with a hint of wind, and the landscape illustrates the beauty of the season. Despite all this, the Namibian sun is never too far away, making it one of the defining experiences of the Land of the Brave.

July arrives bearing my favourite season: the unmistakable embrace of winter, with its crisp mornings, quiet beauty, and comforting stillness. Here, we carry a lip balm and a flask filled with coffee to bear the brunt of the cold front. Needless to say, this is the season to savour the soup of the day at all our outlets, indulge in freshly baked pies, and enjoy a steaming cup of freshly brewed tea on the deck while taking in the astonishing beauty of the ever-changing Namibian landscape. It is a time to slow down, warm up, appreciate the simple pleasures that winter brings, and cosy up together.

Astonishingly, in spite of the winter, travelling across our beautiful country in July grants one the opportunity to observe that Namibia continues to be lively. Across the landscape, lion cubs can often be seen exploring the world with youthful zest, greater kudu calves trailing cautiously alongside their mothers, and young oryx calves standing as reminders of the resilience that marks one of the world's oldest deserts.

The night skies of July showcase a stellar celestial display, opening up the prime stargazing season. With its dry air, vast open spaces, and exceptionally low levels of light pollution, Namibia is widely regarded as one of the finest places on Earth to observe the heavens. On a clear winter's night, the Milky Way stretches overhead with such surreal brilliance that you might think you are in a sci-fi movie scene.

We live in an age unlike any before it. An age where not every letter is written by human hands. Where not every voice we hear belongs to a person. Where images can be created without a camera, conversations held without a speaker, and stories generated without ever being lived.

In such a world, authenticity becomes increasingly precious. Namibia demonstrates life unadulterated and reminds us of the things that are real, tangible, and within our reach.

To our readers, citizens, and visitors alike, may this remarkable country hold you in comfort throughout the month ahead. May her landscapes inspire you, her people welcome you warmly, and her beauty leave a lasting impression long after the season has passed.

Enjoy this month's edition. 🌀



PETER HIWILEPO
Finance Executive
Pupkewitz Motors



Data-Driven Dealerships: Turning Numbers into Competitive Advantage

*A Thought Leadership
Perspective from Pupkewitz
Motors*

Peter Hiwilepo, Finance Executive for the Pupkewitz Motors Group, puts it in simple terms: “The automotive retail industry has never been more competitive. Customers are more informed, margins are tighter, and every decision carries financial consequences. In this environment, success is no longer determined solely by the vehicles we sell. It is determined by how intelligently we operate.”

The dealerships that will lead tomorrow are not necessarily the largest. They will be the ones that make

better decisions, faster, and with greater confidence. That ability comes from one source: data.

From Information to Insight

Many businesses have access to vast amounts of information. The challenge is not collecting more data; it is knowing what to do with the data already available.

A truly data-driven dealership does not drown in reports and dashboards. Instead, it focuses on identifying meaningful signals and turning them into action.



This means using real-time information to understand sales performance, workshop productivity, inventory movement, customer behaviour, and business trends. It means spotting risks before they become problems and identifying opportunities before competitors do.

Most importantly, it means creating a culture where decisions are supported by evidence rather than assumptions.

Understanding the Customer Better

Customer expectations continue to evolve. Most customers now conduct significant research before ever entering a showroom, and they expect personalised experiences rather than generic interactions.

Data allows dealerships to better understand customer needs, preferences, and buying patterns. It helps us engage with customers at the right time, with the right message, through the right channel.

This is not about collecting information for the sake of it. It is about remaining relevant.

A dealership that understands its customers better will retain them longer, improve loyalty, and create experiences that customers remember and recommend.

Operational Excellence Starts with Visibility

Every area of a dealership benefits from data-driven decision-making. From workshop utilisation and parts inventory to vehicle sales, customer retention, and working capital management, data provides a complete view of the business.

Often, what appears to be the problem is merely the symptom.

A workshop may feel busy, leading management to believe additional technicians are required. However, deeper analysis may reveal that the real issue is scheduling inefficiencies or underutilised capacity. In such cases, the data prevents unnecessary costs and helps unlock greater productivity from existing resources.

As the saying goes, the devil is in the detail — and the detail lives in the data.

Technology as an Enabler

Technology should simplify business, not complicate it.

The role of technology is to automate routine processes, connect systems, improve visibility, and provide decision-makers with timely and reliable information.

Artificial intelligence and business intelligence platforms are increasingly becoming valuable tools in this journey. Their purpose is not to replace people but to enhance decision-making, accelerate analysis, and improve productivity.

Technology creates value when it helps people make faster, smarter, and better-informed decisions.

Building a Data-Driven Culture

Technology alone does not create a data-driven organisation. People do.

For data to become part of everyday decision-making, leaders must lead by example. When data consistently forms part of discussions, reviews, and strategic decisions, it signals its importance throughout the organisation.

The objective is not to replace experience or intuition. Experience remains invaluable. Data simply strengthens it.

The most successful organisations combine the wisdom of experienced professionals with the objectivity of evidence-based decision-making.

Looking Ahead

The future of automotive retail belongs to businesses that can collect, connect, interpret, and act on information effectively.

Predictive forecasting, customer lifecycle management, dynamic pricing, and AI-assisted decision-making are rapidly becoming part of modern dealership operations.

The question is no longer whether data will shape the future of the industry. It already is. The real question is whether we are using it to proactively shape our future or merely reacting to change as it happens.

At Pupkewitz Motors, we believe data and technology should help us make sharper decisions, create better customer experiences, and build stronger, more sustainable businesses.

Because while data provides the insight, people remain the driving force behind every successful organisation. 🚗



ON THE COVER:

Caught in the Namib's golden light, the brown hyena reflects a wilderness where hardship is transformed into endurance. Read The Brown Hyenas of Namibia on page 22.

Cover photograph by:
Dr Marie Lemerle



Michelangelo Magazine supports responsible tourism. We encourage readers to book only with Namibia Tourism Board-registered properties and operators.

On behalf of the Michelangelo Magazine Team
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Managing Editor

Anne Schaffer
Editor@greatbrandsmedia.com

Design & Layout

studio@media-namibia.com

Proofreader

Cecilia Bermúdez Horsten

Advertising Sales

Levona Mostert
+264 81 766 4486
sales@greatbrandsmedia.com

Tourism & Hospitality Support

Chris Coetzee
+264 (0)81 668 0697
chris@greatbrandsmedia.com

Travel & Brand Ambassador

Jessi Willemse
+264 81 4444 064
Jessi@greatbrandsmedia.com

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Centre, Maxwell Street, Southern
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Moon Mountain Lodge

*Where the Naukluft Mountains
Meet the Endless Desert*

edited by Anne Schaffer | photographs supplied



High above the desert, in your tranquil tented retreat with its own private pool, a rare stillness washes over you. The world seems to pause as the immense desert unfolds in every direction, wild and magnificent as far as the eye can see.

This is the Namib, and you are part of it.

Nestled at the foot of the Naukluft Mountains, Moon Mountain Lodge is an extraordinary luxury tented lodge situated approximately 56km north of Sesriem, the gateway

to Sossusvlei. While its proximity to one of Namibia's most iconic attractions is undoubtedly appealing, there is considerably more to Moon Mountain Lodge than its location. Once you have stayed here, you will forever associate the lodge with the breathtaking views of the surrounding mountain ranges and desert landscape. The scenery is almost otherworldly, and one never tires of it.

The intimate Moon Mountain Lodge offers 17 spacious and airy accommodation units, each individually and

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—TRAVEL—



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Owls can't move their eyes. That's why they turn their heads instead.



tastefully decorated, complete with a private splash pool. Guests can choose between 11 luxury tented units and six Executive Suites, three of which can be converted into family rooms. Bathrooms feature separate deep-soaking bathtubs, double vanities and walk-in showers with rainfall showerheads, while the Executive Suites boast detached private bathrooms.

Please note: Children under the age of six stay and eat free of charge.

Despite its wonderfully remote setting, staying connected is easy should the need arise. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available throughout the rooms and main lodge area, and cellphone reception is generally excellent.

Moon Mountain Lodge boasts a vast deck overlooking the desert plains and the petrified dunes in the distance. At night, guests can marvel at Namibia's pristine skies from this vantage point. Renowned as one of the world's premier stargazing destinations, Namibia offers celestial displays that are simply unforgettable.

Adjacent to the deck is the fully licensed Cosmos Bar, offering an excellent selection of South African wines. Few

experiences compare to enjoying an ice-cold drink while watching the sun set over the desert. Weather permitting, guests can also dine al fresco at the acclaimed Nebula Restaurant, renowned for its focus on locally inspired cuisine prepared with flair and attention to detail.

At Moon Mountain Lodge, guests can enjoy self-guided hikes along two walking trails, explore the area on self-drive excursions, or take to the skies with private operators offering hot-air balloon adventures and scenic flights over the spectacular desert landscape.

Sesriem serves as the gateway to Sesriem Canyon, Sossusvlei and Deadvlei, all located within the Namib-Naukluft National Park, approximately 60km south of Moon Mountain Lodge.

Venture into the heart of the Namib Desert to witness the towering red dunes of Sossusvlei, among the highest in the world. Experience the surreal beauty of Deadvlei, where ancient, sun-bleached camelthorn trees stand in stark contrast against the orange sands and bright blue skies.

The drive to the park entrance takes just under an hour. Adventurous guests who prefer to explore by themselves can

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—TRAVEL—



Young baboons start life on their mothers' bellies. Once they grow up, they graduate to the back seat.



do so in their own 4x4 vehicle. Alternatively, Moon Mountain Lodge offers a guided Sossusvlei excursion in the comfort of a lodge vehicle. The excursion includes refreshments, a picnic brunch and entrance permits. Guests depart before sunrise and return at approximately 15h00.

The lodge's Sunset Activity takes place within walking distance of the main lodge at an elevated viewpoint. Here, guests can enjoy panoramic views of the desert and mountain landscapes while sipping refreshing beverages and enjoying appetising snacks as the sun sinks below the horizon.

Moon Mountain Lodge's self-guided hiking trail is approximately three kilometres long and is best enjoyed during the cooler hours of the early morning or late afternoon. Walk at your own pace, enjoying the scenery and spotting plains game along the way. A pair of binoculars, some water and a walking stick are all you need.

Operated by Namib Sky Balloon Safaris and booked directly with them, hot-air balloon excursions offer the

rare opportunity to float silently above the desert at dawn, taking in landscapes bathed in soft morning light.

Guests can also book scenic flights directly with Sossusvlei Scenic Flights. These unforgettable excursions provide a unique aerial perspective of the Namib Desert, its vast dune fields and the spectacular beauty of Sossusvlei.

For birdwatching enthusiasts, Namibia is home to an impressive diversity of birdlife. Whether you are a passionate birder or simply enjoy immersing yourself in nature, the lodge surroundings offer excellent opportunities to observe birds in their natural habitat.

There is something truly special about a stay at Moon Mountain Lodge. From the luxurious accommodation and exceptional hospitality to the extraordinary setting and panoramic views, this is a place where it becomes remarkably easy to slow down, breathe deeply and reconnect with the natural world. 🌅



The Challenge Namibia Didn't Know It Needed

words by N/a'an ku sê Foundation | photographs supplied by N/a'an ku sê Foundation & Lindsay Moremen



WildFit was born from a desire to foster friendly competition, personal growth, and team spirit among N/a'an ku sê staff members working and training across our various projects throughout Namibia. Originally created as an internal challenge, it encouraged employees to test their fitness, resilience, and conservation knowledge while strengthening connections across the organisation. The event has now been opened to external participants, allowing the wider community to experience the same unique blend of adventure, conservation, and camaraderie that made WildFit such a success from the very beginning.

An 11-kilometre course through the Namibian bush. Seven conservation-themed challenge stations. One event that left participants asking the same question:

When is the next one?

On a cool June morning at N/a'an ku sê Wildlife Sanctuary, competitors arrived expecting a fitness challenge. What they discovered was something entirely different.

WildFit combined physical endurance with wildlife identification, GPS navigation, tracking skills, conservation challenges and teamwork, all inspired by the realities of conservation work. Unlike conventional obstacle races, every station served a purpose.

Participants conducted wildlife game counts, navigated hidden checkpoints, tackled conservation-themed challenges and pushed through demanding physical tests inspired by field conservation and anti-poaching operations.

As participant Lydia Daniel remarked:

"I'm sure many of us found ourselves studying like we were preparing for an Environmental Studies exam rather than a fitness challenge."

Yet the real success of WildFit wasn't measured by podium finishes. It was found in what people said afterwards.

One participant described it as a "20/10 event". Another called it "one for the books". Again and again, the same theme emerged: community.

As Bobby Jo Bassingthwaighte put it:

"If I take one message home, it is the sense of community."

Strangers encouraged one another through difficult stations. Competitors celebrated each other's achievements. In an increasingly digital world, WildFit reminded people of the power of shared challenge, connection and purpose.

Following the success of the inaugural event, WildFit returns in September 2026 at another N/a'an ku sê destination.

A new landscape. New challenges. New surprises.

If June proved anything, it is that WildFit is more than a race.

It is a challenge built around conservation, resilience and community. 🌱





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The Brown Hyenas of Namibia

*Researching one of Africa's
rarest large carnivores*

edited by Anne Schaffer | photographs by Dr Marie Lemerle



Behind the myths and legends surrounding hyenas is a dedicated team of professionals gathering valuable information to better understand brown hyenas and ensure their conservation. This is the story of the Brown Hyena Research Project in Namibia.

The Brown Hyena Research Project is a non-profit organisation based in Lüderitz in the southern Namib Desert. It is headed by founder, senior scientist and researcher Dr Ingrid Wiesel, who is joined by on-site researcher Dr Marie Lemerle. Their work focuses predominantly on brown hyenas and their

conservation along the Namib Desert coastline.

The project began in 1995 and has since evolved into a long-term research and conservation initiative.

To many, the Namib may appear barren, but under closer inspection it is home to a remarkable diversity of fauna and flora. It is also a vital habitat for many large mammals, and the coastal Namib Desert brown hyena is the apex predator here. These hyenas are ecologically unique, scavenging and preying almost exclusively on Cape fur seal pups – a localised food source available throughout the year.



What Do We Know About Brown Hyenas?

Brown hyenas are among Africa's large carnivores, with the total population estimated at between 5,000 and 8,000 individuals, of which approximately 800 to 1,200 occur in Namibia. This makes them one of Africa's rarest large carnivore species.

In Namibia, brown hyenas occur throughout much of the country, except in the north, north-east and south-east. Their current national conservation status is listed as Near Threatened. The species remains vulnerable and could become endangered if habitat loss and human-wildlife conflict continue to increase.

The coastal regions of the Namib Desert are particularly important, as they support approximately 50% of Namibia's

brown hyena population. There are only six conservation areas with governmental or private protection status within the brown hyena's distribution range that support viable populations. One of these is the coastal region of the southern Namib Desert within the Tsau //Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park.

The Life of a Brown Hyena

Like the spotted hyena, the brown hyena has powerful shoulders and neck muscles, with less-developed hindquarters. However, this distinctive body shape is often concealed by its long shaggy coat and becomes most apparent when the animal is moving.

A blue whale's tongue weighs about as much as an elephant.



Namibian brown hyenas typically weigh between 35 and 45 kilograms, with males being slightly heavier than females. They live in social groups known as clans, where most members are related. Usually only one female gives birth at a time, producing litters of between one and four cubs.

The cubs are raised in dens, which also serve as the social focal point of the clan. All clan members contribute food to the den, helping to feed the cubs. Brown hyenas spend considerable time socialising and playing with young animals, teaching them important social skills. On average, cubs take about 15 months to become fully weaned and independent.

Away from the dens, brown hyenas are usually solitary and

spend much of their time searching for food. They cover vast areas and can travel as far as 40 kilometres in a single night. Their diet is highly varied and includes everything from fruit and insects to mammals.

Brown hyenas rarely hunt medium-sized prey and instead rely largely on carcasses of animals that have died naturally or been killed by other predators.

Along the Namib Desert coast, brown hyenas are the only large predators, with black-backed jackals serving as their primary competitors. Because prey densities are generally low, they cannot rely solely on carcasses found inland. Carrion, including seabirds and Cape fur seals washed ashore, provides



an important food source along the coastline.

Brown hyena densities along the coast are relatively high, and mainland Cape fur seal breeding colonies play a crucial role in sustaining these populations. Brown hyenas regularly visit seal colonies to feed on fresh carcasses or prey on seal pups. This food source is available throughout the year because seal pups are only weaned shortly before the next generation is born. As a result, periods of food shortage are uncommon, and coastal brown hyenas are often in exceptionally good condition.

Where Does the Research Take Place?

Most of the research is conducted within the Tsau//Khaeb National Park, including areas such as Baker's Bay, Elizabeth Bay, Atlas Bay and inland regions of the park. These areas form part of the restricted diamond-mining zone and require special entry permits, which means they are generally inaccessible to the public.

Project sponsor Bogenfels and Diamonds Tours offers guided trips to Bogenfels and Elizabeth Bay. Depending on the availability of the Brown Hyena Research Project team, and upon request, visitors may have the opportunity to be joined by researchers on tours to Elizabeth Bay to search for brown hyenas. Sightings, however, can never be guaranteed.

The Work of the Brown Hyena Research Project

The project's objectives centre on conducting scientific research and monitoring brown hyenas and other carnivores in Namibia. The team develops mitigation strategies to reduce conflict between people and carnivores, raises awareness and promotes environmental education through outreach and information sharing.

GPS collar data has shown that some brown hyenas maintain territories deep inland while still travelling regularly to the coast to feed. They patrol beaches and visit seal colonies, often covering distances of up to 90 kilometres between inland and coastal areas.

Using camera traps and GPS collars, researchers study population density, movements, habitat use, activity patterns, corridors and general behaviour. They also identify key sites such as dens and freshwater sources.

By collecting this information, the team aims to provide recommendations that minimise the impact of future developments within national parks while monitoring the long-term presence of brown hyenas in inland regions.

One of the most important findings is that brown hyenas divide their use of the Baker's Bay seal colony according to the time of day. Two clans with territories directly



surrounding the colony are strictly nocturnal and visit only at night. Other hyenas, travelling from much further away, visit during daylight hours, probably to avoid conflict with resident clans.

This makes Baker's Bay a particularly unique site and potentially one of the best places in the world to observe wild brown hyenas during the day.

Even so, brown hyenas are highly territorial animals, and this rich food source often leads to conflict. Many individuals visiting Baker's Bay regularly carry scars and injuries on their ears, necks, faces and bodies.

Based on the results of this research, the team has provided recommendations to guide the development of sustainable tourism at Baker's Bay. Monitoring continues, as many questions remain unanswered, particularly regarding social dynamics and hunting behaviour.

The brown hyena clans living around Elizabeth Bay and Atlas Bay have been studied since 1997. As part of this long-term project, researchers have monitored their demography, clan structure and movement patterns for decades.

As a self-funded organisation, the Brown Hyena Research Project relies on donors, fundraising initiatives and its Sponsor a Brown Hyena programme to continue its work. 🐾

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LEISURE

MOKUTI ETOSHA

Read the full
feature.



OMBALA

PRESIDENTIAL SUITE

*Your private, personal and luxurious sanctuary at
Mokuti Etosha.*

On 3 July 2026, Mokuti unveiled the Ombala Presidential Suite, a versatile luxury suite experience and a statement of what Namibian hospitality at its finest truly looks like.

In the Oshiwambo tradition, the ombala is the palace of the king. A place of deliberate design, layered meaning and exceptional scale. Zoned for purpose, built for permanence and defined by the status of those who moved within its walls, the royal homestead was never incidental. Every passage, every courtyard and every threshold carried weight.



It is a fitting name for Mokuti Etosha's new flagship accommodation. The Ombala Presidential Suite carries that same intention. A space conceived with care, designed to receive guests of distinction and built around the belief that luxury, at its most meaningful, is personal.

Maryke van Lill, Managing Director of OL Leisure, frames the launch simply: "The Ombala Presidential Suite signals where Mokuti is going - a destination that leads with comfort, intimacy and exceptional service, at the very gateway to one of Africa's greatest wildlife experiences."



A PRIVATE HAVEN AT THE GATEWAY TO ETOSHA

Mokuti Etosha sits just outside Etosha National Park's Von Lindequist Gate. It is one of the closest lodges to the park, set within a lush tropical oasis that contradicts the aridness of the surrounding landscape. It is a place where guests arrive in the wild and are met with warmth. Where thatched architecture, indigenous gardens and the sound of birdsong create an immediate sense of arrival.

The Ombala Presidential Suite extends that arrival into something altogether more private. This king's palace is a spacious, private retreat designed for comfort, care and quiet moments. Guests receive an in-room welcome by Mokuti's Golden Ambassadors, a VIP arrival platter and the full weight of Mokuti's hotel-style service - all within a space that feels entirely their own. Private. Personal. Full service.

The suite accommodates two adults and up to two children, making it a world-class luxury offering for families, honeymooners seeking generous space, VIP and corporate travellers and multigenerational groups marking a milestone in the African bush. With generous living and bedroom spaces, a dedicated dining and lounge area and thoughtful detail at every turn, the Ombala delivers the warmth of personalised hospitality without sacrificing privacy.

Contemporary comforts resonate throughout: dual 65-inch televisions, a work desk, walk-in closet, elegant lounge and dining space and a pantry with refreshment facilities. Quiet luxury, in the truest sense - understated and designed for people who know the difference.

Fully wheelchair-accessible and suited to couples, families and VIP guests alike, the Ombala is one of Etosha's most versatile luxury suites. Inclusive hospitality here is a design principle.



ONE SUITE. TOTAL PRIVACY. FULL SERVICE.

Mokuti offers a single Presidential Suite. Not a collection of comparable villas, not a category to be upgraded into. It is one suite, singular in its standing.

In a competitive landscape around Etosha, dominated by ultra-luxury properties that lean heavily on private reserves and couples-only intimacy, Mokuti's positioning is distinct. The Ombala owns a different conversation: accessible premium luxury, family flexibility, service-led privacy and the kind of contemporary comfort that sophisticated international guests expect when they travel at this level.

Alongside the Ombala launch, Mokuti also introduced newly renovated Junior Suites - a broader signal of the lodge's continued evolution into a more refined, comfort-forward hospitality experience. The Ombala anchors that direction and, together, they signal a new era for Mokuti: world-class comfort, quietly delivered, at one of Namibia's most iconic destinations.



THE FULL MOKUTI EXPERIENCE

Guests of the Ombala Presidential Suite arrive at a property that has always delivered exceptional hospitality near the park gates. Mokuti's facilities include three dining venues and the SkyBoma – a unique elevated dining and stargazing experience inspired by the Omayova mushrooms that spring from termite hills in the surrounding bush. The Omulilo Spa offers full wellness treatments including a jacuzzi and steam room. Two floodlit tennis courts, a gym, the Ontoka Reptile Park and four on-property waterholes complete a picture of a lodge that has invested seriously in destination hospitality.



Daily guided game drives into Etosha National Park, night drives on the Mokuti estate, guided bush walks and sunrise and sundowner experiences at the waterholes mean that the wild is always close, but guests of the Ombala return to a space that holds them fully, comfortably, in stillness.

Experience Namibia through thoughtful detail and warm hospitality.

This is Africa re-imagined: the untamed, met by the considered.



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**Maryke van Lill -
Managing Director,
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There are places where the world feels reduced to its most essential elements – light, silence, and space. Namibia is one of them. Here, the desert is not empty, but layered: shaped by time, wind, and an extraordinary ability to hold contrast. It is a landscape that doesn't rush to impress, yet somehow stays with you long after you've left.



MEET ME IN THE DESERT EXPLORING THE LANDSCAPES OF NAMIBIA

Travelling into the Namib Desert, the land begins to shift almost unnoticeably. Then suddenly, it opens into Sossusvlei – a vast amphitheatre of dunes rising in sculpted waves of red and gold. These are among the highest sand dunes in the world, but scale is difficult to comprehend until you are standing at their base, looking up. Many travellers climb early in the morning, when the air is still cool and the sand holds its shape underfoot. From the top of dunes like Big Daddy or Dune 45, the desert unfolds in every direction – ridges of sand fading into haze, shaped continuously by wind that never stops moving.

A short drive away is Deadvlei, a place that almost stops you in your tracks. The white clay pan is dry and cracked, set deep within a ring of towering dunes. Scattered across its surface are the skeletal remains of ancient camelthorn trees, dark and twisted, preserved by the extreme dryness of the environment for hundreds of years. There is no standing water here, and no visible life in the usual sense, yet it doesn't feel empty. Instead, it feels held in balance – between what once was and what has been left behind.

Beyond the dunes, the landscape shifts in appearance, but not in presence. Life continues here in quieter, more subtle ways. Oryxes move steadily across the open plains, their pace unhurried and sure and ostriches drift through the heat. Even the smallest desert inhabitants play their part – beetles drawing moisture from early morning fog, lizards slipping beneath the sand before the heat fully sets in. In Namibia's desert, survival is careful and finely tuned to its surroundings.

Further north, the landscape meets the Atlantic Ocean at the Skeleton Coast. The transition is abrupt – dunes drop into mist, and the desert takes on a colder, more unsettled mood. Shipwrecks begin to appear along the shoreline,

their forms worn down by salt, wind, and time, slowly being reclaimed by the sand. This is a coast shaped by fog and shifting currents, where visibility can change without warning and the line between land and sea feels indistinct. Despite its name, the Skeleton Coast is not empty. It is simply quieter – revealing itself in fragments, at its own unhurried pace.

Light is what connects all these places. In the desert, sunrise and sunsets are not simply times of day but moments of transformation. Shadows stretch, colours deepen, and familiar shapes briefly become unfamiliar. For photographers, this is when Namibia reveals its most expressive self – not through spectacle, but through subtle change.

For those travelling through these regions, the journey itself becomes part of the experience. Namibia's roads stretch wide, encouraging a slower pace where the journey is as meaningful as the destinations. Travellers plan their routes with Gondwana Travel Centre, while exploring at their own rhythm with self-drive options through Namibia2Go. This combination of planning support and independence allows the landscape to remain at the centre of the experience and fully present.

Namibia's desert is not a destination that announces itself loudly. It reveals itself gradually – dune by dune, silence by silence, horizon by horizon. And perhaps that is why it stays with so many who visit. It does not ask to be consumed, only experienced.

Travellers drawn to landscapes like these, Gondwana Travel Centre can assist in shaping routes that connect Namibia's most remarkable desert regions.



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NAMIBIA INVITES THOSE WHO SEEK MORE — MORE BEAUTY, MORE SILENCE, MORE MEANING. COME AND TRAVEL WITH US.



Slice of Life

words by Jescey Bekker



Her Royal Majesty Does Not Do Winter

Winter is not a season for the faint of heart. Some may love the fuzzy coats and jerseys, the need for extra bedding and layers... Others do not do cold. The colder the weather, the grumpier the person. I am firmly part of the latter group. Now, curled up under a blanket with a fire crackling in the hearth and a glass of my favourite red in hand, sure, I can do winter. However, if you expect me to leave the house, there will most definitely be a cloud of disappointment following me around.

That said, despite my acknowledgement of being dramatic when it comes to dealing with cold weather, I am most definitely not the cryophobe in our household (I had to Google this one too – a cryophobe is someone with an irrational fear of the cold). This honour and title belong to the family bull terrier, Her Royal Majesty Princess Freya.

Someone once told me that a bull terrier is, while an intelligent canine, too stupid to know it isn't human. In our case, this is absolutely true. Princess Freya does not do winter. The cold weather is beneath her.

On these cold winter days, dearest Princess does not go outside before the sun has crept over the horizon, or rather, has left the horizon in its distant past and warmed



the earth somewhat. Here it would be necessary to note that she doesn't go outside, no matter how loudly nature may be calling, which unfortunately has led to alternative bathroom arrangements, much to Hubby and my dismay.

We can force her out of the house if we catch her in time and, even then, Princess Freya will only step foot outside if she is wearing her jersey. She still won't be happy about it, but she will grudgingly accept it and find a sunny spot in which to bask.

Even staying indoors, while warmer, doesn't reduce the level of drama enacted by Her Royal Majesty. She must be on furniture, preferably under a blanket. A cushion in front of the burning fireplace would also be acceptable if the couch is being frequented by one of her human servants. As long as she is snuggled up and covered, far away from any breezes.

One benefit of this drama is a built-in heater when she manoeuvres her way closer to a lap or side. Although the heat comes with a hefty weight attached to it and a ceremonious "humph" when her muscular body slumps against you. From there on, it's snores all the way.

Stay warm this winter and remember to keep any fur babies warm and cosy too on these cold days (and nights). ☺



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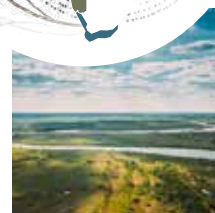
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Dear Diary

words by Sandra Baumeister

Wolwedans – Part 2

What an extraordinary set-up in the desert.



Wolwedans really feels like a place where a safari dream has been imagined all the way through and then somehow made real in the middle of the Namib. The lodges and camps are not only beautiful, they feel thoughtful. There is a calm confidence about the whole place, as though it knows exactly what it is doing and does it with grace.

One of the things that stayed with me most was the guiding compass of Wolwedans: **Fair. Honest. Positive. Creative.**

At first, these words sound like values you might read on a wall somewhere. But here, they felt alive. Not forced. Not polished into something artificial. Simply lived.

Fair means balanced. It means listening, being open, and treating people with respect and without judgement.

Honest means sincere. It means walking the talk, taking responsibility, and not pretending to be something you are not.

Positive means constructive. It means building people up, looking for solutions, and believing in what can be done.

Creative means imaginative. It means finding ways forward, thinking differently, and making dreams real.

Together, these values seem to create something special, not only for the guests, but for the entire Wolwedans community. As a guest, I could feel that. There is a spirit here that is difficult to describe, yet easy to sense. It makes the place feel grounded and alive at the same time.

One of the most interesting experiences for me was visiting Wolwedans Village. I had no idea how much could be achieved in such an arid environment. There, I learned how it is possible to cultivate a productive garden in the desert, and I can honestly say I enjoyed one of the best



salads of my life. Fresh from the desert garden itself, it felt almost unreal to sit in the middle of this landscape and eat something so simple, so fresh and so full of life.

I also learned how carefully water is managed here, and how much thought goes into sustainability in every detail. Fresh water is served in reusable glass bottles, and there is a real effort to recycle and repurpose waste – plastic, wood, electrical materials, iron and glass – into something useful again. Some of it becomes building material, some of it becomes furniture, and some of it becomes art. I found this absolutely mind-blowing.

It was exciting, and honestly moving, to see how self-sufficient Wolwedans is in the desert. It challenges the very idea of a throwaway society. Nothing here feels careless. Everything seems to have a purpose, a second life, or a place in a larger cycle. That grounded me deeply. It reminded me of what really matters: nature, balance and the natural rhythm of life.

And then there was the bed.

I slept in a bed made by the Wolwedans team themselves, and it was so comfortable that I had to smile. There is something special about sleeping in a place where even the furniture carries intention. The entire set-up is thoughtful, clever and deeply human. It is not only beautiful to see; it is beautiful to understand.

Another extraordinary moment came during my sundowner drive.

We passed a wide-open space, and the guide stopped and suggested that I stretch my legs. Then he took a chair, placed it in the middle of the landscape facing the sunset, and invited me to sit there alone for at least ten minutes – no phone, no camera, only my water bottle.

Honestly, this scared me a little.

I am such a city girl, it seems. Normally, I take pictures of almost every second the sun moves behind the mountains, so the idea of sitting still, alone, without capturing anything, felt almost impossible at first. I thought I would never make the ten minutes.

For the first few minutes, I was restless. Even though I had already spent time in the desert, stillness was not something that came naturally to me.

But slowly, something changed.

I became more aware of the world around me: the sun saying goodnight to the day, the distant movement of zebras, the soft breathing of the land.

And once again, in Namibia, I felt how right it is to be present in the moment.

It felt healing.

I felt the warmth of the sand beneath my feet. I listened to the sound of silence, and perhaps to a few birds telling their own stories. And then I felt myself – not the rushed version, not the always-moving version, but the quieter one beneath it all.

When the guide came back to fetch me, I was actually surprised. It felt far too soon. I could not believe how good those ten minutes had felt, and how calm I had become in such a short space of time.

In the way many of us live today – and I am sure in your life too – we do not make enough time for these solitary moments. I want to carry this one home with me. I want to create space in my life, beyond the desert, for moments like that: quiet, simple and true.

Until next time,

Sandra 🐾

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Under the Milkwoods Cabin

From beach walks to wine farms and hot-tub evenings, Under the Milkwoods Cabin is the perfect Cape escape

edited by Anne Schaffer | photographs supplied

Michelangelo

—TRAVEL—



What a cosy little beauty! Just a stone's throw from Noordhoek Beach, this charming cabin is the perfect city escape — or staycation for locals.

For such a delightfully laid-back village, there is so much to do both here and nearby. Nestled at the southern end of the iconic Chapman's Peak Drive, Noordhoek is often described as "Cape country at the beach". Not only are you spoilt for choice when it comes to restaurants, but you are also just 35 minutes from Cape Town's city centre and southern suburbs. The area is defined by its expansive, unspoilt white-sand beach, and from your cabin, it's a mere seven-minute walk to Noordhoek Beach.

Michelangelo

—TRAVEL—



There is also a lively equestrian community for those interested, and overall, the atmosphere is one of slow living, tailor-made for anyone needing to disappear and unwind for a few days.

A king-size bed dressed in Egyptian cotton linen awaits in this single-bedroom, en-suite luxury bungalow, complete with an indoor log fireplace and a private hot tub tucked among the trees. The cabin includes a fully equipped kitchen with a washer-dryer, Smeg gas stove, oven, fridge, freezer and essential cookware. There is also an inviting outdoor barbecue area with seating.

The cabin also offers Wi-Fi.

If you're keen to venture out, there's plenty to do, eat and drink. Think beach horse riding, surfing at The Dunes, Chapman's Peak cycling, sandboarding and the Shipwreck

Walk. Take a trip into the village to explore Noordhoek Farm Village and the local art route.

And when it's time to indulge, head out to one of the nearby wine farms such as Groot Constantia, Steenberg Farm, Cape Point Vineyards, Aegir Project Brewery or Furney's Fine Wines. Eateries and delis include Limoncello Restaurant, The Foodbarn Deli Shop, The Toad in the Village, Crofter's Kitchen and Café Roux.

This little village is simply delightful, and Under the Milkwoods Cabin could not be more perfect — or more accessible — for a getaway you'll want to return to time and time again. Cosy, luxurious and charming, it allows you to do precisely as you please, from wining and dining to soaking in the hot tub or lingering around your own barbecue fire. 🍷

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From Reclamation Comes Art

*Transforming Reclaimed Materials into
Expressions of Memory and Identity*

words and images by Laschandre Coetzee of The Project Room

What makes Lynette Musukubili's work particularly compelling is her ability to transform the ordinary and abandoned into something extraordinary.

Over the past few years, Lynette Musukubili has emerged as one of the most distinctive young voices in contemporary Namibian art. Through her creative use of reclaimed plastic bags, which she transforms into intricate crocheted tapestries and sculptural works, she has developed a practice that is both deeply personal and unmistakably her own.

Born and raised in Bukalo in Namibia's Zambezi Region, Musukubili's upbringing continues to inform her artistic perspective. A graduate of the University of Namibia, where she completed a Diploma in Visual Arts in 2022, she began

developing the crochet-based practice that would come to define her work while still a student. By reimagining discarded plastic as a medium for artistic expression, she found a way to bridge contemporary concerns around waste and sustainability with storytelling, memory and identity.

Crochet itself carries a rich history of making, care and tradition. In Musukubili's hands, however, the medium takes on new possibilities. Plastic shopping bags, packaging and other discarded materials are cut into strips and painstakingly crocheted into complex compositions that blur the boundaries between craft, sculpture and contemporary textile art. The resulting works possess a remarkable duality: they are visually soft and tactile, yet made from one of the most persistent materials of modern life.



Musukubili first introduced audiences to her unique artistic language through her debut solo exhibition, *Bukalo Stories*, presented at The Project Room in 2023. Drawing inspiration from the traditions, customs and memories of her childhood, the exhibition celebrated the people and experiences that shaped her early life. It established her as an artist capable of translating personal narratives into powerful visual forms while elevating materials often overlooked or discarded.

Since then, her career has continued to gain momentum. Her work has been showcased on some of the continent's leading art platforms, including the Investec Cape Town Art Fair, where she was presented by the NJE Collective, and the RMB Latitudes Art Fair in Johannesburg in both 2024 and 2025. These opportunities have introduced her practice to wider audiences and positioned

her among a growing generation of African artists who are redefining how materials, memory and identity can be explored through contemporary art.

In 2022, Musukubili was selected as a recipient of the Africa Prime Initiative (API), a programme dedicated to supporting emerging creative talent. Her work can also be found in prestigious international collections such as ARAK, as well as in private collections across the continent.

Her latest exhibition, *Material Memories*, marks a significant new chapter in her artistic journey. While her earlier work drew on the stories of her childhood and community, this new body of work reflects on the present. The exhibition explores the people, encounters and experiences that continue to shape her as an artist and individual, demonstrating a growing confidence in both her voice and visual language.



What makes Musukubili's work particularly compelling is her ability to transform the ordinary and abandoned into something extraordinary. Through patience, skill and imagination, she reclaims materials destined for disposal and imbues them with new meaning. In doing so, she invites viewers to reconsider not only the materials that surround them, but also the memories, relationships and histories woven into everyday life.

As her practice continues to evolve, Lynette Musukubili stands as an example of the innovation and creativity emerging from Namibia's contemporary art landscape. Her work reminds us that beauty can be found in unexpected places, and that even the most humble materials have the ability to carry stories worth preserving.

Lynette's next solo exhibition *Material Memories* will open at The Project Room Saturday 18 July 2026. 📍





Where Sea and Sand Collide

*A Lagoon Shaped by
History, Wildlife and the
Forces of Nature*

words and images by Marc Springer



Namibia's Sandwich Harbour is a stretch of coast where different elements are locked in a battle for dominance.

After stopping his vehicle on top of a towering dune plunging directly into the Atlantic Ocean below, tour guide Stephen disembarks, allowing his guests to soak in the scenery.

"What you see down there is a perpetual tug of war between sea and sand," he says, pointing to a narrow strip of beach in the distance leading to one of Namibia's natural wonders: Sandwich Harbour.

It is a stretch of coast where different elements are locked in a battle for dominance. The wind carries enormous amounts of sand from the desert further inland and deposits it on the majestic dunes lining the shore. Here, gravity pulls the grains

down the steep leeward side of the dunes, causing them to migrate forward until their bases are washed away during the next high tide.

It is a process that constantly reshapes the landscape, with opposing forces neutralising one another in what Stephen calls an "eternal stalemate".

The wind and waves do not merely reshape the surroundings. They also act as guardians of Sandwich Harbour, determining whether visitors can reach this hidden gem, located approximately 55 kilometres south of Walvis Bay, directly via the narrow beach that separates the ocean from the steep dunes during low tide.

"The water is angry today and won't let us pass on this route," Stephen observes, referring to the powerful waves washing over



the beach and crashing into the wall of dunes below.

It is a stark reminder that out here, the desert and ocean are in charge. The elements decide whether to allow passage along the shoreline or force travellers to take an arduous detour over dunes stretching like a sea of sand beyond the horizon.

Contrary to what the name suggests, Sandwich Harbour is not a port but a sheltered body of fresh water that provided refuge to the first flotilla of Portuguese sailing ships arriving on the Namibian coast in the late fifteenth century.

The name is believed to derive from the British vessel HMS Sandwich, which anchored here in 1789 to collect fresh water and meat from local Topnaar herders.

In the years that followed, the area was increasingly frequented by European seafarers harvesting salt, guano and whales along the Namibian coast. With the advent of German colonialism in 1884, maritime activity at Sandwich Harbour

increased significantly, resulting in the construction of a fish-drying station, a meat cannery and a whaling supply hub, all of which have since been reclaimed by the shifting sands of the desert.

The lagoon is a designated Ramsar site, recognised as a wetland of international importance and home to a remarkable variety of bird species, including flamingos, pelicans, gulls and cormorants.

In addition, the area supports jackals, oryx, ostrich and springbok, as well as a plethora of insects and reptiles. Thanks to its nutrient-rich waters, the lagoon also serves as an important spawning ground for several species of fish and sustains highly adapted desert vegetation such as the !Nara plant, which develops taproots extending up to 15 metres below the surface to reach groundwater.

“All plants and animals here have developed specialised

Elephants can detect water from astonishing distances.



strategies to survive in this dry environment,” says Stephen, pointing to a Web-footed Gecko known for sourcing moisture from water droplets that form on its skin during heavy fog.

It is one of countless examples of how resilient life in this seemingly barren wasteland can be. It demonstrates how resourceful even the smallest creatures, from spiders to beetles, must be to endure such an unforgiving habitat.

After all commercial activities were abandoned, Sandwich Harbour became a nature reserve in 1954 and was later incorporated into the Namib-Naukluft National Park. Today, strict conservation regulations limit access, helping to protect the fragile ecosystem.

Entry is only permitted with registered tour operators, ensuring that visitor numbers remain low and that the area retains its sense of exclusivity.

“Unlike many other tourist attractions, you won’t find any

crowds or souvenir shops here,” Stephen says, clearly pleased by the surrounding solitude.

It is a solitude made possible by the isolation and vastness of this remote and seemingly inhospitable landscape. A place where the endless surroundings lend perspective and sharpen the senses. A place where one can “listen to the silence and hear yourself think”, as Stephen puts it.

As the fog rolls in, stealing the light, we make our way back to Walvis Bay, leaving behind an ancient, alien and surreal place of striking beauty.

A place that has no room for weakness.

A place that inspires wonder and challenges perceptions.

A place where plants and animals adapt or perish.

A place where opposites coexist in harmony.

A place where sea and sand perform a timeless dance that captures the wild heart of Namibia. 🌀

“Ultimately, our goal is to make reliable, high-quality connectivity more widely available across the continent.”



Equiano Cable Launch in Swakopmund

Connecting to African growth

Founded by Namibians, tech giant Paratus is driving Africa’s digital transformation through extensive infrastructure investments, strategic satellite partnerships and resilient pan-African network expansions.

words by Linda de Jager | photographs supplied

Schalk Erasmus, Chief Executive, Paratus Group



Paratus Namibia - Armada Data Center

Schalk Erasmus, chief executive of Paratus Group, grew up in what was then South West Africa (now Namibia), spending much of his childhood outdoors. He believes the country instills resilience and independence from an early age.

With its vast distances and remote communities, Erasmus believes one quickly becomes aware of the importance of connectivity and infrastructure for development in everything from education to social and business growth.

In many ways, this has influenced Erasmus's career and his passion for building networks that connect people and businesses across Africa and around the world.

Linda de Jager learns more about this unique Namibian success story.

What were the early Paratus days like?

Paratus' roots stem from the early 2000s when a group of entrepreneurs saw an opportunity to build stronger connectivity infrastructure across southern Africa.

One of the earliest businesses was Internet Technologies Angola, established in 2003, followed by Internet

Technologies Namibia in 2005. These businesses focused on delivering reliable internet and network services in markets where connectivity was still developing.

Over time, the various operations were brought together under a single strategic vision, and in 2014 the Paratus brand was formally launched to unify the business and expand its infrastructure ambitions across Africa.

From the beginning, the Paratus approach has been straightforward: Invest consistently in infrastructure, build strong local teams, form strategic global partnerships and remain focused on delivering reliable connectivity and excellent service to customers.

Over time this strategy has enabled Paratus to evolve from a regional provider into a pan-African network operator with growing international connectivity.

Africa is still at a very exciting stage in its digital journey. Connectivity is improving rapidly, but enormous opportunity remains to expand infrastructure, increase access and support digital services. For companies like Paratus, the focus is on enabling that progress so that businesses, communities and governments can participate more fully in the digital economy.



What is Paratus' vision?

At Paratus, our vision is to help enable Africa's digital transformation by building and operating the infrastructure that connects the continent. Over the next decade, we will continue expanding access to fibre networks, subsea cable capacity, satellite connectivity and mobile services so that individuals, businesses and governments can fully participate in the digital economy.

Through the Paratus 500 network, we are building a connected ecosystem of infrastructure across Africa that combines fibre, satellite, wireless access, data centres and international connectivity, all supported by the expert Paratus in-country teams.

Our focus is on solutions that are locally operated and designed for Africa's unique requirements, enabling markets to adopt new technologies in ways that encourage innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainable growth. Ultimately, our goal is to make reliable, high-quality connectivity more widely available across the continent.

What factors have driven Paratus Namibia's recent revenue growth?

Our growth in Namibia reflects our consistent and long-term investment in infrastructure and service delivery. By expanding our fibre network, wireless access services and more recently mobile capabilities, we can respond to increasing demand for dependable connectivity across both business and consumer markets.

Namibia remains a strategic hub for the Paratus Group, and our continued investment in national fibre routes, international connectivity and data centre capacity has strengthened the country's digital ecosystem.

At the same time, we have focused on creating reliable and seamless experiences for customers, which has helped drive adoption and long-term retention. The rights issue also strengthened our balance sheet, allowing us to accelerate strategic network expansion and continued infrastructure investment and building, while maintaining a disciplined and sustainable growth approach.

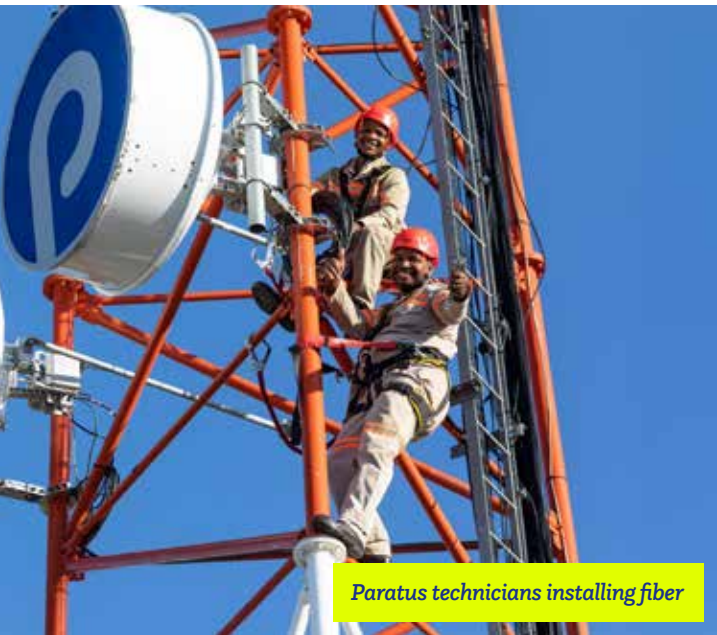
Reflecting on 2025 in Namibia, Paratus expanded into mobile, overcame a cyberattack and leveraged a rights issue for growth. What are your main takeaways from these developments?

What are three key insights that stand out from 2025?

First, innovation must be supported by strong execution. Launching Namibia's first private mobile network demonstrated that alternative approaches not only increase competition but also help promote and expand participation in the digital economy.

Second, resilience is critical in today's digital environment. The cyberattack reinforced the importance of continuously strengthening our security frameworks to protect both our customers and our infrastructure. Our backup system ensured minimal disruption and

Some parts of Namibia are so quiet that visitors become aware of their own heartbeats.



Paratus technicians installing fiber



Paratus Mozambique - team at community centre in Santa Maria

helped send a message to the entire community about the importance of resilience and professional security.

Third, strategic investment enables and assures long-term growth. The rights issue allowed us to accelerate investment in network capacity, systems and operational capabilities that support scalability and service quality while aligning with our overall expansion goals.

Overall, the year reinforced the importance of agility, acuity, resilience and long-term infrastructure investment when operating in fast-paced and fast-evolving digital markets.

Over the past five years, which milestone do you consider most significant for Paratus?

Over the past five years, several milestones have significantly strengthened Paratus's position as a pan-African telecoms and network services provider.

One of the most important developments has been the expansion of the Paratus 500 network, which spans countries south of the equator and has the potential to connect more than 500 million people through fibre, satellite, wireless access, cloud, data centre and carrier services, backed by strong in-country teams and 24/7 support.

We are now licensed to operate in 16 African countries, reflecting the scale of our ambition to build a truly connected contiguous African network.

The East-West Connect terrestrial route has created a resilient corridor that links both key regional hubs

and subsea cable connectivity. Meanwhile, the Paratus Express Route provides ultra-low latency fibre connectivity from Johannesburg to Europe, improving reliability and performance for international traffic.

Together, these developments demonstrate our long-term commitment to building resilient infrastructure that supports Africa's digital growth.

How would you describe Paratus' collaboration with SpaceX and Starlink in Africa to someone unfamiliar with the technology?

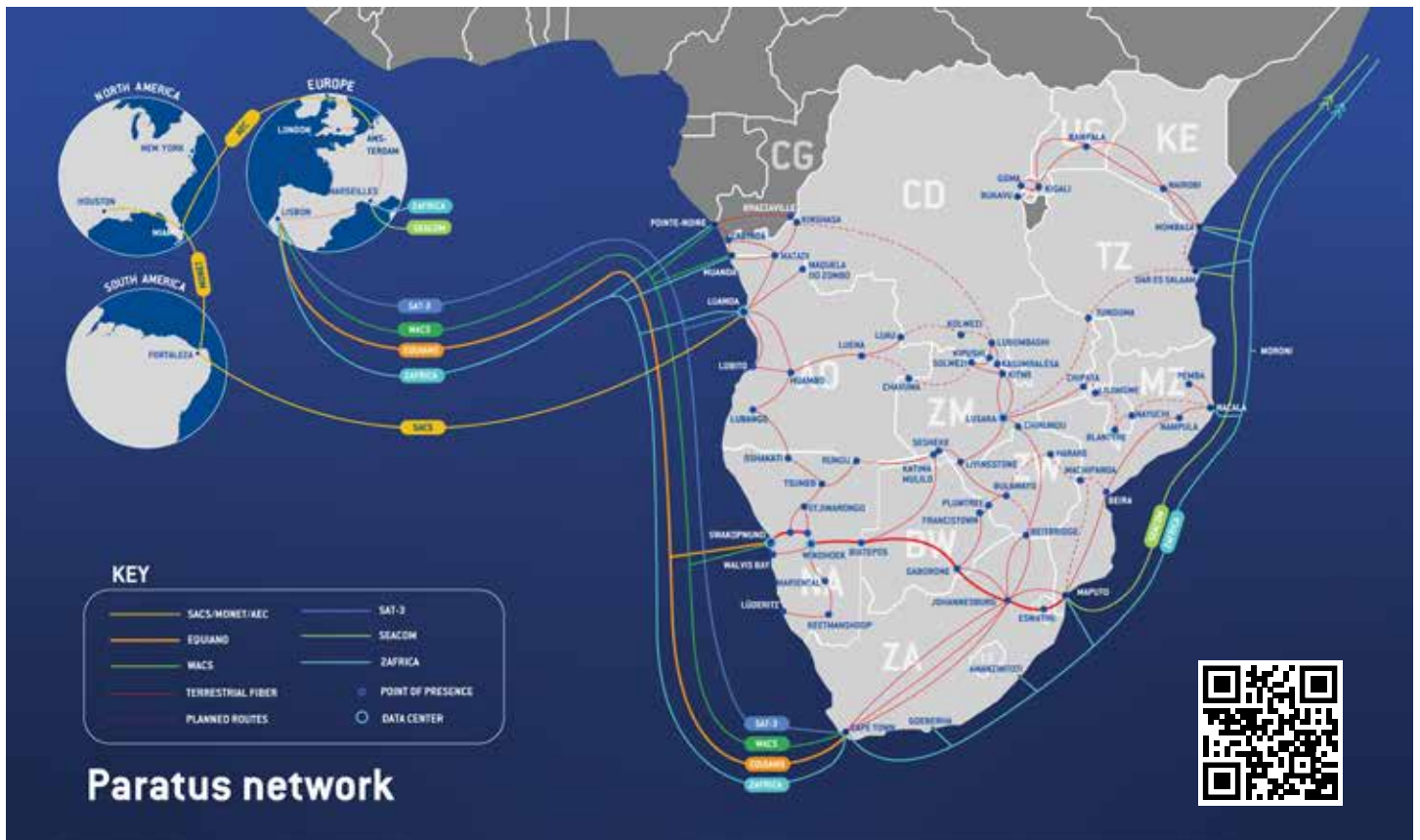
Paratus is an authorised reseller of Starlink services in several African countries.

Starlink uses a network of low-earth-orbit satellites to deliver high-speed internet, particularly in areas where traditional terrestrial networks are difficult or expensive to build.

By combining Starlink's satellite technology with Paratus's local infrastructure, technical expertise and on-the-ground support, we can deliver reliable connectivity to businesses, schools, government institutions and communities—even in very remote areas.

This partnership allows us to extend connectivity much faster while maintaining the local service and support that customers require.

Paratus operates Starlink services in those African countries where the licences have been granted. 🌐



Adrian Gläser, Equity Portfolio Manager
at Cirrus Fund Managers

Paratus' digital octopus expanding into Africa

words by Linda de Jager | photographs supplied

A telecommunications company is betting big on Namibia's digital growth, with pan-African ambitions.

Despite being unexpectedly hit by hackers in 2025, the company bounced back quickly and continued to attract customers. Paratus Group, the parent giant, extends across sub-Saharan Africa like a digital octopus, with tentacles reaching into many countries such as Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and South Africa, where it offers fibre, LTE, SKY-FI, satellite technology and cross-border solutions.

While the rest of the Paratus Group keeps its cards and financials close to its chest, the Namibian operation is actively expanding. It's a private empire, so financial insights are rare, but the Namibian arm, listed on the Namibia Securities Exchange (NSX) since 2017, provides a transparent window.

Paratus Namibia Holdings (PNH) isn't the entire picture – it's the flagship segment, operating through Paratus Telecommunications (Pty) Ltd, which manages everything from fibre-to-the-home in Windhoek suburbs to hosting racks in the Armada data centre.

Its infrastructure, like the Trans-Kalahari fibre line snaking to Botswana and then to South Africa, and the Equiano subsea cable landing at Swakopmund (connecting directly to Europe with low-latency), makes Namibia a key hub in the group's pan-African network.

The numbers

Namibia is building infrastructure that others will likely lease in the future. So, what do the numbers show?

Paratus Namibia reported revenues of N\$568.9 million in 2024 and N\$651.8 million in 2025, indicating a year-on-year growth rate of 14.6%. This information comes from Cirrus Securities, a Namibian-owned and managed stockbroker specialising in trading debt and equity securities on the NSX and the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE).

Equity analyst Adrian Gläser calls Paratus Namibia a local success story.

"Paratus Namibia has seen a strong boost in revenue lately thanks to lots of new customers coming on board across different business areas. The company's Armada data centre has also been busier than ever, helping drive these gains.

"Recurring revenue rose by 15% year on year, reaching N\$584.4 million. Non-recurring revenue stood at N\$61.2

million for the year and related mainly to local area network installations and equipment sales."

He says the company's financial performance in recent years has demonstrated resilience and steady growth, as reflected in its profit after tax figures for fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

"For the fiscal year ended 2024 (FY24), the company posted a profit after tax of N\$26,240,752, signalling robust earnings amid dynamic market conditions. In FY25, profit after tax advanced to N\$26,558,728, marking a year-on-year uptick of N\$317,976.

"Reflecting a positive trajectory, the firm demonstrates effective capital management and ongoing operational efficiencies," Gläser adds.

The company's earning before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) margin stood at 39.8% for the 2024 financial year, before declining to 31.2% in 2025.

During June 2024, PNH carried out a rights offer, offering 50.2 million new shares at N\$12 each to existing shareholders in a 103:100 ratio. Shareholders eagerly bought the shares, raising N\$602.2 million in new capital.

Gläser explains the capital allocation: First up was the mobile network, which officially launched on 2 September 2025 – a big milestone for the team. They also expanded their fibre network and made sure other services got a boost in capacity. And finally, they kicked off a 'transformation project' to digitise and streamline how things are done.

Recognised as an associate, Capricorn Group – a Namibian financial services group also listed on the Namibia Securities Exchange – holds a 36.4% stake in Paratus Group Holdings Ltd, the group's main holding company. According to the Capricorn Group governance report, the company increased its shareholding in Paratus Group Holdings (PGH) in FY '24 through a N\$243.4-million investment to support the PNH rights issue.

PGH funded its share subscription with a combination of debt and equity financing.

It also raised US\$31 million in debt facility from Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund, a development finance fund that provides long-term debt financing for infrastructure projects in Africa, and Ninety One, a global asset management company, in 2023.

"Part of this was potentially also used to subscribe to the PNH rights issue," says Gläser.



Barney Harmse, Paratus Executive Director, at the Equino Cable launch

Gripping tale

The numbers tell a gripping tale: Headline earnings per share (HEPS) clocked in at NADc[KE2] 47.25 for FY24, before taking a sharp turn down to NADc 26.28 in FY25.

The culprit? A surge in shares following the bold rights issue, with fresh capital still waiting in the wings for its starring role in earnings.

“The steep decrease arises from the higher number of shares in issue following the rights issue, while much of the newly raised capital hasn’t been contributing to earnings yet. This should improve gradually as income is generated from newly deployed capital,” Gläser says.

He sheds light on the dividends per share that fell from 20 NAD cents in FY’23 to 15 in FY’24, and 10 in FY’25. The drop was due to a rights issue, increasing the number of shares and diluting payouts. The board has now suspended dividends to prioritise infrastructure investments and fuel growth, aiming for greater long-term value.

“We support this decision. Significant capital was recently raised, and management expects to offer shareholders more value by retaining these earnings,” Gläser says.

“Over recent years, PNH and its leadership demonstrated the ability to deploy capital efficiently and build operations from the ground up. The internet service provider (ISP) business saw

strong growth, gained significant market share and surpassed a vital point in economies of scale and margin expansion.

However, with the roll-out of its mobile offering and further investment into digitalising its operations, the group once again entered a capital-intensive phase with long lead times. While customer sign-ups and general traction of this offering appear strong, significant volumes will be needed to recover capital invested and operating costs.

“The ISP business will likely subsidise the mobile offering while it goes through the early phases of its J-curve,” Gläser says.

The mobile business was officially launched on 2 September 2025. In the following two weeks, Paratus saw new customer sign-ups more than twice as high as during any full month in the company’s history.

Reflecting on capital expenditure (capex) and service expansion, Gläser says: “With a year-on-year increase of N\$471.3 million in capex, Paratus is transitioning from infrastructure investment to an execution phase aimed at 4G/5G assets and competing with incumbents like MTC and Telecom Namibia. Looking ahead to 2026, the company’s main objective is to drive growth in its mobile services while also strengthening and expanding its market share in the ISP sector.”

Paratus Namibia Holdings Ltd - Top 10 Direct Shareholders

	Relationship	Shares Held	%
PARATUS GROUP HOLDINGS LTD,	Holding Company	53,218,343	53.81%
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS PENSION FUND		17,488,729	17.68%
OLD MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY (NAMIBIA) LTD		3,694,462	3.74%
ALEXANDER FORBES INVESTMENTS NAMIBIA LIMITED		2,443,560	2.47%
ERASMUS, SCHALK LEIPOLDT VAN ZYL	Director	2,361,800	2.39%
INVESTEC NAMIBIA TRUSTEE ACCOUNT (NAMAN)		1,874,765	1.90%
RETIREMENT FUND FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND UTILITY SERVICES IN NAMIBIA		1,542,888	1.56%
HARMSE, BARTHOLOMEUS ROELOF JACOBUS	Director	1,265,750	1.28%
PRUDENTIAL NAMIBIA BALANCED FUND		953,219	0.96%
DALTON, EDWARD JOHN		902,078	0.91%

Source: Transfer Secretaries (Pty) Ltd (NSX), as of 28 Feb '26

Paratus Namibia Holdings Ltd - Top 10 Direct Shareholders

News for shareholders

Headline earnings per share tell a story of change for PNH Group, Gläser says.

“In FY24, HEPS stood at NADc 47.25, before settling at NADc 26.28 in FY25.

“While the drop in HEPS might raise eyebrows, it’s a direct result of the ambitious rights issue. Most of the new capital hasn’t started working for the entity yet, but we expect to see a positive uptick as those investments begin to yield returns,” he says, hinting at a promising road ahead for shareholders.

Meanwhile, the Paratus Express Route, powered by the Equiano subsea cable, provides the lowest latency international connectivity from Johannesburg and Namibia to Europe and the United States, offering up to 20 times more capacity than the WACS cable (West Africa Cable System).

Finance costs jumped because the Equiano subsea cable doesn’t come cheap. It turns out running fibre under the ocean is marginally more expensive than under a Namibian suburb. But according to Gläser, PNH Group has also reported a significant financial boost following the deployment of the Equiano subsea cable.

“The company attributes the majority of current revenue – both direct and indirect – to the Equiano subsea cable, underlining its strategic importance as a long-term asset for

sustainable financial growth.

“The infrastructure delivers a twenty-fold increase in regional capacity, allowing the group to sharply reduce bandwidth costs and expand its mobile network without reliance on third-party international backhaul providers.”

Management asserts that, when combined with the Armada data centre and Trans-Kalahari fibre route, the cable secures long-term value and positions the company as a leader in the region’s end-to-end digital ecosystem.

Meanwhile, PNH has reported higher finance costs, partly due to non-cash charges from accounting for advance revenue on fibre and cable agreements. The increase also reflects new debt issued under its N\$1.0 billion note programme, with the company taking on N\$330 million by 2023 and an additional N\$175 million in 2024 to refinance maturing debt.

“Unfortunately, there is limited detail available on cross-border capacity sales,” Gläser says.

Still, this strategy gives Paratus Namibia a real advantage. It’s the kind of setup that turns Namibia from a connectivity cul-de-sac into a regional thoroughfare.

Cirrus Securities discloses that its group has previously advised Paratus Namibia and Paratus Group. 



words by Linda de Jager | photographs supplied



“People sometimes define children according to their circumstances, yet these children are resilient, talented and full of potential. They are not their trauma.”

Suann van Heerden, the public relations coordinator who has worked in the charity sector since 2015 and joined Huis Maerua Children's Home in 2024

Namibia's child welfare minister recently reaffirmed the government's commitment to combating child abuse, as local initiatives like Windhoek's Huis Maerua Children's Home continue vital grassroots healing.

She detailed Namibia's efforts to strengthen child protection systems, promote youth participation in decision-making, and support evidence-based interventions, while calling for stronger international cooperation and greater investment.

Namibia has launched initiatives like the children's parliament, junior town councils, and a National Child Online Protection Task Force to raise awareness, improve reporting, and ensure marginalised children are protected.

Meanwhile, Huis Maerua Children's Home, a non-profit welfare organisation, has been making a positive impact in this field since 1960. Michelangelo Magazine highlights the home's invaluable work in helping children heal, grow, and dream about the future.

Here the mission to help children is carried out daily by a dedicated team committed to supporting some of Namibia's most vulnerable children.

Public relations coordinator Suann van Heerden has worked in the charity sector since 2015 and joined Huis Maerua Children's Home in 2024. She is inspired by the resilience of children who have experienced trauma, loss and adversity, yet continue to find hope and strength.

What major challenges do your children face, and how do you address them?

Many of our children carry the emotional impact of trauma, neglect, loss and separation from their families. They often struggle with feelings of abandonment, low self-worth, grief and difficulty trusting others.

We address these challenges through professional therapy, ongoing care and a nurturing environment in which children feel safe and valued.

By building trust and creating opportunities for growth, we help them develop resilience and believe in a brighter future.

How do you help children feel safe and part of a family after trauma or loss?

Creating stability is one of our highest priorities. We provide consistency, routine and unconditional care, helping children rebuild trust over time.

Our caregivers work hard to ensure every child feels seen, heard and valued. Through family-style living, shared meals, celebrations and everyday moments of connection, we foster a sense of belonging and community through which children can heal and grow.

How does education help your children, and how do you support their learning?

Education is essential in helping children build confidence, develop life skills and create opportunities for a successful future.

When a child enters our care, professionals assess their emotional, developmental and educational needs. Based on these assessments, we identify the school environment best suited to support them. In many cases, this means enrolment in private schools where children can receive additional support and attention, although these placements come at a significant cost.

We work closely with schools, provide educational resources, arrange tutoring when needed, and continuously encourage children to reach their full potential.

What qualities are the most important for social workers and caregivers working with these children to have?

Compassion, patience, empathy and resilience are essential. Children who have experienced trauma need adults who can provide consistent support, understanding and unconditional care.

Caregivers and social workers must also be trustworthy and emotionally mature. The ability to look beyond behaviour and understand the pain or needs behind it is critical in helping children feel safe, valued and supported.

How has this work changed your view on resilience, hope and community?

It has given me a profound appreciation of children's resilience. Despite difficult circumstances, many show

remarkable strength and an incredible ability to heal when given the right support.

It has also strengthened my belief in the power of community. Healing rarely happens in isolation. It requires caring individuals, dedicated professionals and supportive partners working together. I've seen how love, consistency and collective support can transform lives.

What support do children's homes need the most?

Children's homes need sustainable support that goes beyond meeting basic needs. Financial contributions are vital because the costs of quality care, therapy, education and healthcare continue to rise.

We also value partnerships with businesses, government institutions and community members who contribute through sponsorships, volunteering, skills-sharing and advocacy. Every contribution helps create an environment in which children can heal, grow and thrive.

What new ideas have you introduced to help the children in your care?

One initiative we introduced is Hiking for Hope, which forms part of both our therapy programme and awareness campaign.

Through guided hikes, outdoor adventures and camping experiences, children develop resilience, confidence and teamwork skills. Nature provides a calming environment that reduces stress and often encourages children to open up about their experiences.

The programme also teaches children that challenges can be overcome one step at a time. Beyond its therapeutic value, Hiking for Hope helps raise awareness and creates opportunities for the community to support our mission.

What is your vision for the children's home's future, and what legacy do you hope to leave?

My vision is for every child who enters our care to experience healing, belonging and the opportunity to reach their full potential.

I hope our therapeutic programmes continue to grow so we can provide even more specialised support. The legacy I hope to leave is not measured by buildings or programmes, but by transformed lives. If children leave our care knowing they are valued, loved and capable of creating positive futures, then we have succeeded.

If you could give one message to every child facing hardship, what would it be?

I would tell them that their circumstances do not define who they are. The pain they have experienced and the challenges they face are not their identity.

You are loved, valued and created with purpose. There may be moments when life feels overwhelming, but never lose hope. You are stronger than you realise and capable of achieving far more than you can imagine.

Your story can be redeemed, and your future is not determined by your past.

What misconceptions exist about children's homes?

One is that children's homes simply provide food, clothing and shelter. While these are important, many children arrive carrying deep emotional wounds that require significant investment in therapy, education and long-term care.

Another misconception is that children's homes replace families. No institution can replace a child's biological family, and many children continue to carry the pain of separation. Our role is to provide a safe and nurturing environment in which healing can take place.

People sometimes define children according to their circumstances, yet these children are resilient, talented and full of potential.

They are not their trauma.

What role does the church play?

Although we are a registered non-profit organisation, the church remains an important partner in the healing and restoration of vulnerable children.

Practical support alone is not enough. Children also need emotional healing, spiritual guidance and a sense of belonging. Through prayer, mentorship, fellowship and acts of service, churches help provide that support.

We are grateful for the many church communities that support us through donations, volunteering, prayer and long-term partnerships.

There is a saying that it takes a village to raise a child, and we have seen this truth come to life through our community.

Together, we are helping children discover their worth, find healing and build brighter futures. 🌱



Huis Maerua at a Glance

Organisation

Windhoek Child Protection Association / Huis Maerua Children's Home

Location

24 Demonte Street, Auasblik, Windhoek, Namibia

Founded

Established in the 1960s as Suidwes Kinderoord Ouderust by the Dutch Reformed Church and the South West African government. The home later became fully church-run in the 1980s and was renamed after the Maerua tree on the property.

Capacity

Huis Maerua cares for up to 24 children in several family-style homes, each with dedicated living spaces and trained staff.

Core support

Children receive regular meals, schooling, therapy, recreational activities, counselling and tailored educational support where needed.

Support & Partnerships

Government grants cover only a small part of the home's costs. Food, education, therapy, healthcare and day-to-day care depend heavily on outside support.

Contact

083 332 5030

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www.huismaerua.org



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Dining at Droombos is an essential part of the experience, where flavour, atmosphere, and Namibian hospitality come together. From leisurely breakfasts enjoyed in the fresh morning air to memorable dinners shared beneath ancient trees, every meal celebrates the connection between people, place, and produce.

Our chefs embrace a farm-to-table philosophy, drawing inspiration from seasonal ingredients and local Namibian influences to create dishes that are both refined and authentic. Whether enjoyed in our elegant restaurant, within the gardens, or as part of a special event, every dish is prepared with care, designed to nourish both body and soul



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Simanya River Lodge rests on the banks of the Kavango River, where luxury accommodation meets one of Namibia's most remarkable natural settings. Set within a lush riverside landscape, it offers a tranquil retreat where guests can unwind, reconnect, and experience the gentle rhythm of river life from the comfort of beautifully appointed surroundings.

THE ACCOMMODATION EXPERIENCE

The lodge's spacious river-facing rooms are thoughtfully designed to bring comfort and nature together. Elegant interiors, generous living spaces, and private verandas create a seamless connection to the outdoors. Guests can relax while overlooking the water, watching abundant birdlife along the riverbanks and enjoying uninterrupted views that change beautifully with the light throughout the day.

THE RIVER EXPERIENCE

Beyond the comfort of the lodge, the Kavango River invites exploration and discovery. Scenic river cruises reveal spectacular sunsets, rich wildlife, and the vibrant ecosystem that makes this region unique. Fishing enthusiasts can enjoy world-class angling, including the opportunity to pursue the legendary tiger fish, while tranquil boat excursions offer close encounters with river birds, local culture, and the timeless beauty of Namibia's perennial river.



THE TIMBER ROUTE

From Inland Woodlands...



THE RIVER ROUTE

To the Eternal Kawango



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RIVER CRUISES & ADVENTURES



LUXURY ACCOMMODATION



On horseback through Namibia

Following ancient riverbeds and wildlife trails through the granite landscapes of Erongo, where horses carry travellers beyond the ordinary.

words by Axelle Van Lerberghe for Hippo Revue | photographs supplied



The Erongo Mountain Nature Sanctuary is the destination of the horse safaris run by the Vogel family from their guestfarm, Farm Gross Okandjou near Omaruru. Belgian traveller Axelle Van Lerberghe shares the magic of a journey on horseback through one of Namibia's most striking landscapes, from ancient granite formations to unforgettable encounters with endangered black rhinos.

In May, I received a message from a friend. She was planning a riding expedition in Namibia and wondered if I wanted to join. The answer came almost instantly – this adventure had all the ingredients of a truly remarkable experience.

The Erongo region is a landscape where time seems to stand still. Here, you gallop through dry riverbeds, ride past ancient granite rock formations, and traverse an area that is home to some of the rare and endangered black rhinos. Add to

that the warm hospitality of the Vogel family, who have been welcoming riders to their ranch since 2005, and you have an authentic journey that brings you incredibly close to Africa in its purest form.

My decision was made.

Come along on a Namibian riding safari unlike any other: raw, pure and untamed – on horseback, just as it should be.

After a long flight, we arrive in Windhoek and begin the three-and-a-half-hour drive to the ranch. Along the way, we take in the landscape: the dryness, the countless termite hills, and, in the distance, the Erongo Mountains etched against the horizon.

Upon arrival, we are warmly welcomed. Over cake, coffee and tea, we get to know one another. We talk about previous trips, favourite horses and our expectations for the coming



days. We immediately feel that we will make a great group.

Our first introduction to the horses takes place in the arena. Each horse is carefully matched to the rider's experience and preferences, including a few last-minute swaps to ensure everyone has the right partner for the week.

First kilometres: getting used to Namibia's rhythm

On the second day, we start with a test ride in the dry riverbed. After a lovely breakfast, we fill our water bottles, saddle the horses and set out to explore the ranch surroundings. The landscape is vast and dotted with thornbushes. During our very first trot, we spot a group of kudu crossing the riverbed – a preview of what awaits us.

We each ride a short stretch individually, allowing us to feel the horse and confirm that this is the right match for the week. The connection is immediate. These horses know their job: they move effortlessly through the sand and respond beautifully to the aides.

After lunch, we take a short hike on the ranch. Following a newly marked trail, we wind our way through thorny vegetation until we reach a raised platform, where we admire

our first truly orange Namibian sunset over the Erongo Mountains. This journey is already proving to be much more than horseback riding – it is an immersion into a landscape shaped over millions of years.

Departure on the trek and sleeping under the stars

After a relaxed breakfast the following morning, we carefully pack our bags for the days ahead and load them onto the supply truck that follows us from camp to camp. We saddle the horses and set off through the riverbed towards the Erongo Mountain Nature Sanctuary. This area is home to several of the last remaining black rhinos – a thought that makes the landscape around us feel even more special.

The morning is demanding: long trots, long canters, all in deep sand. The heat presses down on us, but the horses are clearly accustomed to these conditions. At midday, the logistics team awaits us with cold, sugary drinks and shade. The break could not come at a better time. They clearly know that the first day is a tough one for riders unaccustomed to this climate. We rest and watch our horses splashing happily in the water trough.



Our first camp is beautifully set in the open riverbed, surrounded by towering acacia trees. The horses, unlike their opinion on apples, adore the pods from these trees. While they are given hay for the night, we head to our tents to settle in. Curious baboons watch us from a distance, warthogs shuffle past, and the scent of dinner rises from cast-iron pots over the campfire. A traditional braai awaits us – and everyone is delighted to learn that meals will be cooked over an open fire throughout the trip.

Deeper into the reserve: giraffes and zebras

The next morning, we wake to the familiar scent of the campfire. The horses are calm and ready for a new day. As we enter the sanctuary, we immediately spot our first giraffes in the distance – the first of many we will see in the coming days. Soon after, we notice several herds of zebra further away, alert and cautious.

We stop for lunch beneath a gigantic rock that offers a patch of shade. After a short siesta, we continue our ride to the evening camp. Tucked between large boulders, this camp surprises us with a toilet and a wonderful open-air shower. We take turns washing off the perspiration and dust, feeling instantly refreshed.

At dusk, the ranch dog Weika eagerly leads us on a short walk to a viewpoint. The sunset is partly hidden by clouds, yet remains breathtaking and serene. We enjoy a hearty goulash around the fire and listen to the sounds of the night surrounding us.

Two nights at camp: rest, rock art and adventurous walks

On day five, we ride a gentle stage towards a camp where we will stay for two nights. Along the way, we visit a San community. We learn about traditional San ways of life, see ancient rock paintings, discover how local vegetation is used for different purposes, and watch demonstrations of fire-making and hunting techniques.

Arriving at camp brings relief – for once, we do not have to pack up our tents again the next morning. We let the African slow living sink in, search for the perfect sunset spot, and enjoy the calm and silence settling over the landscape.

The next day, we visit a beautiful viewpoint overlooking the surrounding communal land – land that, unlike the sanctuary, is not privately owned. After lunch, we can choose from several activities, as we will not be riding that afternoon. We opt for an



adventurous hike towards a lookout point, though the vague markers and hard-to-find path challenge us. Eventually, we find ourselves scrambling uphill like mountain goats rather than following anything resembling a trail. We never reach the viewpoint, but the fun is no less rewarding.

Back at camp, we go in search of more San rock paintings. Two rhinos are clearly depicted – a sign of what is to come.

A Charge from the Wilderness

Day seven begins early. After a short ride, we arrive at a lodge with a swimming pool where we stop for lunch. The refreshing dip is heavenly after days in the saddle. Afterwards, we visit two more rock-art sites, this time featuring clearly recognisable animals and hunting scenes.

As we ride further down the riverbed, someone in our group suddenly spots a black rhino. At first, we do not believe it – black rhinos are rare, shy and notoriously difficult to see. But then there he is, clearly visible: massive, powerful, ancient and endangered.

We watch in silence as he disappears into the bushes.

And then it happens.

Moments later, he bursts back out at full speed, heading straight towards us.

At our guide's signal, we turn our horses sharply and break into a fast gallop. My horse leaps up the riverbank, clearing a thornbush like a seasoned eventer. The adrenaline is unmistakable.

Fortunately, it turns out to be a false alarm. The rhino had encountered the first riders on his escape route after catching the scent of those at the back of the group. Nervous laughter follows. It is a moment none of us will forget.

That evening, we sit around the fire discussing conservation, hunting quotas and land management in Namibia. The sunset paints the horizon in a stunning red-orange glow – the famous African sunset, unmistakable and unforgettable. We feel deeply connected to nature here.

The final riding days

During the final days, we gradually make our way back to the ranch. On day eight, the trip takes an unexpected turn



when one rider becomes ill and his horse, Feuerstein, joins us loose. The gelding stays surprisingly close to the group – occasionally stubborn, but always loyal to his herd.

We lunch under a tree, leaning back against our saddles and drifting into a brief nap. A siesta only Namibia can provide.

That evening, we enjoy kudu skewers, vegetable stew and a red-wine chocolate cake that everyone appreciates. The camp sits high with a wide view of the surroundings, offering sweeping views that can even be enjoyed from the open-air shower.

On the final morning, we wake to the gentle clatter of pots over the campfire. After breakfast – today, a campfire omelette – we ride the last stage back to the ranch.

During the final stretch, our guide raises his fingers to signal trot and canter. Only this time he does not stop at three fingers. He raises all five.

It quickly becomes clear that this is the signal to let our horses run freely.

The speed kicks up clouds of dust in the loose sand. I am glad I am riding at the front.

Back at the ranch, a well-earned gin and tonic awaits us. A simple but welcome refreshment after a week that had everything: speed, silence, heat, friendship, nature, excitement, and a deep appreciation for both the wilderness and our horses.

The Vogel Family: Pioneers of Horseback Expeditions in Namibia

This remarkable trek exists thanks to the passion and vision of the Vogel family. Their story began when Alina's parents moved to Namibia years ago, initially travelling back and forth between Europe and Africa. During their holidays, they gradually built up their ranch. The first horses were workhorses used to maintain the land. Later, riding horses were added, and the idea of offering treks naturally grew.

Since 2005, they have organised a limited number of safaris each year – around eight, always in small groups. They also host riders for short stays and ranch holidays. Everything is done on a small scale and with great respect for both the landscape and the animals. 🐾

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15. Khorixas Camp
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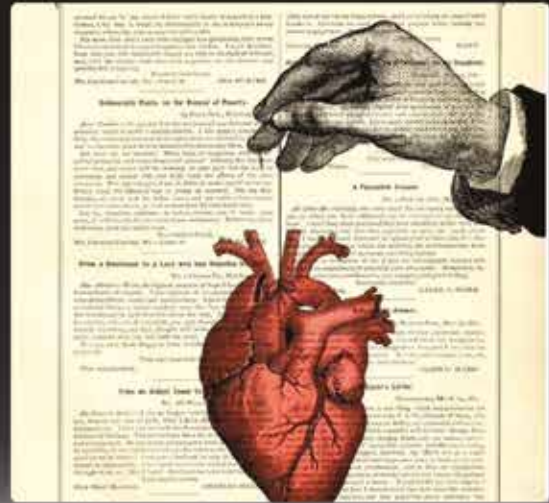
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HEART ATTACK EMERGENCY

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 Every minute counts.



78 | JULY 2026



Osonjiva Outpost

*Exploring a Wildlife-Rich Landscape
Through Exclusive Safari Experiences*

edited by Anne Schaffer | photographs supplied

Michelangelo

—TRAVEL—



The word outpost perfectly captures the Osonjiva experience – a wonderful sense of being immersed in nature, on the edge of something wild, far removed from the madding crowd.

Built within the lush tree line of the Omatako River, Osonjiva Outpost is located within the Osonjiva Private Game Reserve, about 100km south of the Waterberg National Park. With only 12 perfectly positioned elevated luxury safari tents, each featuring a private deck overlooking the Omatako River and surrounding floodplain, guests are immersed in the glorious wilderness of the reserve. The luxury safari tents

sit beneath lush tree canopies, creating a sense of seclusion within spectacular natural surroundings, yet with ample room to breathe. The private decks serve as comfortable outdoor lounges, inviting guests to relax, soak up the views and simply absorb that unique near-silence found in nature.

The contemporary architecture of Osonjiva Outpost offers a seamless marriage of indoor and outdoor living, where the outlook is everything. Expansive doors open wide to let in the landscape, while fireplaces inspired by termite hills, together with indigenous Namibian colours, materials and textures, create a strong sense of place.



After an evening spent enjoying the 360-degree views of the bushland and river from the Island Bar, followed by a wonderful meal in the restaurant or out on the terrace, guests return to their own little island of tranquillity among the trees. It is pure magic.

Osonjiva Private Game Reserve is home to more than 30 animal species, ranging from plains game to smaller antelope such as duiker and steenbok. White rhino, hippo and carnivores including cheetah, leopard and brown hyena are all found within the reserve, alongside more than 100 bird species.

During summer, Osonjiva transforms into a birdwatcher's paradise. Seasonal rains create wetlands along the ephemeral Omatako River system, attracting migratory birds, including flamingos and pelicans.

The reserve offers a variety of activities, including full- and half-day game and nature drives, sundowner excursions and half-day rhino tracking experiences. Osonjiva's team of experienced professional guides share their knowledge while recounting wonderful tales about the area's history, geography and ecology.

Nature, wildlife and conservation remain at the heart of every excursion. Following the seasonal rains, the reserve is transformed into a vibrant green landscape, ideal for exploring and searching for cats like leopard and cheetah, as well as game such as the sweet bat-eared fox or the fearless honey badger, pangolins or antelope like sable, roan, eland, oryx, kudu and, of course, giraffe.

For those seeking an even more personalised experience,

private safari adventures can be arranged, allowing guests to tailor activities around specific wildlife interests or photographic opportunities. An exclusive-use game-viewing vehicle can also be hired; enquire about rates and conditions. While children under 13 are not permitted on standard game drives, they may participate in exclusive-use drives.

At Osonjiva, you can join a rare half-day guided rhino tracking excursion on foot. Combining both driving and walking, this adventure takes guests deep into the savannah and shrubland landscape alongside an experienced guide and skilled tracker. Expect some challenging terrain, but for adventurous travellers, the reward is well worth the effort. Children under 16 are not permitted on this activity.

By staying at Osonjiva, guests directly support extensive anti-poaching initiatives, helping to conserve this unique ecosystem for future generations.

Osonjiva also opens the door to meaningful cultural experiences. Guests have the opportunity to visit nearby Herero communities, gaining authentic insight into local traditions, lifestyles and craftsmanship.

Managed by a team with many years of experience in Namibia's tourism industry, Osonjiva Outpost delivers a uniquely intimate safari experience. Here, guests can relish the luxury of privacy and tranquillity while enjoying exceptional wildlife encounters and some of Namibia's most captivating landscapes. 🦏

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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Emergency services: (24hr)
061 211 111

Fire Brigade:
998

Crime prevention:
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+264 (0) 61 290 2018
Toll-free number:
+264 (0) 61 302 302

Med Rescue
+264 (61) 249777
+264 (61) 230 505/6/7

Emergency Rescue 24
084 124

Ambulance:
10177

Lifeline
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Namibia Tourism Board



www.visitnamibia.com.na

The Last Word

words by Chris Coetzee



This month's Last Word was supposed to be about buffaloes.

More specifically, it was going to explore how buffaloes found their way to Namibia's Waterberg, why the plateau continues to earn its place among Michelangelo Magazine's approved destinations, and how a bold decision, made in secret years ago, helped shape a conservation success story still visible today.

Then breakfast happened.

The invitation came from OL and Dr Sven Thieme, one of Namibia's most influential business leaders. OL had just done something few organisations ever dare attempt: rename a brand more than a century old. That alone was enough to make my coffee go cold.

During the breakfast press briefing, several questions were raised. Some were insightful.

One question, however, caught my attention: Which neighbouring countries hold the greatest business potential?

As the answers unfolded, I found myself making a note. Not because I was surprised, but because it reminded me of a piece of wisdom my father and his nephew once shared: "I'm not saying everybody in that country is a criminal. I'm just saying that all the criminals I know seem to live there."

For legal reasons, and because my mother raised me properly, I shall refrain from naming the country.

Besides, statistics can be challenged. Fathers, however, tend to be convinced by personal experience.

Now, before any diplomats begin preparing strongly worded letters, let me be clear: every nation is filled with decent, honest and hardworking people.

Yet the comment reminded me of something far more important.

One of the greatest risks facing any person, company,

institution or nation is losing control of its identity.

Because the moment that identity becomes compromised, people stop judging you by your finest achievements, your best products or your greatest citizens.

A single scandal can drown out decades of hard work. Before long, perception becomes reputation, reputation becomes reality, and reality becomes extraordinarily difficult to change.

That is why a good name remains one of the most valuable assets on earth.

It is true of people. It is true of companies. And it is true of countries.

Which is why I found the breakfast host so fascinating.

Here was an institution willing to redefine a brand that had stood for more than a century. The reality is that there comes a point when preserving the past is no longer the challenge.

The challenge is securing the future.

History, after all, guarantees only one thing: that you were important yesterday. Relevance determines whether you will matter tomorrow.

Which brings me to one of my favourite observations: "Some decisions are made with spreadsheets. The important ones are made with big cojones." Not because courage is more valuable than data, but because there are moments when numbers can tell you where you are, while only courage can decide where you are willing to go.

Buffaloes have roamed Africa for millennia. The dunes of Sossusvlei are ancient. Waterberg has stood for roughly 150 million years. The Skeleton Coast has witnessed oceans come and go. Nature has never rewarded age. It rewards adaptation. Longevity is simply what happens when you get that part right.

Thank you for breakfast, OL Team, and here's to many more centuries. 🦒



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