

welcome to Botswana & Namibia



Wildlife Watching

Botswana is one of Africa's great safari destinations. There are more elephants here than in any other country on the planet. But whether it's elephants, lions, leopards, hyenas, rhinos, buffaloes, antelopes or myriad other species, the numbers and variety in Botswana will quickly overwhelm your digital camera. In Namibia the series of waterholes around Etosha Pan attract astounding numbers of animals especially in the dry season, making wildlife watching as simple as parking your car, putting your feet up and letting the animals come to you. And if that's not up-close-and-personal enough, what about the chance

to track highly endangered black rhinos... on foot?

Landscape

The landscapes of Namibia and Botswana will sometimes leave you wondering if you have arrived on another planet. That mighty gash hacked out of the earth's surface at Fish River Canyon is one of the great natural sights on the continent. Lonely desert roads expose you to a wilderness that will clear your mind and work its way into your soul. Humongous slabs of flat-topped granite rise out of mists of windblown sand and swirling dust – the effect is ethereal with the granite appearing to float above the ground. As the road

Ever wanted to experience the raw, wild heart of Africa? Teeming with wildlife and lush with extraordinary landscapes, Botswana and Namibia unfurl African dreams.

(left) A towering sand dune in Sossusvlei (p297)
(below) A belligerent hippo in the Okavango Delta (p88)



snakes into the distant horizon you may just feel as though you are driving through a coffee-table book of landscapes.

Ancient Culture

The ancestors of the San, an ancient people who have direct links back to the Stone Age, left behind extraordinary records in the form of rock paintings dotted throughout the region. The Tsodilo Hills, Botswana's only Unesco World Heritage Site, showcase the pictorial record of this prehistoric culture, as do extensive galleries of rock art in Namibia. Also, in Namibia, opportunities to interact with local cultures in the north include meeting the Himba of the Kaokoveld (a Herero subgroup that

were a part of the early Bantu migrations). Here the women are famous for smearing themselves with a fragrant mixture of ochre, butter and bush herbs, which dyes their skin a burnt-orange hue.

Adventure Activities

Namibia is Southern Africa's headquarters for adrenaline-pumping fun. Fling yourself out of a plane and float back to earth, hurl yourself down a sand dune, surf the breakers on the Atlantic coast or head off into a desert sunset atop a camel. There are many ways to ensure that a visit to this region lives with you long after the desert sands recede into the distance.