

Onduli Enclave

ART AND NATURE COMBINE AT NAMIBIA'S MOST LUXURIOUS LODGE

By Adam Hay-Nicholls

Namibia has long been on the adventure A-list, not least because it boasts Africa's highest population of cheetah and good numbers of leopards, black rhino and many endemic species. Famous faces have started to flock here, should your tracking skills be more honed on celebrities than elephants; Charlize Theron, Angelina Jolie, Roger Federer and the Prince of Wales all rave about the country. There's also the jaw-dropping scenery, which has provided the backdrop to a host of Hollywood films, from *2001: A Space Odyssey* to *Mad Max: Fury Road*.

At Onduli Enclave, you can admire this magical movie location without even having to get out of bed. Set in the heart of remote Damaraland, on the private concession of a conservation reserve, the exclusive-use lodge is surrounded by rugged folded hills, savannah plains and wooded river valleys.

Three-suite Onduli Enclave, named after one of the area's resident giraffe, is the work of Ultimate Safaris, a leading name in the world of luxury travel and responsible tourism. Its co-founder, Tristan Cowley, a South African educated in conservation in Namibia, designed the lodge in collaboration

with renowned Namibian artist RENN, whose exquisite work captivated audiences at the 2022 Venice Biennale. Their creative efforts are realised thanks to a team of all-Namibian artists and craftspeople. Considered the country's most exclusive and luxurious villa experience, the lodge is built high on a south-facing granite outcrop which affords a magnificent vista of the Brandberg, Namibia's highest mountain, cathedral-like granite inselbergs and the Doros Crater.

The vision for Onduli Enclave, which can sleep up to six adults and four children, is a harmonious blend of art and nature, where every element of the property is seamlessly integrated with its stunning raw surroundings, and the line between indoors and nature is blurred. The love for the landscape, rendered with mesmerising dunes, is evident in every detail of the design, from the elegant suites to the eco-sensitive infrastructure, all framed by ruggedly picturesque and unspoilt surroundings. And best of all, you have the whole place to yourself and your family – or friends. There are private sun decks with individual wood-fired hot tubs: the perfect place from which to stargaze, or spot lion prides with the Swarovski binoculars provided in each room.

There are outside rain showers, a pool, pizza boma with fire circle, and plenty of places to relax and laze after a long day's game driving, all connected by floating wooden decks. A lounge, dining room and open-plan kitchen make up the common areas, and meals are prepared by a private chef and served by a butler, while game drives are conducted by a dedicated and exceptionally knowledgeable Namibian guide.

The retreat and communal areas are an extension of the artistry found in 66-year-old RENN's work, and are designed to inspire. Local materials and construction techniques have been utilised to create minimal environmental impact. All the power comes courtesy of the sun, 100 percent of the water is reclaimed and purified, and there's an eco-conscious waste management system in place. This sets a new benchmark for luxury accommodation in Namibia, and acts as a gateway to this beautiful and soulful country.

Visitors to Onduli Enclave can look forward to life-enriching safaris and curated experiences that will introduce them to rich culture, diverse wildlife and extraordinary landscapes. ■

www.ultimatesafaris.na

