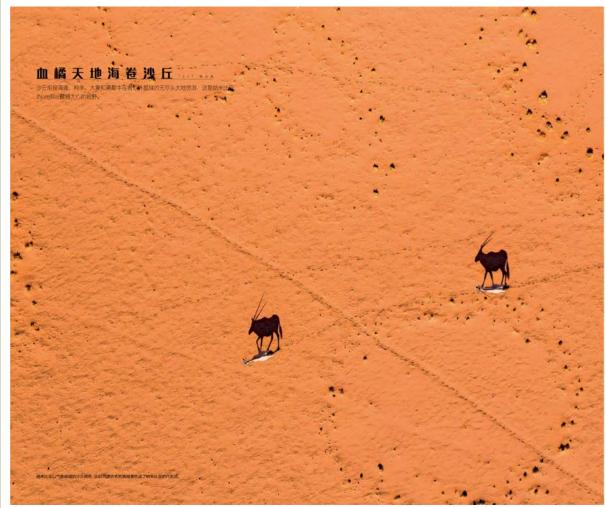
andBeyond

Singapore September ICON Singapore 血橘天地海卷沙丘 (Blood-orange haven and rolling sand dunes) 15,513 \$32,238.26 (3 full pages)



This is a feature that showcases Sylvester Ng's travel experience to the sand dunes of Namibia. He stayed at andBeyond Sossusvlei Desert Lodge, Onduli Ridge, Shipwreck Lodge and Saxon Hotel. The article highlights his experience during his stay at andBeyond Sossusvlei Desert Lodge on Page 40-42.



自年年前第一次到南非体验行报医波之后,就对有洪大 陆产生难以简单的感情。这块能改变一人力经正常态度 的大地。从F型的物质组合规模,都一人为经正常无能 去了非洲质多其他面貌。都不可容人文写动物,但总统 得不完全。因为正未体能这些写动物的合体连接意識的奇 累。这处告题就在纳州长卫。

upcycle

#### 枯椒剪影血棉沙丘

略米比亚以气势等辆的沙丘间名,干燥的厚原消散成广阔 平排的沙漠,巨大的横红沙丘,的延天尽,这些社会问更古 老的黄膀围色成了的米比亚的代名词,人们来到这里是为 了风景,开始的空间,以及看到地球最原始状态的机会。

要深入纳米比亚,必须有妥善的住宿安排,因为那是完 整体验的起点。

#### 苏丝斯剂/

andBeyond Sonsuurkei Desert Lodge 有於,在一些技術的地点,需要合适的资地未开日一個 有效用的整理。在主法教的地方工具的用在方 此前期的Cossurvlei的自由的中的人们的生产的外型将可以的 Loging的原因。这个智慧之前经过最新。新分裂将可以的 Loging的原因。这个智慧之前经过最新,并分裂将可以的 和学校和的关键和空口和原则,是是不是一个的主要和 同意的原意则可不下力让话的最后尽收回来,而从地想 到大友都的光镜如culaoging能的上目有常的。 并包括了常常的近空意则,可以无利无地地的发出的野 生活物和间面的目光,当然空发,建筑、体影、游水、甚 至期和时,完全各有大支的地名分一体的感受。

### 律書一样的死亡谷

从量得印度Windhoek到andBeyond Sossusvlei Desert Lodge的私人小電用场需要大约LS小能的BML,这里用 图形治的环境,充满了看给无限的山谷和山脉,有历史的 名为的他边行。我的了那些时候和小爷都的的所不远,这里 可供选择的智能活动远远起出了标准的游戏范围。

每天用膳时间,营地的活动经理都会与客人质讨当天想 要做什么,各种活动自由喷营地周围的小器研行,徒步前 往周围间穴中的岩面,驾驶四轮掌托车穿越沙丘,或在日 落时分写车穿越保护区。

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不容错过的是前往超凡脱俗的纳米布-诺库尔夫特国家 公园的半天游览,在日出时徒步穿越血橙色沙丘,然后探 狩猎回来最需要舒服的环境让兴奋的情绪平复,套房里 索荒凉的死亡谷(Dead Vlei),这就是我们经常在纪录片 有储备充足的酒吧,从纳米比亚杜松子酒、南非朗姆酒、 或社交媒体上看到的,像油画一样有羚羊立足在血橘沙 阿马鲁拉酒,到葡萄酒等都不缺,要享受阳光可到户外 丘与枯树前的经典画面。死亡谷曾是一块充满生命的绿的私人遮蔽露台内外乘凉,或到无边际泳池泡水。当 洲,但随着沙漠中水源的变迁,失去了水的盆地变得荒然,也能在下午休憩时间整理照片,或在社交媒体上分 芜。现在这里有不少明亮的白色粘土和保存完好已有几 享,虽然我完全不鼓励这么做,在一个能寄情于旷野的 百年历史的枯树。干枯的树干在烈日的烤灼下变成黑色, 非洲大地,真的不必有太多现代科技来搞破坏。 一棵棵突兀地树立在白色的盐沼土上,再加上周遭血红 色的沙丘,形成鲜明的对比。

里没有五大动物,只有四大,分别是犀牛、大象、狮子,以 空保护区,有天文望远镜可以观察周围的行星和遥远 及水牛,运气好的话会看到它们到营地中央建筑前的人 工水坑喝水。由于这里雨水不多,保护区的许多动物群都 上就可以看到银河系的景色。 依赖营地提供持续的水源,因此不时可以在午餐时间看 到其他动物如大羚羊、跳羚、鸵鸟和豺狼停下来喝水。除 当其他人兴奋于传统狩猎时, and Beyond 了每间套房都配备超强双筒望远镜外,现在还安装了施 Sossusvlei Desert Lodge则倾向于安静的一面。在 华洛世奇单筒望远镜,可以更清晰地观察这些动物。

但不要因为少了花豹而失望,因为所处环境特别,场景 往纳米比亚其他地区前进。 的设置与众不同,与"一般"的狩猎活动场景相比,这 里像是外星球的沙丘枯树场景让每一个视角都成为色 彩斑斓的画作。

#### 国际里暗天空保护区

入夜的andbeyond Sossusvlei Desert Lodge像是沙 漠里的一颗明珠,抬头看是丝毫无光害的原始星空。事 值得一提的是,与非洲其他国家的狩猎活动不同的是,这 实上,营地毗邻非洲第一个也是唯一一个国际黑暗天 的星系。客房内的夜床服务还包括打开室内天窗,从床

> 这里度过三天之后,会让你感觉真正的养精蓄锐,有 充足的时间重新探索生命和重新调整生活,然后继续

左图顺时针:入夜的andBeyond Sossusvlei Desert Lodge像 是沙漠里的一颗明珠,抬头看 是丝毫无光害的原始星空。; 纳米比亚西南部在苏丝斯黎 (Sossusvlei)的andBeyond Sossusviei Desert Lodge的 10间单房套房和一间双卧房套 房可将下方山谷的景色尽收眼 底。; 从andBeyond Sossusvle Desert Lodge可以乘坐直升机 到更偏远的地区享受与世隔绝 的宴食。

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埃托沙/ Onduli Ridge

andBeyond

踏上多站纳米比亚之旅的客人,除了苏丝斯黎,也不 会错过埃托沙(Etosha)。位于埃托沙国家公园(Etosha National Park)和骷髅海岸(Skeleton Coast)之间的 达马拉兰(Damaraland)是到纳米比亚必访的另一地 区,这里是世界上人口第二少的国家中人口最少的地 区之一,有极其引人注目的地形和地质构造。更重要的 支持当地社区 是,达马拉兰是世界上最后仅存的黑犀牛家园。

间,从房间里可以看到黎明和黄昏时广阔的平坦平原, 起维持生计,保护稀有且罕见的沙漠狮子、犀牛和长 以及远处纳米比亚最高山脉布兰德伯(Brandberg)的 颈鹿种群,这些动物穿越这片土地寻找水和食物,都 紫色山峰。这里的地形和景色奇特,干燥、神秘、贫瘠,需要保护,免受偷猎者和农民的侵害,自2008年以 散布着各种形态和颜色的岩石——从黑色玄武岩和白 来,Ultimate Safaris与纳米比亚各地的社区成功合 像在外星球。如果有极为稀罕的雨水,大地会长满金 色的草。

### 地球上最千里之外

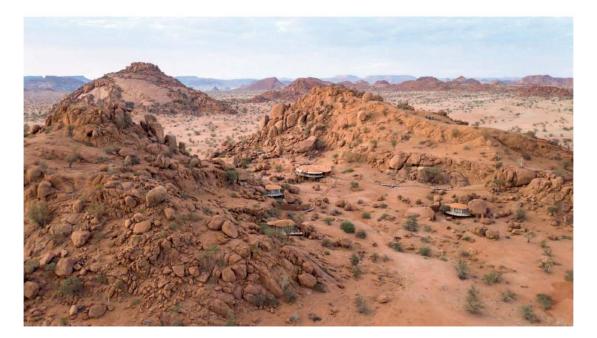
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的树木。由于空气中灰尘较多,日出和日落非常壮观。 这里的有限地下资源使一些生命力顽强的树木和生物 支持拯救犀牛组织、长颈鹿保护基金会、Pack for 得以生存,凭借追踪器和耐心,幸运的客人有时会看到 Conservation和保护旅行基金会。所以这个营地不仅 犀牛、大象和长颈鹿,沙漠狮则较少。

此外,联合国教科文组织世界遗产特威费尔泉 (Twyfelfontein) 以及其他地质遗址, 如多纳斯 (Dornas) 巨型火山口、风琴管 (Organ Pipes) 和烧山 (Burnt Mountain) 都在几个小时的车程内。

Onduli Ridge是Ultimate Safaris在这个社区经营特 许经营权上运营的两个营地之一,另一是Huab Under 在这一区的狩猎营地Onduli Ridge座落在两座岛山之 Canvas。当地的山羊农民社区在沙漠中与护林员一 色石英,到风化的富铁砂岩和闪闪发光的云母碎片,就 作,每年筹集超过40万美元的保护资金,并受委托在此 建立营地,每个营地会有一定比例的收入用于支持保 护和社区项目。

事实上, Ultimate Safaris因其对保护和社区项目的 这里经常多年不下雨,被干涸的河床贯穿,点缀着耐寒 支持而在纳米比亚享有盛誉,并且是少数将部分收 入而非部分利润捐赠给社区的公司之一。它还积极 是为游客打造,更是当地的经济支柱。



Onduli Ridge是Ultimate Safaris位于埃托沙国家公园 和船器海岸之间达马拉兰的 豪华营地。

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### 与大地融为一体的设计

Onduli Ridge只有六间宽敞的套房,分布在面向黎明 的山坡上的巨石之间,有与周围环境融为一体的曲线 石墙、模仿山坡形状的地板和圆形屋顶。其设计与周 围环境融合,一些房间的浴室部份在户外,淋浴喷头 甚至从巨石中伸出。最妙的是,客房的床可以推到甲 板上并转换成观星床。

Onduli Ridge营地位于达马拉兰最私密的地方,如 果你要的是寂静,想夜观星河,由有经验的专人带领 参观独特地点,并在户外远足一天后要找一个真正 能让身心松懈的华丽空间休息,这就是理想都。

### 沙丘海滩船只墓地

骷髅海岸是纳米比亚另一不容错过的重要景区,得 名于散布在无尽海岸上的动物骨头以及数百年来在 此失事的数百艘船只,由于浓雾、波涛汹涌的海面、 变幻莫测的海流和狂风,几百年来许多船只在骷髅 海岸搁浅。

地球上最古老的沙漠的大沙丘与咆哮的大西洋在这 里相遇,宽40公里长500公里的海岸线散布着大约 500艘船只的残骸,从数百年前被淹没的木制葡萄牙 大帆船到现代的钢壳船只都有。一百公里内除了沉船 和少数的营地之外,没有其他文明痕迹,像是地球尽 头,成为阴森迷人的海岸线。 尽管骷髅海岸环境险峻,但仍有不少野生动物可供观 察,例如适应沙漠的大象、犀牛、沙漠狮、棕鬣狗、豺 狼、长颈鹿。海豹、羚羊、捻角羚和斑马。此外,有些植 物适应了骷髅海岸的无雨地区,并且完全依赖来自大 西洋的每日雾气。在这里,狮子、鬣狗和其他掠食者在 海岸上游荡,寻找海洋食物。有时可以看到大象涉水而 过,还有11种酱鱼在近海水域巡逻。 上至下: Onduli Ridge只有六间 宽敞的套房, 分布在面向黎明的 山坡上的巨石之间。; 与周围环 境融为一体的曲线 石墙、模仿 山坡形状的地板和圆形屋顶。

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骷髅海岸/ Shipwreck Lodge 体验这个几乎没有人烟的地区最佳方式是入住位 于沙漠山谷中、一直延伸到海岸的少数私人狩猎 营地之一,比如游猎小屋Shipwreck Lodge,这是 Natural Selection与纳米比亚当地公司Trip Travel和 Journeys Namibia,以及公园周边当地社区的合资企 业,也是目前骷髅海岸北岸唯一一家酒店,位于骷髅海 岸中央特许区(Hoarusib河和Hoanib河之间的一块式 地)的一个无与伦比的地点,距离莫维湾约45公里,这 地区拥有不可替代且脆弱的野生动物栖息地,是具有 最高级别保护重要性的物种,包括大象和难以捉摸的 棕色鬣狗。重要的是,这里也是纳米比亚埃托沙国家 公园之外唯一能让狮子生存的栖息地。



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Shipwreck Lodge围绕附近海岸线的神秘沉船而设 计,10个房间的每一个15妙地设计成类似沉船的形状, 沿着沙丘分布。伴着远处海浪拍打的声音醒来,欣赏壮 观的沙漠景色,然后在炉火爆啪声响中入睡,是没有体验 过难以想象的经历,所有小屋均设有私人浴室,保险箱 和燃木火炉,每个房间都有自己的甲板,可以欣赏这地球 尽头美景。客房内部都布满了绳索、木头和舷窗等船舶 小玩意,打造船的元素。在Shipwreck Lodge,一切都与 环境有关,换言之,这里不是对食物挑剔的地方,虽然下 午茶和晚餐的菜单其实相当丰盛。



上至下:大象有时会在 Shipwreck Lodge附近出没。; 到了夜晚Shipwreck Lodge变 得更迷人。



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### 约翰内斯堡/

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呼吸纳尔逊·曼德拉曾呼吸的Saxon酒店 前往纳米比亚,南非是驿站,甚至得在约翰内斯堡 (Johannesburg)过夜以配合转机时间。在治安名声并不 类、最新鲜的鱼、精心挑选的时令食材以及当地农民精 太好的约翰内斯堡,唯一的入住选择毫无疑问是已有多 年历史,但仍然是首选的Saxon酒店。

这座前保险巨头的私人住宅是纳尔逊·曼德拉(Nelson Mandela)创作《漫漫自由之路》一书的地方。今天,酒店 对于前往非洲南部和西南部的游客来说,约翰内斯堡经 仍有强烈的曼德拉存在感。从住宅的历史以及艺术品。 照片和装饰中都能感受到这一点。疫情期间,Saxon酒店的中途停留地。但还好有Saxon,能让人先在这里准备 对内部进行了彻底翻新。在接待处,以其独特的枝形吊 灯和双楼梯,著名的院长西蒙艺术作品"前瞻与后见之 明:曼德拉的五张脸"占据了舞台的中心。这些艺术作品 追溯了曼德拉从青年时代到老年的人生历程。

这家历史悠久的约翰内斯堡庄园式酒店坐落在占地10英 亩的花园绿洲中,吸引了众多富有的客人和当地人,尤其 是追求隐私的名人和政客。由于酒店周围是郁郁葱葱的 花园,这里的氛围比城市酒店更像乡村庄园。

第一印象非常重要,酒店的大型接待处设有两个宽阔的 楼梯和圆顶中庭,立即让人感觉自己身处一个特别的地 方。整个酒店的非洲装饰和手工艺品与平静、中性的色调 相结合,营造出独特精致的个性。天空步道连接着酒店 主楼和隔邻的外围别墅大楼。酒店共有53间套房,分布 在酒店主楼和外围别墅中。开放式布局中的装饰采用大 理石和浅色木材、精致的几何图案和非洲手工艺品:卧 室、休息室和用餐区, 三栋别墅被热带花园环保, 每栋别 墅均配有小型游泳池、书籍的主休息室、用餐区,以及厨 师和24小时管家。

正念的理念也延伸到了洒店的美食中。 Saxon的主要餐 馆Qunu有大胆口味的创新菜单,仅使用最优质的南非肉 心挑选的产品。除了从农场到餐桌的理念外,餐馆还确保 从当地社区采购尽可能多的产品,以确保正念的理念延 伸到酒店及其客人。

上至下:Saxon酒店座前保险巨 头的私人住宅是纳尔逊·曼德拉 (Nelson Mandela)创作《漫漫 自由之路》一书的地方。; Saxon 酒店处处可感觉到强烈的曼德 拉存在,

upcycle

常被视为前往狩猎或其他非洲城市途中稍微"不方便" 好心情,后在这里收拾好心情,为非洲探险做好心情准 备的理想场所。

### ٢



Client Region	andBeyond Singapore	upcycle
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### Translation:

(Page 41)

Since the first time I went to South Africa many years ago to experience safari tourism, I have had an indescribable affection for the African continent, a land that can change one's attitude towards life. From the wild animals to the afterglow of the rising sun, all of which are fascinating, I've also gone to many other countries in Africa to see the different people and animals. Yet, I always feel incomplete, because I had not yet experienced the unique landscape of sand dunes and animals combined with the beaches, which are located in Namibia.

Blood orange dunes silhouetted against wizened trees

Namibia is famous for its imposing sand dunes, dry grasslands that dissipate into vast flat deserts, huge orange-red sand dunes that stretch endlessly, these stunning landscapes, other than time, are synonymous with Namibia, where people come for the scenery, the open spaces and the chance to see the earth in its most pristine state.

Namibia is a complex destination, and it is difficult to articulate the value of hunting in a country that lacks the hunting activities found elsewhere on the continent. Animals are seen here, but not in the same densities as elsewhere on the continent. All of Namibia's "inhabitants" have learnt to adapt to heat, drought and wind, including lions that travel 100 kilometres west to the Atlantic coast to hunt seals and elephants that regularly terrorise local villages for food, while 300-foot-deep canyons run through the land like veins and underground rivers keep the plants alive for months during the dry season. The tiniest plants survive in the sand dunes, quenching their thirst on Atlantic mists a hundred miles away.

To go deeper into Namibia, it's essential to have proper accommodation, because that's where the full experience begins.

Sossusvlei

andBeyond Sossusvlei Desert Lodge

Sometimes it takes the right camp in some unique locations to make the perfect trip, which is probably why we like andBeyond Sossusvlei Desert Lodge in Sossusvlei, South West Namibia, the best. This camp has been previously refurbished and its new look integrates fashionable design with the latest sustainable development elements, specially focusing on providing guests the opportunity to explore the secrets of the Namibia Desert. Currently, the lodge has 10 single bedrooms and 1 double bedroom suite that offer a panoramic view of the valley below, while floor-to-ceiling frameless windows wrap 180 degrees around the lodge's shared guest areas and embrace nearly three sides of the guests rooms, allowing for unfettered viewing of passing wildlife and sparse scenery. Regardless of the activities you are doing, for example, eating, sleeping, resting, swimming or even taking a shower, you will completely be immersed in the natural landscape.

### Deadvlei resembles a painting

It takes approximately 1.5 hours of charter flight from Windhoek to andBeyond Sossusvlei Desert Lodge. The surrounding wild environment, filled with seemingly endless valleys and mountains, and a historic orange sand dune, makes it a Southern Africa's playground for extreme outdoor adventure. The options for adventurous activities here exceed far beyond the standard tours. During meal times, the camp's activity manager will discuss with guests on the activities they would like to engage in that day. Various activities are available, including biking the trails around the camp, hiking to the petroglyphs in the surrounding caves, riding a quad bike through the sand dunes or driving through the reserve at sunset.

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Not to be missed is a half-day tour to the extraordinary and refined Namib-Naukluft National Park, where we hike through blood-orange sand dunes at sunrise and explore the Deadvlei. It resembles an oil painting, illustrating an iconic scene of antelopes standing in front of blood-orange sand dunes and historic trees, which is what we often see on documentaries or social media. Deadvlei was once an oasis full of life, but as the water sources in the desert changed, the basin became barren. Today there are bright white clay and well-preserved wizened trees of over hundreds of years. Under the scorching sun, the withered branches turned black. These branches stood out on the white salt marsh soil and formed a sharp contrast with the surrounding blood-red sand dunes.

It is worth mentioning that unlike safari activities in other African countries, there is no "Big Five". Instead, there are only four, namely rhino, elephant, lion and buffalo. Depending on your luck, you may see them hydrating themselves at the man-made drain in front of the central building of the camp. Due to sparse rain, many of the reserve's fauna rely on the camp to provide a constant source of water and so from time to time, animals such as eland, springbok, ostriches and jackals can be seen stopping by to take a water break during lunch time. In addition to ultra-powerful binoculars located in the rooms, portable SWAROVSKI OPTIK binoculars are also provided to guests for more engaging observation of the animals.

However, if you don't happen to see leopards, don't be too disappointed. The unique environment and rare setting sets it apart from other "ordinary" hunting landscapes. This is like on an alien planet, where the different perspectives of sand dunes and wizened trees together illustrate a colourful painting.

## International Dark Sky Reserve

Returning from a safari expedition necessitates a comfortable setting to help you unwind and alleviate your excitement. In the suite, there is a well-stocked bar, with a sufficient amount of Namibian gin, South African rum, amarula, and wine. You could also head to the outdoor private shaded terrace to enjoy the breeze and sunshine, or soak yourself in the infinity pool. Of course, it is also a good idea to organise the photos taken during the afternoon break or share them on social media. Well, despite the fact that I actually do not encourage doing so. This land is filled with so much wildness and passion, so just leave the technology behind to prevent them from interrupting such an enjoyment.

At night, the lodge is like a pearl in the desert. You can stare at the pristine starry sky without any harm. In fact, the camp is adjacent to Africa's one and only international dark sky reserve, with astronomical telescopes to observe surrounding planets and distant galaxies. The turndown service in the guest room also includes opening the indoor ceiling window, allowing for a view of the Milky Way from the bed.

While others are bussing with traditional hunting, andBeyond Sossusvlei Desert lodge leans toward being quieter. After three days here, you would feel truly recharged as it provides you with ample time to rediscover life and readjust your life tunes before moving on to the rest of Namibia.

Left image starting clockwise: At night, the andBeyond Sossusvlei Desert Lodge is like a pearl in the desert. You can stare at the pristine starry sky without any harm; The 10 single bedrooms and 1 double bedroom suite offer a panoramic view of the valley below; From andBeyond Sossusvlei Desert Lodge, you can take a helicopter to more remote areas to enjoy other areas."

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Etosha

Onduli Ridge

Those embarking on a multi-stop tour of Namibia will not want to miss Etosha, in addition to Sossusvlei. Damaraland, situated between Etosha National Park and the Skeleton Coast, is another must-visit region in Namibia. With dramatic

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topography and geological formation, it is one of the least populated regions in the world's second least populated country. More importantly, Damaraland is home to the world's last remaining black rhino.

The region's hunting camp, Onduli Ridge, is nestled between two island mountains, with room views over the vast flat plains at dawn and dusk, and the purple peaks of Namibia's highest mountain range, the Brandberg, in the distance. The terrain and landscape is unique, dry, mysterious and barren, with rocks of all shapes and colours -- ranging from black basalt and white quartz to weathered iron-rich sandstone and shimmering fragments of mica, just like on an alien planet. If there is rain, which rarely happens, the land would be covered with golden grass.

## The driest place on Earth

It often does not rain for years, leading to dry criss-crossed riverbeds and hardy trees. The dusty air makes sunrises and sunsets very spectacular. The limited underground resources here allow for some hardy trees and creatures to survive, and with the use of trackers and some patience, some guests may find themselves lucky as they would be able to spot rhinos, elephants, giraffes and desert lions though to a lesser extent.

In addition, the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Twyfelfontein and other geological sites such as the giant crater of Dornas, Organ Pipes and Burnt Mountain are all within a couple of hours' drive.

## Supporting local communities

Onduli Ridge is one of the two campsites operated by Ultimate Safaris on this community-run concession, the other being Huab Under Canvas. A community of local goat farmers works with forest rangers in the desert to maintain livelihoods and protect rare and uncommon populations of desert lions, rhinoceros and giraffes. These animals traverse the land in search of water and food, all requiring protection from poachers and farmers. Since 2008, Ultimate Safaris has worked successfully with communities across Namibia, raising more than \$400,000 annually for conservation and has been commissioned to set up camps where a percentage of income from each camp is used to support conservation and community projects.

In fact, Ultimate Safaris has a strong reputation in Namibia for its support of conservation and community projects and is one of the few companies that donates a portion of its income rather than a portion of its profits to the community. It is also an active supporter of Save the Rhino, the Giraffe Conservation Foundation, Pack for Conservation and Conservation Travel Foundation. Thus, besides being a camp for tourists, it is also a pillar of the local economy.

Onduli Ridge is Ultimate Safari's luxury camp located in Damaraland between Etosha National Park and the Skeleton Coast.

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Designed to blend in with the earth

Onduli Ridge only has six spacious suites, spread out amongst boulders on the dawn-facing slopes, with curved stone walls, floors that mimic the shape of the slopes and rounded roofs all blend in with the surroundings. Designed to blend in with their surroundings, some rooms have bathrooms that are partially outdoor and even shower heads that are protruding from the boulders. Best of all, the beds in the guests rooms can be pushed up against the decking and converted into stargazing beds.

Onduli Ridge Camp is located in one of Damaraland's most intimate locations and is ideal if you would like peace, stargaze at night, participate in guided tours of unique sites and a gorgeous space to truly relax after a tiresome day of outdoor hiking.

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## Dune Beach Ship Graveyard

The Skeleton Coast is another of Namibia's major tourist attractions that should not be missed out. The name came from how the animal bones were scattered along its endless shores and the hundreds of ships were wrecked there over the centuries, many of which have run aground due to thick fog, rough seas, unpredictable currents and gale force winds.

Where the great sand dunes of the oldest desert on earth meet the roaring Atlantic Ocean, the 40-kilometre-wide by 500kilometre-long coastline is strewn with the wrecks of some 500 ships, ranging from wooden Portuguese galleons drowned hundreds of years ago to modern steel-hulled vessels. For a hundred kilometres, there are no traces of civilization except for shipwrecks and a handful of campsites, leading to an mysteriously fascinating coastline that looks like the end of the earth.

Despite the harshness of the Skeleton Coast, there is still plenty of wildlife to observe, such as elephants, rhinos, desert lions, brown hyenas, jackal, giraffes, seals, antelopes, oryx and zebras, who are all very adapted to the desert conditions. In addition, some plants are also well-adapted to the rainless areas of the Skeleton Coast and are totally dependent on the daily mist from the Atlantic. Here, lions, hyenas and other predators roam the coast in search of marine food. Elephants can sometimes be seen wading through the water and 11 species of shark patrol the offshore waters.

Top to Bottom: Onduli Ridge has just six spacious suites spread out amongst the boulders on the dawn-facing slopes; curved stone walls, floors that mimic the shape of the slopes and rounded roofs all blend in with the surroundings.

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Skeleton Coast/

Shipwreck Lodge

The best way to experience this virtually untouched region is to stay at one of the few private safari camps located in the desert valleys stretching all the way to the coast, such as Shipwreck Lodge. This is a joint business between Natural Selection and local Namibian companies, Trip Travel and Journeys Namibia, as well as the local communities surrounding the park. It is currently the only hotel on the north shore of the Skeleton Coast, and is situated in an unrivalled location in the Skeleton Coast Central Concession (a strip of land between the Hoarusib River and the Hoanib River), approximately 45 kilometres from Mowe Bay. The area is home to irreplaceable and fragile wildlife habitats for species of the highest conservation importance, including elephants and the elusive brown hyena. More importantly, this is also the only viable habitat for lions outside of Namibia's Etosha National Park.

Top to Bottom: The spectacular sand dunes that border the coast are a unique feature of the Skeleton Coast. Shipwreck Lodge is currently the only hotel on the north shore of the Skeleton Coast.

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Shipwreck Lodge is designed around a mysterious shipwreck along the nearby coastline, with each of the 10 rooms cleverly shaped to resemble a shipwreck and spread out along the dunes. Waking up to the sound of distant waves lapping in the distance, taking in the spectacular desert views, and then falling asleep to the sound of a crackling fire is an unimaginable experience. All cabins have their own private bathrooms, safes and wood burning stoves. Each room has its own deck with an end-of-the-earth view. The interiors of the rooms are filled with ship's knick-knacks such as ropes, logs and portholes to create the idea of shipbuilding. At Shipwreck Lodge, it's all about the environment. In other words, it's not a place to fuss about food, although the afternoon tea and dinner menus are actually quite generous.

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Top to Bottom: Elephants sometimes roam around Shipwreck Lodge; Shipwreck Lodge becomes even more enchanting at night.

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Johannesburg

Breathe the air that Nelson Mandela breathed in Saxon Hotel

On the way to Namibia, South Africa is a stopover, and you may even have to spend the night in Johannesburg to fit your connecting flight time. In Johannesburg, a place that does not have the best reputation for law and order, the only accommodation option is undoubtedly the Saxon Hotel, which stays as the most favourite choice even after years.

This former private home of an insurance magnate is where Nelson Mandela worked on his book "Long Walk to Freedom". Today, the hotel still has a strong Mandela presence. This can be felt in the history of the house through artefacts, photographs and decor. During the pandemic, the Saxon Hotel's interior was completely renovated. In the reception area, with its distinctive chandelier and double staircase, the famous Dean Simon's artwork "Foresight and Hindsight: The Five Faces of Mandela" takes centre stage. The artwork traces Mandela's life from youth to old age.

Set in a 10-acre garden oasis, this historic Johannesburg manor house hotel attracts wealthy guests and locals, especially celebrities and politicians who seek privacy. Surrounded by lush gardens, the ambience is more country estate than city hotel.

First impressions count, and the hotel's large reception, with its two wide staircases and domed atrium, immediately makes you feel you are in a special place. African decor and artefacts throughout the hotel combine with a calm, neutral colour palette to create a unique and sophisticated character. A skywalk connects the main hotel building with the neighbouring outlying villa blocks. A total of 53 suites are located in the main hotel building and the outlying villas. The open layout is decorated with marble and light-coloured wood, delicate geometric patterns and African handicrafts: bedrooms, lounges and dining areas. Three villas are surrounded by tropical gardens, each with a small swimming pool, main lounge with books, dining area, chef and 24-hour butler.

The concept of mindfulness extends to the hotel's cuisine. Saxon's main restaurant, Qunu, features an innovative menu of bold flavours using only the finest South African meats, the freshest fish, carefully selected seasonal ingredients, and produce handpicked by local farmers. In addition to the farm-to-table concept, the restaurant ensures that as much produce as possible is sourced from the local community to ensure that the positive philosophy extends to the hotel and its guests.

For travellers to southern and south-western Africa, Johannesburg is often seen as a slightly 'inconvenient' stopover on the way to a safari or other African city. But thanks to Saxon, it is the ideal place to mentally prepare yourself and get in the mood for an African adventure.

Top to Bottom: The Saxon Hotel is the former private home of an insurance magnate, where Nelson Mandela worked on his book "Long Walk to Freedom". Today, the hotel still has a strong Mandela presence.