

NAMIBIA

ONDULI RIDGE

If the Flintstones were transported to Namibia, this is where they'd live: among the giant boulders of Damaraland in one of the least populated areas of the second-least populated country on earth. The landscape - part dry desert grasslands, part Mars-like miles of stone - is spectacular: scattered with rocks of all morphologies and colours, from black basalt to shards of glittering granite. and dotted with huge boulders and stunted, hardy trees Ultimate Safaris' Onduli Ridge sits on a neck between two inselbergs, with views from the rooms at dawn and dusk over wide, flat plains and, in the distance, the purply peaks of the Brandberg, Namibia's highest mountain range. Every room is spacious and set high up on a deck among the rocks. In some, the showerhead juts from a hunk of granite: in all, bathrooms are partly open to the hills and sky, and the bed can be wheeled onto the deck for stargazing. Ultimate Safaris is renowned for upskilling local workforces, and the cooks, trained from the community, turn out inventive and fresh food, from tapas lunches served on multilayered wooden platters to wood-fired pizzas cooked by the pool under the stars. Local attractions include the Unesco-protected Twyfelfontein rock-art sites, the Doros Crater, created by a meteorite, a petrified forest and strange geological formations such as the Organ Pipes and Burnt Mountain. Plus, if you're very lucky, desertadapted elephants and wild-roaming rhinos. LG Doubles from about £825 all-inclusive; ultimatesafaris.na

