

Location and Description

Grootberg Lodge is unique in every way:

- It is perched on the rim of the Etendeka Plateau with endless views over the Klip River Valley.
- 12 000 hectares have been set aside by the #Khoadi-//Hôas community for conservation and tourism. It is this pristine wilderness that guests can explore either on foot or by car to encounter some of Namibia's iconic wildlife species, including the desert-adapted elephant and black rhino
- As the first mid-market establishment in the country that is 100% owned by a conservancy, it is a landmark in the Namibian tourism industry.
- The 2020 Sustainable Tourism Award was bestowed on the #Khoadi-//Hôas Conservancy and Grootberg Lodge by Green Destinations. This award, a first for Namibia, recognises the #Khoadi-//Hôas Conservancy as one of the World's Top 100 sustainable destinations and showcases Namibia's innovative community-led approach to natural resource management. Green Destinations is a destination certification body accredited by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC).
- Grootberg Lodge is an ideal stopover en route between Etosha and Swakopmund.

Lodge co-ordinates: 19.850686, 14.133396 / -19° 51' 2.47"

The cornerstones of our philosophy are conservation, securing the well-being of the local community through revenues generated by the lodge and the best guest service we can provide in a remote location in Namibia.

Most of our employees are recruited from the local community. They receive regular training to ensure an efficient and friendly guest service that reflects authentic Namibian hospitality. Dinner is served at 19h30 during summer and at 19h00 in winter.

Accommodation

- 14 twin and 2 family rock and thatch chalets with views over the Klip River Valley where Black Eagles scour the surroundings for prey.
- Each of the 2 family units can accommodate a family of four.

Each room has its own shower, toilet and washbasin plus complimentary toiletries.

The rooms also feature a writing desk, bedside lamps as well as a coffee and tea station with a vacuum flask for hot water (refillable at reception). There is a small outside deck.



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Guest Activities

Desert Elephant Tracking

This is one of the most popular activities at Grootberg Lodge. Accompanied by a knowledgeable guide and tracker you are able to explore the surrounding conservancy area in search of the elusive desert-adapted elephants. Lunch is enjoyed in the shade of a tree. While elephant sightings cannot be guaranteed, you will nevertheless experience the natural beauty of this remote wilderness of Damaraland.

Departure from the lodge at 06h00 in summer, at 07h00 in winter | Duration: half day, you will be back at the lodge around 15h00 | Minimum 2 guests per excursion – max 9 per vehicle | 50% discount for children under 12 years |

Black Rhino Tracking

In an open 4x4 game viewing vehicle your guide and game trackers will take you into the rhino territory. Part of the tracking is done on foot, with between 1 and 3 hours of walking. At lunchtime you can enjoy refreshments near the springs. This is almost a full-day excursion of driving on bumpy roads and walking in rocky terrain. It requires a good measure of fitness and endurance. Rhino sightings are not guaranteed.

Departure: Early morning, varies according to sunrise. Please enquire at reception for applicable departure times. | Duration: ½ day | Minimum 2 guests per excursion – maximum 8 per vehicle | For safety reasons, children under 16 years are not allowed to join this activity |

Sundowner Drive

Scenic drives on the Etendeka Plateau offer the possibility of seeing a variety of wildlife including zebra, antelope, jackal and occasionally leopard and lion. Springbok, kudu and oryx are a common sight and even the nervous and shy klipspringers are sometimes seen leaping from ledge to ledge on the steep cliffs of the mountain.

Departure at 18h00 in summer and at 17h00 in winter | Minimum 2 guests per excursion – maximum 9 per vehicle | 50% discount for children under 12 years |

Damara Cultural Tour

You will be guided through some surrounding conservancy farms and visit authentic homesteads of the Damara people. This gives you an exclusive opportunity to spend time with your local Namibian hosts, learn about their origins, cultures, traditions and their approach to farming in harsh desert conditions with the reality of human-wildlife conflict.

The tour includes a stop at the #Khoadi-//Hôas Conservancy's office. It is an example of the positive impact and the benefits that the conservancy derives from its ownership of Grootberg Lodge. Lunch is served under the trees in a remote spot of the Damaraland wilderness.

Departure from the lodge at 07h00 | Return around 13h00 | Minimum 2 guests per excursion – maximum 9 per vehicle | 50% discount for children under 12 years |

Moringa Guided Walk

On this short guided walk after breakfast, or in the afternoon after coffee & tea and freshly baked cake, you will learn more about the local flora and the amazing sedimentary and volcanic rock formations of the Etendeka Mountains and perhaps encounter some wildlife on the plateau.

Departure: between 07h30 and 08h00; and at 16h30 in summer or at 15h30 in winter. | Duration: around 2 hours | Minimum 2 guests per guide – maximum 9 | not for children under 12 years |

Remember to bring your hat, water, sunblock and a jacket (in winter); ask the staff for more information and prices.



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Conservation

Namibia is a globally recognised conservation success story. It is home to some of the world's richest wildlife in and outside national parks. Assisting people to benefit from their natural resources has not only brought several species back from the brink of extinction but also helped both wildlife and communities to thrive.

Among the conservation achievements is the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), established in Namibia in 1990. CCF is winning the battle against the decreasing numbers of cheetah. Namibia now boasts the largest free-roaming cheetah population in the world. CCF is the global leader in cheetah research and conservation.

The partnership between Namibia's government-driven communal conservation programmes and dedicated local NGOs has resulted in realistic management strategies that tackle human-wildlife conflict on the ground. These include the AfriCat Foundation, the Lion Conservation Project and Elephant-Human Relations Aid.

The desert-adapted black rhino has been brought back from the brink of extinction thanks to the commitment of various conservation efforts including those by the Save the Rhino Trust and Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) in conjunction with the community conservancies.

Namibia is also one of only a few African countries where the number of giraffes is on the increase, while elsewhere several subspecies are in a process of "silent extinction" due to general habitat loss and falling prey to the ravages of war. The Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) is the only NGO that focuses solely on the conservation of giraffe in the wild, throughout Africa.

Hartmann's mountain zebra, which is endemic to the semi-arid regions of Namibia (from where it also ranges into southern Angola), is classified as an endangered and protected species.

The pangolin, or "scaly anteater", is the most trafficked mammal in the world. In Namibia it is therefore classified as an endangered and protected species.

Grootberg Lodge boasts a diversity of game including many different mammal species. Among them are several endemic, endangered and/or protected species – in Namibia and globally.

MAMMALS AT GROOTBERG LODGE

African wildcat
Black-backed jackal
Chacma baboon
Ground squirrel
Honey badger
Kudu
Porcupine
Scrub hare
Steenbok
Black rhino

Banded mongoose
Brown hyena
Cheetah
Hartmann's zebra
Black-faced impala
Leopard
Gemsbok (Oryx)
Small-spotted genet
Warthog
Lion

Bat-eared fox
Caracal
Giraffe
Spotted hyena
Klipspringer
Meerkat (suricate)
Dassie (rock hyrax)
Springbok
Elephant
Yellow mongoose

A Grootberg Lodge Predator's Fund has been established to assist the #Khoadi-//Hôas Conservancy in its conservation efforts to sustain/increase wildlife populations. It also helps to compensate the losses farmers might suffer due to human-wildlife conflict.

Grootberg Lodge donates N\$25 for each guest sighting of a predator while on an activity offered by the lodge. This applies to lion, cheetah, leopard, wildcat, caracal and spotted hyena.

Grootberg Lodge Education Fund

Grootberg Lodge was built to benefit and support the local community, and various initiatives have been launched for that purpose. One of them is an Education Fund for children of the #Khoadi-//Hôas community. With your permission we would like to add 1% (or more) to your total bill as your contribution to the Education Fund.

Conservancy and Conservation

Grootberg Lodge cooperates with the #Khoadi-//Hôas Conservancy to: sustain the natural resources of the area, increase direct job opportunities in this poor region, support local communities through various projects and award bursaries to promising pupils. Another important aim of this collaboration is to reduce human-wildlife conflict so that there is more tolerance of living side by side with the lions, cheetahs and elephants that add great value to tourism.

The success of Grootberg Lodge is critical to demonstrate the value of the land-use promoted by the conservancy. The Klip River Valley has been set aside as a core area for biodiversity conservation, for tourism and the reintroduction of black rhinos, elands and black-faced impalas. It has been a success, thanks to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in collaboration with the Save the Rhino Trust.



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