



ETENDEKA CONCESSION:

As a concession area, the land has a conservation status that is managed in an agreement between the State, the Conservancies and the Operator. A detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been incorporated in the joint venture agreement between the operator, Etendeka Lodge Company, and the community represented by Omatendeka and Anabeb conservancies, detailing how the land should be utilized and protected.

The Etendeka Concession is not fenced and is fortunate to host a wide variety of endemic and other plant and animal species, it is home to all the large mammals that are indigenous to this free ranging habitat. The management of the camp, Etendeka Mountain Camp (EMC), have been working with the non-government organisations and communities for more than 16 years to promote, initially, the concept of community based conservation and then the development of conservancies in communal areas. The benefit directly to communities through photographic tourism is growing rapidly as a result of government, community, NGO and operator initiatives.

ACTIVITIES AND SUGGESTED ITINERARY:

Arriving guests are met at the pickup point situated at Palmwag Lodge, where secure parking is provided, and transferred by game viewing vehicle the 18km to the camp. This limits the number of vehicles using the concession tracks. The transfer usually takes an hour and a half and provides an introduction to the area and the guide will explain briefly the geology, fauna and flora and some general details about the concession.

At the camp, guests are shown to their tents after an introduction to the camp and how to best enjoy their stay. Guests are advised of animals moving through the camp and that they are wild and not to be approached.

A short 'sundowner walk' is offered in the afternoon after arrival at the camp where guests get the opportunity to walk up a hill behind the camp to get a better idea of the spectacular setting and location of the camp.

The morning activity is a guided three to three and a half hour nature walk. The distance is between 4 and 6 km with lots of discussion and interpretation. Conservancies are an important subject with the value of the conservancy to the local communities being explained.

The scenic drive in the afternoon allows guests to travel to other parts of the concession and to have a better opportunity to see the wide variety of animals that have adapted to this harsh environment.

All activities are accompanied by a guide; vehicles are restricted to the regular tracks and walks follow routine paths.

After dinner your hosts, Dennis and Bonnie, will point out some of the more interesting constellations, stars and planets with the aid of a 'star pointer' and a telescope. With minimal light and air pollution in this area, star gazing is a treat to the eye.



Big Sky Lodges – Etendeka Mountain Camp

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Days are spent lying by the pool, reading up on this special part of Namibia from the extensive library at the camp or just relaxing in the shade.

For guests staying three nights or longer there is the opportunity to drive to the top of Crystal Mountain. Once up the mountain guests will explore on foot, one is not sure whether to enjoy the spectacular view or look down at the amazing collection of semi-precious stones and crystals found scattered across the land.

An additional activity is a day trip. Travelling by vehicle to the north you pass over a plateau area at the northern tip of the Grootberg range through very rugged terrain, you then descend towards the northern watershed in the direction of the Ombonde River. With a short walk and many stops it will bring you to the herero and himba settlement of Otjitheka. You will meet herero and himba people going about their daily business. Your guide will likely be from the same community so a satisfying cultural exchange can take place. Lunch will be eaten under a shady mopane tree and the return trip will take 2 hours.

The philosophy of the development of Etendeka Mountain Camp has been primarily focused on conservation, from how we drive our vehicles to how we cook our meals. Minimal disturbance of the local habitat is top of the list. In 2008 EMC obtained the highest rating of 5 flowers awarded by the Eco Awards of Namibia in recognition of our efforts.



we are all guests of Mother Nature



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