



ONGAVA LODGE

Shift your perspective of what luxury means, as you settle into the spectacular surroundings of Ongava Lodge.

Luxury is the sense of the infinite that greets you as you gaze into the wild beyond. Luxury is the thrill of a close encounter with rare and endangered wildlife, from the sanctuary of a game-viewing hide.

UNIT DESCRIPTION

The rock chalets are constructed under thatch, with paved walkways on the ground; rooms 13 and 14 feature elevated walkways. Each chalet offers en-suite facilities including a separate toilet, indoor shower, double vanity basin, and an outdoor shower with a view, except for the family unit. Guests also enjoy a ceiling fan, electronic safe, tea and coffee making facilities, hairdryer, and air-conditioned bedrooms. Each chalet has a private wooden viewing deck overlooking the reserve. During winter months, hot water bottles and extra blankets are provided. Additional amenities include bathrobes, liquid soap, body wash, shampoo and conditioner, body lotion, room spray, insect repellents, washing powder for small items, sewing kit, shower caps, cotton-tip swabs, cotton balls, tissue dispensers, umbrella, and a laundry bag, ensuring a comfortable and well-prepared stay.

LODGE DESIGN & FACILITIES

The lodge is situated near the top of a hill, offering spectacular views across the plains and a nearby waterhole. The split-level thatched main area features a lounge, dining room, and bar, along with a swimming pool, library corner, and a private sala. Guests can enjoy excellent wildlife viewing with spotting scopes provided throughout the lodge. A dedicated area featuring a table and desk is available for guests to comfortably use their computers, with complimentary Wi-Fi provided in the main area. During the cooler months, a gas heater is stationed in the main area and chenille blankets are provided at dinner. Please note that there are multiple steps on access and throughout the lodge, and the lodge is not wheelchair accessible.

ACCOMMODATION

The lodge can accommodate up to 28 guests and 2 children, along with 4 guide, pilot, or tour leader rooms, subject to concession numbers and availability. There are 14 units in total, including 13 twin-bedded chalets each with two three-quarter beds. The family unit consists of two bedrooms, each with two three-quarter beds, private bathrooms, and separate entrances, connected by a boardwalk. Two mattress converters are available to transform twin beds into king-size beds upon prior arrangement. Additionally, two extra beds are available for children or triples, providing flexibility for families or larger groups.



ACTIVITIES

Guests booked on a Fully Inclusive Rate can enjoy a range of scheduled lodge activities included in their stay. These include day and night game drives on the Ongava Game Reserve in a 10-seater open 4x4 Land Cruiser, accommodating a maximum of six guests to ensure everyone has an outside seat. Half- and full-day excursions into Etosha National Park are also offered, allowing for exceptional wildlife viewing opportunities. Guests may take part in guided nature walks on the Ongava Game Reserve, which are seasonal and subject to the availability of a qualified walking guide (minimum guest age: 16 years). Private activities can be arranged through a Sole Use Guide and Vehicle option in conjunction with the Fully Inclusive Rate. Additional highlights include visits to the Ongava Discovery Centre and the Photographers Hide, perfect for nature and photography enthusiasts.

EXAMPLE OF A TYPICAL DAY

Morning wake-up and activity times vary depending on the season, available activities, and wildlife movements. The day begins with an early morning wake-up call, followed by a light “grab and go” breakfast of muesli, yogurt cups, and fruit before departing on the morning activity. Guests return to lodge for a hearty meal and some relaxation time, followed by a visit to the Ongava Discovery Centre and Ongava Research Centre. In the late afternoon, tea is served before the next activity begins. The day concludes with a return to lodge to freshen up, enjoy evening drinks, and dine under the stars, perhaps finishing the night with a quiet nightcap around the fire.

ELECTRICITY & WATER

Power throughout the lodge is supplied by solar energy. Each tent is equipped with 220V electricity to power fans and lights, and plug points are available for charging batteries or operating small electrical appliances such as sleep apnea machines, hairdryers, and electric shavers. In major cities, electrical appliances run on 220/240V with round 3-pin, 15-amp plugs. While some lodges may provide adaptors (3-prong round, 3-prong square, 2-prong round, or 2-prong flat), it is recommended that guests bring their own adaptors to ensure compatibility with their devices.

RATE BASIS

Fully Inclusive - Includes accommodation, all meals, twice-daily scheduled lodge activities, park fees, laundry, Namibian VAT, Tourism levy, and local drinks. Excludes premium imported brands and champagne.

Full Board - Includes accommodation, all meals, Namibian VAT, Tourism levy. All other extras must be settled directly by the guest in lodge.

CHILD POLICY

Ongava Lodge bookings with children aged 0-5 require the entire lodge/lodge to be booked and paid for on an exclusive-use basis.

Parties with children 11 years and younger are required to book and pay for private activities unless the lodge is booked on exclusive use basis. A family booking will depend on the availability of a private vehicle/activities and is only available in conjunction with the Fully Inclusive basis.

Children aged 16 years and younger must always share accommodation with at least one adult.

Persons aged 17 years and older are considered adults, and normal adult rates will apply.



LOCATION

The 30 000 hectare private Ongava Game Reserve is situated in northern Namibia along the southern boundary of the Etosha National Park, south of Okaukuejo with Ombika Gate being the closest access to Etosha.

ACCESS

Self-Drive Basis:

The lodge can be accessed by road; however, guests may not do self-drive activities in our private concession areas. Parking in lodge at own risk. Closer to the time of travel, we recommend that you contact your travel consultant with regards to road conditions which may be affected by seasonal changes, e.g. high rains.

Fly-In Basis:

Airstrip Name: Ongava Airstrip

Duration to Lodge: Approximately 15-minute road transfer (depending on wildlife sightings, scenery and photographic opportunities along the way)

ONGAVA GAME RESERVE

On the southern boundary of Etosha National Park and forming a buffer to the Park lies Ongava Game Reserve, a 30 000-hectare (74 129-acre) private reserve. It is a haven to large concentrations of wildlife: notably lion, wildebeest, springbok, gemsbok, Hartmann's mountain zebra, red hartebeest, giraffe, eland and the largest population of the endemic black-faced impala outside of Etosha. The Reserve is also known for the successful reintroduction of white and black rhino. Ongava also provides easy access to the prime game viewing areas of central Etosha, Namibia's flagship national park.

HABITAT & WILDLIFE

Etosha Pan is the result of a geological shift that dramatically changed the course of the Kunene River. Its 5000 km² / 1 930 sq. miles (120 km / 75 miles across and 55 km / 34 miles from north to south) were formerly an ancient lake. Today the Pan is mostly bone dry, the stark, parched white surface giving the Pan its Herero name, "Great White Place." The edges of the Pan give way to a surprising variety of vegetation types: from woodland and broad swathes of mopane, to open acacia-strewn plains and grasslands. Fringing the Pan are several productive waterholes that sustain the high density of large mammal fauna, from elephant and lion to vast herds of springbok, wildebeest, zebra, giraffe and gemsbok.

GAME VIEWING

Guests at Ongava Game Reserve have the opportunity to view game both on Ongava and in neighboring Etosha National Park. Large herds of plains game concentrate around the waterholes in the dry season, making for exciting wildlife viewing. Most general wildlife species are present on Ongava Reserve as well as within Etosha. This includes springbok, gemsbok, wildebeest, Burchell's zebra, Hartmann's mountain zebra, waterbuck, red hartebeest, giraffe, eland, and the endemic black-faced impala. Lions move between the park and the reserve, and both black and white rhinos can be seen. Please see the species checklist for an extensive list of creatures found on the reserve.



BIRDING

Birdlife is prolific on Ongava with 340 species including Kori Bustard, White-tailed Shrike, Short-toed Rock Thrush, Hartlaub's Francolin, Rüpell's Parrot and raptors, such as Greater Kestrel, in abundance. Local specials include Namaqua Sandgrouse, Double-banded Courser, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Spike-heeled Lark and Acacia Pied Barbet

LAUNDRY FACILITIES

Laundry is provided daily (weather permitting) and included on the Fully Inclusive rate basis. Laundry slips are provided, which guests must include with their clothes. Although the utmost care is taken with laundry, Ongava Game Reserve cannot accept responsibility for any damage or shrinkage. It is therefore recommended that guests hand wash their own delicate items with the washing powder provided.

PAYMENT FOR EXTRAS

The Namibian Dollar and South African Rand are the only legal tender in Namibia and can be used freely to purchase goods and services. Visitors may bring any amount of foreign currency into the country; however, Travelers Cheques and foreign currency can only be exchanged at any of the main commercial banks in the major centers of the country.

We recommend that guests make use of cash or credit cards.

Ongava Game Reserve accepts US Dollars, GBP Sterling and Euro as payment for curios, drinks, gratuities, etc. International MasterCard and Visa credit cards are generally accepted throughout Namibia. Holders of other cards are advised to clarify with a commercial bank whether their card is acceptable in Namibia. American Express is now accepted on the Ongava Game Reserve.

TIPPING & GRATUITY GUIDELINES

We would like to emphasise that tipping is not a requirement and should be undertaken only by choice, dependent on the service received. If guests are pleased with the service provided, they may wish to add a nominal amount (subject to personal budget choice).

We recommend tipping your guide directly and making use of the gratuity box in the main area for the general lodge staff.