

BON VOYAGE



Boutique Hotels for the Conscious Traveler

gestalten

A Luxury Outpost with a Conscience

OMAANDA

KHOMAS, NAMIBIA 249



Through its dedication to authenticity, this luxury outpost respects and helps protect Namibia's environment and culture.

A land of contrasts, Namibia is among the least populated countries in the world. Boasting unique natural parks and reserves, it has become a key player in wildlife conservancy. Near the Namibian capital, Windhoek, there is a private animal preserve named the Zannier Reserve by N/a'an ku sê. This preserve covers over 22,000 acres, and inside its borders lies the luxurious Omaanda lodge, established with the support of the country's leading conservation organizations. The 10-room lodge took its name from the word "rhinoceros" in Oshiwambo—a nod to its location in the heart of an animal preserve. And, like its name, everything at Omaanda stems organically from the sights, sounds, and culture of this wide, savannah-covered corner of Namibia.





BENEATH THE TRADITIONAL HAND-FINISHED THATCHED ROOF, EACH HUT IS FURNISHED SIMPLY YET WITH AN EMPHASIS ON COMFORT. TEXTILES ARE WARM AND TEXTURED, IN COLORS THAT REFLECT THE TONES OF THE LANDSCAPE.

EACH HUT HAS A LARGE BATHROOM EQUIPPED WITH MODERN AMENITIES. GUESTS CAN TAKE IN VIEWS OF THE STUNNING COUNTRYSIDE WHILE STANDING BENEATH A WALK-IN RAIN SHOWER OR PAMPER THEMSELVES AT LENGTH WITH A DEEP, RELAXING BATH.



CLOSE TO THE RESTAURANT, A COMMUNAL, HEATED, OUTDOOR INFINITY POOL OFFERS ANOTHER WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO GAZE OUT OVER THE SAVANNA. POOLSIDE SNACKS AND DRINKS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE NEARBY TERRACE BAR.

From the very first days of its construction, Omaanda was imagined as a sanctuary, a place where conservation and nature formed—and forms—every decision. Imagined by Kraft Architects, Omaanda is a new take on luxury hospitality, sustainability, and design alike. The design of the huts, evocative of the earth, is inspired by the traditional architecture of the Ovambo people. Each hut is covered with a hand-finished thatched roof. Echoing Namibian traditions, the lodge is surrounded by a wooden fence called the “kraal,” in tribute to local tradition. Similarly, Omaanda’s beating heart—the place where guests come together—is referred to as the “boma,” the name for where the local tribe gathers. With a profound sense of respect for ancestral architectural techniques, the rounded walls of each room are built using a basic sandbag structure that is then covered in natural clay. For the interiors, Géraldine Dohogne, a long-time Zannier Hotels collaborator, approached the decor with respect for the region’s

ancestral architectural techniques in mind. The result is a chic mix between Dohogne’s signature stripped-back approach to luxury (think muted colors with rustic, refined textures) and one-of-a-kind antique pieces sourced from Namibia and neighboring countries. The elegant palette of woody and earthy tones naturally conveys a modern, African atmosphere.

Aside from its sustainable design approach, Omaanda’s real contribution to conservation lies in its partnership with the N/a’an ku sê Foundation to create the Zannier Reserve by N/a’an ku sê. The reserve’s goal is to protect and nurture the fragile ecosystems within its borders. Started in 2006 by Rudie and Marlice van Vuuren, the foundation’s key objective is to preserve the land, wildlife, and the culture of Namibia. A conservation organization, N/a’an ku sê sustains its projects through non-governmental funding and responsible conservation tourism. For

THE ZANNIER RESERVE BY N/A'ANKU SÊ
LOOKS AFTER ORPHANED OR



INJURED ANIMALS, AND WORKS TO
PREVENT LAND DEGRADATION.

OMAANDA

KHOMAS, NAMIBIA 253



DOTTED ACROSS THE NAMIBIAN LANDSCAPE, THE THATCHED ROOFS OF THE HUTS MIRROR THE PEAKS OF THE MOUNTAINS IN THE DISTANCE (TOP RIGHT). AT THE LODGE, GUESTS CAN RELAX ON LOUNGERS BEFORE EATING IN THE LODGE'S DEDICATED RESTAURANT (TOP LEFT AND BOTTOM).

example, the van Vuuren couple runs several crucial projects to improve the health and well-being of the ancient, yet marginalized, San Bushmen of Namibia. The organization also gives a second lease on life to countless orphaned and/or injured animals, and it also works to prevent land degradation. The organization stands at the forefront of the human-wildlife conflict mitigation by undertaking critical conservation and research projects to ensure a thriving future for Namibia's wildlife. Their vision is an Africa where humans and wildlife can live and thrive together.

Building on this visionary approach, Omaanda organizes numerous excursions and safaris. What sets their excursions apart from traditional game drives and animal tracking excursions, though, is that guests can explore first-hand the conservancy campaigns being led within the Zannier Reserve by N/a'an ku sê. Meeting a traditional San tribe or visiting the Shiloh Wildlife Sanctuary—a valuable center caring for rhinos and elephants that have been injured or orphaned in poaching incidents—are two vivid examples.



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