

# KAOKOLAND



## ABOUT KAOKOLAND

Kaokoland, situated in the north-western expanse of Namibia, stands as a remote and rugged terrain distinguished by vast arid landscapes, rocky mountain ranges, and expansive desert plains. This region is home to various indigenous communities, notably the Himba people, recognized for their unique red ochre hairstyles and adherence to traditional lifestyles.

With its sparse population, Kaokoland offers an authentic wilderness encounter. The scenery spans from expansive deserts to rugged mountains, with the ephemeral Hoanib River meandering through the landscape. The inherent remoteness of Kaokoland enhances its appeal, creating an atmosphere of isolation and tranquility.



## TOUR GUIDES

NICO

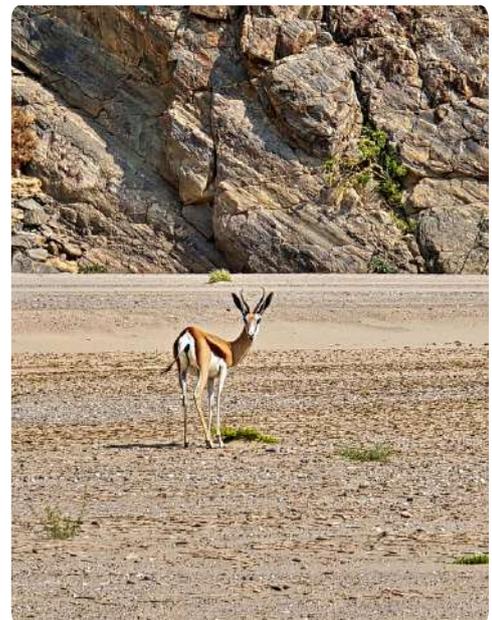
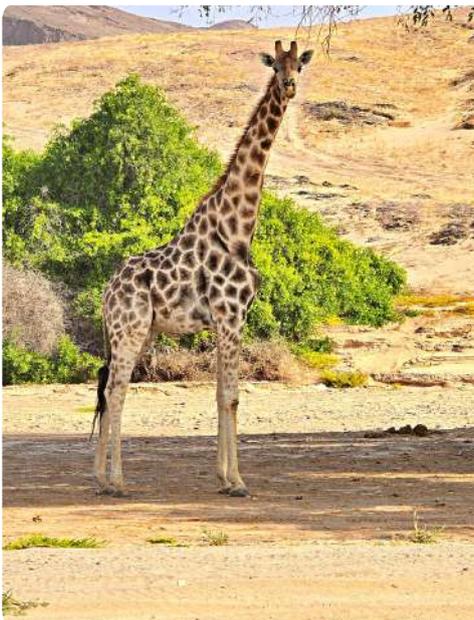
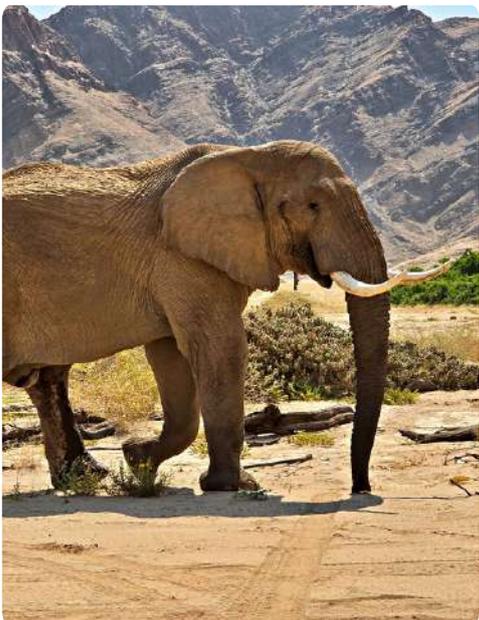
BURGER

CHRISTELLE

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## MESSAGE FOR YOU:

Welcome to a journey beyond the map. We are Nico & Christelle from Coast2Coast Tours, and our Kaokoland adventures is one of our most soul-stirring routes through Namibia's wild northwest. This Pamphlet captures the essence of a land where silence speaks, mountains breathe, and culture runs deep. From rugged 4x4 trails to Himba heartlands, each page reflects the raw beauty and emotional depth of Kaokoland. Join us as we trace dust roads, share stories, and celebrate the spirit of true exploration.





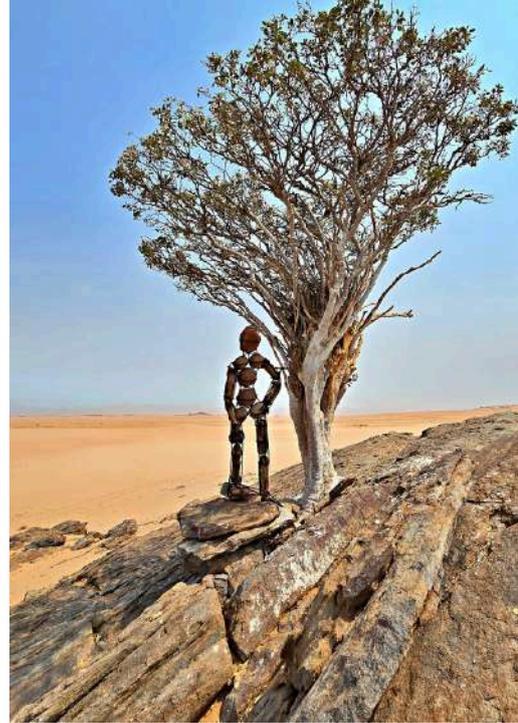
# IT'S ALL ABOUT *Adventure*



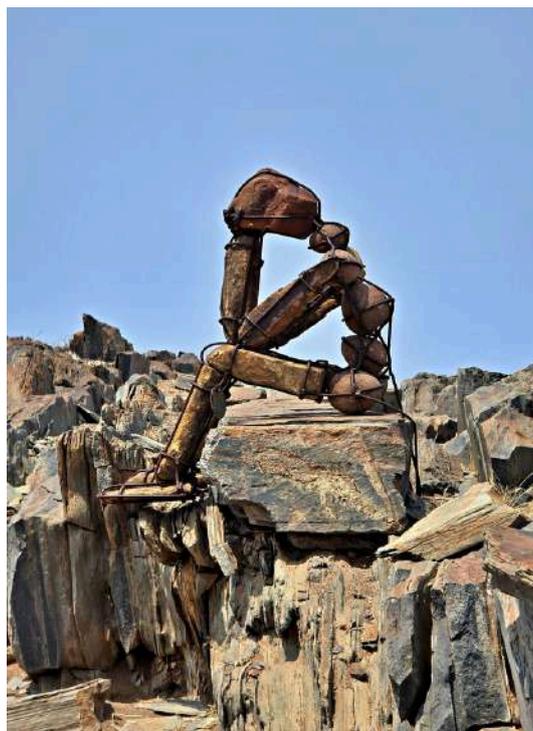
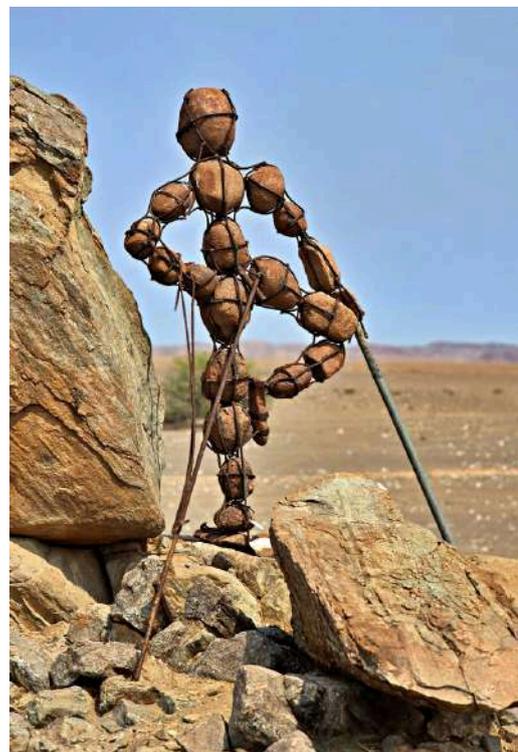
Despite its arid conditions, Kaokoland hosts a diverse array of desert-adapted wildlife. Visitors have the chance to witness desert elephants, giraffes, oryx, springbok, and other species specially adapted to thrive in the challenging environment. Wildlife viewing in Kaokoland is a distinctive experience, as these animals have evolved unique strategies for survival in the arid terrain.

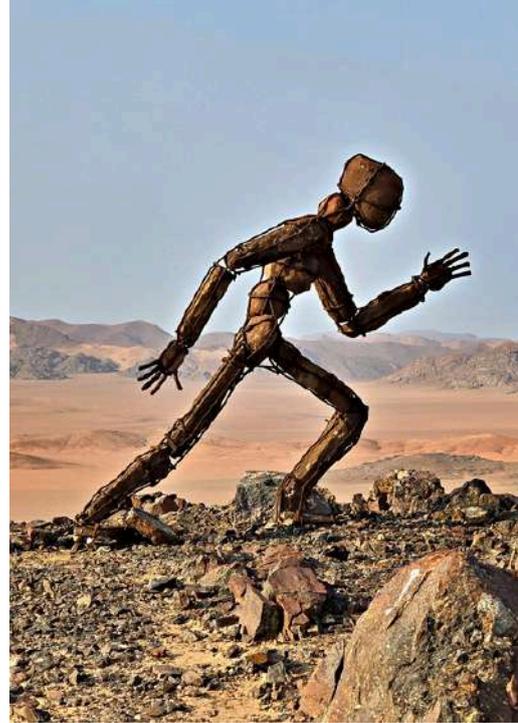
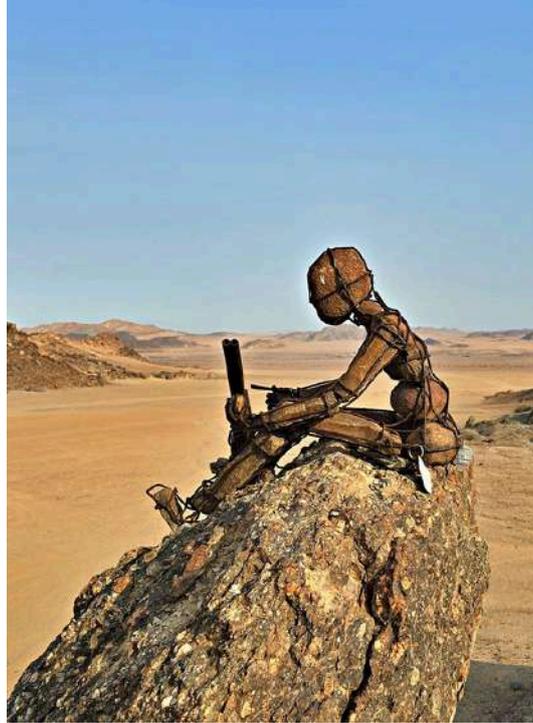
Exploring Kaokoland demands meticulous planning due to its remote nature and challenging terrain. Many travelers opt for guided tours to navigate the region, gaining access to its exclusive cultural and natural attractions while maintaining a respectful balance with the environment and the traditional lifestyles of its inhabitants.



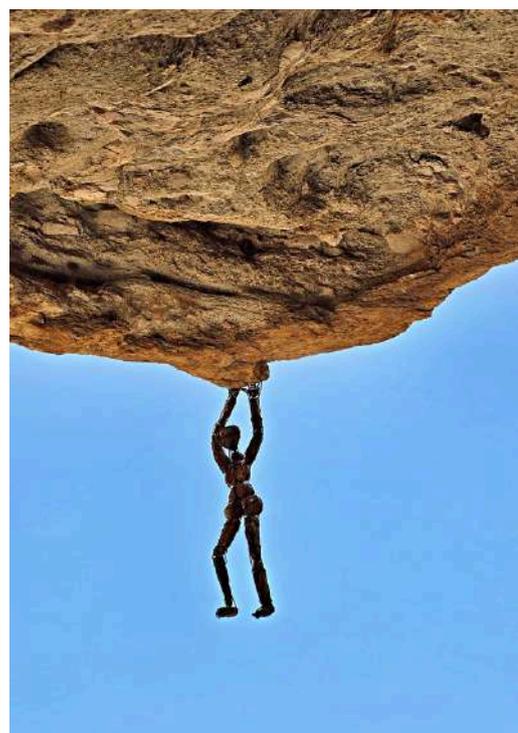
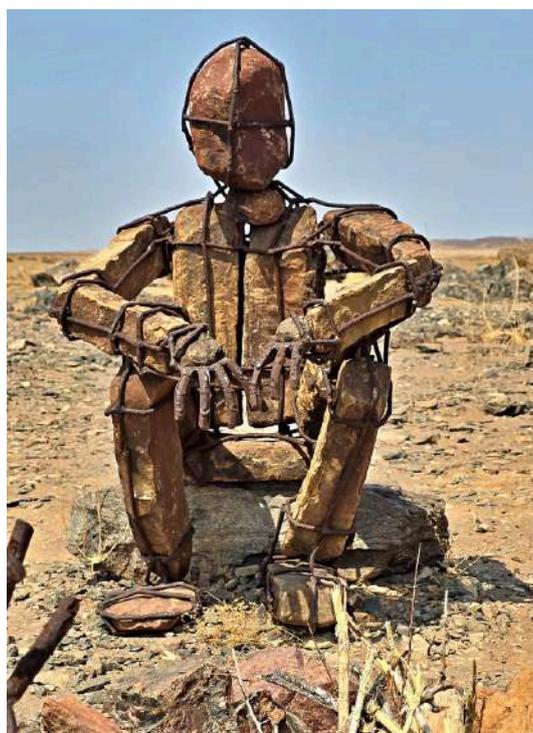
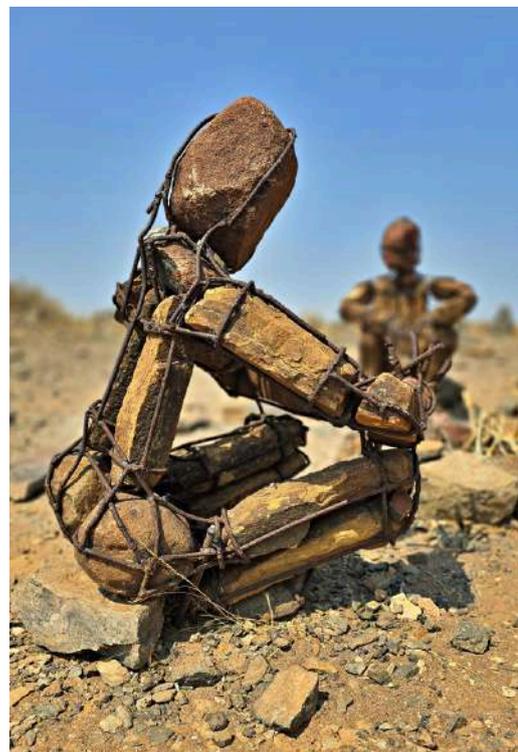


LONELY  
STONE  
MEN





JOIN US ON A THRILLING QUEST TO UNCOVER THE MYSTERY OF KAOKOLAND'S LONE MEN—LIFE-SIZED STONE FIGURES SCATTERED ACROSS NAMIBIA'S WILD NORTHWEST. THESE MASTERFULLY SCULPTED ROCK MEN BLEND SEAMLESSLY INTO THE DESERT, STRIKING LIFE-LIKE POSES THAT SURPRISE AND CAPTIVATE. EACH CARRIES A NUMBERED ALUMINUM DISC AND A CRYPTIC MESSAGE, YET NO ONE HAS FOUND THEM ALL. SIGHTINGS STRETCH FROM PUROS TO VAN ZYL'S PASS, OTJINUNGUA TO THE SKELETON COAST. WHO MADE THEM? WHY ARE THEY HERE? LET'S GO FIND OUT.



# HIMBA PEOPLE

The Himba people are a proud, peace-loving, and culturally unique nation.

Originally classified as Nilotic people from the Nile region, they migrated south through Africa.

After dividing into various groups (including the Swazi, Zulu, Xhosa, Herero, and Ovambo), the western tribes faced conflict and were eventually driven into southern Angola.

Reduced to scavenging and begging for survival, they earned the nickname "himba-himba," meaning "beggar". They later reconquered their land and livestock in the late 1800s with Portuguese assistance.

Today, the Ovahimba retain their traditional culture and primarily live in remote Kaokoland, constituting less than 1% of the Namibian population. Their nomadic life is centered on their cattle, which signify wealth and prestige. Overgrazing and water scarcity in the arid region are major challenges, but their livestock have adapted to these conditions.



When they are still small, young boys and girls dress and look similar. Their clothing consists of a cord tied around the waist to suspend a piece of cloth that covers their private parts. The heads of the boys are shaved to leave a raised centre strip of hair, while that of the girls are shaved to leave a strip of hair that are plaited into two forward facing braids.

As soon as they reach puberty, most young men adopt western-style clothing and some of them plait their hair into a stiff, rearward-facing and pointed braid. The young women, on the other hand, undergo a fascinating transformation. They cover their whole body daily from head to toe with a mixture of ochre and butter, they plait their hair into stringy braids that are extended with animal hair and they wear beautiful leather skirts, elaborately decorated leather girdles and a host of other decorative items.

Most of the older men wear a lion cloth and go about bare-chested while the women continue wearing their elaborate clothing. The women also wear a small leather headdress (erembe) to indicate their married status.

# DISCOVER KAAKOLAND



Who made these stone figures—and why? No one knows. Silent and scattered across Kaokoland’s vast wilderness, the Lone Men have become cult icons, sparking a GPS-free treasure hunt that blends art, myth, and mystery.

Praised as true works of art, each sculpture is crafted with care and restraint, blending seamlessly into the land. Their creator remains anonymous, yet clearly possesses deep artistic and environmental sensitivity.

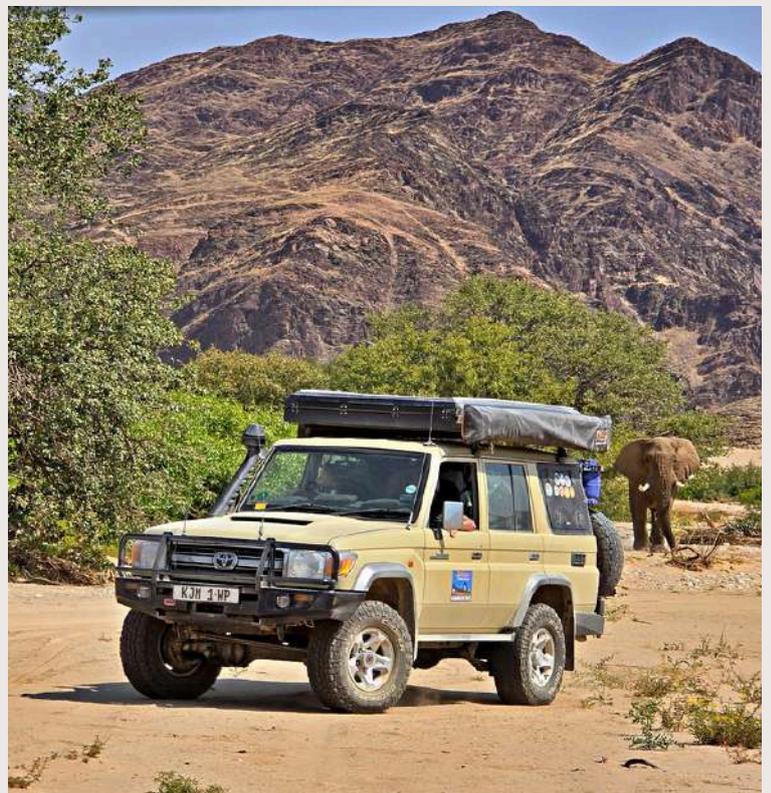


Legends whisper that these figures were once men, turned to stone by their love for the land. The Himba remain unfazed, and the desert keeps its secrets.

Kaokoland, bordered by the Kunene River and the Skeleton Coast, is a sacred space. As eco-travelers, we tread lightly—respecting paths, protecting flora, and honoring the silence.



Kaokoland’s landscapes stretch from vast plains and rugged mountains to dry riverbeds lined with lush greenery. Natural gems like the Kunene River, Ruacana and Epupa Falls, and the grass-covered Marienfluss Valley—reached via Van Zyl’s Pass or Rooidrom—add to its wild charm. Scattered fairy circles complete the region’s mysterious allure.



We can't wait to welcome you on our next unforgettable journey into the heart of Kaokoland. Let the adventure continue!

# WHAT YOU WILL NEED FOR THIS TOUR:

- **Vehicle & Safety** - Reliable 4x4 vehicle
  - Spare tires, jack, tire repair kit
  - Extra fuel (jerry cans)
  - Tool kit & spare parts (fan belts, fuses, etc.)
  - Recovery gear (tow rope, shovel, sand tracks)
  - First aid kit (with rehydration salts, antiseptic, bandages)
  - Headlamp/torch with spare batteries
  - Fire extinguisher
- **Camping & Sleeping Gear** - Tent (sturdy, wind-resistant, with groundsheets)
  - Sleeping bag (warm enough for cold desert nights)
  - Mattress or sleeping pad
  - Camping chairs & table
  - Shade tarp or gazebo for midday sun
- **Clothing & Personal Items** - Lightweight, breathable clothes for daytime heat
  - Warm jacket, fleece, beanie for cold nights
  - Wide-brim hat & sunglasses
  - Sturdy hiking boots & sandals
  - Swimwear (for rivers or springs)
  - Quick-dry towel
  - Personal toiletries (soap, toothbrush, sunscreen, lip balm, etc.)
  - Binoculars & camera
- **Cooking & Food Supplies** - Portable gas stove or braai grid
  - Gas Canisters / Charcoal / firewood (buy before entering Kaokoland)
  - Cooking pots, pans, kettle
  - Cutlery, plates, mugs, sharp knife
  - Cooler box or fridge (12v)
  - Non-perishable food (canned goods, pasta, rice, dried fruit, nuts)
  - Fresh produce (pack carefully, use cooler)
  - Condiments, spices, oil, salt, sugar
  - Water containers (minimum 5-10 liters per person per day)
- **Extras & Comfort** - Insect repellent & mosquito net
  - Books, journal, or cards for downtime
  - Bin Bags for waste (leave not trace)
  - Wet wipes & hand sanitizer
  - Cash (no ATM's in remote areas)

# DAY-DAY ITINERARY

10 DAYS

SELF-CATERING

EXPLORING KAOKOLAND

(01) TOUR DEPARTS FROM PALMWAG LODGE NO LATER THAN 9AM IN THE MORNING,  
CAMP HOANIB RIVER

(02) CAMP HOARUSIB RIVER

(03) CAMP NEAR GROENDROM

(04) CAMP IN HARTMANS VALLEY

(05) CAMP IN HARTMANS VALLEY

(06) THROUGH MARIENFLUSS AND CAMP AT KUNENE RIVER

(07) CAMP AT BLOUDROM

(08) CAMP ORUPEMBE IN KHUMIB RIVER

(09) CAMP NEAR PUROS IN HOARUSIB RIVER NEAR PUROS POORT

(10) TOUR END IN SESFONTEIN BY 1PM IN THE AFTERNOON

