

TOSCO Trust is official partner of:



We proudly support:



"Responsible travel in natural areas preserves the environment and sustains the well being of the local people"
Ecotourism society (1990)



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TOSCO
TOURISM *supporting* CONSERVATION
tosco.org

Travel Responsibly the Namibian way

Ours Lion's members



TOSCO promotes responsible travel by supporting conservation and people living with wildlife in Namibia's communal lands.

Take only pictures; leave only footprints.



SOCIAL

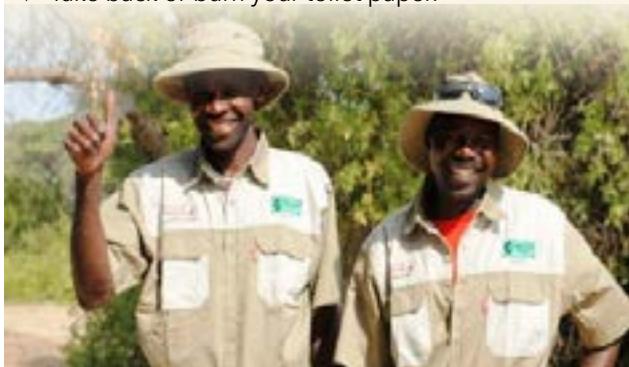
- ◆ As tourists we visit local people's home. We must respect their privacy, culture and way of life.
- ◆ Try to learn about local people's culture, way of life and language.
- ◆ Care for the cultural identity of local people. We must leave it to them how and to what extent they wish to share their culture and life with us.
- ◆ Do not hand out money, sweets or pens to children. You might produce dependency or expectations. Instead support children's education, e.g. by visiting the local school. Talk to the person in charge.
- ◆ Always ask before taking pictures of people.
- ◆ The key is about who is in control: demonstration villages or museums, like in Grashoek, are owned by the local people and they make decisions there. It is the best way to learn more about their culture while they control how tourism influences their lives and how their culture is presented. By visiting them, you will support a local initiative that benefits the community.

Leave nothing behind except good experiences.

ENVIRONMENTAL

- ◆ Stay on the tracks. Off-road driving can scar the landscape for hundreds of years. The small creatures on the ground often get run over. Elephants, lions, antelope, they all get agitated by vehicles that follow them into their retreats.
- ◆ Never create new tracks and slow down to not create corrugation. A bad track encourages others to create a new one.
- ◆ Support conservation organisations. Inform yourself about the wildlife you see, its threats and human/wildlife conflicts.
- ◆ Avoid buying products made from rare or endangered species. Those big wooden giraffes might have claimed the life of a tree! Prefer craft from sustainable materials. Inform yourself what is legal and what is not.
- ◆ Avoid to remove or uproot any plants. Tread lightly like a Bushman.
- ◆ When meeting wildlife, always keep a safe distance. A safe distance is usually ca. 70-100 metres. If the animals feel threatened they might feel forced to attack. Be safe, not sorry!
- ◆ Keep wildlife wild: do not feed wild animals. Wild animals that get habituated through food become a nuisance or bite. Then they often get destroyed.
- ◆ Minimize your waste and take it back to towns. In most places waste can only be burned or buried.
- ◆ Take back or burn your toilet paper.

Become part of a community that cares for Namibia's wildplaces!



- ◆ Help Namibia to stay pristine and leave a place cleaner than you found it.
- ◆ Minimize the use of plastic water bottles: use reusable flasks. In Namibia tap water is drinkable in most areas.
- ◆ Use water wisely, Namibia is a dry country. Lawns and big, uncovered swimming pools can evaporate hundreds of litres daily.
- ◆ Avoid establishments with wild animals kept in captivity if there is no recognized conservation programme - especially those where you can walk with/ pet lions or ride elephants (prohibited/not available in Namibia). Ask questions.
- ◆ Marine wildlife like dolphins and whales can be disturbed just as terrestrial wildlife. Their comfort zone of the animals must be respected, dolphins or whales should not be pursued or fed. Look for the MARIWISE certificate.
- ◆ Keep a distance of ca. 2 km to waterholes, stay outside the riverbeds when camping. Wild animals travel long distances to get there. Preferably use existing campsites.
- ◆ Use firewood sparingly. One single camp fire can ravage 50 years of tree growth.
- ◆ Store your food & rubbish safely. Especially elephants can smell very well and if they want to get the apple, they will.
- ◆ Leave the car, quad bike, or bus. There are opportunities to explore on foot, e. g. many lodges offer hiking trails. Slow down and immerse!

If you take care of the country and its people, they'll also take care of you



RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL ON COMMUNAL LANDS

Responsible travel improves the lives of the locals and keeps the environment intact. Visitors can enjoy the best a place has to offer and have a great time, now and in the future. To achieve this we endeavour to minimize negative and maximize positive impacts:

1. ENVIRONMENTAL: protect biodiversity and resources: wildlife, landscapes, flora; water; contribute to conservation
2. SOCIAL: empower the local people; care for and respect their culture.
3. ECONOMICAL: create economic benefits for local people.

ECONOMICAL

- ◆ Recognize that local people must benefit from tourism as well.
- ◆ Develop a responsible tourism attitude and select your accommodation and excursions based on their social and environmental practices.
- ◆ Support local suppliers and communities. A street vendor, craft artists, a local guide, a local tour operator, etc...
- ◆ Use local products where possible. Look for the Team Namibia logo or check where the vegetables have been grown.
- ◆ Check where the souvenirs you intend to buy have been produced. Many souvenirs now come from Asia.
- ◆ Give priority to places where communities are involved. Namibia boasts spectacular community-based campsites and lodges. Be patient if not everything is 100% perfect yet - travel is about being open to new experiences.
- ◆ Conservation costs money. Support conservancies by paying a Voluntary Conservation Contribution. Contact us for information.
- ◆ Explore beyond the guide books, be open - you might be surprised how much you enjoy yourself.