

# Erongo-Kunene

community conservation area



CONSERVANCY

## Side-Track

3

Erongo-Kunene

*finding the real...*

full  
day  
trail

# Kaoko Floral Diversity

*A complete explorer guide with fold-out map  
Traversing the Orupembe and Sanitatas Conservancies*



*Proceeds from the sale of this product support community conservation in Namibia*

# finding the real...

Conservancy Side-Tracks are for discerning and adventurous travellers who

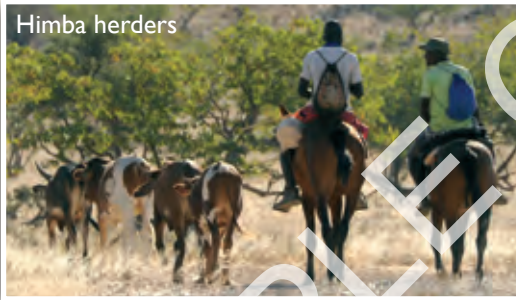
- respect local people and have a genuine interest in their cultures and livelihoods
- want to spend extra days and true quality time exploring one place
- have a real interest in the environment and the plants and animals that live there

This guide is intended to give travellers all the information needed to explore a less-travelled Side-Track that provides authentic experiences and an objective understanding through responsible travel in Namibia's community conservation areas.

## PEOPLE

The Orupembe and Sanitatas Conservancies are part of the traditional lands of the Himba people. These are proud, semi-nomadic livestock herders who continue to pursue traditional lifestyles. Social and cultural transformation, accelerated by contemporary aspirations and external influences, produce a colourful blend of modern and ancestral ways.

Himba herders



## PLACES

The Kaoko Floral Diversity Side-Track traverses spectacular landscapes along the fringes of the Namibian escarpment, which delineates the eastern extremity of the Namib Desert. This is a unique stretch of land shaped by geological upheaval and harsh climatic processes. Many of the lifeforms that have evolved here occur nowhere else on Earth.

Onyuva Plains



## WILDLIFE

Wildlife and people coexist in Namibia's community conservation areas. In these vast, unfenced lands, wildlife is free to roam according to the seasons and the availability of food and water. The north-west is generally arid and wildlife densities are low, yet a surprising diversity of mammals from elephants to squirrels is able to survive here.

Baobab



## Erongo-Kunene

Community Conservation Area

The communal areas of Namibia cover around 40 percent of the country. The land was set aside for livelihood use by local communities long ago; this is land owned by the state but governed by local people. Local communities should thus be the main beneficiaries of resource use in these areas.

The concept of community conservation is based on the premise that outside national parks, rural communities are the best custodians of indigenous resources. Communal conservancies, community forests and similar structures provide communities with the legal framework for the sustainable management and use of natural resources. They empower rural people to actively manage – and generate returns from – wildlife, indigenous plants, tourism and related activities, encouraging wildlife recoveries and environmental restoration. Conservancy management includes a rigorous system of resource monitoring, usage quotas and adaptation to changing circumstances.

Larger community conservation areas consist of adjoining conservancies and community forests undertaking joint management activities such as annual game counts. The Erongo-Kunene Community Conservation Area encompasses over 40 conservancies and stretches from the Kunene River in the north to the Namib-Naukluft Park in the south. It embraces about 54,000 people and covers over 76,000 square kilometres. The area is extremely rich in environmental and cultural resources.

Community conservation is renewing a sense of ownership over resources and through this is reinforcing a vital sense of responsibility; it is also cultivating community cohesion and pride in cultural heritage.

Steenbok



... identify 12  
of the north-west's most interesting plants



Purple-stem corkwood

# 5x HIGHLIGHTS

of the Kaoko Floral Diversity Side-Track

... see wildlife,  
livestock and people living side by side



Springbok and cattle



Rüppell's Korhaan

3.

... watch the sun  
rise over the Onyuva Plains

Onyuva plains sunrise



Traditional Himba culture

... spot 8  
of Namibia's near-endemic birds

... glimpse  
insights into the culture of the Himba



#### 8 Near-endemic birds:

1. Menzies's hornbill
2. Damara hornbill
3. White-tailed shrike
4. Raven-faced bunting
5. Rippe's parrot
6. Bare-checked babbler
7. Violet wood-hoopoe
8. Rippe's korhaan

More info: Birds of Namibia - A Photographic Journey is available at Namibia book shops.

All bird photographs by Philipp Burger

MARBLE CAMPSITE & HOUSE ON THE HILL

17°59'07" S  
12°35'05" E

17°59'03" S  
12°36'06" E

START OF ROUTE  
18°01'00" S  
12°36'40" E

Baobab Trees  
17°59'51" S  
12°42'20" E

Oyatib

END OF ROUTE  
18°04'01" S  
12°37'27" E

18°02'44" S  
12°39'03" E

18°04'16" S  
12°45'13" E

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12°44'17" E

17°51'22" S  
12°47'08" E

17°51'04" S  
12°47'18" E

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#### 12 Interesting plants:

Notes: These plants occur in many places along the route. The map locations indicate where the depicted photos were taken.

1. Bushman ginseng, *Adiantum baobabianum*
2. Bottle tree, *Pachira aquatica*
3. Paper-bark euphorbia, *Euphorbia guthriei*
4. Purple-stem corkwood, *Commersonia mulleriana*
5. Large-leaved sesame tree, *Sesamothamnus tomentosa*
6. Moringa, *Moringa oleifera*
7. African star-chestnut, *Sesuvium obtusifolium*
8. Candlestick euphorbia, *Euphorbia candelabra*
9. Large-leaved succulent, *Sesuvium portulacastrum*
10. Honey-sesame tree, *Sesamothamnus guthriei*
11. Blue-leaved corkwood, *Commersonia glaucescens*
12. Kaka tree-euphorbia, *Euphorbia kaka*

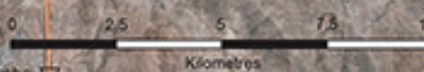
More info: The Trees & Shrubs of Namibia guide is available at Namibia book shops.

**Disclaimer:**  
While every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of all information provided in this Side-Track guide, neither the publishers, nor the funding agencies, nor the National Conservation Areas can be held responsible for any errors or inaccuracies contained herein, or any losses or inconveniences that may ensue.

**LEGEND**

20°39'00" S  
14°33'57" E

- Point of interest
- Conservancy office
- Joint-venture lodge/campsite
- Side-Track route
- Track
- Proclaimed gravel road
- Conservancy boundary
- Settlement
- Photo location



to Orupembe

to San/Litas/Orupembe

to Opuwo

Elango Conservancy

Otjembere Conservancy

Sambaa Conservancy

Himba Homesteads

Himba Homesteads

to Orupembe

to San/Litas/Orupembe

to Opuwo

Elango Conservancy

Otjembere Conservancy

Sambaa Conservancy

Himba Homesteads

Himba Homesteads

to Opuwo



**ELEVEN RULES  
OF THE ROAD:**

1. Respect local people - this is their land.
2. No off-road driving.
3. No wild camping.
4. Don't gather firewood.
5. Don't drive faster than 40 km/h.
6. No village visits without a local guide.
7. Don't take photos of people without their permission.
8. Keep a safe distance from all wildlife.
9. Be particularly careful with elephants, rhinos and lions.
10. For safety, Side-Tracks are best travelled with two vehicles.
11. Take only memories, leave only footprints.

*finding the real...*

EXPERIENCE ONLY UNDERSTANDING  
RESPONSIBILITY

**Side-Track**

**Guides are available for other areas!**

**More information:**

**} [www.nacso.org.na](http://www.nacso.org.na)**

