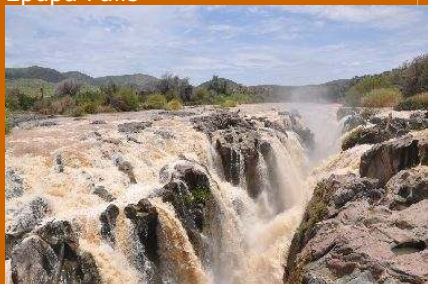


Acacia Namibia Newsletter

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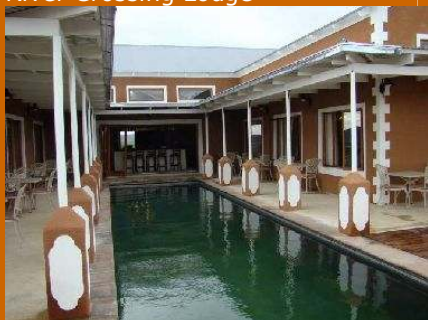
Epupa Falls



Kapika Waterfall Camp



River Crossing Lodge



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Dear Friends of Namibia

The rainy season has finally arrived with the new year, bringing some relief after a few hot and dry months. As the countryside takes on a green face there is also a negative side to it. Too much of the precious water creates havoc on our gravel roads and otherwise dry riverbeds come down in floods. Caution is advised when travelling during this time and a 4x4 vehicle is recommendable.

In our neighboring country South Africa the countdown has begun for Soccer World Cup during June and July 2010. Namibia's tourism industry also hopes for an indirect spin off resulting from the attention our region will receive. This year will certainly not be dull for anyone and we look forward to the challenge.

Hospitality awards

During the annual gala evening organized by HAN (Hospitality Association of Namibia), the following accommodation establishments received awards in recognition of their service excellence in the industry, which is based on customer feedback. Gold-winners in the category "Guest Farms" were Okomitundu and Vreugde Guest Farm. In the category "lodges" the following establishments received a 'Gold' award: Kambaku Safari Lodge, Eningu Clayhouse Lodge, Etusis Lodge, Taleni Etosha Village, Auob Country Lodge and Vogelstrausskluff Country Lodge. Various other rest camps, hotels, guest farms and lodges received silver and bronze awards.

New accommodation at the Epupa Falls- Kapika Waterfall Camp

The new camp which is due to open in February 2010 is situated at the mighty Kunene River in the far north. The river forms a border to Namibia's neighbor, Angola. Where the Kunene drops 60 m it forms a series of cascades over a distance of 1.5 km, affording stunning views all around. The Kapika Camp offers 10 stone chalets with electricity and mosquito nets, a lapa, bar and swimming pool. 10 camping sites offering ablution facilities with hot and cold water will also be available. Various activities like bird watching, scenic drives, nature walks, Himba village tours will be on offer.

New Lodge on the outskirts of Windhoek- River Crossing Lodge

River Crossing Lodge, which opened in December 2009, is located on a 6 500 ha game farm just past Windhoek's Avis Dam, not even 10 km from the city. The lodge offers 20 rooms, conference facility, wellness room, bar, lounge and swimming pool. The guest rooms offer a fantastic view of the surrounding hills, a mini-bar and TV with DSTV channels. The nature reserve boasts 19 species of game including roan, sable, eland and giraffe, a rich birdlife and magnificent views of the Awas Mountains. Excursions offered include horse- and walking trails, game drives and it may very well become a popular wedding venue, due to its natural and scenic surroundings.

Enquiries or bookings at acacia@iway.na

Acacia Namibia hosts Russian travel agents

During February 2010 a group of 12 Russian tour operators are touring our beautiful country to gain insight into Namibia's tourist destinations. During the 14 day 'educational' trip, which is organized by Acacia Namibia, the travel agents from various regions of Russia will focus their attention on our establishments and attractions and assess them for standards and experience values. The guided tour leads them from Windhoek to the Kalahari, Fishriver Canyon, Klein Aus Vista, Sossusvlei, Swakopmund, Damaraland and Etosha, staying mostly in up-market lodges. Russians are well known in Namibia for their hunting interests, but a growing number of upper class Russian tourists is acquiring a taste for Namibia's stunning landscapes, its local people, African wildlife as well as shark-fishing and other activities. As for most EU passport holders, entry into Namibia for holiday purpose presents no problem, as the visa gets stamped into the passport upon arrival in Namibia for the duration of the visit (not exceeding 3 months).

Acacia Namibia special offer

The popular combination 8 days guest farm and 8 days self-drive holiday is available again for 2010, valid till 31st October 2010. Please have a look at:

www.acacianamibia/specials.html



River Crossing Lodge



Quiver trees at Gondwana Nature Reserve



Jörg Finkeldey of Camelthorn Brewing Company



Camelthorn wheat beer

News Flash: " Quiver tree on 'red data list'

During the recent climate conference in Denmark, the nature conservation organization IUCN **red-listed** the quiver tree (*Aloe dichotoma*) alongside nine other threatened plant and animal species. In Namibia, the quiver tree is already a protected species for many years. This distinctive aloe can often be seen on rocky hillsides in southern Namibia, reaching a height of up to 9 meters and an age of 80 to 300 years. The tree only blossoms for the first time after 20-30 years of age, when it bears bright yellow flowers from June till August. The quiver tree is often used by sociable weaver birds, who build a huge communal nest in its branches, where the birds live and breed in their thousands. The quiver tree is a succulent plant which has adapted to extreme ecological conditions, by storing water in its trunk. Due to climate change and drought conditions die-offs of tree aloes have been reported in Namibia and South Africa and its future is therefore threatened. We can only hope that these aesthetic icons will be able to thrive in longevity and dominate our landscapes for many centuries to come.

Namibia's latest beer product

The first micro brewery opened its doors in Aug 2009 producing quality craft beer. This beer is brewed on a smaller scale than the famous local Windhoek and Hansa Lager beers, catering for both male and female beer connoisseurs. "Camelthorn Brewing Company" runs under the leadership of Namibian Jörg Finkeldey, who had already set up around 340 micro breweries in America and across the world. Customers can now taste the first locally produced premium wheat beer (Weizenbier). With a limited production volume, the beer is brewed to unique German beer brewing recipes as set out in the 'purity law of 1516'. Since its opening, the Camelthorn Brewing Company introduced innovation and creativity, adding a delightful drinking experience to the local beer drinking culture. New brands have been introduced with the latest product being a sweeter Bavarian style 'Weissbier' (called "Fresh") which has been formulated especially for ladies. The 'Red American Ale' focuses its taste on strong malts, which are imported from America and its colour symbolizes the red Kalahari earth. The beers are available at selected retail outlets, hotels, restaurants, shops, liquor stores and selected service stations who can guarantee refrigerated shelf space. Draft beer is also available in 10 L kegs. The distribution range of the Camelthorn beer expands constantly. It is currently distributed in Windhoek, Walvis Bay, Swakopmund, Sossusvlei, the Etosha National Park and surrounding Lodges.

When visiting Namibia next time, why not try a 'Camelthorn brew'?

More info at : www.camelthornbrewing.com



Your 'all-in-one-booking agent'

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www.acacianamibia.com

We look forward to organizing a Namibia Safari for you.

Goodbye and 'Totsiens'

your *Acacia Namibia Team*

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