

Living Museums in Namibia



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THE LIVING CULTURE FOUNDATION
NAMIBIA

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With the concept of the Living Museums the LCFN helps Namibians to fight poverty and at the same time supports the recovery of traditional knowledge and culture and encourages a dialogue between the different Namibian language groups.

WHAT IS A LIVING MUSEUM?

A Living Museum is an active and authentic way of presenting ancient traditional culture. A Living Museum is a cultural school for tradition and a communal Namibian tourism business at the same time.

Tourists and visitors, but also students and people from the own community can visit a Living Museum and thus can actively contribute to the preservation of traditional culture and the fight against poverty in Namibia

OVERVIEW



Living Museums 2010

- 1 Ju/'Hoansi Living Museum
- 2 Mafwe Living Museum
- 3 Damara Living Museum
- 4 Nharo-San Living Museum
- 5 Ju/'Hoansi Hunter's Museum

More Living Museums coming soon...



The Ju/'Hoansi Living Museum

This is the first Living Museum in Namibia, established in June 2004. From the beginning the Ju/'Hoansi have managed their business very successfully on their own. This success was actually the reason for the initiation of all other existing or developing Living Museums.

In their Museum the Ju/'Hoansi-San (Bushmen) demonstrate various aspects of their culture, like hunting, singing and dancing, craftsmanship and jewellery production.

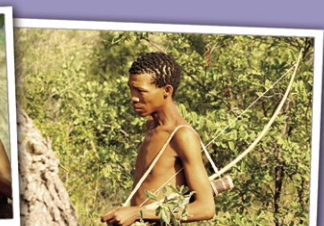
Highlight: "Spend a Day with us": 4-6 hours program where visitors get a deep insight into the fascinating culture of the Ju/'Hoansi-San.

Location: 6 km north of C44 (130km east of Grootfontein, 120 km west of Tsumkwe) close to the veterinary gate.

Camping: A wild campsite with a long-drop toilet is available. The campsite consists of an area underneath beautiful, shady trees. No water is available!



/Koce #Oma & friends



A Ju/'Hoansi hunter



The Mafwe Living Museum

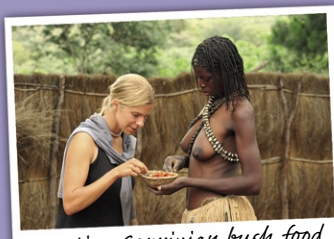
The Living Museum of the Mafwe in the Caprivi gives visitors the unique opportunity to explore the traditional culture and lifestyle of the Mafwe, a Bantu group which traditionally makes a living from fishing, farming and cattle herding.

Through their dedication to the Living Museum the Mafwe are able to create an income for the community and teach their children about the Mafwe's traditional life.

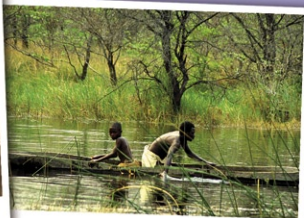
Highlight: The interactive "Spend a Day with us" program, which allows visitors to touch, smell, taste and experience the fascinating culture of the Mafwe.

Location: At Singalamwe, 19 km north of Kongola on the D 3502; close to the Angolan and Zambian border.

Camping: Close to the Kwando River on a little hill under huge Baobab trees you will find a basic, but beautiful bushcamp. No running water available.



Tasting Caprivan bush food



Traditional fishing



The Damara Living Museum

The original Damara culture was a mixture of an archaic hunter-gatherer culture and the herding of cattle, goats and sheep. Due to their loose social structures the Damara were not able to defend themselves against aggressors, which is one of the reasons why their culture has to a great extent fallen into oblivion.

In the Living Museum of the Damara an attempt was made to reconstruct this 'lost culture' of the Damara. The opportunity to experience the traditional Damara culture does not exist anywhere else in the world.

Highlight: The combination of the "traditional life in the village" and the "bushwalk" programs.

Location: 10 km north of Twyfelfontein on the D 3214, close to the turn-off from the D2612.

Accommodation: Various camp sites and lodges in the area that offer accommodation.



The guide of the Museum



Calabash as drinking cup



The Nharo-San Living Museum

Close to Windhoek and the International Airport a group of Nharo has resettled on the „Airport Guest Farm“ and has built a Living Museum. Here they show visitors how they used to live long before the white and black colonisation. The visitor gains an exciting insight into the ancient and highly fascinating hunter-gatherer culture of these indigenous inhabitants of southern Africa.

Highlight: The “normal programs” are as great as the offered specials, e.g. traditional wedding ceremonies, kids birthday partys, functions etc.

Location: 45 km east of Windhoek. Coming from Windhoek you pass the turn-off to the Airport and continue for 3.5 km on the B6 where you will find the signboard.

Accommodation: If you like to camp out there you will find a few beautiful tree-shaded camp sites on the banks of the Seeis river. Water, rustic toilets and bush showers are available.



A bushwalk in a good mood



Making fire the old way



The Hunter's Living Museum

Apart from getting to know the fascinating ancient culture of the Ju/'Hoansi, native to the Kalahari Desert for thousands of years this museum is specialising on the real hunt experience with hunters from the Living Museum.

Here the traditional hunt with bow and poisoned arrows, digging for spring hare and porcupines, snaring guinea fowl, khorhaan and other birds for the daily dinner is still being practised until today and has never been terminated.

Highlight: Tracking game like elephant, oryx, kudu, wildebeest, warthog, giraffe and several hunting trips.

Location: Close to Dobe on the D3315, 23 km north of Tsumkwe.

Accommodation: A wild campsite is available. No water, toilet or shower facilities are provided at the “Elephant Song campsite” yet.



A warthog barbecue



The Museum as a school



THE LIVING CULTURE FOUNDATION NAMIBIA

The LCFN is a non-profit, German-Namibian organisation, which focuses on cultural cooperation in rural areas in Namibia.

OUR AIMS

- Fight against poverty
- Protection of traditional culture
- Creation of tolerance



**Your support will help us preserve
endangered cultures of Namibia!**

SUPPORTED BY

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Scintille, meaning “Spark”, is an Italian NGO which supports infrastructural and educational projects in poor communities in Namibia, mainly focusing on women and children.

Scintille supports the LCFN and the Living Museums in Namibia especially with marketing initiatives.

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