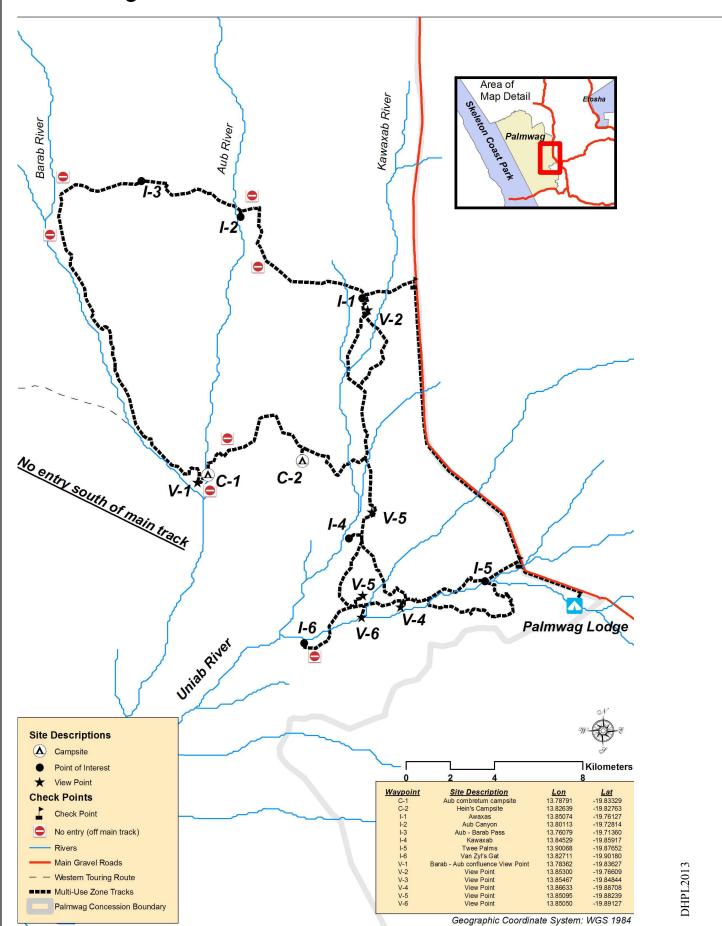
Palmwag Concession Multi Use Area





Guidelines for visitors to the Palmwag Concession

BACKGROUND

The Palmwag Concession is a vast conservation area of 5,500 km² in the Kunene region of north-western Namibia. This region provides habitat for a large variety of species, including rarities specifically adapted to the semi-desert conditions such as elephants, mountain zebra and giraffe. The Concession also supports nearly 70% of the world's largest free roaming population of black rhinos and functions as the crucial core area in the region. The unique fauna and flora within the Concession also serve as a national, regional and global tourist attraction.

The Palmwag Concession is one of the largest private concession areas in the world and Camelthorn Safaris/Palmwag Lodge, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Save the Rhino Trust and neighbouring Conservancies, promotes responsible tourism so that conservation as well as the residents of the area can benefit. It is essential that the "user pays" principle is applied so that this crucial conservation area can be sustained. Camelthorn Safaris/Palmwag Lodge is fiercely committed to sound conservation practices and applies these by informing and educating guests and the general public about the sensitive nature of the area, its natural heritage and unique conservation status.

The Concession is located adjacent to the Skeleton Coast Park and is surrounded by three Conservancies; the Torra, Anabeb and Sesfontein, as well as the Etendeka Concession. Communities within these adjacent areas have an interest in the future of the Palmwag Concession as they have to varying degrees established viable tourism initiatives that are dependent on healthy wildlife populations in the region.

Adjacent Conservancies and communities are supportive of the Concession and are likely to continue to be so, provided that the balance of costs and benefits flowing from the use of the area is maintained and improved. There are also suites of complex relationships between Conservancy Committees, the Damara Traditional Authority, local communities, NGOs active in the region, commercial operators and others that must be reconciled to best insure the region's social and ecological viability.

RULES OF THE PALMWAG CONCESSION

- Access within the Concession is permitted with a valid permit only, obtainable from Palmwag Lodge and Control Gates respectively.
- Take only photographs, leave only footprints. The removal of any plant or animal products within the Concession is strictly prohibited
- Camping is only permitted on designated camping sites along the western touring route (see map for details). No camping is permitted in close vicinity of any springs in order to reduce the disturbance of wildlife.
- "No entry" signs must be strictly adhered to.
- No camping is permitted in the main riverbed of the Hoanib River.
- The speed limit on all roads within the Concession including the Hoanib River is 30km/h.
- Stay on the designated tracks. Deviations off designated tracks and off road driving is strictly prohibited.
- Take your rubbish/litter along with you and please do not bury it within the Concession. Please burn all toilet paper used in the Concession area.
- Take special care when making open fires. Always dig a hole for your campfire and cover it when you leave.
- Take special care in the vicinity of wild animals and always maintain a safe distance especially with black rhinos, elephants and lions.
- Do not track/approach any wild animal on foot.
- The use of soap products in freshwater springs is not permitted.
- No motorcycles and/or quad bikes are permitted within the Concession.
- No collecting of fire wood within the Concession is permitted.
- Avoid disturbing wildlife at springs.
- Please report at the control check points along the route.
- No driving is permitted within the Concession after sunset.
- Prior booking is required to access Desert Rhino Camp and Hoanib River Camp areas respectively.
- Report any irregular behaviour of other tourists to Palmwag Lodge: Tel: 067 333 214 Cell: 081 124 2468 or kaoko@iway.na

Thank you for adhering to these rules and for your contribution to the conservation of this sensitive eco-system

