

Kunene River Lodge

Region: North-West, Kunene Region, Kaokoland
Category: River Lodge
Rooms: 8 Deluxe Rooms • 4 Rustic Chalets • 12 Campsites
Website: www.kuneneriverlodge.com



Breakfast on the Deck



Air-Conditioned Deluxe Room

In Brief

Kunene River Lodge is simply the most remote and beautiful place one can imagine.

Perfect for winding down from the stress of the outside world, or rising to the challenge presented by some of the finest white-water rafting to be had in southern Africa - or - Birding, Himba culture and history, exploring the wilderness, nature and wildlife, and simply chilling out by the pool . . .

Get away from the world - and discover yourself !



White-Water Rafting in Ondorusu Gorge



The elusive Cinderella Waxbill

Overview

In the vast wilderness of north-west Namibia, Kunene River Lodge is situated on the bank of the mighty river, overlooking Angola. A lush tree canopy shades the accommodation and campsites, while the cool swimming pool beckons from a sunny green lawn.

A deck extends over the river from the Restaurant and Bar, making a spectacular location for a relaxing drink, a delicious meal, spotting birds and wildlife, or just winding down to the pace of the river, while forgetting everyday life elsewhere. Peace and tranquility abound here, interrupted only by the plentiful bird-life. But nearby in the Ondorusu Gorge, the thrills and excitement of the rapids await both experts and novices alike - indeed anyone with the spirit of adventure.

Birders will seek out rare endemic species around the Lodge, further afield, or drifting slowly along the river during a Birding Cruise with an experienced Guide. Discover the centuries-old culture of the Himba people, and don't leave before marvelling at the beauty of a 'double-strength' African sunset, mirrored in the river, on a Sundowner River Cruise.

While visiting Kunene River Lodge, Guests experience the warmth of traditional Namibian hospitality, but finally, they reluctantly drag themselves away from one of Africa's last great wilderness areas, taking with them unforgettable memories of this enchanting "**Piece of Paradise**".





Himba Family



Sunset over the Kunene

Accommodation and Facilities

- ◆ **Eight spacious, air-conditioned Deluxe Rooms:**
Five have two large double beds. Three family rooms have either three large single beds or a double bed plus 2 bunks. All beds hung with attractively styled traditional mosquito nets. En-suite shower room, separate WC, and washbasin mounted in long dressing table with mirror. Long wall-mounted desk. Small floor-standing refrigerator, safe for valuables, seating. Verandah, with cane furniture, overlooking the lawns.
- ◆ **Four A-frame Rustic Chalets:**
Three have double beds, one has twin beds - all hung with traditional mosquito nets. En-suite shower, washbasin and WC. Storage space. Shaded seating area overlooking the gardens.
- ◆ **All rooms include:** tea and coffee making facilities, 24 hour national grid electricity, power sockets, soaps and shower gel.
- ◆ **Twelve Idyllic Campsites:** most overlooking the river, include braai facilities, electricity and communal ablution blocks.
- ◆ Well-stocked **Bar and Restaurant with River Deck.**
- ◆ **Swimming Pool**, set in lawn with lapa and sun-loungers.
- ◆ **Lapa with Wi-Fi and Charging Points** near Reception.

Activities

- ◆ **White-Water Rafting** is available close to the Lodge under the supervision of fully qualified and trained Guides, suitable for almost anyone to enjoy the experience of a lifetime.
- ◆ **Birding** is a very popular activity - either independently or in the company of an experienced Guide to track down the elusive **Cinderella Waxbill** and other extremely rare endemic species such as the recently discovered **Angolan Cave Chat**. **Birding Cruises** also offer good sighting opportunities.
- ◆ **Himba Culture and History:** Guided visits to a family in a local kraal to learn about the traditions of this ancient tribe, many of whom still live as they have for centuries.
- ◆ **Sundowner River Cruises:** spot the wildlife of the river, pointed out by an experienced Guide, before watching a spectacular African sunset with a drink and nibbles in hand.
- ◆ **River Activities** also include canoeing and fishing.
- ◆ **Hiking:** the area is wild and remote - ideal for enthusiasts who wish to explore one of the last great wilderness areas.
- ◆ *Guests are free to do as little or as much as they wish, but to participate in activities, a 2 or 3 night stay is strongly recommended.*

Driving Directions

There are three road routes to Kunene River Lodge:-

From the south via Opuwo: between the beautiful Zebra and Ehomba Mountains. From Kamanjab take the tarred C35 and C41 to Opuwo. Then it's 135 km (about 2.5 hours) to Kunene River Lodge along the D3700 to Epembe, and the D3701 to Swartbooisdrift - both good, gravel roads, normally passable.

From the east via Ruacana: driving past Ruacana Falls and parallel to the Kunene River. Ruacana is only accessible by tarred roads from the south-east (B1 and C46). The C35 is not tarred to Ruacana. The first 18 km of the road from Ruacana to Kunene River Lodge are tarred, followed by 47 km of gravel road. This is a beautiful drive through varied terrain, much of it alongside the river.

NOTE: This road is generally fine in the dry season, but if the river floods, the diversions demand 4 wheel drive.

From the south or west via Epupa and/or Epembe: taking the easy scenic route, the very good D3700 gravel road from Epupa Falls to Epembe, then the D3701 from Epembe to Swartbooisdrift and Kunene River Lodge, totalling 165 km (driving time 3-4 hours). Both roads are graded regularly, so driving them is straightforward.

NOTE: The 100 km riverside road from Epupa Falls to Kunene River Lodge **should only be tackled by experienced 4x4 drivers in a high clearance 4x4** - preferably accompanied by another vehicle (allow 8-10 hours and carry water, tyres and spares).

Lodge Co-ordinates: -17.354558, 13.880876 • S 17° 21' 16.41" E 013° 52' 51.15"

Airstrip Co-ordinates: -17.402694, 13.825214 • S 17° 24' 09.70" E 013° 49' 30.77" • **Altitude:** 749 m • **Alignment:** 08/26

■ Restaurant

■ Bar

■ Free Wi-Fi

■ Swimming Pool

■ Air Conditioning

■ White-Water Rafting

■ Birding

■ Laundry Service
(Not available to Campers)

■ Airstrip (and Shuttle)

■ Campsites

■ Credit Cards welcome
MasterCard or Visa



RESERVATION DESTINATION

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