

## SHIPWRECK LODGE

*Skeleton Coast, Namibia*

Sandwiched between a sea of shifting dunes and the thundering rollers of the Atlantic, the latest lodge from Natural Selection lets you explore Namibia's wild northwest. This is the Skeleton Coast Park, a proper end-of-the-earth experience, so you'll want somewhere comfortable to bed down. Shipwreck Lodge's 10 solar-powered cabins take their design cue from the ghostly shells of boats that litter the coastline, with picture windows and portholes to frame the views. Inside it's all mismatched wood, rope, brass and colours that reflect the ocean's ever-changing moods, from turquoise to deep blue and steely grey. Go in search of the surprising number of desert-adapted creatures that roam this seemingly barren landscape, from long-legged beetles to water-divining elephants and the hyenas that hotfoot it to Möwe Bay's cacophonous Cape fur seal colony. After windswept aperitifs on the dunes, feast on the catch of the day or a top-notch steak, washed down with a South African pinot. Then snuggle under a blanket, listen to the roar of the waves and enjoy the celestial light show. *The Ultimate Travel Company* ([theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk](http://theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk); 020 7386 4646) offers two nights, fully inclusive, as part of a 12-night trip, from £6,970, including flights and transfers.



## OMAANDA

*Windhoek, Namibia*

Really, we've all got Angelina Jolie to thank for the fact that this peachy new lodge near Windhoek even exists. When more than 22,000 acres of farmland came up for sale next to the N/a'an ku sê Foundation, of which she is a supporter, Jolie suggested that hotelier Arnaud Zannier buy it (she is a huge fan of his Phum Baitang property in Cambodia). And it's a match made in private-reserve heaven. The design uses earthy tones and natural textures, from the 10 round mud huts with thatched roofs, built in the traditional style of the Owambo tribe, to the social spaces filled with linen sofas, hessian rugs and wooden African pots and stools. In between game drives (sign up for white-rhino tracking) there's not much to do but book in for Namibian massages in the spa and laze by the infinity pool, spotting curious warthogs and skittish oryx in the distance. *Red Savannah* ([redsavannah.com](http://redsavannah.com); 01242 787800) offers four nights, full board, from £2,595, including flights and transfers.