

OMAPAHA

Himba Village

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OMAPAHA HIMBA VILLAGES INFORMATION SHEET

Dear Friends & Partners in Tourism

We kindly request that all bookings for the Himba Orphan Village have a written confirmation from us. Unfortunately we cannot accept any telephonic bookings.

We would also like to bring the following under your attention regarding our Himba village:

We heartily welcome you to Omapaha Himba Village!

Omapaha Himba Village is a link to Otjikandero Himba Village. The two villages are working together to support and maintain the Ovahimba culture so they can continue living the original life of the tribe and support the orphans in the tribe.

Due to the severe drought in Namibia the last years on the farm Cauas-Okawa, where Otjikandero Village is situated, we got help from a farmer and friend - Mr. Jakkie Robberts on his farm, namely Vierling. Due to additional grazing for the animals of the Himba tribe of Otjikandero, we re-located some of the people from Otjikandero to Vierling. The daily life and tradition of the Himba people continue on Vierling, as it does at Otjikandero. We therefore welcome you to visit us at Omapaha Himba Village on Farm Vierling.

Please note the following:

- Omapaha is not a show village, nor a human zoo. It is a cultural exchange where people can learn about these amazing nomadic people before their heritage become lost forever due to the fact that the western world is evolving at the speed of light...
 - The people at the village currently take care of 15 orphan children. The funds generated by these tours are being used to take care of them and the families in the village responsible for taking care of the orphans.
 - We would also like to stress that NO additional contributions (like food, etc.) is necessary as the cost of each tour is taking care for all necessities for the village people.
 - NO pens and stationary, empty water bottles and plastic bags, clothes or other western civilisation paraphernalia will be allowed in the village, for the sole reason that the children are not used to it, and the village become littered as soon as the novelty of a new "pen" has worn off. They do not understand the concept of "western rubbish" and we now have to employ someone to clean the village after all the guests have left their empty water bottles, etc. This also teach the kids to beg and it is something we desperately want to avoid.
 - We'd like to ask that items such as sweets (unwrapped please!) and fruits for the children be given to our guide or the head lady or chief of the village after the tour, where he/she will distribute it among the kids as they see fit.
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Himba Village

No tours will be done between 13h00 until 15h00!

Most companies have a lunch scheduled agreement and tours will be scheduled straight after lunch @ 2pm! As the Himba children are the only children, culturally excused from not going to school, by the government, 95% of the children in the village is raised traditionally as per decisions from the elders when this village was started. Only 5% is allowed to go to school. Another reason is that in Himba Tribe, the children is responsible for the work (herding cattle, sheep ect..) so when all the children goes to school, the tribe will not be functioning traditionally and the children will become too westernized, as a result, the culture will cease to exist.

This decision is made solely by the elders and the head lady of the tribe and we or Jaco the head man of this Project does not have any influence on that. For those of you who would like to donate some stationary for the children, we would ask that it is handed over to the teacher at the school and not at the village, so that it can be distributed among the children currently going to school as they need it.

NO ALCOHOL WILL BE ALLOWED ON THIS TOUR WITHIN THE VILLAGE!!!

This is one of the main reasons this culture is becoming extinct and corrupted!

TOURS:

- Tour times: 08h00 until 17h00.
- Tours last between 1,5 to 2 hours. We prefer not to do tours between 13h00 and 15h00 because it is the siesta time of the Himba people and you will not be able to see much activities during that time.
- We do have special arrangements with some of our regular companies and clients for alternative times, however we would like to ask that if you are unable to keep to your scheduled time (flat tire, car trouble, late departure, etc.) that you phone the village (+264 81 322 4345) to inform us of your situation and we will do our best to reschedule your tour at time that suits the Village. Otherwise, you will arrive in the middle of another group's tour and will not get all the information and time you pay for. We do not take any responsibility if we are not informed beforehand.

Please remember - we prefer not to do tours between 13h00 - 15h00!

We would like to thank you for your understanding and support in this project and trust that with your co-operation, we will be able to provide you with a well-organized and informative tour and service.

Bank Details: FNB Outjo • Account No: 622602 677 97 • Outjo Branch: 280 773
