

WATERBERG PLATEAU

On the east side of the Central Highlands, Waterberg Plateau is a unique flat-topped mountain with stunning scenery and excellent wildlife. It's largely made of sandstone, often sculpted into amazing shapes, and is dotted with freshwater springs. The diverse patchwork of wooded areas, grasslands and verdant ravines is particularly well suited to hiking trips.

Given the plateau's isolated nature, several endangered species – including white rhino, and roan and sable antelope – have been reintroduced to Waterberg over the years, to add to its plentiful existing game. The birdlife is equally impressive, with more than 200 species, including spectacular Verreaux's (black) eagles and Namibia's only breeding colony of Cape vultures.

Much of the plateau is protected by the Waterberg Plateau National Park. The old Waterberg Restcamp, on the slopes of the plateau, was recently renovated and renamed **Waterberg Camp**. It now has 69 en-suite rooms, each with ceiling fans and a small fridge. It stands on the site of an old mission station and has a swimming pool, restaurant, bar and shop for convenience. You can wander along short

marked walking trails or pay (locally) for a guided drive onto the plateau.

The nearby **Waterberg Wilderness Lodge** is surrounded by the cliffs of the plateau. This began as a traditional German guest farm, run by its owner managers, Joachim and Caroline Rust. They and their team have renovated the crumbling farmstead into a comfortable place to stay, and a base to explore the plateau.



Namibia's wooden curios are often well made and good value.

Waterberg Wilderness has a satellite camp, **Waterberg Plateau Lodge**, with just seven chalets, each with its own plunge pool. Guests can enjoy dinner in the rustic camp dining room, though breakfast is served at the main lodge and all the activities start there, including nature drives and guided walks onto the plateau. The guides who lead these trails know the routes well, but aren't wildlife experts.



Waterberg offers some excellent walks on the plateau