

Frozen in time: the alluring beauty of Namibia's Deadvlei



By [Josephine Wawira](#)

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Are you a tourist photographer seeking your next destination to capture those unforgettable natural shots of the world's beauty? Deadvlei should be your very next stop. The fascinating images of the picturesque dried-up marsh located near Sossusvlei in the Namib Desert in Namibia, are commonly used as colorful desktop savers across the globe, with gracefully yet somber trees that have frozen in time.



Characterised by a cracked salt pan, scorched skeletal acacia trees believed to be over 900 years old and surrounded by the tallest sand dunes in the world, Deadvlei was formed after river Tsauchab flooded to form the clay pan. However, it later surrendered to the persisting climate change in the area, drying up to the extent that even the once towering trees failed to decompose, but were instead scorched black. Yet, there are signs of life in the resolute endurance of plant species such as clumps of Nara and Salsola shrubs, which survive from the morning mist.

Reasons to visit

Apart from the opportunity to photograph some of the most captivating images of the Deadvlei, a morning or evening 4-wheel trail drive below the towering red sand dunes will give you an experience of the most beautiful sunrise and sunset. They form a celestial view as the sun-rays strike from the clear skies, through the ghostly trees reflecting into the dead desert.

Nearby attractions

Sossusvlei is another salt and clay pan near Deadvlei and is mainly surrounded by the red dunes. Like Deadvlei, its trees have also been scorched black by Namib's blistering sun. Sossusvlei is River Tsauchab's final destination.

In addition, Namib Naukluft National Park is one of the largest conservation areas in Africa, covering approximately 50,000km² and protecting the Namib Desert - one of the oldest in the world. It is advised to take the route from south-central Mariental to avoid the treacherous mountain passes and at the same time capture exceptional views of the desert.

Accommodation

Sossus Dune lodge is in Sesriem within the Naukluft Park and provides guests the efficiency of reaching Deadvlei before sunrise and leave after sunset. Additionally, add luxury to your Deadvlei experience at the Moon Mountain Lodge found in the Naukluft Mountains near the charming little Solitaire village.

The lodge provides outdoor activities including short distance helicopter flights, ballooning and horse riding and a private splash swimming pool to cool off from the sizzling heat. Guests enjoy an array of traditional Namibian dishes from the lodge's Nebula Restaurant and drinks from the onsite Cosmos Bar.

ABOUT JOSEPHINE WAWIRA

Josephine Wawira is a consultant in communication and public relations with over six years of progressive writing and broadcast experience. She is currently a writer for Africa's online hotel booking portal, Jumia Travel, focusing in the areas of travel, tourism, and hospitality as it relates to Africa.

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