

*The*  
**WEIRDEST  
COUNTRY in  
AMERICA**

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**NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC**

# TRAVELER

October 2014

**DIVING  
WITH  
SHARKS**

**NAMIBIA  
SAFARI CAMPS**

**THE SPIRIT  
OF COLOMBIA**

**POETRY  
IN PRAGUE**

**COSTA RICA  
WITH KIDS**

# 50 CITY SURPRISES

CLASSIC TO CUTTING EDGE

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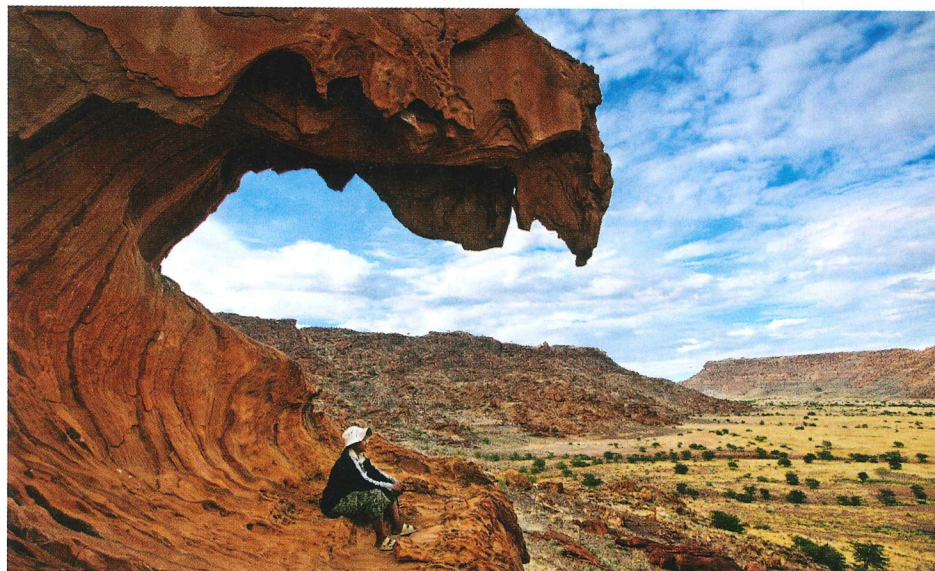
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CHECKING IN

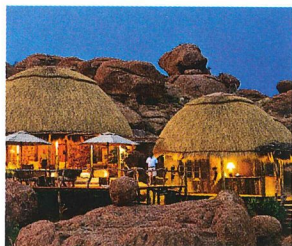
# Namibia's Desert Camps



A guide takes a break under the “lion’s mouth” rock formation at Twyfelfontein.

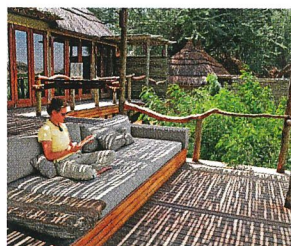
**CAMP KIPWE** Ingeniously built among the giant boulders of a granite kopje, this cluster of igloo-shaped bungalows is close to the petroglyphs carved thousands of years ago by the Khoikhoi people at Twyfelfontein, Namibia’s first World Heritage site. Explore these ancient rock engravings on guided walks. In the mornings, look for elephants as they roam dry riverbeds in search of water.

■ **DAMARALAND; FROM \$220 PER PERSON, INCLUDING MEALS AND ACTIVITIES**



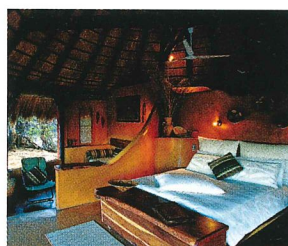
**SERRA CAFEMA** Three hours by light aircraft from Windhoek or via Swakopmund over Namibia’s Skeleton Coast, this tented camp occupies a lush strip of forest along the crocodile-filled Kunene River, which separates Namibia from Angola. Canvas and thatched villas overlook otherworldly desertscapes. A nearby Himba settlement is home to one of Africa’s last seminomadic tribes.

■ **KAOKOLAND; FROM \$705 PER PERSON, INCLUDING MEALS AND ACTIVITIES**

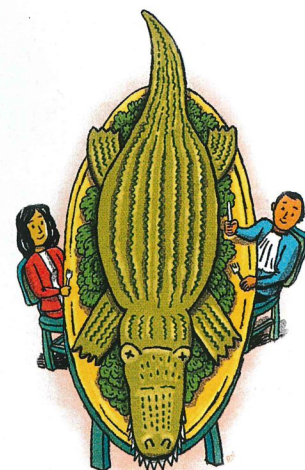


**OKONJIMA BUSH CAMP** This collection of thatched African-style chalets sits in a 55,000-acre private wildlife sanctuary. Game drives offer sightings of leopards, giraffes, and more. Guests also can track cheetahs on foot and experience a day in the life of a Bushman. The resident AfriCat Foundation’s wildlife rehabilitation facility helps big cats that have been rescued prepare to live in the wild again.

■ **NEAR OTJIWARONGO; FROM \$390 PER PERSON, INCLUDING MEALS AND ACTIVITIES**



Note: Rates are the hotels’ published prices. Discounted rates are often available through online travel sites.



## STRANGE PLANET

**WILD EATS** At the all-you-can-eat Carnivore Restaurant in Johannesburg, South Africa, diners feast on wild game such as ostrich and antelope served on converted Maasai spears. **ROOT FOR ART** Since 1897, Mexico’s Night of the Radishes Festival has featured specimens up to 6.5 pounds each, carved into wildly imaginative sculptures of animals, religious figures, and royalty. **SPACE AVAILABLE** Touted as the world’s largest shopping center (seven million square feet), the New South China Mall, in Dongguan, China, has remained 99 percent unoccupied since opening in 2005. **FIT TO BE TIED** Men’s neckties are thought to have evolved from the jaunty red scarves worn by Croatian mercenaries during the 17th century’s Thirty Years War. **INTO THE BLUE** André-Jacques Garnerin made the first successful parachute jump in 1797, 3,200 feet above Paris. **HAIL YEAH** The largest hailstone (as big as a cantaloupe) ever recorded fell in Bangladesh in 1986. **CROCODILE TEARS** Scientists in Costa Rica have documented that bees and butterflies sip the tears of the spectacled caiman to obtain salt.

—Paul Martin

HEIKO MEYER/LAIF/REDUX (ROCK); CAMP KIPWE (BUNGALOWS); CHRISTIAN HEEB/LAIF/REDUX (WOMAN); OKONJIMA BUSH CAMP (BEDROOM); ROBERT NEUBECKER (ILLUSTRATION)