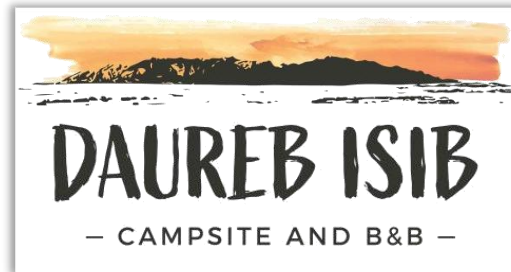




WHAT TO DO IN AND AROUND UIS



UIS - Some Interesting Facts... (Wikipedia)

Uis is a settlement located in Erongo Region, Namibia. It belongs to the Dâures electoral constituency. Located in the former Damaraland, it is known for the local mineral wealth. The settlement was established in 1958 as workers' settlement to exploit local tin deposits. It has approximately 3,600 inhabitants and, before being downgraded from "village" to "settlement" in 2010, owned 10 square kilometers of land. Uis is located at the foot of the Brandberg, Namibia's highest mountain. The settlement holds a supermarket, guesthouses, B&B's, service station, together with a few other small shops. The ephemeral Uis River, a tributary to the Ugab River, passes the settlement. Uis was home to the Brandberg Primary School and Petrus Ganeb Secondary School, both for about 300 learners at the time. Petrus Ganeb SS was built before Namibian Independence. Uis has a kiln baked brick factory – famously known as “Uis Bricks” (reddish pink in colour), as well as a cement brick making factory for the growing building industry, a small hardware and building supplies outlet. Uis still produces rare rocks and minerals. Namibia is well known as a mineral rich country and geologists come from all over the world to study in Namibia because much of the interesting geology and rare rocks are situated at ground level rather than on top of mountains or deep underground. It is possible to find some excellent examples of rock crystals and minerals around Uis. The area is renowned for the famous Brandberg Crystal. These are crystals that were formed around icicles millions of years ago when the area was an ice cap. They are mostly clear crystals and one can often see water encapsulated within. Selling these rocks is part of the local economy of Uis and you can be sure, if you do buy something, that you are purchasing a true Namibian souvenir.

Then there is a story of desert tragedy associated with the Uis area. At the beginning of the 20th century, so the story goes, a group of travelers from the north were making their way through the desert to the ocean. They were following game tracks for most of the way but came to the main road to Swakopmund nearby where Uis is now located. The travelers decided to stop for the night and being short of fuel on which to cook their evening meal, they collected the branches of dead euphorbia bushes to make their campfire. Euphorbia bushes are very common in Damaraland and their spiky branches help make the Damaraland scenery so unusual. Unfortunately for our group of travelers, however, most species of euphorbias are also highly toxic. After cooking their meat over their makeshift campfire they went to bed early, one would suppose, to be ready for the long journey the next day. There was never another dawn for any of our heroes. The toxic smoke from their campfire was so strong and the food so impregnated with poison, the whole group of 26 people died in their sleep. They were buried where they slept, and the graves are still visible today at the eastern entrance to Uis.

WHAT TO DO IN AND AROUND OUR LOVELY LITTLE SETTLEMENT KNOWN AS UIS:

(Self Drive Day Excursions require a 4X4 and we would strongly advise to go with a guide – subject to availability of guide)

- Views of what is known as **The White Mountain** - mining spoils from the nearby Tin Mine.
- Walk the **Fluorite Crystals Labyrinth** in the neighboring Moringa Valley Estate.
- **White Lady Rock Painting** (about 45 minutes self-drive). Visit (and enjoy) the natural beauty of the Brandberg and walk the ± 4 km hike to the White Lady & Bushman Rock Paintings - starts at the foot of Brandberg Mountain. Operating hours are between 8am and the last tour goes in at 15:30pm. At the entrance you will find an office where you pay for the permit and a guide who will accompany you on the hike.
- Visit the numerous **semi-precious stone vendors** along the side of the road just outside Uis on the Uis/Henties road.
- Visit the nearby **Himba Village** on the side of the road just outside Uis on the Uis/Khorixas Road.
- Enjoy **Short Walks** around town. The **Unique Scenery** and the Brandberg Mountain offers excellent photographic opportunities. **Sunsets** over the Brandberg Mountain (“Burning Mountain”) are truly spectacular so be sure not to miss them from our lovely restaurant Cactus & Coffee Teagarden or our beautiful lodge Daureb Isib.
- Day guided **Geology and Mineral Tour**.
- Day guided tour around the **Brandberg** (visit the **Rock Scorpion**), see the **beautiful everchanging terrain**, and up the Ugab River to hopefully see the famous **Desert Elephant** and thereafter what is known as **Balancing Rock** and **Elephant Rock**.

THE BRANDBERG (Wikipedia)

The Brandberg is Namibia's highest mountain, located in former Damaraland, now Erongo, in the northwestern Namib Desert, near the coast, and covers an area of approximately 650 km². With its highest point, the Königstein (German for 'King's Stone'), standing at 2,573 m (8,442 ft) above sea level and located on the flat Namib gravel plains, on a clear day 'The Brandberg' can be seen from a great distance. The nearest settlement is Uis, roughly 30 km from the mountain. The core area of 450 square kilometers (170 sq mi) was declared a National Monument in 1951. The name Brandberg is Afrikaans, Dutch and German for Burning Mountain, which comes from its glowing color which is sometimes seen in the setting sun. The Damara name for the mountain is Dâures, which means 'burning mountain', while the Herero name, Omukuruvaro means 'mountain of the Gods'.

WHAT TO DO IN AND AROUND UIS

The Brandberg Massif or Brandberg Intrusion is a granitic intrusion, which forms a dome-shaped massif. It originated during early Cretaceous rifting that led to the opening of the South Atlantic Ocean. The Brandberg is a spiritual site of great significance to the San (Bushman) tribes. The main tourist attraction is The White Lady rock painting, located on a rock face with other artwork, under a small rock overhang, in the Tsisab Ravine at the foot of the mountain. The ravine contains more than 1 000 rock shelters, as well as more than 45 000 rock paintings, said by some to be over 20,000 years old. To reach The White Lady it is necessary to hike for about 40 minutes over rough terrain, along the ancient watercourses threading through the mountain. Damaraland is well known for its grotesque aloes and euphorbias. The area has many plants and trees that have an alien appearance, due in part to the extreme climatic conditions. The area is uninhabited and wild. It is very arid and finding water can be difficult or impossible. In summer temperatures over 40°C are routine. The numbers of animals are small because the environment cannot support large populations, however most of the desert species that are found in Namibia are present and visitors to the area might glimpse a desert dwelling elephant or a rare black rhino. The scorpion fauna of the Brandberg massif is probably the richest in southern Africa.

UIS MINE <https://andradamining.com/>

Tin has been mined in the Uis region since 1922. Uis Tin Mining Company was established in 1951 and a settlement was developed in 1958 as a mine workers' residence when ISCOR, a South African mining company, started operations there and increased production. However, the ore grade at Uis is very low, and the mine, at its time the largest open-cast tin mine in the world, was viable only because South Africa, to which the territory was mandated, was economically isolated and could not buy tin on the world market. When apartheid was abolished, and international sanctions were lifted the mine was no longer competitive. In 1991, the main mining operation closed because the price of tin dropped far enough to make it uneconomical. There was still minimal work progressing on the mine site. Technology had improved enough to make it worthwhile to re-process the already excavated ore that was originally discarded and there is a tiny re-processing plant located near the old mine dumps. This ore is processed to an enriched state and then taken to Walvis Bay for export. Uis was in danger of becoming a ghost town if mining could not be continued. Uis was downgraded to "settlement" status in 2010, slowly investment and work started again at the old mine. The white mine spoils are visible from afar, known as "The White Mountain".

Afritin Mining was established in 2017, and during August 2019, Afritin announced first tin concentrate production at its flagship Uis mine in Namibia, officially bringing the operation back to life. Afritin Mining Limited is the first pure tin company listed in London and its vision is to create a portfolio of globally significant, conflict-free, tin-producing assets. During January 2023 the Afritin Mining changed its name to Andrada Mining, the name Andrada reflects the company's expanding lithium and tantalum resources alongside its existing tin production.

ABOUT THE WORLD-RENOWNED CACTUS AND COFFEE TEAGARDEN AND DAUREB ISIB CAMPSITE AND B&B:

Way back in 2015... Pam van der Meer, having a love for food and plants, was instrumental in creating "Cactus and Coffee Teagarden". Her husband, Mike van der Meer, then complimented this with a lovely campsite with some cosy bungalows known as Daureb Isib Campsite and B&B. The theme throughout being that of beautiful, landscaped gardens where one of the largest selection of Succulents and Cacti's can be found.

Namibia towns (especially coastal) are well known for Palm Trees they grow easily and seem to be able to withstand the harsh desert conditions. Just a fun fact: Walvis Bay has the longest row of palm trees in the world – more than 1600 palm trees planted on either side of the road – the leaves are regularly cut, and often used for shade or wind shelter. They brown quickly in the harsh sun but offer that very much needed shade!

The small challenges we face in Uis... supplies (we find out we are out of stock on our weekly delivery from suppliers when they do not deliver as they in turn are out of stock)... our one and only local supermarket becomes our next best friend! Alternatively we bring in supplies from Omaruru, Henties or Swakop making use of our local taxi drivers!

The settlement of Uis has grown tenfold with the increase in mining activity over the very recent 2 - 3 years since Covid. This in turn puts a strain on our water and electricity supply. Our wifi is dodgy at most, one can only but say Uis is having to play "catchup" on all service delivery due to the sudden influx of feet that were simply not here in the past!

Showers and Uis and the natural environment... we make use of gas geysers, but they can be annoyingly temperamental. So you open your hot water tap to the max, the flow ignites the gas to the burners and 'violá' you should have hot water... which is 9 times out of ten the case... where the temperamental comes in to play is when Uis has low water pressure... or serious winds which blow out the burner... on a positive note that is more the exception than the rule!



If Covid has taught us one thing though it is not to complain and we are so grateful and thankful to welcome you to our establishment and really wish you a pleasant stay and EMBRACE OUR SPACE with peace, love and happiness.

*John, Penny, Anna-Zeta and Luke Jones
and our wonderful Team*



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