



NAMIBIA

Who: Mike Mitchell of Windsor

Where: 2 ½ hours east of Windhoek, the capital

Best meal: Genteel Restaurant for loin of springbok; this full meal was fit for a five-star restaurant, for \$15. Everything in Namibia costs less than in the U.S.

Best deal: Safaris cost less than \$100, and you will see wildlife in their environment, up close and personal. A taxi cab ride from Windhoek International Airport to town is 30-40 minutes and costs \$20-\$30.

Best time to go: November-February is the rainy season, so wildlife watching is usually better March-October.

Best travel tip: Namibia is twice the size of California and has only 1.6 million people — less dense than Montana. The countryside is dotted with remote wonderful lodges. English and German are the two main languages. They love tourists!

There are direct flights from Frankfurt to Windhoek via Air Namibia, eight hours and no time change. It is a 16-hour flight from New York to Johannesburg and then two hours back to Windhoek. On this trip, I was an ecotourist working two weeks with Biosphere Expeditions helping with wildlife research; no prior experience was required.