



**Most Memorable Sundowner**

Here I am, having an end-of-day drink while at Okahirongo Elephant Lodge ([okahirongolodge.com](http://okahirongolodge.com); \$\$\$\$), in the Kaokoveld—known for its rare desert elephants and black rhinos.

Loved Pelican Point!



TRAVEL DIARY

# Destination: Namibia

Just back from the African country's dramatic sand dunes and wildlife-filled reserves, T+L deputy editor Laura Begley Bloom shares a few of her favorite finds.



Had to have this necklace.

**The Sands of Sossusvlei**

Full disclosure: I didn't quite make it to the top of Dune 45, above. We stayed nearby at Little Kulala ([wilderness-safaris.com](http://wilderness-safaris.com); \$\$\$\$), where I coveted the ostrich eggshell chandeliers, below, and bought this recycled glass necklace, left.



These hand-carved Himba toys were a gift for my daughter

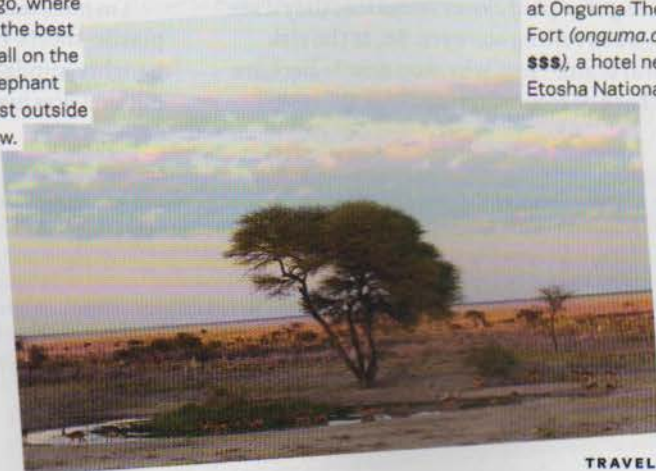
**Local Souvenir**

Wood-and-seed earrings from Okahirongo, where I also got the best wakeup call on the trip: an elephant purring just outside my window.



**Top View**

Watching animals gather around the watering hole, left, at Onguma The Fort ([onguma.com](http://onguma.com); \$\$\$), a hotel near Etosha National Park.



**The Takeaway**

**Biggest Surprise**

The easygoing, cosmopolitan vibe of Windhoek, the capital, home to the super-stylish **Olive Exclusive** hotel ([olive-namibia.com](http://olive-namibia.com); \$\$\$). **Wildest Meal** Zebra steaks and oryx schnitzel at **Joe's Beerhouse** ([joesbeerhouse.com](http://joesbeerhouse.com); \$\$), in Windhoek.

**Great Escape**

**Pelican Point Lodge**

([pelicanpointlodge.com](http://pelicanpointlodge.com); \$\$\$\$), set in a working lighthouse on a finger of sand jutting six miles into the Atlantic. **Didn't Need My bathing suit:** Namibia's cool desert nights often make the pools too chilly for swimming.

**Expert Guide Micato**

**Safaris** ([micato.com](http://micato.com)) helped plan my itinerary, including a visit with a nomadic Himba tribe—a must on my wish list.