



NAMIBIAN HERITAGE WEEK

Heritage Week is an opportunity for Namibians to showcase our heritage. The week encourages all Namibians to celebrate and commit themselves to protect our wonderful natural and cultural resources. Namibia's major heritage institutions have joined together as a team to organize Namibian Heritage Week.

This year, the theme for Heritage Week is

Feshene, ke thale e e re lomaganang

which means "Fashion, the threads that bind us together."
in Setswana.

20 – 26
September
2021

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WHAT IS HERITAGE?

Heritage is the word we use to describe the things that we feel are important to preserve and protect. It can be the objects, places and traditions that one generation wants to pass on to the next.

WHAT IS NAMIBIAN HERITAGE WEEK AND ITS HISTORY?

Namibian Heritage Week originated in an idea of the National Museum of Namibia to have an annual Museum Day. The Museums Association of Namibia became a partner and the day was extended to the regions. After the National Heritage Council and other stakeholders joined it was decided to enlarge the event and change the name to Namibian Heritage Week.

The week encourages all Namibians to celebrate and commit themselves to protect our wonderful natural and cultural resources. Namibia's major heritage institutions (dubbed the "Heritage Week Team") have joined together to organize Namibian Heritage Week. However, the point about the week is that every Namibian can participate in some way to celebrate our cultural and natural heritage.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HERITAGE WEEK?

Heritage Week is an opportunity for Namibians to celebrate our heritage. It encourages Namibians to keep culture alive and to pass on inherited traditions and knowledge to our descendants. Heritage gives us pride in our identity. "You can't know where you're going if you don't know where you're coming from." The week encourages people to experience the beauty of our cultural diversity or to visit a different part of the country to experience our natural wonders.

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WHAT ARE THE THEME AND DATES FOR HERITAGE WEEK 2021?

The theme for Namibian Heritage Week this year is “Feshene; te tlhale e e re lomaganang.” which means “Fashion; the threads that bind us together.” in Setswana.

The aim is for there to be a week dedicated to Namibian heritage each year which includes participation from government, organisations and individuals from all fourteen regions so that the week can successfully become an annual and national event.

The Heritage Week team’s role is to facilitate the success of the week through providing support to organisations and individuals who host or participate in events during the week through logistical support and marketing.

However, as the theme states, Fashion; the threads that bind us together. This is a week for every single Namibian to get involved in celebrating and learning about Namibia’s rich and diverse heritage. Namibian Heritage Week 2021 will be from the 20th – 26th September 2021.

WHAT ARE THE KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE WEEK?

- To celebrate Namibia’s rich and diverse heritage
- To promote the safeguarding and protection of all cultural heritage in Namibia irrespective of their religious or ethnic identity
- To recognize that all forms of cultural heritage in Namibia are valued as equal in importance
- To promote understanding across diverse communities of the communal value of heritage
- To recognize that the holdings of cultural repositories are also locations of the tangible expressions of human history
- To preserve knowledge of the indigenous communities of Namibia
- To develop, maintain and support a wide network of contacts and partners dedicated to the preservation of cultural heritage through effective practices

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WHAT ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR DURING HERITAGE WEEK?

There will be activities across the country during the week. There will also be at least one activity each day of the week in Windhoek. More details about all the events taking place during Heritage week will be communicated, through or social media pages.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN NAMIBIAN HERITAGE WEEK AND HOW?

All Namibians from the 14 regions. During Namibian Heritage Week everyone in the country is encouraged to participate. We can attend the events that have been advertised and organised by our local museum or cultural organisation. We can all, living together in the Namibian House, also celebrate our cultural diversity in our own way. We can dress in a way that reflects one of our cultural traditions or create a special, uniquely Namibian dish during the week.

We will only be able to protect our cultural and natural resources if we value them.

WHO IS THE HERITAGE WEEK TEAM?

These institutions form part of the National Organizing Committee. The Committee is responsible for the overall planning, implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation of the Heritage Week activities.

- Museum Association of Namibia (MAN)
- National Arts Gallery of Namibia (NAGN)
- National Archives of Namibia (NAN)
- TransNamib
- National Theatre of Namibia (NTN)
- Cosdef Arts & Craft Centre
- Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC)
- Ministry of Mines and Energy: National Earth Science Museum
- Namibian Society of Composer and Authors of Music (NASCAM)
- Swakopmund Museum / Scientific Society Swakopmund
- Ministry of Information and Communication Technology
- Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture: Directorate of Arts
- Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture: Directorate of Heritage and Culture
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- EduVentures Trust
- Fashion Council of Namibia
- Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre (FNCC)
- Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF)
- City of Windhoek (COW)
- University of Namibia (UNAM)
- National Heritage Council of Namibia (NHC)
- Hospitality Association of Namibia (HAN)
- Namibia National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM)

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