



GENERAL INFORMATION FOR FILM CREWS

Gobabeb, an internationally recognised research and training institution in Namibia, has been operating in the Namib Desert for over 60 years. In addition to its highly regarded research and long-term environmental monitoring programmes, education, outreach and practical training at various levels are integrated into Gobabeb's philosophy and approach to doing science. Our mission is to be a "catalyst for gathering, understanding, and sharing knowledge of arid environments", with the overall goal of enhancing Gobabeb as a vibrant, independent research hub.

The Institute hosts researchers, environmentalists, and education groups such as university and college classes, as well as interns, volunteers and students, who stay for variable periods of time. Gobabeb has hosted many film crews over the years, particularly to produce natural science documentaries on topics like desert adaptations of the Namib's unique flora and fauna.

Where exactly is Gobabeb?

Gobabeb is in Namibia in southwestern Africa. More specifically, Gobabeb (23°34'S, 15°03'E) is located in the Namib Desert, one of the most spectacular deserts in the world, within the Namib-Naukluft Park. It is ideally situated at the convergence of three different ecosystems: the massive dunes of the Namib Sand Sea, a recently declared World Heritage Site; the gravel plains, rocky desert and inselbergs of the Namib peneplains; and the Kuiseb riparian forest along an ephemeral river that only flows briefly during some years.

The nearest town is Walvis Bay, 120 km away. The station consists of permanent research installations, laboratories, offices, staff and visitor accommodation, and educational facilities. It is not a village and has no shops, convenience stores, or restaurants.



Filming permit applications

All commercial photographers/film teams visiting Gobabeb require the following:

- Filming permit from the Namibia Film Commission (NFC) within the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB)
- Once this permission has been granted, a filming permit is requested from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET)
- To fly a drone in Namibia, permission must be sought from the Civil Aviation Authority. However, be advised that the MET does not allow drones to fly in protected areas, which includes Gobabeb and its environs.
- Based on the conditions set out in the above permits/licenses, a filming contract is drawn up that stipulates the terms and conditions of filming at Gobabeb.
- Access into restricted areas may only be considered if accompanied by a designated Gobabeb staff member or associate.

Professional filming and photography permits can take up to three months to arrange – please apply well in advance.

Application procedure

1. Contact Gobabeb to establish availability for filming (gobabeb@gobabeb.org; bookings@gobabebtrc.org). After evaluating the filming proposal, a letter of support will be provided by Gobabeb.
2. Contact the Namibia Film Commission (nfc@mib.gov.na) outlining the project and requesting a permit to film. Follow up often.
3. Contact the Ministry of Environment and Tourism requesting a film permit for working in a national park (Tel: +264 61 2842518 / Fax: +264 61 245160), and provide Gobabeb's letter of support. Follow up often.
4. Obtain appropriate work visas and/or work permits from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration.
5. Apply for approval to use drone technology from the Civil Aviation Authority, if permission from MET has been obtained.
6. After confirmation that film permits have been issued by MET and NFC, Gobabeb will enter into an agreement to film within our core research area.
7. Confirm booking with Gobabeb by emailing bookings@gobabebtrc.org to make a formal reservation.
8. Obtain Park Entry Permit from MET offices in Windhoek, Swakopmund or Sesriem prior to entering the Namib-Naukluft Park.
9. Sign film contract upon arrival at Gobabeb.

Pricing

This list includes Gobabeb fees only and does not cover other costs for NFC film permits, MET permits, or visa applications, which should be handled separately. These fees are subject to adjustment:

Filming facilities fee:	N\$2,000/d
Vehicle/mileage:	N\$ 12.50/km; N\$15.00/km for 4WD (if using a Gobabeb vehicle)
Staff support:	See staff charge-out rates, provided on request. Clearance for participation of any staff member/intern/student needs to be obtained from Management, in advance. Staff rates apply for any rehabilitation, e.g. track removal, required post-filming.
Accommodation:	See accommodation price list
Catering:	See catering price list for meal options
WiFi:	N\$300.00/GB
Equipment:	Specialist/Scientific equipment, availability and cost to be determined on a case-by-case basis

Visas

In Namibia, tourist visas are valid for *bona fide* tourists only and not for any professional or educational activities. Photographers and assistants are required to obtain the relevant work visa or work permit or other type of visa as advised by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. It is recommended that applications be made through an agent to facilitate the application process.

Supplies

You should be aware that the **closest shops are 120 km away** from Gobabeb. Please bring all own food and drink supplies. Water at Gobabeb is potable and is filtered through a reverse osmosis process. Fridges and freezers are available, so perishables can be stored. Gobabeb has 24-hour solar power, therefore high voltage appliances such as kettles and hairdryers cannot be used. On-site catering can be arranged in advance.

Currency

Namibian Dollars are not normally available from European or North American Banks. Ask for South African Rand, which is legal currency in Namibia, and of equivalent value. There is a Bureau de Change at international airports (Windhoek; Walvis Bay) or Dunes Mall in Walvis Bay, where cash or travellers' cheques may be exchanged at a reasonable rate. Cheques are not accepted and credit card transactions are not possible at the Institute. Payments to Gobabeb can also be made via electronic banking facilities, but 2% of the invoice total is levied to accommodate exchange rates and bank charges and other handling costs.

Communication

Cell phone reception is available at Gobabeb (2G), with the signal being strong up to about 5 km away from the station. This also allows visitors to access the internet using their own data cards (such as the Namibian "Netman" modem and card, or even on most cell phones). The data signal is only at "Edge" strength, but is strong enough for basic needs. Recharge vouchers are available for purchase at the Gobabeb Reception. WiFi is available at a fee.

Other facilities available at Gobabeb

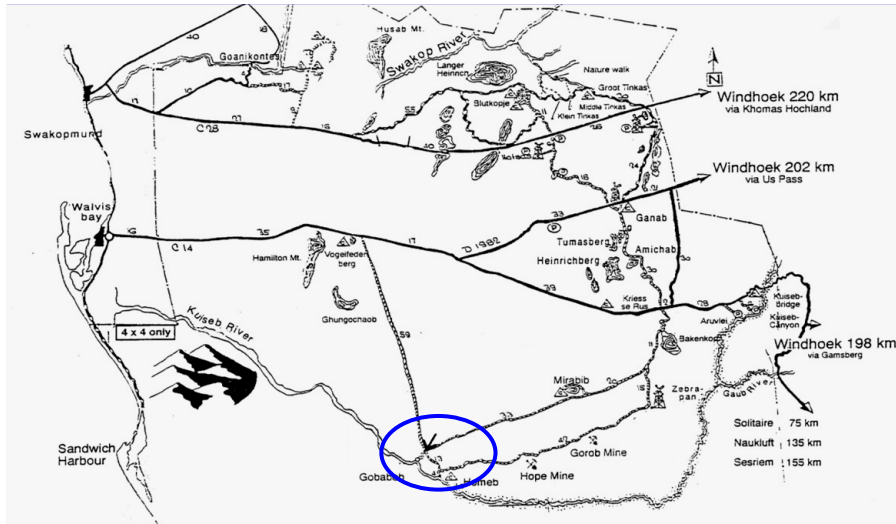
The offices at Gobabeb are open between 08:00 and 17:00 on weekdays. Please advise the office of your arrival time in case special arrangements need to be made. Driving in the park after sunset and before sunrise is not permitted.

Contact Address

Gobabeb
Namib Research Institute
P.O. Box 953, Walvis Bay, 13013, Namibia
Tel: +264 64 694 198/9
Fax: +264 64 694 197
Email: media@gobabeb.org
Website: www.gobabeb.org

Directions by road

From **Walvis Bay**, travel along the C14 for about 55 km – to just after the Vogelfederberg turn off – take the Gobabeb/Homeb road right. Gobabeb is another 60 km straight along this road. An alternate route is along the Kuiseb River, turning left on the D1983, at the Rooibank junction. Junctions are clearly sign-posted.



From **Windhoek via the Gamsberg Pass (C26)**, turn right towards Walvis Bay once you reach the C14, drive through the Kuiseb Canyon, past the two (left hand) turnoffs to the Kuiseb lookout and Aruvlei - the third left turn is marked Zebra Pan/Mirabib/Homeb/Gobabeb - these signs are on stone and easily missed, so look carefully. Gobabeb signposts have recently been erected that clearly mark the junctions on the C14. In the distance you will see the Microwave Tower on top of a hill. At the Zebra Pan junction, take the Mirabib/Gobabeb road. From the C14, it is 70 km to Gobabeb.