Take a walk on the sandy side

There you are – finally – standing at the top of Big Mama, the name locals have affectionately given to the highest dune at Sossusvlei. Lie splayed out in the sand, rest for a while. Take several deep breaths and a few more glugs of water. Once your heart rate and hands have steadied, look around, take a few pictures, and then wonder, “What’s next?”

You may have reached the top, but there is still much more to discover. Look to the left and you’ll see Naravlei, named after the many !nara plants found on and around the edge of the pan. !Nara are cucumber-like melons, the preferred food for many desert inhabitants and a source of pride and sustenance for the Topnaar people living along the Kuiseb River.

South of Big Mama you’ll see Cessna Pan, visible over the dunes, and Witberg (White Mountain), its rocky ridges creating a beacon for travellers in the desert.

Spectacular vleis

Also south of Sossusvlei’s highest dune is another of the desert’s most spectacular landmarks, Deadvlei or Dead Pan. Located just 1.1 km from the parking area, Deadvlei resembles a perfect stage set for photography. Towering red dunes on three sides surround a flat, reflective white floor that is studded with dark, dead camel-thorn trees that are over 600 years old. Deadvlei encapsulates the drama and timelessness of the desert. The quest for the perfect photograph of Deadvlei brings photographers back to Sossusvlei time and time again.
Environmental Care Code

Please adhere to the following:
• Keep to existing roads and tracks.
• Do not litter.
• Do not remove any plants or animals from the park.
• Follow the rules and regulations as printed on your permit.
Have fun!

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