



ARE YOU A COLLECTOR OF MINERALS OR FOSSILS?



Here is what you need to know about collecting in Namibia



Vanadinite, Otavi Mountains

Famous for its exceptional variety in precious and semi-precious stones, Namibia hosts such world-renowned mineral localities as Spitzkoppe, Erongo and Brandberg, amongst others, which are being visited by many professional and hobby collectors each year. But while we are proud to share this heritage with those who appreciate it, there are certain rules and regulations to be followed, when exporting minerals.



Azurite (left) and malachite (below) from Tsumeb Mine



Smithsonite, Tsumeb

Dioptase, Omaue Mine, Kaokoland



Elbaite (Tourmaline, right), Otjua Mine, near Karibib



Jeremejevite



Fluorite, Okorusu Mine



Monazite, Eureka Carbonatite



Beryl, var. Aquamarine from the Erongo Mountains



Fluorite

Claims for semi-precious stones are reserved for Namibian nationals, many of whom make a living by digging for gemstones, amongst which tourmaline, topaz, aquamarine, garnet and amethyst are the most common, and selling them in roadside stalls. Collectors' specimens are also sold by a number of formal stores in Windhoek and Swakopmund.



Mandarin garnet, Kaokoveld



Andradite, var. Demantoid, Erongo



Quartz crystal with tourmaline needles, Gamsberg (above)



Gypsum "rose", Namib Desert



Amethyst, Brandberg



Fe-oxide stained quartz, Orange River

Private mineral collectors and researchers need a permit from the Ministry of Mines and Energy for all material collected or purchased, while the export of mineral specimens for commercial purposes in addition requires a permit from the Ministry of Trade and Industry (it is advisable to allow two working days for the issuing of the permit). The collecting and export of any fossils, including fossilized wood, and meteorites is prohibited by law and regarded as theft.

Backbone of Mesosaurus tenuidens



Petrified wood



Polished meteorite from the Gibeon Meteorite Swarm

For more information contact:
Ministry of Mines and Energy
The Mining Commissioner
1 Aviation Road, Windhoek
(opposite Safari Hotel)
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday 800h - 1300h and 1400h - 1700 h
Tel. (061) 284-8111