

# 1. Hoba, Namibia. Estimated weight: 60 tonnes



Photo: [coda](#)

The runaway winner at approaching twice the weight of its nearest rival, Namibia's Hoba must have taken some stopping. Measuring over 6.5 metres sq, this 60-tonne slab of metal is believed to have been slowed by the Earth's atmosphere to the point where it fell to the surface at a speed that left it intact and barely buried. It's even been suggested that the meteorite's unusually flat shape caused it to skip along much as a skipping stone bounces across water. Nice moves.

**What have we here: One of the earliest known photos of the Hoba, around 1930**



*Photographer unknown via [Giant Crystals](#)*

Thought to have landed less than 80,000 years ago, Hoba is composed of about 84% iron and 16% nickel, and remains the most massive known naturally-occurring hunk of iron at the Earth's surface. Due to its large mass, it's not been moved from where it fell since being discovered in 1920 by a [farmer](#) ploughing his field – who heard a loud scraping before his oxen came to a rather abrupt halt. Having suffered much vandalism, this beast is now visited by thousands of tourists a year.

**One mighty meteorite: Early traveller visiting the exposed Hoba, around 1955**



*Photographer unknown via [Giant Crystals](#)*