

# Namibia: Desert Lion Conservation Safari

A WORLD-EXCLUSIVE WILDLIFE ADVENTURE



## TRIP DATES

**2025**

June 3-15, 2025

**2026**

June 2-15, 2026\*

\*14-day Itinerary. Please call for details



Wilderness Travel

# Namibia: Desert Lion Conservation Safari



Namibia is one of the most hauntingly beautiful safari destinations on earth, brimming with jaw-dropping geological wonders and exotic species found nowhere else. It is also an amazing story of wildlife conservation and hope. With a phenomenal forty-five percent of its land under conservation management, Namibia shelters the world's only growing population of black rhino, the largest free-roaming population of desert lions, and fifty percent of the earth's population of wild cheetahs. On this extraordinary—and utterly unique—safari, limited to just six participants, you will track these fascinating species, have incredible behind-the-scenes access to the conservation projects and the wildlife biologists working to protect them, and contribute directly to their survival. With renowned safari guide Jason Nott, whose family has been involved in conservation efforts for decades, you will experience the magnificent wildlife and unforgettable landscape of Namibia up-close, and be part of some of the most important conservation initiatives in the modern era.

Our journey begins at AfriCat, a foundation dedicated to conserving wildlife based at Okonjima Nature Reserve, where we'll track leopard, brown hyena, and rhino. At the base camp of the Save the Rhino Trust (SRT), you'll meet the field staff and enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at the extraordinary work that is being done to ensure the survival of the black rhino. The climax of our safari finds us in the wilds of Kaokoland, in the magnificent Kunene region, where you'll have the opportunity to see the work of Dr. Flip Stander, the world's leading authority on the elusive desert lion. "Dr. Flip" has tracked desert lion throughout this austere landscape—often walking barefoot alongside the tracks of the lions—to chart their territory and habits, working to help the surrounding communities understand and co-exist with this extraordinary creature. Your safari guide, Jason Nott, is Dr. Flip's godson, and has spent countless hours with him, tracking desert lion and working with him to devise strategies that will ensure their survival. A portion of your trip fee goes directly to supporting this critical work.

Namibia is also renowned for its exquisite safari camps, ensconced in shifting dunes, where end-of-day sundowners allow you to savor the grandeur of the country's vast and pristine open spaces. This safari is your chance to be part of one of the greatest African wildlife recovery stories ever told, and to experience wildlife as few others ever will. We invite you to make Namibia's mystery, majesty and inspiring conservation efforts part of your story as well, on this unique adventurer's safari.

# Itinerary

## DAY 1

### WINDHOEK

Welcome to Namibia! Prepare to have your perceptions of Southern Africa delightfully shifted in the capital city of this vast land where Africa and Europe blend into a fascinating hybrid. You'll be met at Hosea Kutako Airport and transferred to charming Galton House, a delightful boutique hotel, an oasis in the city with wonderful decor and great cuisine. Tonight, we'll meet our Trip Leader for a comprehensive briefing and Welcome Dinner. Overnight at Galton House...D

## DAY 2

### OKONJIMA / AFRICAT FOUNDATION / TRACKING LEOPARDS

Today we leave Windhoek and begin our adventure in the country's wild heart. We pass through historically significant Okahandja, a place held in reverence by the Herero people, before moving on to the rugged beauty of Okonjima Bush Camp. Three hours north of Windhoek, the camp sits at the base of the dusty and ancient Omboroko Mountains and is the home of the AfriCat Foundation, a research and education center. AfriCat formerly ran one of the largest leopard rescue and release programs in the world, rescuing more than a thousand of these predators over the last 18 years, and now focuses on inter- and intraspecific relationships between different carnivore species in an enclosed conservation area.

Although your accommodations here are sited in a wilderness area, don't expect a bush camp with primitive lodgings. Our camp's nine thatched African chalets are rustic yet beautifully designed dwellings. Each chalet enjoys complete privacy and is a unique combination of earthy ochre walls, glass windows, and khaki-green canvas under a thatch. In the open-air lapa (thatched dining area), you will enjoy meals and stories with Jason and your fellow guests, and learn about the work of the AfriCat Foundation. You can take advantage of a nearby hide and guided walking trails that offer the chance to see the abundant wildlife that includes some 300 species of birds that have been identified here. You may even hear the roars of the three resident lions, Matata, Tambo, and Tessie, who were born in captivity and rescued by AfriCat.

In the afternoon, we head out for Namibia-style adventure, radio-tracking leopards by 4WD vehicle. Make sure you keep your camera close, because thanks to our expert guides and radio collars on the area's leopards, you'll have an excellent opportunity to see these elusive big cats up close. The leopards in this area of the reserve are wild and live in the open bush, but due to their habituation to humans at the time of their rehabilitation, tend to let us get remarkably close to them, for absolutely incredible experiences—and photographs. In the evening, you can observe wildlife from the night hide—the sound of Namibian porcupine's quills clacking is unforgettable, and the elusive honey badger sometimes makes an appearance. Overnight at Okonjima Bush Camp...BLD



### TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

<b>Length:</b>	13 days
<b>Arrive:</b>	Windhoek, Namibia
<b>Depart:</b>	Windhoek, Namibia
<b>Lodging:</b>	7 nights lodge, 3 nights camping, 2 nights guesthouse
<b>Meals:</b>	All meals included (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
<b>Activity:</b>	Safaris, Wildlife and Natural History
<b>Trip Level:</b>	1 2 ③ 4 5 6 4WD game viewing, bush walks

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience a world-exclusive safari with our expert safari guide Jason Nott and meet with Dr. Flip Stander, the world's authority on desert lion
- Search for desert lion in the remote Kaokoveld region
- Go behind the scenes with the vets at AfriCat for close encounters with leopard
- Track desert-adapted rhino in the dramatic landscape of Damaraland
- Meet with field staff of Save the Rhino Trust
- Walk among prehistoric rock engravings at Twyfelfontein
- Enjoy a very small group size—just six participants!



# Itinerary



## DAY 3

### OKONJIMA / AFRICAT FOUNDATION

Cooler early mornings in Okonjima are perfect for exploring and that's how we'll begin our day. We'll head out by open vehicle, a blanket over our laps to keep us warm. Our game drive allows us more time to enjoy and understand the reserve as a natural typical ecosystem within Central Namibia. As the reserve was established primarily to conserve some more threatened mammal species, it provides an increased chance to encounter these relatively rare animals. There are more than 40 mammal species within Okonjima, both large and small, including the rarely seen Cape fox as well as a good representation of the typical flora. The experience is absolutely unforgettable; we may pass giraffe browsing on the tree tops, and will feel every shift of the light morning wind as

we make our way through the bush. After returning to camp for a sumptuous breakfast/brunch and the chance to share your images with friends and family using the camp's Wi-Fi, the rest of the morning is yours. Take a dip in the swimming pool overlooking a watering hole, or relax in the luxurious reception area or on your veranda and enjoy the stunning scenery unfolding around you. In the afternoon, we head to the clinic where we meet the local AfriCat representative. This representative will give us an in-depth tour of the clinic and what a vital role it plays in the health of the big cats on the reserve. We'll also have the opportunity to meet some of the staff at the center and learn more about the foundation's work of conservation awareness, preserving habitat, and environmental education and research. Overnight at Okonjima Bush Camp... BLD



## DAY 4

### BEHIND THE SCENES AT AFRICAT

Today we enjoy the back stage access that allows us to witness the huge effort and total dedication that goes into making conservation at Okonjima such a success. Witnessing this project is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and opportunity that very few guests to Namibia ever get to have. In the company of an AfriCat representative, we head out to observe conservation field work and research data collection. Activities involved could include tracking pangolin and rhino, monitoring species by vehicle, biometric monitoring of pangolin, checking of camera traps and processing camera trap data, research presentations, and in-depth discussions on the research and conservation strategies of the foundation. Scheduled research activities such as re-tagging or re-collaring of research individuals (possibly leopard, brown hyena, and pangolin) will, if at all possible, be timed to take place during our visit, and if we are particularly fortunate (no guarantee) and a new animal is found and enrolled

Behind the Scenes day at Africat Foundation—you never know what you'll experience! This lucky group was able to assist the resident vet with a check up on this resident cheetah.

# Itinerary

in the research during our visit, we will be invited to be present for the initial assessment. Overnight at Okonjima Bush Camp...BLD

## DAY 5 SURREAL DAMARALAND

After an early breakfast, we head west into the stunning and diverse region of Damaraland, which provides some of the most dramatic scenery on our journey, with magnificent table-topped mountains, rock formations, and bizarre-looking vegetation. This is a long day of travel, but we'll game drive as we go, and we'll find scenic spots to pull over for cool drinks, coffee or tea, and snacks from the "magic box" en route to our camp, Camp Doros. This semi-permanent camp offers delightfully unexpected comfort in the absolute back of beyond, and is renowned for its cuisine. We arrive in time to wash up and enjoy sundowners and dinner, then gather around a welcoming campfire, savoring the rare experience of being so completely immersed in the wild.

Overnight at Camp Doros...BLD

Driving Details: Approximately 8 hours



## DAY 6 TRACKING DESERT-ADAPTED RHINO ON FOOT / BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE EXPERTS AT SAVE THE RHINO TRUST

Damaraland is a surprising refuge for species that have adapted to the harsh environment. Desert elephant, giraffe, oryx, springbok, and even lion have evolved with special adaptations to survive in this austere landscape of little water, and our camp is set in the heart of the habitat of the re-introduced desert rhino. The rhino cover great distances, walking and feeding in the cool of the night and resting during the day. Rhino populations throughout Africa were decimated in the 1980s and '90s, yet Namibia's black rhino population has more than doubled since the formation of Save the Rhino Trust, an innovative NGO doing crucial work to protect the rare desert-adapted black rhino. Wilderness Travel is a proud supporter of SRT's work and the incredible dedication of the rhino guardians, who keep track of these solitary animals' movement and protect them from poachers. The guardians of a WT-funded mobile camp recently stopped a major international poaching ring.

We'll meet with rangers and trackers of Save the Rhino Trust to learn about their critical work, then head out to do our own rhino tracking. We hear about the fascinating adaptations of these remarkable creatures as we search for them in the vast desert landscape. Sightings can be challenging—but we are in an exclusive area with the highest sighting success rate in northwestern Namibia. If we find them, tracking rhino alongside the rangers is absolutely thrilling. We head back to our camp for lunch and an afternoon rest during the heat of the day, then enjoy a late afternoon nature drive or walk to explore this vast and astounding ecosystem before returning to our exclusive mobile camp.

Overnight at Camp Doros..BLD

Walking Details: Approximately 2-4 hours, 1.5-3 miles.



# Itinerary



## DAY 7

### DESERT LION TERRITORY

This morning we head to Desert Lion Territory. There are some revered personalities involved in Namibia's remarkable conservation story and over the next few days we'll have the opportunity to see the work of, and if conditions allow, meet up with the legendary Dr. Flip Stander. And although we hesitate to say we're saving the best for last because everything in Namibia seems to have larger-than-life stature, these days in Desert Lion Territory may well prove to be the kind of epic experiences you will recount and remember for years to come. After lunch under a shady tree out in the wilderness, we continue to make our way to our private mobile camp. True to its name, it's a temporary nomadic camp that will be set up where

the lions are, so our route will be determined the day before when we receive an update on wildlife sightings. The driving may be long, but you're assured spectacular scenery and the potential to see a variety of desert-adapted wildlife along the way. Arriving at camp, you'll be greeted with enthusiastic Namibian hospitality, and given the chance to freshen up before dinner under the star-filled Namibian night sky (southern Namibia was recently named one of the world's few International Dark Sky Reserves, due to the lack of light pollution). Even though we are deep in Namibia's wild heart, you can still count on a delicious meal at the mobile camp, prepared by the wonderful crew. The food and wine will pair perfectly with conversation about the adventures ahead. You'll learn about the elusive and resourceful desert lion, and the extraordinary work of Dr. Flip Stander. This conservation legend—known to track lions in bare feet so he can better understand the nuances of their tracks—is almost single-handedly responsible for the vast strides made in protecting desert lions since he began his work in 1998.



Founder of the Desert Lion Project, Flip Stander's work has led to greatly reduced levels of human-lion conflict and helped locals and the Namibian government understand and design measures to protect these rare animals. Using VHF and satellite collars as well as tracking on foot and by vehicle, Flip has amassed a treasure trove of invaluable data providing information on the movement, grouping patterns, reproduction, and other key indicators of the lions of the Kunene region of the Northern Namib Desert. Previously viewed as a nuisance for attacks on valuable livestock, lions are now seen by many locals as assets, thanks to Dr. Stander's insistence that communities share in the economic benefits that wildlife bring through eco-tourism. The results speak for themselves, as Namibia now has the largest free-roaming population of lions outside of national parks in all of Africa. Overnight at camp...BLD

## DAYS 8-9

### DESERT LION TERRITORY

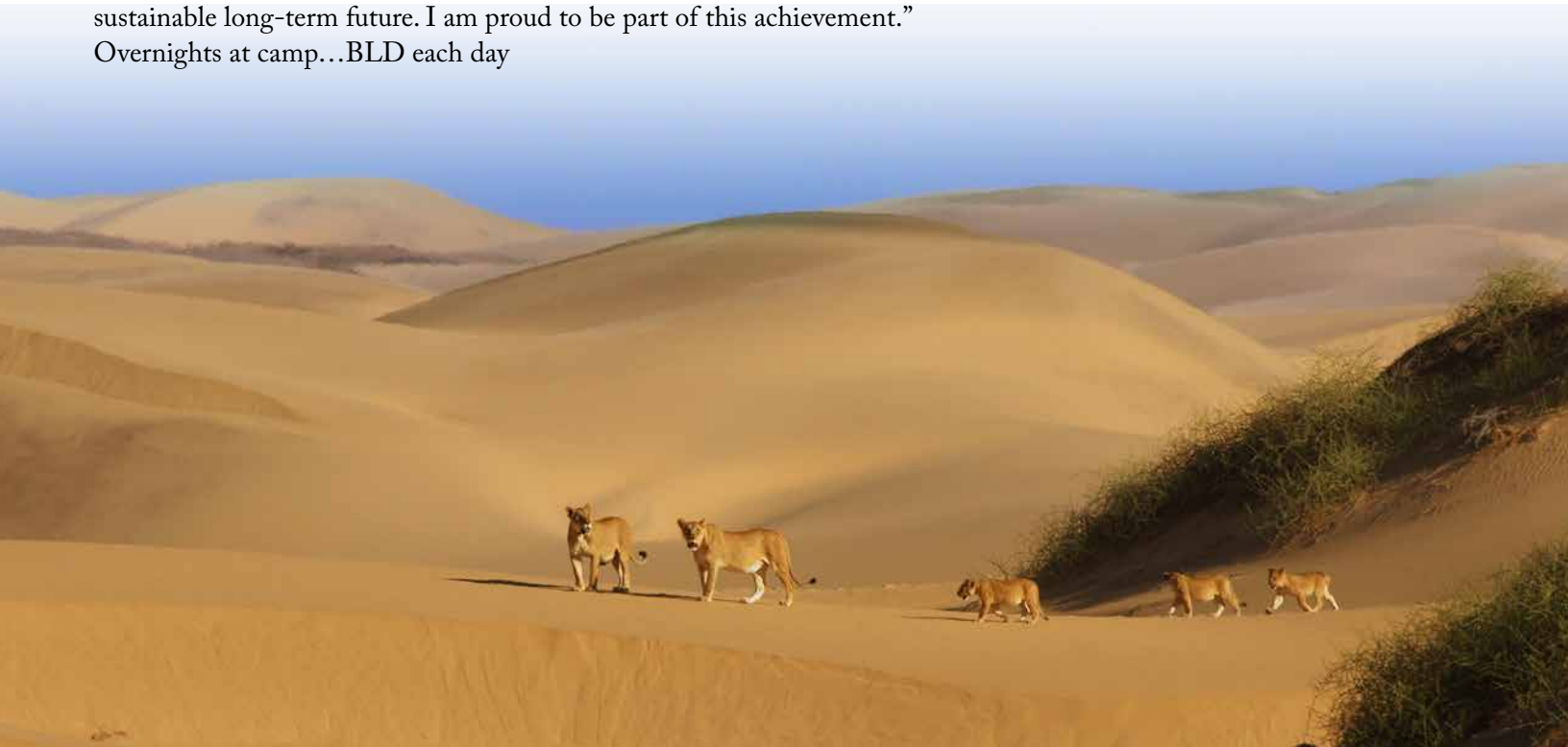
We are now deep in the Northern Namib desert in one of the most dramatic, isolated and photogenic regions on Earth. So the next time you hear someone

# Itinerary

say true adventure perished in the 19th century, you'll have one word for them: Namibia. We'll track with Jason, and hopefully meet up with Dr. Stander in the wilds of the Kunene—it all depends on where the lions are. Jason has worked closely with Flip Stander for years; he will take us to see Dr. Standers' operations in the field, and we'll learn about the amazing work he is doing that is changing the face of conservation in Africa. We'll also have our best chance of seeing desert lions in the wild here, a truly privileged encounter. As this is true tracking, the type you will see in the documentaries starring Flip Stander and the desert lions, our days may be long, with early starts and late finishes because these desert-dwelling animals cover such large distances. But the overall experience is priceless, and may leave you awestruck both by the beauty and majesty of this place and its animals, and the dedication of Flip Stander. Each afternoon we will return to our mobile camp, for a hearty dinner set at the table under the stars.



Here is how Jason Nott describes what he has witnessed in this region:  
“As a proud Namibian having grown up in a Namibian conservation family, I am delighted to share what must be the world’s greatest conservation success story. The progression of areas I witnessed from childhood to today have been nothing short of remarkable. Under the protection of our constitution and the major sacrifices made by many rural Namibians, the northwestern region of Namibia holds a special place in my heart, as it is home to so many conservation successes. It is an area where people have made the conscious decision to live with wildlife, knowing what the challenges are, but working towards a sustainable long-term future. I am proud to be part of this achievement.”  
Overnights at camp...BLD each day





# Itinerary



## DAY 10 ONDULI RIDGE

After a final breakfast in the “deep bush,” we drive to Onduli Ridge for a relaxing afternoon with plenty of time to freshen up after our days in the mobile bush camp. Nestled among giant granite boulders, the camp offers views of Namibia's highest mountain, the Brandberg. We'll settle into luxury en suite rooms, each with a private veranda and splendid views. The accommodations and staff are wonderful and welcoming, but what you might remember most is the utter quiet and tranquility here. This is the perfect time to indulge in some safari lodge amenities like a dip in the plunge pool. In the late afternoon, we have a guided walk planned before sitting down to a delightful evening meal prepared by the skilled and welcoming staff...BLD

## DAY 11 DAMARALAND / TWYFELFONTEIN



We set out after breakfast and head to Namibia's UNESCO World Heritage site of Twyfelfontein, set among striking red sandstone flat-topped mountains. We'll hike into this site that leaves many awestruck by the power and living presence of this land. The overhanging cliffs reveal themselves to be an utterly immense ancient gallery sheltering more than 2,500 prehistoric petroglyphs depicting all manner of wildlife including rhino, lion, and springbok that used to drink from the springs at the base of the rocks, as well as mystical drawings representing shamanic trance states. Dating back more than 7,000 years, this is one of the largest and finest petroglyph sites in all of Africa.

In the afternoon we'll follow the course of the ephemeral Aba Huab River, in this season rippled with sand, not water, and seek the chance to observe majestic desert elephants. From a distance, these stately giants look like ships of the desert navigating the minimalist landscape as they trek between watering holes and subterranean springs, an amazing sight in this arid environment. The desert-adapted elephants of Kaokoland and the Namib walk farther for

water and fodder than any other elephant in Africa. The distances between waterholes and feeding grounds can be as great as 40 miles; they walk and feed in the cool of the night and rest during the day. Not a separate species or even a subspecies, desert-adapted elephants are an ecotype unique to Namibia in Africa south of the equator. We return to our lodge in the late afternoon, with time to enjoy fireside sundowners before dinner. Overnight at camp...BLD





# Itinerary

## DAY 12

### DAMARALAND TO WINDHOEK

After a leisurely breakfast, it's time to say !gaise hare'!gure (goodbye) to Damaraland as you drive back to Windhoek. On arrival in Windhoek, you'll be transferred to Galton House. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure and our Farewell Dinner tonight is at this charming guesthouse...BLD

## DAY 13

### DEPARTURE

After breakfast at your leisure (depending on flight times), you are transferred to the Windhoek International Airport in time for your international flight. This is the official end of your safari in Namibia, but hopefully it is also the beginning of a new passion for this land and its amazing people and wildlife...B

Note: These are our planned activities for the trip. Please note that we will make every effort to do all of these activities, however as the trip involves wildlife in an extreme environment, conditions at the time of departure may make it necessary to alter the order of the itinerary or some activities. We will work with our partners to ensure that you have the fullest experience possible.



# Pricing

## TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, valid through 2025**

\$9,795 (6 members)

\$9,995 (5 members)

\$10,295 (4 members)

Single supplement: \$1,425

Donation to Save the Rhino Trust (tax deductible): \$150

Donation to Desert Lion Project (tax deductible): \$1,500

Donation to AfriCat Foundation (tax deductible): \$1,900

*Please contact us for future years' pricing*

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

## CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

## CONSERVATION CONTRIBUTION

WT's agreement with the conservation organizations grants us exclusive behind-the-scenes access to the important work they are doing to save and protect Namibia's fascinating wildlife. A portion of your trip cost helps fund the projects that are critical to realizing this conservation goal. You will receive a receipt for this portion of the trip, which you can use for tax purposes.

## TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations in hotels, lodges, mobile camp, and tented camp
- All meals
- Beer and table wine with meals
- All ground transportation and baggage handling from meeting until departure
- All activities as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- Contribution to conservation projects

## TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Travel to and from the arrival and departure location as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- Additional hotel nights outside the trip's scheduled dates
- Optional gratuities to Trip Leaders
- Travel insurance (required)
- Other expenses of a personal nature (some alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.)
- Visa fees

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$1000

120 days prior to departure: Balance

## CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: \$1000 per person

119 days or less: 100% of trip cost

\*Please note that this differs from our regular catalog departures.

## MANDATORY TRAVEL INSURANCE

Please note: Namibia requires travelers to have travel insurance (which includes medical coverage). Wilderness Travel offers a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan through Travelex insurance that meets this requirement. Visit our website: [wildernesstravel.com/insurance](http://wildernesstravel.com/insurance). Alternatively, you can purchase a different policy on your own. You can compare various options at [insuremytrip.com](http://insuremytrip.com).



# Extend Your Adventure!

To help you make the most of your adventure, we've created several exciting trip extensions. For detailed information, including full itineraries and complete pricing, please visit our webpage and click on "Extend Your Trip": [www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/namibia-desert-lion-conservation-safari/](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/namibia-desert-lion-conservation-safari/)

## SOSSUSVLEI DUNES EXTENSION

Namibia's Namib Desert, utterly unlike any other place on earth, is the oldest on the planet, a sea of red sand sculpted into fantastic dunes. Your days are filled with early morning 4WD excursions to the magnificent Sossusvlei dunes and the vlei itself, the dry riverbed of the Tsauchab River, along with afternoon excursions to explore the desert landscape and its unique flora and fauna. Accommodations are at Sossusvlei Desert Lodge, a luxurious desert wilderness retreat with a magical atmosphere, and the Galton House in Windhoek. *5 days. From \$4,695.*

## CAPE TOWN EXTENSION

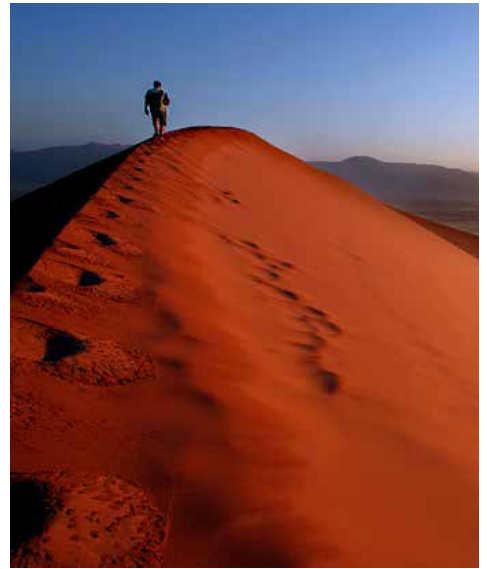
The town where modern South Africa was born has a glorious location on the mountainous Cape Peninsula along the blue waters of Table Bay. There is much to see, from Table Mountain to the famous botanical gardens at Kirstenbosch, where 10,000 species are cultivated on 1,000 acres. Close by is Stellenbosch and Franschhoek wine country and the Cape Point Nature Reserve, where the African continent ends.

The itinerary can be customized as needed, please call for details. *4 days. From \$1,995.*

## SHUMBALALA AND GREATER KRUGER SAFARI EXTENSION

A stay at Shumbalala Game Lodge, in the Thornybush Reserve bordering Kruger National Park, South Africa, is an ideal way to experience additional game viewing while enjoying the amenities of a deluxe wildlife lodge. Set on the banks of the Monwana River, Shumbalala is an oasis of luxurious comfort in the heart of the African bushveld. Activities include morning and late afternoon game drives in search of the Big Five, bush walks in the company of an expert ranger and tracker, or simply relaxing on decks overlooking a waterhole where animals frequently congregate. The lodge caters to a maximum of eight guests in four suites, each with its own fireplace and spacious bathroom with indoor and outdoor showers.

*4 days. From \$3,295.*





# Lodging



## **GALTON HOUSE**

*Windhoek, Namibia*

*Day 1 (1 night)*

*Day 12 (1 night)*

This welcoming nine-room hotel, just a 10-minute shuttle drive from the center of town, offers a personal and informal atmosphere. Guest rooms are decorated in an inviting modern style, with wildlife photography adorning the walls. Communal areas include a large lounge, indoor and outdoor dining areas, and a small swimming pool. The hotel is named after the explorer and polymath Francis Galton, who produced the first maps of Namibia's interior.



## **OKONJIMA BUSH CAMP**

*Omboroko Mountains, Namibia*

*Days 2 to 4 (3 nights)*

Home to the AfriCat Foundation, this luxury bush camp features eight thatched, African-style chalets decorated in earthy tones. The chalets are very spacious, have en suite bathrooms, and can be opened wide during the day for enjoying the views and watching birds in the garden right from your room. A secluded swimming pool awaits at the end of a busy day of game viewing. The food is of a very high standard and the staff and guides are terrific.



## **CAMP DOROS**

*Damaraland, Namibia*

*Days 5 to 6 (2 nights)*

This intimate camp is ideally suited as a base camp for our adventures in tracking black rhino, as it lies in an area renowned for harboring these creatures. Set in a grove of mopane trees, the camp carries arguably the lowest environmental footprint of any camp in Namibia. Six guest tents are set on raised platforms and feature twin or double beds, solar power for lighting and charging points, hot showers and en suite flush toilets. Common areas include a bar, dining room, lounge with fireplaces and a campfire deck, plunge pool, and sun deck.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Namibia: Desert Lion Conservation Safari* webpage and click on "Accommodations."

# Lodging



## EXPEDITION MOBILE CAMP

*Namibia*

*Days 7 to 9 (3 nights)*

Our Mobile Expedition camps are fully serviced and equipped to keep you in comfort in a remote setting. They are not permanent and are designed to be set up quickly in some of the most inaccessible corners of the country, normally for just two or three nights at a time. The dome tents (10 by 10 feet and 7 feet high) have built-in groundsheets and mosquito screens on all doors and windows. Each tent is equipped with solar lighting, bedside table, comfortable camp beds/cots and mattresses with normal bedding as well as an additional blanket and a hot water bottle for those chilly nights. Towels and toiletries are provided in the en suite bathroom, which also has its own field toilet, bucket shower, and washbasin. A small table, mirror, and solar lighting are also provided in the bathroom, and chairs on the patio allow guests to relax and enjoy the surrounding view. While mobile camps cannot have all the comforts you might expect in permanent camps, their reward is access to areas where there is little or no other fixed infrastructure, thus allowing a real pioneering experience. We consider good food and wine to be an important part of the overall experience, so catering in camp is of a suitably high standard, with delicious, wholesome meals prepared on open fires using fresh local produce where available.



## ONDULI RIDGE

*Damaraland, Namibia*

*Days 10 to 11 (2 nights)*

Nestled among boulders on a private concession in the heart of Damaraland, the camp's six partially open-air suites feature incredible views of Namibia's highest mountain, the Brandberg, and out across the plains to the cathedral-like granite inselbergs (isolated small rock mountains). Each suite has a partially open-air bathroom with a flush toilet and hot water rain shower, and a king-sized bed that you can roll out onto your private deck for a night under the stars. Communal areas include a lounge, library, dining room with fireplace, bar, campfire ring, spacious deck, and a pool for a refreshing afternoon dip. The lodge is 100% solar powered, is within close proximity to a waterhole frequented by wildlife, and blends beautifully with the natural surroundings.

# Trip Leader

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information about our Trip Leaders, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on “Trip Leaders”: [www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/namibia-desert-lion-conservation-safari](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/namibia-desert-lion-conservation-safari)



## JASON NOTT

Jason Nott of Namibia comes from a well-known family of “nature conservators” who have been involved in development issues in Namibia for decades, even before it was known as Namibia! He grew up in a small rural town, and his love for wild Africa was instilled in him at a young age. One of his greatest influences as a child was his godfather, Flip Stander, who now runs the Desert Lion Conservation Foundation and is considered the world’s leading authority on desert lions. Jason spent a year of study in England, returning to Namibia to run a safari for his fellow students at the age of 19, then obtained a Travel and Tourism Management degree at a local university. While managing a remote game lodge in Namibia, he developed excellent relationships with local communities all across northwest Namibia, and now he and his guests are welcomed at these fascinating communities. “One of my greatest pleasures is sharing the wonders of the country I love with visitors,” he says, “and guiding is my tool for doing this.” Jason has a passion for wildlife and its protection, and a strong belief that this is best achieved through the development of communities. He is a phenomenally knowledgeable birder, wildlife expert, and wonderful traveling companion. In addition to being a guide, he also helps run the Conservation Travel Foundation, which is involved in funding a number of humanitarian and conservation initiatives around the country.



# Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

## ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Windhoek, Namibia

**Suggested Airport:** Hosea Kutako International Airport (WDH)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Day 1, 4:00 pm or earlier

**Meeting Place:** A complimentary transfer is provided from Hosea Kutako International Airport to Galton House for all trip members arriving on Day 1. Your Trip Leader or a WT representative will meet you outside the customs area and will be holding a Wilderness Travel sign.

If you have booked extra services for early arrival, a voucher for your transfer and extra hotel nights will be sent with your final documents.

## DEPARTURE

Windhoek, Namibia

**Suggested Airport:** Hosea Kutako International Airport (WDH)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Day 13, anytime

A complimentary airport transfer will be provided for all trip members to the Hosea Kutako International Airport departing on Day 13. If you are departing on a different day, a transfer can be arranged at additional cost.

## INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Namibia. Airlines with the most convenient schedules for this trip include:

South African Airway  
[www.flysaa.com](http://www.flysaa.com)

British Airways  
[www.ba.com](http://www.ba.com)

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 970-818-8459 in the US or Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at [www.exitotravel.com](http://www.exitotravel.com).

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

**Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip.** Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so we can reserve your airport transfers. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

## EXTRA HOTEL NIGHTS WINDHOEK

We are happy to arrange additional hotel nights for you in Windhoek. Please see the Extra Hotel Request Form to book these reservations.

## EXTRA HOTEL NIGHTS JOHANNESBURG

We recommend the following hotels in Johannesburg for extra overnights. To obtain the best rate, please book directly with the property on line.

Johannesburg O.R. Tambo Hotel  
[www.intercontinental.com](http://www.intercontinental.com)

Protea Hotel O.R. Tambo Airport  
[www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/jnbor-protea-hotel-or-tambo-airport](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/jnbor-protea-hotel-or-tambo-airport)

# What to Expect

## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

The trip is Level 3, Moderate, according to our trip grading system, and includes gameviewing by 4WD vehicle, nature walks, and long driving days.

Our accommodation is in hotels (2 nights), superb permanent safari chalets and camps (7 nights), and in our mobile tented camp (3 nights). Our safari accommodations include African-style chalets at Okonjima, partially open-air suites at Onduli Ridge, and fully furnished walk-in tents on permanent decks at Camp Doros. Each of these permanent safari camps offers en suite bathrooms. Our mobile tented camp offers incredible access to the desert lion habitat of Kunene, and here we'll stay in more basic domed tents that are comfortably outfitted with cots, linens, a shade canopy, chairs, and en suite toilet facilities. Wonderful al fresco meals are prepared by our camp crew and served at our dining table with comfortable canvas-backed chairs.

While on safari most breakfasts and evening meals will be taken at our camps and lodges. Lunches while traveling between destinations will be served picnic style at a scenic location en route, or at a café or restaurant should there not be a suitable picnic site. Bottled water, soft drinks, juice, house wine, and beer at meals are included throughout the trip. All vehicles are equipped with a fridge or cold box stocked with bottled water for your convenience. Tea and coffee are offered by most accommodation establishments free of charge with meals and at afternoon tea time.

It is important to note that an integral part of any Namibia safari is driving, and it's part of the adventure. We will be in the company of the Trip Leader, who will make the road journeys very interesting and point out many highlights and hidden treasures en route. While the driving times may appear long, please note there is a lot to see and the scenery is dramatic and beautiful. Our vehicles are air conditioned and very comfortable and the Trip Leader brings along supplies for the stops, such as tea, picnic lunches, etc.

Although this is not a particularly rigorous trip, we still recommend you undertake a preparatory program of physical conditioning. Daily walking or regular hiking, jogging, and stair-climbing are excellent preparatory exercises. Any African safari is an adventure, and the traveler to Africa should bring along flexibility, a sense of humor, curiosity about new peoples and places, and an openness to the unexpected.

## WEATHER

Namibia has a typical desert climate: hot in the day, and cool at night, mostly sunny and dry. Between November and April, daytime temperatures can be in the low 90s, with night temperatures dropping to the 50s. Between May and October, daytime temperatures generally reach the mid-70s and can drop to as low as 40 at night. The coastal region is cool and dry throughout the year.

# Additional Information

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Africa Manager or email us at [africa@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:africa@wildernesstravel.com).

## REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://www.wildernesstravel.com), you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.



# Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts



T-SHIRT FRONT



T-SHIRT BACK



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST  
+ KLEEN KANTEEN 27OZ WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at [www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan).

Here's how it works:

## YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

## YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel stainless steel water bottle by Klean Kanteen and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$100 value).

## YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$130 value).

## YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

## FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

*Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.*

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.

# Travel Notes



### WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

**Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

**World's Best Tour Operators:** *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

**Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips:** *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *USA Today*

**Trip of the Year:** *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

**50 Tours of a Lifetime:** *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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