



Greetings from Africa!

The new year is well under way and it looks like it is going to be an exciting one. To kick off the year Wilderness Explorations would like to remind you of some of our privately-guided journeys.

**Summer is a spectacular time of year to be in Botswana as the migratory birds, dark skies and lush green terrain create an explosion of colour. What better way to start the new year than with our two exciting summer Explorations.**

#### **OKAVANGO CHANNELS AND PLAINS**

This 6-night safari takes in some of the finest game-viewing areas of the Okavango at Gomoti together with the iconic water experiences of Xigera. Located in the Santawani Concession in the south-eastern Okavango Delta, Gomoti is an area renowned for its great game-viewing. The area is dominated by acacia woodlands interspersed with open plains. It is home to large numbers of general game, which in turn attract high concentrations of lions, leopard and wild dog. Xigera is renowned for its fantastic water experiences. A stay here will give you the opportunity to explore the channels of the Okavango Delta. The main floodwaters only start arriving at Xigera around April, which means that large tracts of land will be accessible by vehicle.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- The opportunity to explore by land and on water - walking, day and night game drives, boating (water dependent), mokoro trips and light air transfers are activities offered on this itinerary.
- The summer months presents the opportunity to see the profusion of new life following the life-giving rains with new-born antelopes and a tapestry of bush flowers being some of the highlights.
- Exclusive access to two primary wilderness areas in the Okavango Delta.
- En-suite accommodation with all the comforts and amenities elegantly provided.
- Privately-guided from start to finish.
- Guaranteed window seat.

#### **BOTSWANA SUMMER ENCOUNTER ITINERARY (Reminder that the itinerary has changed for this year)**

This Exploration reveals the life-filled summer season of Botswana, in prime areas where few people travel. You will experience a nostalgic camping/lodge safari that recreates the sense of a game-viewing adventure reminiscent of the times of the great African explorers. This Exploration visits Botswana's scenic areas: From the "petrified" river valley of Deception Valley in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve to the grasslands and floodplains of the Okavango Delta with its wealth of plains game, to the diverse and wildlife-rich Linyanti and Chobe River systems, culminating with a visit to the world-famous Victoria Falls in Zambia.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Exceptionally diverse range of activities: game drives, walks, a full-day safari excursion with lunch, motorboat excursions and a boat cruise on the iconic Chobe River.
- Exclusive access to the wilderness areas of the Okavango Delta, Linyanti and Victoria Falls.
- Old-style serviced camping as well as accommodation in luxury Wilderness Classic camps ensures an authentic bush experience.
- Privately-guided from start to finish.
- Guaranteed window seat.



**Namibia is an iconic country with unbelievable landscapes and wildlife and Wilderness Explorations offers two different journeys that showcase the very best of the country:**

### **DIVERSE NAMIBIA**

This Exploration is a true adventure, taking in this vast country from Sossusvlei dunes to the Namib Desert, the Atlantic coast to the ancient Damaraland plains and Etosha's wildlife. This Exploration visits the soaring red dunes of Sossusvlei, the life-filled blue Atlantic Ocean, the desert and denizens of Damaraland, and the plains game and predators of Etosha National Park. As we journey between destinations the spectacular landscapes are revealed, completing this fantastic adventure.

### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Exclusive accommodation in private reserves and concessions including private access to Sossusvlei.
- Activities include game drives, scenic walks, a boating excursion on the Walvis Bay lagoon and a visit to the ancient rock engravings at Twyfelfontein.
- This Exploration visits some of the major tourist attractions of Namibia – from the iconic red dunes of Sossusvlei to the history and culture of Swakopmund, to the vast expanse of Damaraland and the abundant wildlife of Etosha National Park.
- Track the rare desert-adapted elephants of Damaraland.
- Privately-guided from start to finish.
- Guaranteed window seat.

### **DESERT DUNE SAFARI**

This Exploration takes you through some of the most remote areas of this fascinating land – areas which have been rarely explored by others, making this a journey of discovery. The dunes of Sossusvlei are not to be missed and this is where we begin our journey. We then take in the amazing marine life just off Swakopmund, the secluded and dramatic coastline of the Skeleton Coast littered with historic remnants of shipwrecks and the rugged and rocky landscape of Palmwag where the last free-roaming black rhino rove. Aside from wildlife and activities, meet the people of Namibia, from those who work at our camps to many others, such as local fishermen and vendors.

### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Distinctive activities include climbing some of the world's tallest dunes, rhino tracking, a motorboat lagoon trip at Walvis Bay and viewing shipwreck remains along the dramatic Skeleton Coast.
- Endless landscapes and places of interest are seen along the way, with a scenic flight from Sossusvlei to Swakopmund (weather permitting) being a highlight.
- At the much-revered **Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp**, an isolated wilderness and dry riverbed reveals Namibia's unique desert-adapted wildlife, from elephant and giraffe to the uncommon "desert lion."
- Privately-guided from start to finish.
- Guaranteed window seat.

We are also delighted to announce that National Geographic channel will be broadcasting ***Vanishing Kings – Lions of the Namib*** around the world next month. This international documentary, tracing the amazing story of survival of a small population of lion that lives in the arid conditions of the northern Namib Desert, was filmed in and around Wilderness Safaris' **Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp**.



***Look out for the next Explorations newsletter, it promises to be an exciting one with new Explorations and more updates.***

[Click here](#) to read more about all our amazing journeys.

To view our availability report for the remainder of 2016, [click here](#)

Until next time,

The Explorations Team

For more information on Explorations, you can also contact your journey specialist or email [explorations@wilderness.co.za](mailto:explorations@wilderness.co.za)