

The *Researchers* of Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp

The Hoanib Research Centre attracts the likes of scholars from around the globe – each focusing on fascinating and important studies that relate to the incredible life forms that live in this arid desert. Guests staying at Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp can look forward to presentations by a number of conservation researchers during the remainder of 2016 and into 2017.



Ruben Portas – Namibia's Cheetah

Dates: 1-20 November 2016

Ruben Portas is an evolutionary ecology research assistant at the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research and is currently studying a BSc in Natural Resources Management at the Namibia University of Science and Technology.

Chat to Ruben: Ruben will be staying at Hoanib from 1-20 November and will be available to chat to guests during the evenings of his stay.



Theresa Laverty – Bat Community Ecology

Dates: November 2016 – June 2017 (at camp for two days a month)

Theresa is a PhD student at Colorado State University (USA) and is studying bat community ecology – focusing on what drives bat diversity and abundance around water sources in north-western Namibia.

Meet Theresa: After giving a research talk to the guests returning from the coastal activity at Möwe Bay, Theresa sets up for mist netting (direct capture) and acoustic detection (non-invasive recordings) of bats at the borehole in front of Hoanib Camp or at the President's Waterhole at the Mudorib River junction. Captures and releases occur over the first three hours after sunset. Hoanib Camp staff are alerted via radio if any bats are captured during the night and guests are welcome to walk over to watch the capture and data collection in progress. They can also field any questions at this time.



Sian Sullivan – Anthropology Research in West Namibia

Dates: 23-27 November 2016

Sian is the principal investigator for an anthropology research project that documents approaches to sustainability and environmental change in west Namibia. Her work is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council of the UK and overlaps with our Wilderness Safaris areas in the Palmwag Concession where she conducts research on local elders, recording their history, dwelling sites, graves etc.



Her work also involves research on the endemic nara plant *Acanthosicyos horridus* or '!nara', led from Namibia's Gobabeb Research and Training Centre.

Chat to Sian: Sian will be staying at Hoanib from 23-27 November 2016. Guests interested in her research can find out more by visiting www.futurepasts.net



Emsie Verwey – Insights into Namibia’s Brown Hyaena

Emsie is researching the local brown hyaena population under the mentorship of Dr Philip Stander of the Desert Lion Research Project. Her project is relatively new but has already yielded some fascinating insights into the lives of these nocturnal desert dwellers.



Meet Emsie: Emsie is based at camp and is available to chat to guests about her research as well as provide information on the area’s desert-adapted lions.



Dr Philip Stander – Namibia’s Desert-Adapted Lion

Dr Philip Stander has been conducting research on Namibia’s desert-adapted lions for over 20 years – studying their behaviour, population dynamics, and movements as well as managing human-wildlife conflict and collaborating with government, NGOs and local communities to further lion conservation.

More Information: Guests staying at camp can find out more about Dr Stander’s research at the Hoanib Research Centre or during his visits to camp. The Desert Lion website provides regular updates on his research work: <http://desertlion.info/>

