



Addressing Human-Wildlife *Conflict*

Track desert-adapted lions and engage with rural Damaraland communities



Travel with Purpose

Celebrate 35 years of travelling with purpose


For the last 35 years – even when we started out in 1983 with just one old Land Rover – there has always been one overriding purpose to our ecotourism activities: to conserve and restore Africa's wilderness and wildlife.

This is something enshrined in our internal charter and vision statement and which undoubtedly beats in the heart of every single Wilderness Safaris employee.

So ... what better way to celebrate our 35th birthday than to indulge in 12 months of adventurous and impactful journeys to exciting destinations, accompanied by local experts and with unique, privileged behind-the-scenes access to conservation and community processes of Wilderness Safaris and our partners.

We considered the places we'd choose to be, when we'd choose to be there and with whom we would travel and came up with 12 itineraries with limited guest capacity that take in some truly spectacular destinations. The trips are fun, enlightening expeditions to interesting places that make a real difference to those same interesting places. All proceeds will of course be channelled back to the conservation and community projects that we'll be exposed to.

In this Itinerary, we invite you to join us in Namibia's vast, untamed Kaokoveld and participate in the conservation initiatives that we support, from tracking the unique desert-adapted lion to engaging with the communities that must live alongside these animals. All funds raised from this itinerary go directly to the Desert Lion Project.



26 Nov – 01 Dec 2018

NAMIBIA

Damaraland

Trip guaranteed to travel
with minimum 4 guests

Addressing Human-Wildlife *Conflict*



November 2018 – Damaraland in Namibia’s remote north-west

- Learn about the superbly-adapted carnivores (lion, brown hyaena) of the Namib Desert with well-known local authorities.
- Join lion rangers and researchers in tracking lions in this stark yet beautiful area.
- Actively engage with rural communities to understand pastoralism, local culture and human-wildlife conflict.



About the Purpose

The desert lion is highly valued in the tourism industry, but its presence means that local communities must share their land with these carnivores – and as carnivores sometimes prey on domestic livestock, conflict is inevitable. As a result, to protect their animals, farmers often respond by killing lions. The future of lion conservation in the Namib is therefore dependent on human-lion conflict management so as to enable the desert lions to survive in this harsh environment, while at the same time allowing people to maintain their traditional lifestyles and their livelihoods, as well as share in the benefits of ecotourism.



Itinerary



26 Nov 2018: Arrive Damaraland Camp. Meet the team; afternoon game drive looking for desert-adapted elephants; talk on Desert Lion Project (DLP) by Dr Philip Stander. Overnight Damaraland Camp.

27 Nov 2018: Depart early morning with DLP team: full day tracking lions, meeting the lion rangers, and learning more about the project. Overnight Damaraland Camp.

28 Nov 2018: Visit Driefontein Village, learn about human-wildlife conflict first-hand; afternoon searching for desert lions and other activities with DLP; evening talk on the New Rapid Response System for human-wildlife conflict. Overnight Damaraland Camp.

29 Nov 2018: Visit De Riet village to learn about how they deal with human-wildlife conflict; afternoon with DLP rangers, tracking lions and engaging in their work; evening talk on the Brown Hyaena Project. Overnight Damaraland Camp.

30 Nov 2018: Spend the day learning more about the area's brown hyaena as well as other denizens of the desert. Overnight Damaraland Camp.

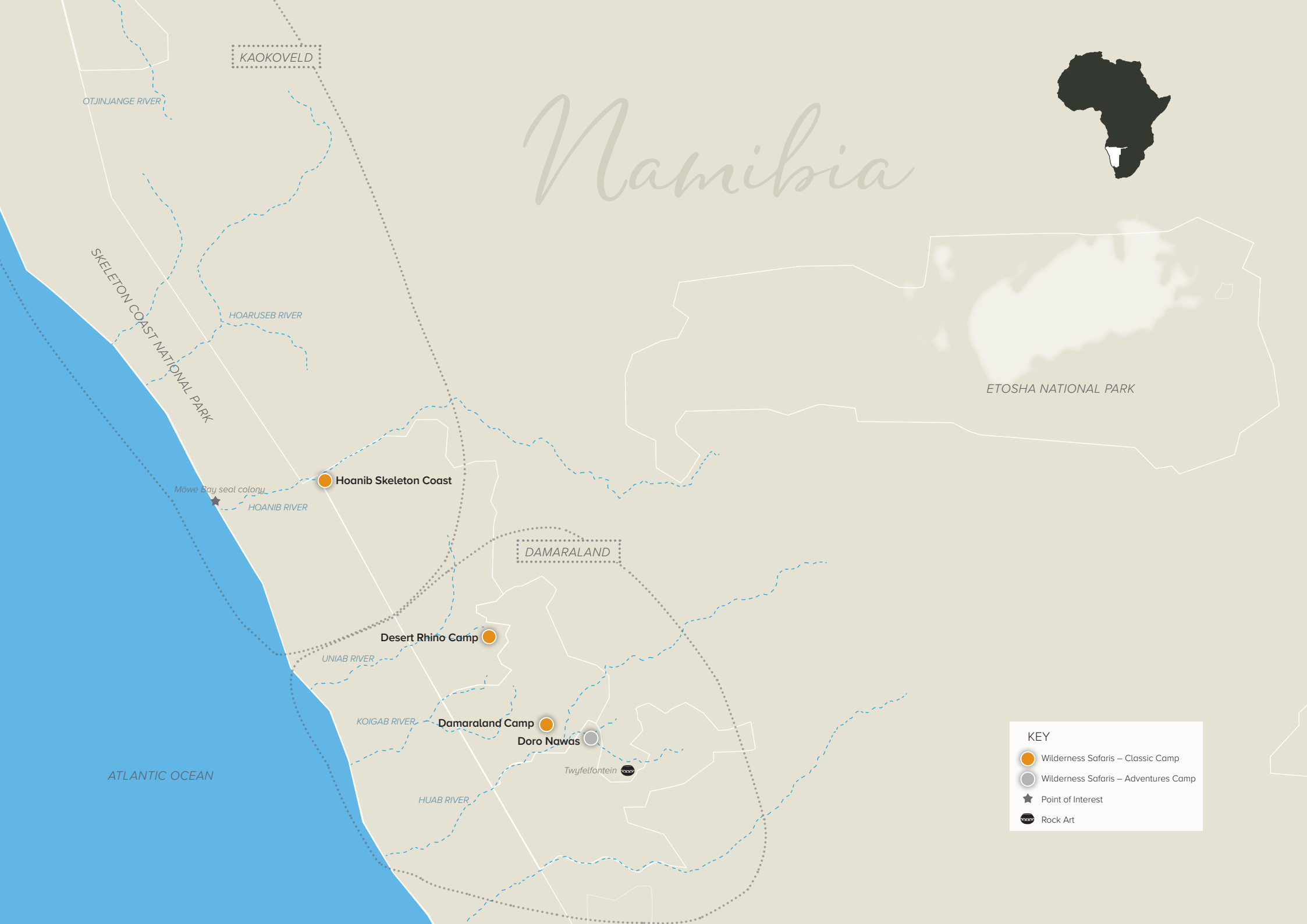
1 Dec 2018: Morning activity before flight out to Windhoek

Ts & Cs apply





Namibia



KAOKOVELD

OTJINJANGE RIVER

SKELETON COAST NATIONAL PARK

HOARUSEB RIVER

Mõwe Bay seal colony

HOANIB RIVER

Hoanib Skeleton Coast

DAMARALAND

Desert Rhino Camp

UNIAB RIVER

KOIGAB RIVER

Damaraland Camp

Doro Nawas

Twyfelfontein

HUAB RIVER

ATLANTIC OCEAN

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

KEY

- Orange circle: Wilderness Safaris – Classic Camp
- Grey circle: Wilderness Safaris – Adventures Camp
- Star: Point of Interest
- Black circle with 'X': Rock Art



Damaraland Camp

Meet your Hosts

Alexandra Margull – Wilderness Safaris

Wilderness Safaris Namibia MD Alexandra Margull has been with the company since July 2005, fulfilling a role in driving service delivery, training and staff welfare in this region. In addition to talent management and people development across the Wilderness Group, Alexandra set up the Wilderness Safaris Business School in 2011, with the first intake of 29 participants starting in November 2011. She has now taken the Wilderness Business School to the next level, with the recent launch of the Wilderness Leadership Academy. Alexandra continues to drive this important initiative and oversee the Group's HR strategies.

"I love Wilderness Safaris, and growing and developing people to help them realise their full potential is one of my main priorities. I know that with my experience I can continue to positively influence the Namibian operation, and I will strive to retain Wilderness' high standards of operation and service delivery."



Jermain Ketji – Wilderness Safaris

Jermain Ketji has been in community-based conservation and tourism for over 12 years, starting as a research assistant in the Kavango and Caprivi regions of Namibia before piloting cultural tourism concepts in the Omaheke region. He served as a business advisor for the Namibian community-based Tourism Association and its Rural Development Project before venturing into business as a tour operator specialising in cultural tours. He joined Wilderness Safaris as a freelance guide in 2005 before taking on a full-time role in 2006 as a community liaison officer. He has since served as a guide and moved up the ranks to Relief Manager and Concession Manager, to his current position as Community Liaison Manager, focusing amongst others, on managing joint venture agreements with conservancies well as liaising with key stakeholders in conservation, tourism, and grassroots community development with a focus on education.



Meet your Experts

Dr Philip Stander, Desert Lion Project

Dr Philip Stander founded the Desert Lion Conservation Project in 1998. Prior to this he worked for Namibia's Ministry of Environment and Tourism for 23 years, studying the ecology of large carnivores. He completed his PhD through the University of Cambridge in 1994, and his thesis on the evolution of sociality in felids was awarded the TH Huxley Prize by the London Zoological Society.

He is considered the foremost lion expert in Namibia, especially when it comes to desert-adapted lions, which he has studied full time for the last two decades. Supported by many organisations and individuals, including the TOSCO Trust and the Wilderness Trust, his research ultimately aims to guide management strategies and the implementation of a National Lion Conservation Strategy for Namibia.

Despite ongoing human-lion conflict, Dr Stander remains optimistic for these beleaguered cats' survival.



**DESERT LION
CONSERVATION**



Meet your Experts

Emsie Verwey, Brown Hyena Project

Hoanib-based brown hyaena researcher Emsie Verwey grew up in Swakopmund where exposure to conservation and wildlife came primarily in the form of family holidays to Etosha National Park during school holidays. Her career in ecotourism started with Wilderness Safaris in 2003 when she ran Desert Rhino Camp (DRC) for a few years, and through Wilderness and the conservation initiatives we support she became involved in local conservation organisations like Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) and the Desert Lion Conservation Project (DLP). Animals have always been close to Emsie's heart and when she had the opportunity to assist the DLP's Dr Philip Stander with some of his lion relocations and sourcing equipment for the Project she jumped at the opportunity.

In 2013 Emsie took the opportunity to live and work at Wilderness' new Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp, managing visiting research projects on bats, cheetah and desert-adapted elephant, etc. Revisiting the old hyaena den after an absence of a few years she discovered that the den was active! Under the guidance and mentorship of Dr Stander Emsie started a research project on brown hyaena. She currently monitors three clans down the Hoanib River towards the coast. Up to now no information or studies have been done on brown hyaenas in the north-west of Namibia so all data are vital for the future management of the species. Emsie's research data and observations have been added to the Red Data Book on carnivores as well as range maps (previously not updated since 1998) currently being compiled by the IUCN Hyaena Specialist Group for spotted hyaena, aardwolf, brown hyaena and striped hyaena. These new range maps will be the first step towards a new status survey and conservation action plan for Hyaenidae.



Skeleton Coast

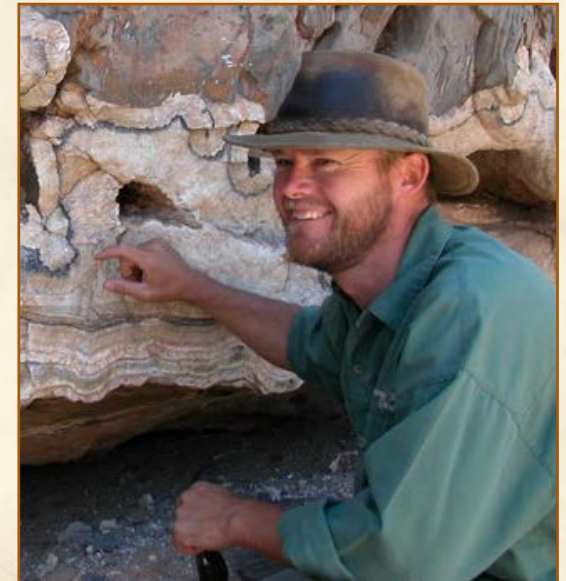
BROWN HYAENA

PROJECT

Meet your guide

Gerhard Thirion

Growing up on a game farm just north of Namibia's world-famous Etosha Game Reserve, Gerhard developed his lifelong passion for wildlife, nature and indigenous culture at an early age. His holidays were spent horse-riding, walking in the African bush, sleeping under the stars, fishing, conducting game capture operations and helping his father repair fences destroyed by elephants. After several years languishing in a city-based operational capacity, Gerhard made a decision to return to the bush where his love for sharing nature with visitors could be realised. After qualifying as a guide, Gerhard spent the next two years running safaris throughout Namibia on a freelance basis. His big break finally came at the start of the new millennium when he was offered a permanent position with Wilderness Safaris as a mobile safari guide. He believes that he has the best job in the world as it allows him to combine his profound love for Namibia with its diverse wildlife, cultures and landscapes.





Partner and Beneficiary

Desert Lion Project (DLP)

The Desert Lion Project is a small NGO dedicated to the conservation of desert-adapted lions in the northern Namib Desert. Its main focus is to collect important base-line ecological data on the lion population and to study their behaviour, biology and adaptation to survive in this harsh environment. This information is used to collaborate with other conservation bodies in the quest to find a solution to human-lion conflict, to elevate the tourism value of lions, and to contribute to the conservation of the species.

Its goals include:

- Collecting baseline ecological data on the population dynamics, behaviour, and movements of lions.
- Monitoring the key ecological and biological parameters of the desert lion population.
- Monitoring the frequency and impact of conflicts between people and lions.
- Developing and implementing human-lion conflict management plans at local community level.
- Developing and promoting other forms of sustainable utilisation.
- Collaborating with government, local communities, and NGOs to further lion conservation.
- Making important information available to the world, through publication and the Internet.



**DESERT LION
CONSERVATION**

<https://www.desertlion.info/>





Seychelles

*Travel
with Purpose*

