



new
DESERT LION
Conservation
2019

Track desert-adapted lions and engage with
rural Damaraland communities



WILDERNESS
SAFARIS



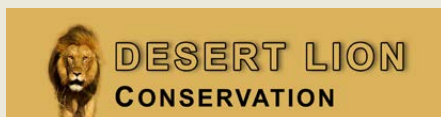
“There is a purpose that drives everything we do – a shared passion and love for the natural world and wildlife, and an urgent need to conserve some of the most remote and pristine places on Earth.”


THE LUXURY OF PURPOSE

Introducing Desert Lion Conservation, one of a portfolio of eight life-changing, ‘purposeful’ journeys crafted to offer guests access to unique and privileged, behind-the-scenes conservation and community projects run by ourselves and our partners.

On this journey, 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.





15 – 20 November 2019

Namibia

Damaraland

Trip guaranteed to travel
with minimum 4 guests

DESERT LION CONSERVATION



On this journey...

- 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

- 15 Nov Arrive Damaraland Camp. Meet the team; afternoon game drive looking for desert-adapted elephants; talk on Desert Lion Project (DLP) by Dr Phillip Stander. Overnight Damaraland Camp.
- 16 Nov Depart early morning with DLP team; full day tracking lions, meeting the lion rangers, and learning more about the project. Overnight Damaraland Camp.
- 17 Nov 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.
- 18 Nov Visit De Riet village to learn about how they deal with human-conflict; afternoon with DLP rangers, tracking lions and engaging in their work; evening talk on the Brown Hyena Project. Overnight Damaraland Camp.
- 19 Nov Spend the day learning more about the area' brown hyaena as well as other denizens of the desert. Overnight Damaraland Camp.
- 20 Nov Morning activity before flight out to Windhoek.

Ts & Cs apply



Rates

4 Guests R89,181 per person sharing

Single Supplement R9,450

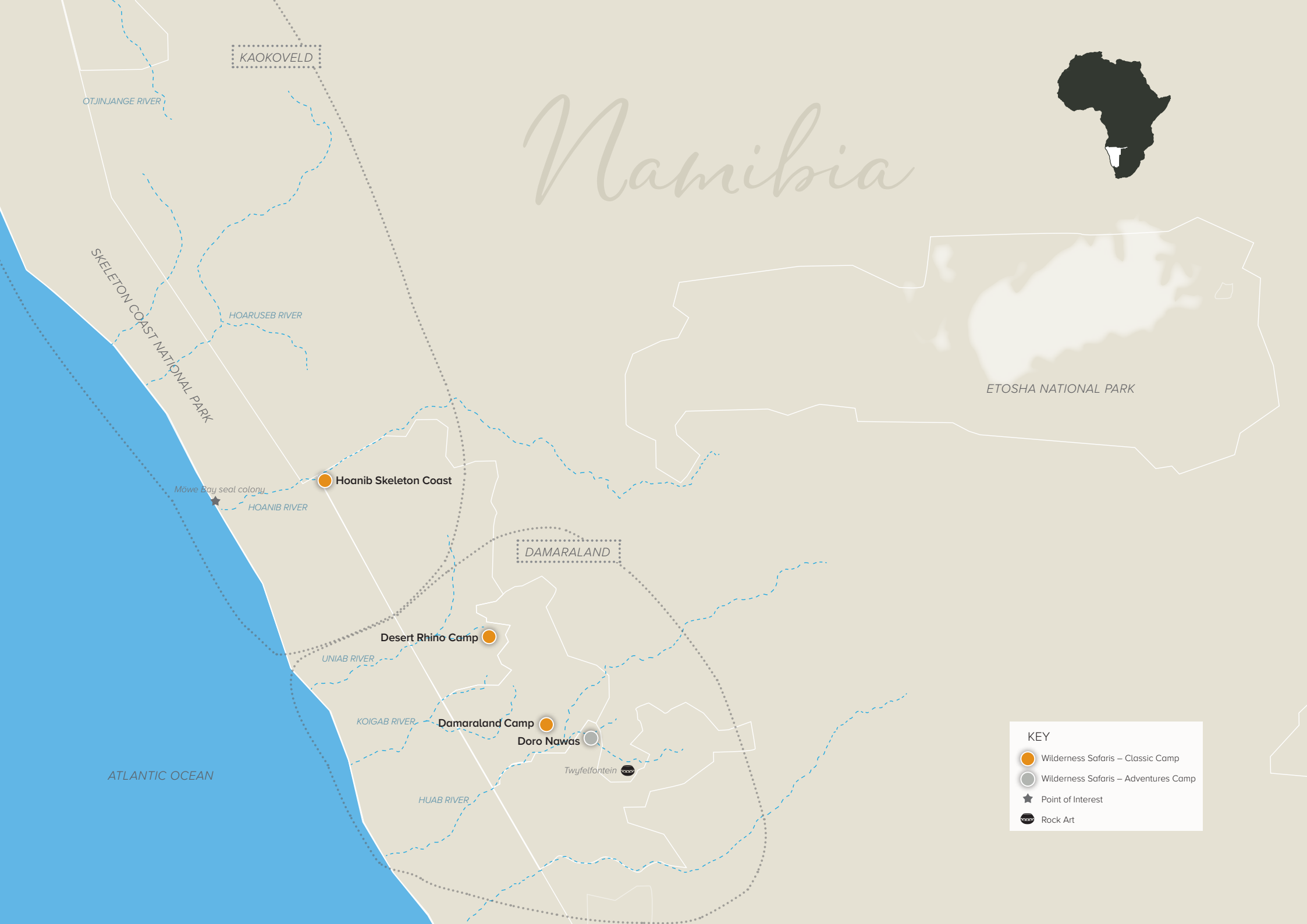
Exclusions:

- International long-haul flights to and from Windhoek.
- Meals not specified.
- Items of a personal nature i.e. telephone calls, laundry, mini-bar etc.
- Cancellation, baggage and medical insurance.
- Staff gratuities.
- Any new government taxes, levies, fuel or industry increases which are beyond our control.
- Visa fees – where relevant.
- Departure taxes, unless specified.





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

- Wilderness Safaris – Classic Camp
- Wilderness Safaris – Adventures Camp
- Point of Interest
- Rock Art



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.



Meet your Experts

Emsie Verwey, Brown Hyaena 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.





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.



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

DESERT LION CONSERVATION 2019

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Our journeys change lives





Seychelles

*Travel
with Purpose*

