

# Pride of Africa

## Safaris

### 10 Day Southern Namibia Experience Lodge Safari

Booking Code NAM 03

This Safari is for a minimum of four people sharing, valid all year round, and includes:

- Windhoek International Airport
- Sossusvlei and Sesriem Canyon
- Klein Aus and the wild horses of Namibia
- Kolmanskop Ghost Town and Luderitz
- Ai-Ais Hot Spring & Fish River Canyon
- Kalahari Desert and San People
  - Windhoek

#### Days 1 and 2; Sossusvlei



Pride of Africa will meet you on arrival at Windhoek International Airport and we will journey South to the magnificent Sossusvlei and Sesriem Canyon. In our time here we will climb some of the highest sand dunes in the world at the famous Sossusvlei. We spend our two days here exploring Sossusvlei, Sesriem Canyon and the surrounding areas, enjoying the amazing scenery of this diverse landscape.

The Sossusvlei is Namibia's highlight in the heart of the Namib Desert. It is a huge clay pan, enclosed by giant sand dunes that can be as high as 300 metres, making them the highest in the world. Only after heavy rainfall, which is a rare event in this area, does the Sossusvlei fill with water, and as the clay layers hardly allow any water infiltration, the beautiful turquoise lake will remain for some time.

We lunch along the way, and return to camp in time for a sundowner before enjoying a delicious meal prepared by our Bush Chefs. We sit around the camp fire after dinner discussing the days activities and what is planned for the following day.

We will stay at either the Sossusvlei Lodge or Desert Camp on a full-board basis excluding any spirits.

### **Day 3: Klein Aus**



On Day 3 we will get to see the Klein Aus scenery and the wild horses that have made this area famous. You will get to see some amazing scenery, beautiful wildlife, and the incredible horses.

The origin of these wild horses is shrouded in mystery; they are not indigenous as there were originally no horses in Southern Africa. They were first imported by Europeans in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, and we can only assume that these wild horses that now roam our desert are descendants of these fine European and Arabs that were arrived on the shores of Namibia all those years ago.

We will overnight at either the Klein Aus Vista Lodge or the Desert Lodge, on a full board basis apart from spirits.

### **Day 4: Kolmanskop Ghost Town and Luderitz**



On Day 2 we rise early and journey towards Klein Aus, where we will get to see the ghost town of Kolmanskop, and the beautiful but lonely village of Luderitz. We will spend the day exploring this strange and eerie ghost town, and viewing the beautiful sights of the desert and sea around Luderitz. We will have lunch en route.

In 1908 diamonds were found in the Kolmanskop region, and the little town with grand mansions rose out of the Namib Desert, housing some 700 families. Shortly after the First World War the diamond sales dropped massively, and this combined with richer discovery of deposits to the South, the town began to die, and finally, the desert reclaimed what was theirs. In a space of 40 years, the town was born, grew and flourished, and died.

The town of Luderitz is a surreal experience, a colonial relic that is seemingly untouched by the 20<sup>th</sup> Century modern life. This town is built on the icy Atlantic, and it is here that you can see an abundance

of seals, penguins and other marine life. When the wind blows, the final 10 km's of road into Luderitz may very well be blocked by the sand dunes that are still attempting to reclaim this area. Unless the road crews make it out to clean the desert sand from the road, this journey can be treacherous.

We will overnight at a hotel in Luderitz on a full board basis apart from spirits.

### **Days 5 and 6: the Hot Springs at Ai-Ais**

Another early rise will take us further South to Ai-Ais, which is in the Richtersveld Transfrontier Park that straddles the Namibia – South Africa border and is an immense 1,625 square kilometres.

The hot water springs of Ai-Ais are the perfect place to relax after a long day of driving, hiking and exploring. Bordered by date palms, the springs gush out of the earth at a constant temperature of 57 degrees Celsius, making the water consistently hot and suitable for cold winter days. In the Nama language, Ai-Ais means “burning water”.

We will spend 2 days exploring the area and staying in the local Ai-Ais Chalets.

### **Days 7 and 8: Kalahari Desert and San People**



There is a vast difference in the landscapes of the giant Kalahari, from desert to grasslands, and it has an abundance of game. We will journey to the Kalahari Game Lodge on the morning of Day 7, seeing new sights along the way.

The Bushmen, or San, have occupied this area for thousands of years, and you will get to see their natural way of life when we stop at one of their villages. They are traditionally hunter-gatherers, but have switched to farming as the risks of hunting have increased in the face of technological development around them. They have succeeded in maintaining a very quiet and peaceful life, as the world grows around them.

There is much to see and do, and we will spend 2 days in this magical place.

## **Day 9: Windhoek**



We leave the Kalahari behind and return to Windhoek, where we will overnight at a guest house. You will get to experience the city life, and beautiful scenery that surrounds this bustling town.

## **Day 9: Return Home**

We will arrange for a transfer to take you to the airport in time to catch your flight home. If your flight is in the afternoon, there is much to see and do and your guest house can advise you of activities, or you can simply relax before the long flight home.

### **Inclusive:**

- Pickup at Windhoek International Airport
- All accommodation as specified in the itinerary (Subject to availability at time of booking)
- All meals during the safari
- Table wine and mineral water, coffee and tea
- Game drives/walks/activities as specified
- Service of a professional guide with vehicle

### **Exclusions:**

- Activities not specified
- Airport Tax
- Optional extras/activities/items not specified
- Travel Insurance
- All telephone calls are for your own account
- Laundry
- All drinks not specified
- Visas

### **General Information:**

**Insurance:** It is compulsory for all clients to be insured for personal accident, medical emergency, travel and rescue expenses, cancellation and curtailment prior to departure from their home country.

**Health requirements:** Malaria occurs in certain areas of Namibia and Botswana. It is recommended that you consult your physician as to the appropriate malaria prophylaxis. All water on safari is safe for drinking.

**Travel documents:** Ensure your passport is valid for at least six months after the end of the safari. The following people DO NOT need a Visa for Namibia and Botswana provided that you have a return airfare as proof: FRG, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Ireland, UK, Austria, Italy, France, USA, Canada, Japan, Scandinavia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Angola, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, Netherlands, and South-Africa.

**Items to bring with:** Light and rugged items like denims/slacks, shorts, cool tops and comfortable hiking shoes as well as sandals (slops, flip-flops) for the warmer days. In winter warm sweaters or jackets are required. Sunburn protection, insect repellent, hat, sunglasses, binoculars, torch and toiletries.

**For wildlife photography a minimum of a 200mm lens is recommended. Zoom lenses can be very useful. Also bring extra batteries. Your camera and batteries can be charged through an inverter which is fitted in our vehicles.**

**Scheduled departures: On Request**