

# TRACKS SAFARIS

WE GET YOU CLOSER



## Limited Edition Specialised Safaris

**5 days and 5 nights / Maximum of 9 participants**

### INTRODUCTION

We have secured the services of some internationally acclaimed specialists to give you an insight into their worlds. Like all our products, these are not just holiday tours, but an in-depth experience with knowledgeable conservationists who make a difference.

These safaris are authentic. You will join these experts in the day-to-day running of their projects. The nature of this experience and real hands on involvement does not allow for the provision of a fixed overnight point-to-point itinerary. It is the environment, indigenous people, wildlife and these experts that will determine our optimum movements. These are short, intense and often life-changing experiences. Our back-up crew will erect our tented camp and look after your personal comforts ensuring you spend maximum time with your guide and expert.

We meet at Wereldsend late afternoon or evening of Day 0. The next morning we set off to rendezvous afternoon/early evening with our specialist. Our route will depend on such factors as where the specialist is currently working, where the people and wildlife are, where there has been rain... generally this will take us past the game rich Concession area with its spectacular scenery.

### CONSERVATION AND CULTURE

Garth Owen-Smith and Dr Margaret Jacobsohn, conservationist and anthropologist, are people of rare vision. More than two decades ago during the darker years in what was then called the Koakoveld, now Kunene Region, in a time of war, drought, poaching and apartheid they went against current conservation thinking that saw local people as 'the problem'.



They believed that communities who lived with wildlife were, in fact, part of the solution. Wildlife had been alienated from local people by colonial conservation policies and the only way communities could benefit from what was previously theirs was to poach it. If local ownership was restored to communities, wildlife might survive. Garth and Margie formed the non-government organisation Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation to facilitate and promote this philosophy.

Today, many local and international awards later, IRDNC's early pilot projects have grown into a government supported national Namibian conservancy program involving one in five rural Namibians. By 2009 communities had registered 60 conservancies and another 30 are in the process. Join these legends on an intense journey into the heart and soul of Koakoveld.

Few people know more about the Kunene Region, its wildlife and environment than Garth who started working here in the 1960s. Margie spent five years with the Himba people working as an anthropologist in the north-west from the mid-1980s before joining Garth to found IRDNC. Since then they have dedicated their lives to community-based natural resource management.

Submerge yourself in this vast and breathtaking environment; learn about the fascinating culture of the people. Come and hear the history of an African success story from the people who helped write it. This experience brings you closer to people and places and it provides insights that you will not obtain any other way. This tour will extend from Wereldsend in central Damaraland, northwards into the five member conservancies of KCS. The exact route will be determined by events and activities in these conservancies. Visit the website [www.irdnc.org.na](http://www.irdnc.org.na). and learn more about IRDNC and the remarkable people who made it all possible.

**TRIP DATES : July 29<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2012**

## **DESERT LION SAFARI**

Dr Philip Stander has been working with carnivores for 27 years and has dedicated the last 12 years to the conservation of desert lions. These unique predators - there are only 100 to 130 in a 55 000 square kilometre area - live in the harshest of conditions in the Kunene Region. To survive in this extreme environment they need to cover vast distances. This inevitably brings them into contact with the people who live in this arid area. Desert Lion Conservation is trying to find real solutions for the human/lion conflicts that arise when man and beast share the same area and resources.



Join us on an unforgettable reality experience as we accompany Dr Stander on his daily mission to learn more about these magnificent creatures and to provide them with a future. Our movements depend entirely on the lions, possible local problems and Dr. Stander. This could take the form of searching remote and rugged areas for the secretive and elusive lion, or perhaps investigating a human/predator conflict situation. These cautious survivors of the desert are nocturnal and so we will fall in with their routine. These are not the semi-tame cats frequently encountered in national parks; they are awesome, shy and lords of their environment. To be able to see them and work with Dr Stander is indeed a privilege!

Visit the Desert Lion Conservation website [www.desertlion.info](http://www.desertlion.info) to learn more about this fascinating project.

**TRIP DATES : 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011, 27<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012, 19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012, 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2012, 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

## **KAOKOLAND NATURALLY**

Steve Braine has a love and passion for the bush and is recognised as one of Namibia's top naturalists. Steve guides specialised ornithological tours and also has four butterflies named after him. Not only does he have an in-depth knowledge of the larger mammals but has a special interest in the reptiles and smaller creatures which often go unnoticed.



The very nature of this north-western part of Namibia lends itself to unusual and specialised sightings. The different habitats - riverine vegetation snaking through the desert as a linear oasis, apparently barren and forbidding plains, isolated inselbergs and harsh mountains - all harbour specialised creatures. This is the ultimate safari for guests interested in natural history.

Rainfall in this arid to semi-arid area is an erratic and extremely important event. Our journey will take us to those places where we have the best chance of seeing the desert's wonderful creatures. Birds are also influenced by the sporadic rain and Steve's encyclopaedic knowledge of their habits and habitats will unfurl a whole new world for us. The general area in which this excursion operates extends from Etendeka Mountain Camp area northwards to Orupembe Conservancy.

**TRIP DATE : 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

## **DESERT ELEPHANT PROJECT SAFARI**

Dr Keith Leggett has accepted a position at a research institute in Australia. However we are fortunate enough to have secured his services to guide us on a desert elephant safari.

The Namibian Desert Dwelling Elephant Project has been underway for 8 years and focuses on the collecting and sharing of identification and monitoring data. The primary aim is to improve the understanding of elephants in general in the target area and to include this information into programmes for elephant management.

This fascinating safari centres round the wild arid western parts of the Hoarusib and Hoanib catchments. The very fact that elephants live and thrive in this extreme environment is a miracle. Join Dr Keith Leggett and the KCS team and delve into the mysterious realm of deserts and elephants. The people living in these areas have not been spared the contact with these mighty behemoths. Learn what it is to live with elephants and the compromises required to ensure the future of these unique desert animals.

Find out more about the desert elephants on [www.elepro.iway.na](http://www.elepro.iway.na).

**TRIP DATE: 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2011 and 14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012**



All the trips include: Breakfasts, light lunches, snacks, dinners, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages

**It is also possible to book a private safari – price on request.**

**Note : Community based activities vary from trip to trip as these depend on the seasonal nature of conservation activities and on the events currently taking place in the host communities. Our itinerary remains flexible because of environmental, climatic and human factors.**

