

BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA & ZAMBIA REQUEST

15 February - 3 March,
27 February - 15 March,
9 - 26 March, 2012.



PolarQuest

In association with

NOBLE CALEDONIA

THE NAMIB, KALAHARI & OKAVANGO

Noble Caledonia is delighted to be working with our good friends in Sweden, PolarQuest. On this exclusive safari trip we get an in-depth experience of the true pearls of Southern Africa. The journey takes us to the towering ochre coloured sand dunes of the Namib Desert, the Okavango Delta, a vast wetland within a desert and the Victoria Falls, one of Nature's greatest wonders.

AN 18-DAY TRIP TO NAMIBIA, BOTSWANA AND ZAMBIA

This exclusive safari expedition begins in Namibia's barren deserts and endless skies. In the Namib Desert we will explore the vast spectra of ochre coloured sand dunes by hot air balloon. In the volcanic landscape of Damaraland we search for the desert elephant. By private plane we continue into the heart of the Kalahari Desert. This was the land of the KhoiSan (Bushmen), the first people of the Kalahari. We hope to see the handsome Kalahari lion with its characteristic black mane.

We will explore the wild and untouched Okavango Delta in traditional mokoro canoes, and watch some amazing bird life. Here we also have



great chances of seeing the elusive leopard and on game drives we will see the rich African wild life such as lions, giraffes, zebras, hippos and crocodiles. During a walk we learn more about animal tracking. As one of our guides puts it: The pulse of Africa is best felt through the sole of one's boot! The final destination is the Victoria Falls, whose local name means "The smoke that thunders". Throughout this trip we will stay in small and exclusive lodges. Joining you on this trip is a PolarQuest guide and several local guides, with in-depth knowledge of the area.

Day 1: Departure from London

Fly from London in the afternoon.

Day 2: Arrival in Windhoek, Namibia

Arrive in Namibia's capital Windhoek. We check

in at Olive Grove, a boutique hotel in a quiet, peaceful area of the city.

Day 3: Sossusvlei, Namib Desert

We set out in our vehicles towards the majestic sand dunes of Sossusvlei in the Namib Desert. In the afternoon we reach Kulala Desert lodge, in the heart of the Namib with magnificent views of the famous red dunes. We settle into our comfortable kulalas, thatched chalets, where those who wish to sleep under the stars can simply roll out the bed onto the private terrace!

Day 4: With hot air balloon over a sea of sand

Early this morning, as the African sun rises above the horizon, we will glide above the sea of vivid orange sand dunes of Sossusvlei in a hot air balloon. This will most certainly be one of the most



enduring impressions of your trip. In the afternoon we explore the dunes on foot, a truly magic experience as the sun sets on the steep dunes and create glorious colours of shadows and light.

Day 5: Through the desert to Swakopmund

We travel north-west by road via the Kuiseb Canyon towards Swakopmund. We enjoy the Namibian countryside and stop to inspect the peculiar national plant Welwitschia. Overnight stay at the Stiltz Lodge overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

Day 6: Via Skeleton Coast to Damaraland

We will travel up the legendary Skeleton Coast and stop at Cape Cross and its seal colony with thousands of Cape fur seals. We continue through the game rich Ugab riverbed and past the Brandberg Mountain, the second largest monolith on earth. Our goal today is the cosy lodge Doro Nawas in Damaraland.

Day 7: Damaraland

Damaraland is a land of stark desert beauty. Early morning mists, generated by the clash between the icy Atlantic Ocean and the warm desert air of the Skeleton Coast, drift inland along the canyons,

providing sustenance to the flora and fauna of the region. We explore the area on foot and in jeeps, tracking the unique desert-adapted elephant. We also visit Twyfelfontein with its renowned KhoiSan art engravings, and the largest collection of petroglyphs - prehistoric rock art - in Africa.

Day 8: Into the Kalahari, Botswana

Today we will board private planes and fly via Windhoek to Maun and further south to the border of a legendary wilderness, the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. We depart overland in jeeps, into the heart of the Kalahari Desert - Deception Valley. This is a part of Botswana that is virtually untouched by man. We will overnight in walk-in dome tents with proper beds.

Day 9: Deception Valley, Kalahari

We explore the wondrous Kalahari desert in jeeps. This is the brief rainy season in the desert, an outstanding experience as the ground is covered with nutritious grasses that attract wild animals with young from all over the enormous reserve. Following them are predators like cheetah and the endemic Kalahari lion. We might hear them through the canvas tonight.

Day 10: In the heart of the Kalahari

Today is a full safari day in the land of the KhoiSan who have lived in this dry and harsh environment for thousands of years. We will learn more about the flora and fauna, but also about the history and traditions of the indigenous people in Kalahari.

Day 11: From desert to delta

We continue with private plane to the Okavango Delta, an oasis in this dry country and world-renowned for its huge concentrations of wildlife. We will experience the stark contrast as we move from desert to delta, from dry sand to a wondrous water world. Our goal today is Tubu Tree Camp on a small island in the delta. This traditional style camp is built on raised wooden platforms with beautiful views over the floodplains and surrounding landscape.

Day 12: Tubu Tree Camp, Okavango

An early rise to explore parts of the 60 000 hectare Jao Reserve. Exploring the area in jeeps, we have good chances of seeing elephant, lion, zebra, giraffe, tsessebe, wildebeest as well as kudu, impala and bushbuck. This is one of the best places in the area to see leopard and we are



constantly on the lookout. In the evening we set out on a bush walk.

Day 13: Jacana Camp, Okavango

We will venture further into the delta to Jacana Camp in the permanently flooded part of the Okavango where stillness prevails. We enjoy mokoro canoe trips along quiet waterways, flanked by elegant reeds and an abundance of birds. The magnificent African fish eagle is a common sight and with luck we see the rare Pel's fishing owl. As we go to bed tonight we may hear the calls of the owl and the roar of lions.

Day 14: Jacana Camp, Okavango

The area around Jacana is home to many of the

big game such as elephant, lion and leopard, and we search for them during game drives. During a mokoro ride we might see crocodiles and hippos.

Day 15: Victoria Falls, Zambia

We leave the Okavango and head northeast towards Livingstone. We are now on the Zambian side of the Zambezi River, upstream from the amazing and roaring Victoria Falls, one of the seven natural wonders of the world. We check in at the River Club, a marvellous little hotel, built in colonial style and overlooking the river.

Day 16: Victoria Falls, Zambia

After waking up to the sound of snorting hippos we have breakfast on our private verandas.

Upon seeing these impressive waterfalls with ten million litres of water pouring over the edge every second, we may think of David Livingstone who said: "On sights as beautiful as this, angels in their flight must have gazed". In the evening we go for a quiet boat trip on the Zambezi River surrounded by hippos basking in the setting African sun.

Day 17: Livingstone - Johannesburg - London

Our trip ends with a leisurely breakfast and final transfer by road to Livingstone Airport from where we continue back towards London.

Day 18: London

Arrive in London in the morning.



During this adventure we meet remarkable wildlife. We hope to see the charming meerkats stand on guard in Kalahari. In the luxuriant Okavango we are surrounded by galloping antelopes and snorting hippos. We also explore the delta in traditional canoes, mokoros, and learn more about the life of the bushmen and their exciting history.

FACTS, DATES & RATES



A WORD ON THE LODGES AND CAMPS

On this trip we stay in small, friendly and exclusive lodges and camps. They all have an unspoilt atmosphere, yet most of the comforts of a hotel. They are designed to delicately balance luxury and an African ambience. At night you will feel the pulse of Wild Africa, hear the roar of the lion or the sound of a snorting hippo. All lodges and camps have unique settings with magnificent views, be it of the red sand dunes of the Namib Desert or the flooded Okavango delta. All camps and lodges have en-suite bathrooms except for our camp in the Kalahari. Here we stay in simpler, walk-in dome tents with proper beds. An experience taking you back to the long-gone days of Africa's exploration!

2012 DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES PER PERSON

Duration: 18 days.

Dates: 15 February - 3 March, 27 February - 15 March, 9 - 26 March, 2012.

Group size: Maximum 15 participants.

Accommodation: Hotels, exclusive lodges, dome tents in the Kalahari.

Transport: Private plane, jeep, mokoro canoe and on foot.

Price: Twin: £8795 (based on double occupancy)
Single: £10995

RATE INCLUDES: Economy flight London - Windhoek, Livingstone - London, Windhoek - Maun · Private plane Damaraland - Windhoek, Maun - Haina, Maun - Okavango - Livingstone · All transportation · All accommodation · All meals · All activities · All entrance fees · Gratuities · A PolarQuest expedition leader · Four experienced local guides and park rangers · Comprehensive pre-departure material and a post expedition log book

NOT INCLUDED: Connecting flight to London · Travel insurance · Alcoholic beverages · Visa costs



We fly from desert to delta in private aircrafts.



From Kulala Desert Lodge in Namibia there are superb views of the orange sand dunes of Sossusvlei.

For Reservations & Brochureline

(Monday-Saturday from 9.00 am-5.00 pm) (24 hours)

Telephone 020-7752 0000



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