

Gane & Marshall

TAILOR-MADE DESTINATIONS

Desert Lion Safari *with Dr Philip Stander*



Join leading lion conservationist Dr Philip Stander on a guided safari into the wilds of Kunene.

Dr Philip Stander has dedicated the last 15 years of his life to the conservation of the endangered desert lions of Kunene. These unique predators - there are as few as 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.

In this unique safari you'll be spend 5 days with Dr Philip Stander and learn first-hand about the challenges involves in lion conservation and the day-to-day running of the project. You'll have the chance to study these unique creatures up close and in depth, accompanied by one of the leading experts in the field.

These mobile camping safaris accommodate only a small number of guests. There is no fixed programme to be followed. The wildlife movements will determine where you go and where you set up camp. The unpredictable movements of the lions, their ability to quite suddenly "get up and go" and the fact that these animals are nocturnal means that meals and bedtime hours might not fit into conventional timeslots. With this in mind, the itinerary that follows is intended as an example outline.

Your Financial Protection

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

Day 1 – Wereldsend, Kunene

You will be collected early morning from your hotel in either Swakopmund or Windhoek for the long drive to Wereldsend, Kunene, the centre for the desert lion conservation program, where you'll meet with the rest of the group.

On arrival, we'll pay a visit to the graveyard of bone, a reminder of the destruction caused by the commercial poaching and hunting that took place during the 70s and 80s and which came close to wiping out Kunene's population of desert elephant, black rhino and lion. We'll learn, too, how rural communities turned this situation around.



Early evening, enjoy a walk in the bush with a sundowner, while the camp is set up and dinner prepared over an open fire.



Day 2 – Lion tracking with Dr Stander

You have the option to wake early this morning and join the Torra Conservancy game guards at sunrise as they search for desert-adapted rhino.

Late morning, meet with Dr Stander. The rest of the day will be spent tracking the lions on foot and by 4x4. Please do remember that these cautious survivors of the desert are largely nocturnal, and so we will fall in with their routine which means that – if they are in the area that night – we sleep when the lions do!

Today's journey will see us travel through some beautiful and game-rich areas, and there will be plenty of time to stop and look for other game or just admire the scenery.

In the evening, we'll set up mobile camp, the location depending on the position of the lions.

Days 3 & 4 – Lion tracking

Over the next two days, the lions will again dictate our movements, and where we set up camp. This might mean that we need to break camp to keep on their trail, or it might mean staying just where we are. Nothing is staged as we accompany Dr Stander on his daily mission to learn more about these magnificent creatures. One day could see you searching the remote and rugged hills for the secretive lion, another investigating a human/predator conflict situation.

While searching for the desert cats, we'll learn how these animals have adapted to their harsh environment; how they differ from lion prides elsewhere in Africa; about the great distances they



travel in a single night and about the way they hunt. We'll learn how the roar of the male differs from the female, and what this roar means.

Along the way we'll have ample opportunity to search for other wildlife, such as giraffe and desert elephant. With any luck, we'll also see rhino.

Day 5 - Lion tracking

The morning will be spent much as the previous mornings, traversing Kunene in search of the desert cats.

We bid farewell to Dr Stander in the late afternoon or later during the night and, depending on our location, we may remain at our camp or the night or continue onwards to accommodate the distances for our return journey. As we slowly head towards our destination, we will continue searching for wildlife.

We'll set up a wild camp and enjoy our last evening around a fire, knowing that our presence is making Conservation sustainable for the people and animals who share this vast region.

Day 6 - Departure

Break camp after an early breakfast and return to Windhoek/Swakopmund for your onward transfers.



Price Guide:

*The cost of this itinerary is **£2,495** per person (before international flights) based on twin share and subject to availability at the time of booking. For more information, or if you would like to enquire about a tailor-made holiday combining part or all of the above itinerary, [contact us](#).*

Includes:

- Accommodation and meals as described
- Transport and fuel
- Drinks
- Services of an experience guide and support team

Excludes:

- International flights – please ask us for a quote
- Visas
- Personal travel insurance
- Personal expenses and tips

Please [contact our office](#) for a tailor-made itinerary and quote. We can help you plan the next stage of your holiday to Africa.