

AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY EXPEDITION

AFRICA 2010

28 OCT – 18 NOV 2010



**BOOK NOW
AND RECEIVE A
FREE AUSTRALIAN
GEOGRAPHIC
SUBSCRIPTION**



Africa remains a mysterious and beguiling land filled with the memories of past battles, brave expeditions and natural wonders.

OUR JOURNEY THROUGH southern Africa will relive early expeditions, winding its way through four countries passing through the Limpopo region filled with the history of South Africa and home to some of the world's favourite animals. You will be greeted by impala, wildebeest and warthog as we camp each night after a day of discovery around waterholes and veldts including the world-renowned Kruger National Park.

Taking us to the eastern tip of Mozambique, we pass stunning coastlines and travel through remote wildlife parks. The self-drive 4WD tour is more independent, as we take routes not usually followed by tour groups, allowing a personal journey through the heart of southern Africa. Visiting communities along the way with our guides will help you experience the real Africa as their regional knowledge will give you the opportunity to interact with the local people.

For the serious 4WD enthusiast we take on the Sani Pass in the small landlocked country of Lesotho, surrounded on all sides by South Africa. This treacherous pass is one of the most challenging in southern Africa and will take us 3000 m above sea level, where we will be greeted by more than rugged landscapes and Africa's highest pub.

Fully catered and guided by experts in self-drive safaris in Africa, this trip is strictly limited to just eight participant vehicles to maximise your African experience.

In all, this 22-day expedition will cross through four countries, and travel a total of more than 5000 km with nearly every night spent in national parks, private game reserves or tribal lands. With thousands of opportunities for photographs, you will experience the very essence of Africa.



2010 EXPEDITION ITINERARY

THIS FOUR-COUNTRY, 22-day tour will start and end in Pretoria. You will be spellbound by the varying cultures, the incredible vistas, the amazing and diverse wildlife, the vibrant history and the challenging four-wheel-driving.

Once we leave Pretoria we'll travel through areas haunted by the ghost of Harry 'Breaker' Harbord Morant of Boer War infamy. Then we'll traverse the mighty Kruger National Park, surely one of the greatest wildlife reserves in the world, before crossing the border into Mozambique's Transfrontier Park, an unspoilt, remote and far less-visited place. Then, after exploring the coast of central Mozambique, with a chance to sample some of the coast's incredible fishing or diving, we'll head south to the wilds of the Maputo Elephant Reserve.

Back in South Africa we'll visit some of the best known wildlife sanctuaries in Zululand before turning inland to explore the fascinating independent Kingdom of Swaziland and its amazing chain of national parks. With cameras full of rhino photos we'll make our way back into South Africa and visit some of the most poignant battle fields on Earth. Finally we'll climb into the mountainous Kingdom of Lesotho – the "Roof of Africa" – for some of the most spectacular 4WD terrain on earth and scenery that will take your breath away. Believe us you will be spellbound by the varying cultures, the incredible vistas, the amazing wildlife, the vibrant history and the challenging four-wheel-driving.

OUR GUIDES

ANTHONY AND KAREN McDONALD are experienced, veteran AG expedition leaders, who run numerous 4WD expeditions and Australian Geographic Society scientific research camps. Their company Red Desert Tours specialise in remote-area tours and catering. For the past four years they have been bringing Australian clients to Southern Africa on self-drive 4WD safari tours.

BERTUS HANEKOM is our local guide for the Africa 2010 trip. Bertus has assisted Karen and Macca from Red Desert on their African tours for the past four years and has signed on again to be our expert guide for this expedition. Born and raised in Pretoria, South Africa he speaks six languages, including Afrikaans and Zulu, an asset when guiding overseas visitors. An accredited wild-life, cultural and historical tour guide, Bertus has worked as a manager and a game ranger in parks and reserves across South Africa, Namibia and Mozambique since 1992 and had guiding experience across Africa, Asia and Europe.

WEATHER

NOVEMBER IN southern Africa normally means pleasant sunny days up to 30 °C in the northern regions with possible afternoon thunder storms. Rain and/or flooding can sometimes occur and may mean changes to the route and the itinerary.

TRACK CONDITIONS AND VEHICLES

TRACK SURFACES will vary from good bitumen to soft sandy sections and steep challenging hills. Heading into the rainy season, we may encounter some stream crossings and flooding. Vehicles are high-clearance, low-ratio-equipped 4WD vehicles. Each vehicle on this expedition will be inspected, is in exceptionally good mechanical condition and fitted with good tyres prior to starting our adventure.

COST

\$18950 inc GST, per vehicle of two occupants.

Excludes airfares to and from Johannesburg, fuel, alcohol and border fees.

PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE:

- 4WD hire – complete with rooftop double bed
- All meals and accommodation
- All entry fees to parks and game reserves
- Background briefings from local experienced guides
- Help from an experienced guide to plan the route and camping sites
- Assistance on the journey from a qualified first-aid person
- Experienced support crew with comprehensive recovery kits
- Daily briefings, assistance and guidance

Fuel, border fees, alcohol and accommodation outside of the expedition itinerary are at additional cost.

HOW TO BOOK

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION and bookings, contact Red Desert Tours on **03 5786 2004** or **0411 485 469** or karen@red-desert.com.au.

A 20 per cent non-refundable deposit is required to secure a booking. The balance is to be paid 70 days prior to the start of the expedition. Places are allocated on a first-in, first-served basis. A cancellation fee will be charged for bookings cancelled less than 60 days prior to the expedition commencing. Please see the expedition manual for cancellation policy and charges.

SUGGESTED READING LIST

- *Long Walk to Freedom* by Nelson Mandela;
- *Pictorial History of South Africa* by Anthony Preston;
- *Wild Africa (BBC Books)* by Patrick Morris, et al;
- *Rhodes: Race for Africa (BBC Books)* by Anthony Thomas;
- *The Kruger National Park* by Bob Scholes, pics by NJ Dennis;
- *Safari – A Chronicle of Adventure* by Bartle Bull;
- *Dark Star Safari* by Paul Theroux;
- *The Lost World of the Kalahari* by Laurens Van Der Post;
- *The Zulu War* by Michael Barthorp;
- *A Concise History of South Africa* by Robert Ross.

JOIN THE AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

THE AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY is a not-for-profit organisation that has supported conservation across Australia for more than 20 years. We would like to invite all those undertaking the expedition to become AG Society members. When you book your place on the expedition you will receive a subscription flyer to complete and return by post to begin your AG membership.

