



Big Cats: 12-day African Safari

7th - 18th December 2020

\$13,600 p/p/sharing*

Don't miss this truly unique opportunity to travel to Africa on safari to explore the wild savannas of Southern Africa with two experts in their fields - big cat conservationists and biologists Jeff Sikich and Dr. Justin Dellinger.

Africa's savannas are famous for the incredible abundance of wildlife they support and for being home to an intact ecosystem.

Jeff and Justin, together with exceptional local African guides, will take you on a visceral and enlightening journey through the African Bush. While you enjoy the exciting wilderness and wildlife, they will contextualize the ecology and behavior of big cats and other predators, and provide insight on the complexities associated with human coexistence.

One of the privileges of visiting these vast protected areas is that animals are so relaxed around game-drive vehicles. This allows one the unusual and wonderful opportunity to observe even the most elusive cats at close quarters for extended periods of time.



*Group size: min 8, max 12. Price is all inclusive (accommodation, food, drinks, activities, transfers between camps) but excludes all international travel, visas and insurance, which is your own responsibility. Singles in their own room will be charged an additional single-supplement rate and quoted separately. Price valid until end Feb.

Itinerary Overview

Your exploration begins in South Africa with a short flight to stay four nights in the world-renowned MalaMala Game Reserve, a private reserve contiguous with the ~8,000 square mile Kruger National Park. MalaMala is famous for its Big 5 game sightings and one would be hard pressed to find a better place in the world to track and observe leopards. At this dramatic time of the year, vegetation is sprouting, prey animals have newborn young, and predators are on the prowl.

From here, you transfer back to Johannesburg where you overnight before embarking on the second, wilder component of the safari in Botswana. Over the following week you will explore this simply incredible game-rich wilderness by visiting the Okavango Delta, a vast oasis in the Kalahari desert and a remarkable World Heritage Site.

You visit two safari camps for 3 nights each to gain maximum exposure to this diverse system. Little Vumbura, set on an island in the heart of the Okavango is accessible only by boat, while having all the game-viewing prospects either by boat, providing an intriguing new perspective on wildlife, or 4x4 vehicles on the mainland.

Your second, more land-based delta camp, Chitabe, is in a fantastically diverse part of the Okavango with some of the best wildlife sightings in Botswana. Both camps are run by Wilderness Safaris, the leading safari operator in Africa.

Group Leader: Jeff Sikich



Jeff Sikich is a wildlife biologist with the National Park Service researching the impacts of urbanization and habitat fragmentation on mountain lions at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in Southern California. Jeff manages the field work for this study, one of the longest running of its kind, which informs mountain lion conservation, as well as outreach, education, and habitat conservation efforts locally and around the world. In addition to his work in California, Jeff has contributed to mountain lion research in Montana, Arizona, Nicaragua, and Peru. He has worked on gray wolves, black bears, lynx, coyotes, bobcats, desert tortoise, and deer, as well as studies focused on tigers in Sumatra, jaguars in Central and South America, and leopards in South Africa. Jeff has contributed to many scientific papers and popular articles on carnivore ecology and conservation, and his work has been featured on numerous television programs and news outlets including PBS Nature, National Geographic and 60 Minutes.

Group Leader: Dr. Justin Dellinger



Justin Dellinger is a wildlife biologist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife researching large carnivore populations throughout California. Justin oversees all aspects of this research from the field work to data analysis and publication. Currently, he is involved in developing population monitoring techniques for mountain lions across California as well as monitoring the return of gray wolves to California. In addition to his work in California, Justin has contributed to large carnivore research in Washington, Arizona, New Mexico, and North Carolina. He has also researched red wolves, black bears, bobcats, coyotes, mule deer, and white-tailed deer. His work has centered on understanding predator-prey interactions, human-wildlife interactions, wildlife space use, and wildlife population estimation techniques and has contributed to over 20 scientific papers on large carnivore ecology and conservation.

For more details:



Contact Quinton or Liz Martins
info@truewildsafaris.com
Tel: 707.721.6560
www.truewildsafaris.com

To help connect your safari experience with wildlife back home, we make a donation to local California mountain lion research.