

INTRODUCING ULTIMATE SAFARIS' JOURNEYS UNDER CANVAS

Ultimate Safaris has from the onset been synonymous with pioneering safaris in Namibia. Driven by an explorer-type determination and enthusiasm, we started by operating relatively lightweight mobile camps in impossibly remote corners of the country, but we have now moved on in committing to help preserve some of these wild places that have captured our hearts and our imagination.

As a result, we are delighted to introduce (or for some, reintroduce) Ultimate Safaris' Journeys Under Canvas. Not so long ago, almost all our luxury safaris included some time where guests were accommodated "Under Canvas", simply because this provided the best accommodation in the wild where no other infrastructure existed. Sadly, in some ways, the advancement of the safari era means that we no longer need to be quite so intrepid, but there are still plenty of places where guests can enjoy a quality camping experience when 'roughing-it in style' Under Canvas, which is particularly appealing to those who want to connect with the earth, culture and wildlife in a very up-close and personal way.

Under Canvas camps are designed to offer a true "back to nature" experience with an emphasis being on the experiential aspect of safari. We have identified a strong desire in many travellers to go back to the roots of safari, to touch, smell, feel and experience the wild, with ones feet firmly in the dust that covers Africa. This is an experience that is exclusive in the real sense of the word, as well as being very much away from it all!

Since these camps are not permanent, there is a certain amount of compromise required concerning some of the frills and other add-ons that you might expect in a permanent tented camp or lodge. For those prepared to forego some creature comforts so that they are unencumbered by buildings and all the paraphernalia that goes with them, they will be able to go to sleep hearing only the noisy silence of the desert and to wake up to a chorus that announces the start of a new day. It's the kind of intimacy only achieved by taking guests to the most wild and remote places, and then moving camp before the inhabitants of that environment have got used to their presence and adapted their behaviour accordingly.

Our Under Canvas camps are non-participatory and are serviced and equipped to ensure that guests can stay in great comfort and to allow them to relax and revel in the feeling of space and solitude that makes Namibia so special. Added to that, we consider good food and wine to be an important part of the overall experience so our catering in camp is of a suitably high standard - even in dry, desolate areas where this can be hard to maintain. Delicious, wholesome meals with local delicacies are prepared for each meal time using fresh local produce wherever possible. All our camp chefs have their own unique specialties and guests are cared for by a caring warm tribe, who absolutely love what they do.

In fact, our guests are taken care of by some extraordinary people whose only desire is to ensure that each moment spent with us is as perfect as possible. From being pampered in camp, to having days filled with thrilling encounters and enjoying nights entranced with exclusivity beyond most people's wildest dreams, our guests are looked after by a tribe of magicians who aim to leave lasting impressions - and it goes without saying that the tribe members know exactly what is expected of them to create the perfect Namibian safari.



Our Under Canvas camps use large rectangular Meru tents (4m x 3m and 2.5 m high) with built in groundsheets and mosquito screens on all doors and windows. Each tent is equipped with solar lighting, bedside table, comfortable standard height camp beds and mattresses with normal bedding as well as an additional blanket and a hot water bottle for those chilly nights, and a cabinet in which to store clothing and other belongings that need to be accessible. Towels and toiletries are also provided in the bathroom which also has its own toilet (flush or field depending on the location of the camp), bucket shower and washbasin. A small table, mirror and solar lighting are also provided in the bathroom, and chairs on the patio allow guests to relax and enjoy the surrounding view.

Quick facts:

- 8 x large rectangular Meru tents (4m x 3m and 2.5 m high) customized to our specifications, suited to Namibian conditions.
- En suite bathrooms with hot bucket showers and toilet (flush or field loo depending on the location of the camp)
- Locations include Damaraland (including our private use site at //Huab), Kaokoland, NamibRand Nature Reserve (non en suite) and Khaudum.
- Exclusive use area in the //Huab Conservancy, with private rhino tracking and exploration of the upper //Huab River.
- Fully-catered non-participatory camping, inclusive of three meals a day (including hot breakfast, freshly prepared lunches and three course dinner), all local drinks and limited laundry service.
- Recommended pax numbers: 4 12 pax, booked on an exclusive basis







//HUAB UNDER CANVAS

In line with our commitment to help preserve wild places, we are excited to announce the first of our exclusive use areas that will allow us to operate our Under Canvas camps, located in a core desert adapted black rhino area in the //Huab Conservancy in Damaraland, approximately 90 km north west of Khorixas. Again pioneering both community development and conservation, Ultimate Safaris has entered into an agreement with the local conservancy which has secured an exclusive use area for the purposes of our Under Canvas camp. This agreement is new-age and forward thinking, providing a model that we are hoping to replicate in other areas of Namibia in time to come, and one that we also hope other safari operators and conservancies in Namibia will benefit from.

Our first and foremost involvement and investment has been in conservation as we have already employed two Rhino Rangers to safeguard the local rhino population and to assist us with tracking them. We have equipped the Rangers with mountain

bikes to traverse this area in an environmentally conscious way and we have installed VHF radio communication for patrols to use, as well as investing in the supply of open water for wildlife. The area is home to Hartmann's mountain zebra, oryx, springbok, steenbok, klipspringer, lephant, rhino, spotted and brown hyena, jackal, leopard, cape fox and African wild cat in addition to several others, and our presence in the area has already seen a change in the frequency of wildlife sightings.

This camp is nestled in a grove of Mopane trees on the banks of a tributary of the //Huab River. Protected from all the prevailing winds and sun, the camp is virtually invisible from anywhere around and it carries arguably the lowest environmental footprint of any camp in Namibia. Tents are raised on mobile platforms and have basic infrastructure that allows for important comforts such as en suite flush toilets, but the essence of the camp remains Under Canvas, mobile and experiential. With provision for up to eight tents, this camp is only booked on an exclusive basis (tiered pricing for varying pax numbers) for each group we take in there, and it can currently only be used as part of one of our privately guided safaris. The camp will be operated seasonally between April and November, but it will also be possible to set it up at other times 'at special request'.

A minimum of a two night stay is required to get a true feel of what is on offer, although we believe that three nights would be even better to really do justice to the area. The camp is a fantastic alternative to any traditional lodge stay in Damaraland, and it offers exclusivity in terms of access which is beyond compare.

Activities include tracking desert adapted rhino, noting that this is completely private and in an area that has the highest tracking success rate in north western Namibia; exploring the upper and less crowded //Huab River in search of desert adapted elephants; nature walks and drives; as well as the possibility to visit some nearby prehistoric rock engravings. We are also in the process of developing a multi-day walking safari, based out of the camp with a night fly-camping under the stars. More on this soon!



Access is either from the north (Etosha) via a Himba village near Erwee (where a visit is already included in many of our safaris), or from the south via Khorixas and along the //Huab River. The last stretch into the camp involves travelling on tracks which are well off the beaten path tracks, and many of these are completely unknown to most travelers.



















