



PANGOLIN
PHOTO SAFARIS

Photo Safari Guide

Guide to photographic safaris in
Southern Africa





- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| ① CHOBE | ⑥ VICTORIA FALLS | ⑪ CAPE TOWN |
| ② OKAVANGO DELTA | ⑦ HWANGE | ⑫ MANA POOLS |
| ③ CENTRAL KALAHARI | ⑧ MADIKWE | ⑬ SOUTH LUANGWA |
| ④ MAKGADIKGADI PANS | ⑨ KRUGER / SABI SANDS | |
| ⑤ MASHATU | ⑩ ETOSHA | |

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Most of our photo safaris take place in the beautiful photographic paradise that is Africa. Visit Botswana's most iconic photographic destinations such as the Chobe National Park, the Makgadikgadi Pan and the Okavango Delta or visit Zimbabwe to witness and photograph one of the seven natural wonders of the world, the Victoria Falls.

The Wildebeest Migration in the Masai Mara in Kenya is surely on everyone's photographic bucket list and Namibia is a photographer's dream with its vast open landscapes, massive sand dunes and spectacular deserts. Last but not least, visit South Africa which is a country that has it all. From the iconic reserves bordering Kruger, the beauty of The Garden route to the winelands and culture of Cape Town.

For visa and embassy information for all countries visit www.projectvisa.com

PHOTOGRAPHIC ADVICE

We decided to ask our resident photographic guides to share their advice on what to bring along on a photographic safari and so together with their recommendations we have collated this guide so that you get the very best advice and to ensure you have everything you need to have an unforgettable photo safari experience.

If you are travelling with a camera, we recommend you travel with two camera bodies so that you don't have to change lenses when changing from a zoom (or indeed fixed focal length) lens to a wider-angle lens. This saves time especially at a crucial moment. In your camera bag travel with a longer lens with a focal length up to 500mm or 600mm or take along a 200-400 with a teleconverter along with a wide-angle lens with a lower focal length of around 10mm. As to a third lens, if you really feel it necessary, take along a 70-200 mm lens which gives you plenty of options for composing shots along with the longer lenses.

We know that plenty of our clients are just getting into photography and the words in the section may appear to be foreign to you. But for those who have a bit more experience and knowledge. We hope this will help.



If you are not travelling with a camera we have plenty for you to use in the Chobe. We have various camera bodies we supply from Canon and Nikon as well as zoom lenses from 150mm to 600mm that are more than adequate for photographing from the boats and vehicles.

One solid piece of advice for a photo safari is to place all your chargers, lens hoods, cables, card readers and other bulky items into your main checked-in luggage to make room for more valuable and breakable items in your camera bag.

Even if your luggage ends up being delayed with a few full batteries and some extra memory cards you will be good for a few days of photography before your bags catch up. This is also a very rare occurrence but just another tip from the pros.

TRIPODS, RESTS AND MOUNTS

This is one of the most regular questions from our clients

It will really depend on where you are travelling to. For instance, we have several in the Chobe that you can borrow but to be honest the situations when you will need one are pretty limited. On the photo boats we have camera mounts on every chair and on the vehicles we have plenty of rests and beanbags for you to stabilise your camera.

If you are heavily into Landscapes and Macro, then yes by all means bring one, especially if you are travelling through Namibia with its wonderful landscape photography or perhaps in an environment like a jungle when lighting conditions are challenging and you are wanting some macro shots of its inhabitants.



GimPro camera mounts used on the Pangolin Photo Boat

If you are about to go on safari and you're unsure on whether to bring one with you, chat to one of our travel planners and they will be able to advise you on whether to bring one or not. If you do buy yourself a tripod we recommend you don't get a cheap one. Get something lightweight but robust and sturdy. It's better to spend a bit more on a tripod than spend considerably more on a camera repair from a toppling tripod! There are some very cool options out there that double as monopods with one leg being removable. As to the head get something with a quick release and again make sure its robust. A spirit level is always a useful add-on although it's all too easy to fix a skew horizon in post-production!



Battery technology has improved in leaps and bounds and a decent Lithium Ion battery should last even the most trigger happy photographer more than one game drive. That said there is no worse feeling than missing a shot because you have no more juice and no spare battery. If you plan to go on a photo safari we would recommend having a spare battery per camera body.

Batteries are heavily effected by temperature. If you are working in very cold conditions it's best to keep your spare batteries as close to your body as possible (a shirt pocket for example) to maximise their charge when you insert it. Wherever we go we make sure that there are facilities to charge batteries and laptops etc. Even in the tented camps deep in the bush and miles from the mains supply we have solar panels, inverters and plug points so travelling with more than two batteries per camera body really isn't necessary.

LAPTOP OR NOT

Access to computers in lodges and hotels are very limited in Africa and reviewing your images just on your camera screen is ok but you won't be able to see the levels of sharpness or exposure until you get it onto a bigger screen.

➤ We always advise travelling with a laptop

If you are joining a workshop then we highly recommend you travel with a laptop and ensure that you have loaded the latest version of your post production editing programme of your choice. Make sure you download the latest version as bandwidth is also limited in the bush and doing an update in the field will be nigh on impossible. Another tip to consider when choosing your camera bag is to have your laptop section detachable so that should the airlines require you to shed some weight from your carry-on you can utilise the standard policy of having one carry on piece and a laptop bag. This usually appeases grumpy ground staff.



This is a debate that has raged on since the advent of digital photography. Do you take lots of smaller memory cards on a safari in case one corrupts or one is lost? That way you have only lost a few of the photos if one card breaks, gets damaged or is lost. Or on the flipside do you take a couple of larger capacity cards so that you have to change fewer times. It's our general consensus that a card getting corrupted these days is incredibly rare and more often than not when trying to manage several smaller cards during a trip one always gets lost.

If you are travelling with a laptop, then this is a bit of a moot point as you will process your images regularly on the laptop and probably download the files to either the laptop's on-board hard drive or as we tend to do onto an external hard drive.

➤ **An external drive does add extra weight but with the average capacity of such devices sitting at 1 or 2 Terabytes they are a worthwhile investment and we highly recommend you bring one along.**

HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

The topic of hand luggage allowances when it comes to camera bags has filled plenty of forums and we're afraid to say that the answer as to what is the protocol or allowance (as well as leniency) varies from airline to airline. The prospect of checking very expensive camera gear into the hold of a commercial airline is not very enticing. If you are travelling with us, contact your travel planner and they will be able to share some tips to ensure your camera equipment stays with you.





COUNTRY OVERVIEW

BOTSWANA

A country the size of France with a population of only two million, one of Africa's highest GDPs and nearly 40% of the country being devoted to wildlife management makes Botswana a true African success story. From the dry Kalahari to the South to the wetlands of the Delta, Botswana offers incredible species diversity protected by a gentle people who embrace eco-tourism as the future of their economy and country.



Size: 600,370 km²



Population: 2,3 million



Capital: Gaborone



Languages: Setswana, English



Dialing code: +267

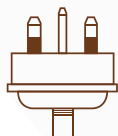


Currency: Botswana Pula

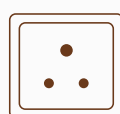
PLUG TYPES



230v | 50Hz



230v | 50Hz



230v | 50Hz

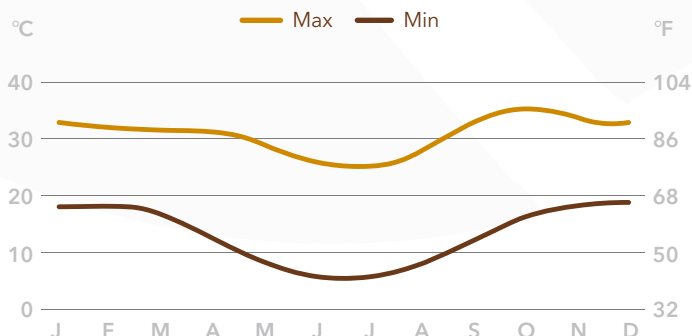
SAYING HELLO

In Botswana its customary to refer to the gender of the person you are greeting. When saying hello to a man you say "Dumela Rra" and to a woman its "Dumela Mma".

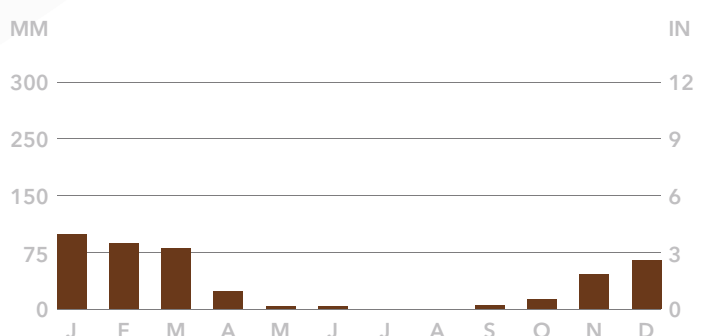
When shaking hands, handing over or receiving an object (money in a shop for example) it's also customary to touch your right elbow with your left hand when doing so.

CLIMATE

TEMPERATURE



RAINFALL





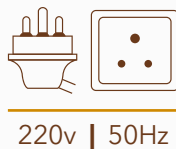
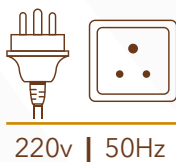
COUNTRY OVERVIEW

NAMIBIA

This is a big country with a ridiculously low population density which considering it is the driest country in Southern Africa makes perfect sense. No water, no people! The country is a former German colony and now thrives on its vast mineral and gem deposits. Sustainable tourism plays an important role in the economy and with iconic destinations like The Namib Desert, Skeleton Coast and Etosha the future is bright for this sun-baked country.

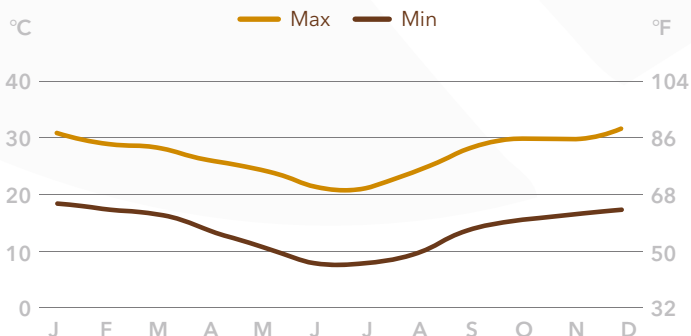
-  **Size:** 825,615 km²
-  **Population:** 2,6 million
-  **Capital:** Windhoek
-  **Dialing code:** +264
-  **Currency:** Namibian dollar (NAD), South African Rand (ZAR)
-  **Languages:** English, Afrikaans, German, Otjiherero, Khoekhoe, Oshiwambo, Kwangali, Setswana, Silozi

PLUG TYPES

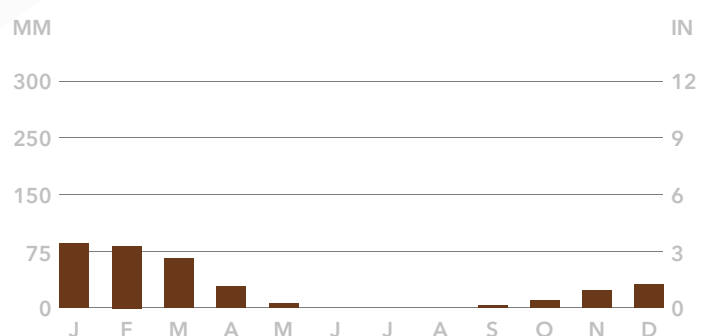


CLIMATE

TEMPERATURE



RAINFALL



SAYING HELLO

The predominant language in Namibia is Oshiwambo which is the first language at least half of the population (along with English and Afrikaans). When greeting someone you say "Mwa Lele Po" which is a simple "Hello".

You can also try "Howzit" which is an amalgamation of hello and how are you in English speaking Southern African Countries and is universally understood.




COUNTRY OVERVIEW

ZIMBABWE

No other country in recent history has taken so many knocks and then bounced back through the sheer resilience of its people. The Northern part of "Zim" tends to exist as an isolated microcosm from more political centres like Bulawayo and the capital Harare to the South. Victoria Falls itself is lovely little town steeped in history and a bucket list destination.

 **Size:** 390,757 km²  **Population:** 16,2 million

 **Capital:** Harare  **Dialing code:** +263

 **Languages:** Chewa, Chibarwe, English, Kalanga "Koisian" (presumably Tsoa) Nambya, Ndau, Ndebele, Shangani, Shona, "sign language", Sotho, Tonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa

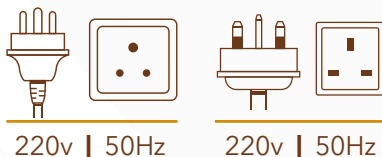
 **Currency:** United States Dollar, Zimbabwean bond



SAYING HELLO

The most common traditional language in Zimbabwe is Shona which is widely spoken and predominantly so in the North around Victoria Falls. "Hello" in Shona is "Mhoroi" but if you are feeling like more relaxed and familiar then "Eta" is similar to "What's up?"

PLUG TYPES

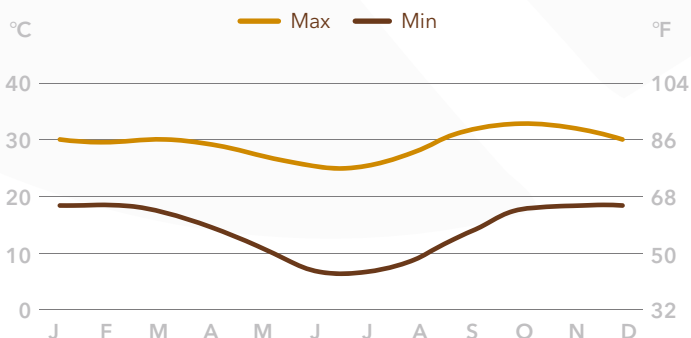


220v | 50Hz

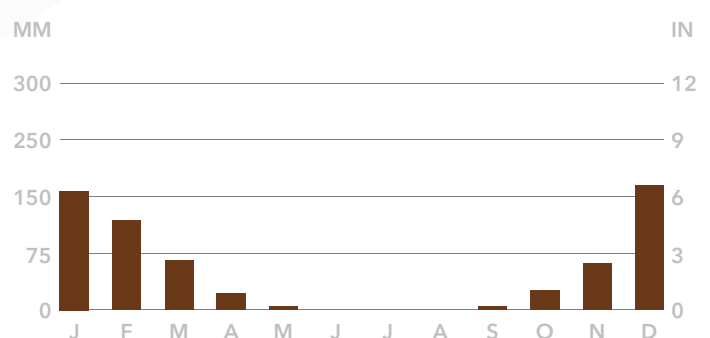
220v | 50Hz

CLIMATE

TEMPERATURE



RAINFALL





COUNTRY OVERVIEW


SOUTH AFRICA

The Rainbow Nation emerged from the divisive days of Apartheid in 1994 and has since established itself as the number one tourism destination country in Southern Africa. 11 official languages across nine provinces South Africa has it all. From iconic reserves like Kruger, to cosmopolitan Cape Town (where the Pangolin Reservations office is based) it's no wonder many of our clients return over and over again to explore its many facets.

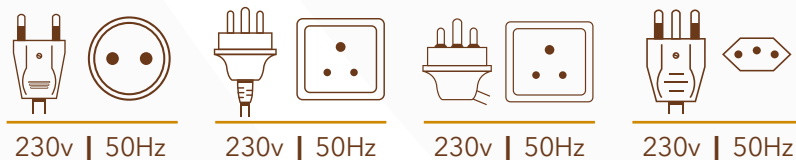
 **Size:** 1,221,037 km²  **Population:** 57,7 million

 **Capital:** Pretoria  **Currency:** Rand (ZAR)

 **Dialing code:** +27

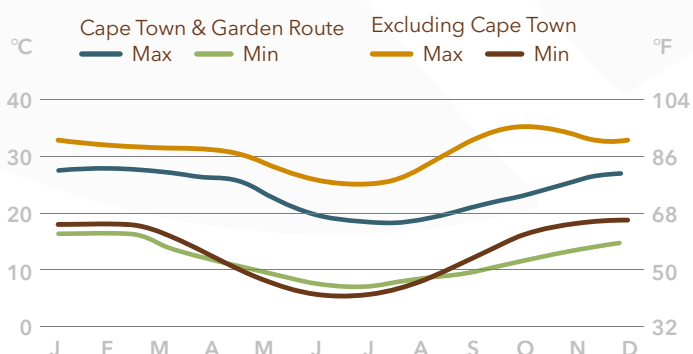
 **Languages:** English, Afrikaans, Zulu, Xhosa, Northern Sotho, Tswana, Southern Sotho, Tsonga, Swazi, Venda, Southern Ndebele

PLUG TYPES

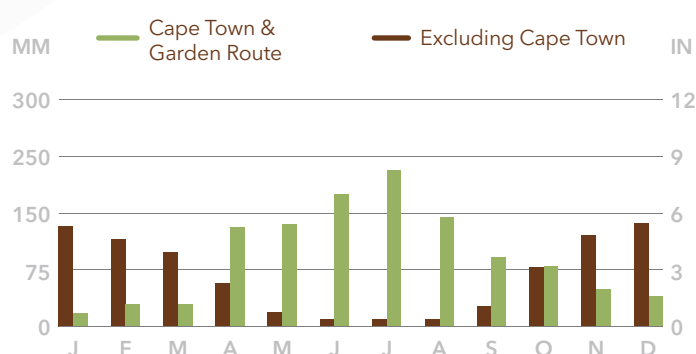


CLIMATE

TEMPERATURE



RAINFALL



SAYING HELLO

With eleven official languages you are unlikely to get it right every time so we strongly suggest using the universal "Howzit!" which neatly combines a greeting and a request for the welfare of the listener.

Add a big smile and an enthusiastic handshake and you cant go wrong.



PANGOLIN PLACES

PANGOLIN CHOBE HOTEL



The Pangolin Chobe Hotel was a labour of love over eleven months by Guts and his team working long long days and often into the night to turn a desolate abandoned shell of a building into one of the most innovative and captivating structures in the whole of Botswana.

Pangolin has always been an innovative company offering a safari experience above and beyond the normal "cookie cutter" safari. Traditional lodges built with wood and thatch are all well and good and certainly have their place but the Pangolin Chobe Hotel challenges the norm incorporating bold design with best environmental practices and a sense of welcoming inclusion from the moment you arrive.

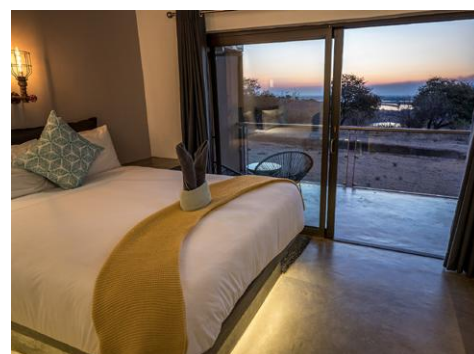
The centrepiece of the building is the wildlife photography gallery, off which all fourteen rooms lead. The gallery features an array of images from our resident photographic guides and other top wildlife photographers who visit us frequently with their guests to enjoy The Chobe. Each image has been chosen to showcase differing photographic styles and techniques to inspire budding (and seasoned) photographers to think differently about their compositions. At the end of the gallery you will find the editing suite for post-production sessions. Each of the fourteen rooms have been designed to maximise the space and provide plenty of surfaces (for cameras and laptops etc) and charging points galore. They are all en-suite and airconditioned with safes and tea/coffee making facilities and plenty of intriguing design features.

In the front of the hotel is our deck, where the majority of meals are served, which in turn leads to the sunken fire pit surrounded by our eco pool. The fire pit is large enough to seat a full house of guests and is a firm favourite before and after dinner.

The food at the hotel is locally sourced and lovingly prepared by our team of chefs. The menus vary according to the season and all dietary requirements are catered for.

Overlooking the deck is the Pangolin Bar with arguably one of the best views of the Chobe River and Caprivi Floodplains in the region. The well-stocked bar serves up delicious cocktails, perfectly chilled wine, ice cold beers and a plethora of soft drinks and freshly ground coffees.

At the Pangolin Chobe Hotel we have enough cameras and telephoto lenses for every guest. Use of these cameras is included in the room rate along with free memory cards.





PANGOLIN PLACES

PANGOLIN VOYAGER HOUSEBOAT



There is simply nothing more relaxing than cruising down one of Africa's most iconic and game filled rivers and the Pangolin Voyager is the perfect vessel.

The Chobe river is the natural border between Namibia and Botswana and the Pangolin Voyager is actually based on the Namibian side of the river with the Chobe national Park as the opposite bank. The Chobe is unique in that it flows in both directions at different times of the year depending on the flood in the mighty Zambezi with which it converges a few kilometres further downstream.

The houseboat has five cabins which can be configured as double or twin beds. Each has an ensuite shower and toilet as well as air conditioning. Please be aware that the aircon is controlled centrally to cool the cabins throughout the day and night when you are most likely to be in your room but cannot run 24/7 as we predominantly rely on solar generated battery power.

The middle level is where you will find the living and dining areas where all the meals are served and a well-stocked bar is located. Large glass sliding doors offer a wonderful view of the river as we cruise between our three moorings. Most cruising takes place after the morning game activity and during brunch and the midday sun - which is best enjoyed on the partially shaded upper deck.

Alongside the Pangolin Voyager we have an eight-seater photo boat along with another tender boat for general game viewing and transfers. Each of the seats on the photo boat have a detachable arm and camera gimbal and can rotate 360 degrees. In addition to photography and game viewing we also offer the opportunity to visit a local village where most of the crew come from.

The boats tend to go out at first light and again a few hours before sunset. Teas, coffees and cold drinks are packed for the morning session and ice cold beverages of your choice for the afternoon.

The captain and his crew are on hand to help make your stay and experience onboard as comfortable and relaxing as possible.



FEATURED SAFARIS

Definition: Safaris taken from the Swahili (East African) word meaning journey

Here you will find a selection of our photo safari packages predominantly in the Southern African countries of Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Click [here](#) to view more



Best of The Chobe (7 Days)

The Best of The Chobe visits the Pangolin Voyager Houseboat as well as the Pangolin Chobe Hotel. This combination ensures that you will have very diverse sightings throughout the safari accompanied by a Pangolin Photo Host to help you get plenty of great shots. Cameras and lenses included.



Chobe, Delta and Kalahari Hosted Photo Safari (10 Days)

In 2021 we are adding the amazing Central Kalahari to our other iconic photographic destinations - The Chobe and Okavango Delta - for a 10 day hosted wildlife photo safari. Led by one of our resident photo hosts you will spend three nights in each destination photographing in a group of no more than eight guests.



Best of Botswana Photo Safari (11 Days)

The Best of Botswana Photo Safari visits The Chobe, Okavango Delta and The Central Kalahari Game Reserve over the course of 11 days starting in Kasane and ending in Maun - which are both international hubs. This package includes a day trip to the iconic Victoria Falls.



Vic Falls, Chobe and Okavango Delta (9 Days)

The quintessential Botswana safari itinerary with two world class photographic destinations and two UNESCO world heritage sites over 9 days. This package is available throughout the year with easily arranged optional add-ons to Madikwe and Cape Town.

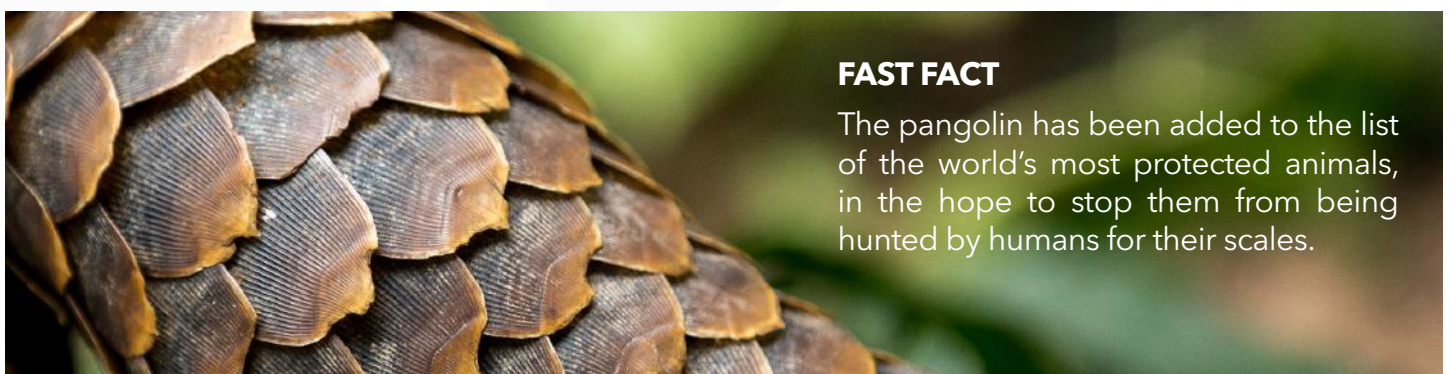
WHY WE DECIDED TO CALL OURSELVES PANGOLIN PHOTO SAFARIS

We wanted to highlight the plight of the Pangolins which are being driven towards extinction by demand for their scales and meat. Pangolins are also tricky subjects to photograph and when rolled up into a ball, they can look quite similar to the aperture of a camera, and our logo.



HERE ARE 5 FACTS ABOUT PANGOLINS

- 1 Pangolins are also sometimes called scaly anteaters, are strange looking creatures covered with protective horny, overlapping scales. They are no way related to armadillo.
- 2 Pangolins spend most of their time in burrows (often abandoned warthog burrows). They only come out at night. A pangolin only walks a few miles each night, but tends to use the same burrow for many months.
- 3 Contrary to popular belief, pangolins do not use their anal glands for scent-marking. Instead, they urinate on the sand, then roll around in it. The scent rubs off on the grass as they walk and helps them find their way back to the burrow.
- 4 Pangolins feed mostly on ants and termites, which are gathered up from the ground. Termite nests provide larger and more concentrated sources of food. Pangolins can also dig insects from mounds with their claws.
- 5 Because they are toothless, they use their extremely long tongues (up to 16 inches) to collect their prey. Their stomach is also specially adapted for grinding food. This process is helped along by the small stones and sand that pangolins consume.



FAST FACT

The pangolin has been added to the list of the world's most protected animals, in the hope to stop them from being hunted by humans for their scales.

WHY BOOK WITH PANGOLIN PHOTO SAFARIS

Whether you are an avid photographer with years of experience or you are just starting your journey into the wonderful world of wildlife photography we will have a safari to suit your needs. If you want to spend time with a top wildlife guide on a specialist workshop, learn the basics or maybe just spend time with your camera in some of the best locations in the world then Pangolin is the safari company for you.

MEET OUR TRAVEL PLANNERS



Mandy
van Eck



Culver
Mapinge



Lynne
van Wyk

Contact info@pangolinphoto.com or call us on +27 (0)21 418 2312 to speak to a travel planner
www.pangolinphoto.com

MEET THE PANGOLIN PHOTO HOSTS



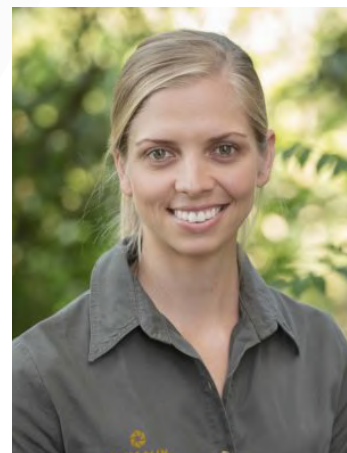
Janine Kraye



Charl Stols



Sabine Stols



Danielle Carstens

