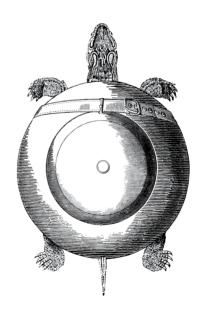


## **EXCURSION MENU**

LIVE THE EXPERIENCE



## AN AFRICAN JOURNEY

Feel the pulse of the Namib Desert

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## MORNING NATURE DRIVE

WAKE UP WITH THE DESERT

LIVE THE EXPERIENCE

- Duration: 2 ½ hours
- Summer times: 06h00 08h30
- Winter times: 07h00 09h30
- Price: Included in nightly stay
- A shared experience
- Minimum participants: 1
  - Maximum participants: 12
  - Drinks and snacks provided

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### MORNING NATURE DRIVE

While the landscape transforms with magnificent colour, intensity and texture as the sun rises, you depart camp on an immersive journey of desert discovery. Pausing regularly, breathing in what appears to be complete solitude and silence, only to hear the elusive yet definite flurry of life which surrounds you. Noticing the persistent beautiful chirping of the evasive Barking Gecko's as they signal their territories and feeling the kiss of the refreshing desert air, as you move again effortlessly in the comfort atop one of Sonop's bespoke Land Cruisers. Every arm and head rested bucket seat is primely located to drink in the panoramic vista of the expansive desert landscape. A secure, dustproof stowage cabinet is conveniently located in between the seats ensuring that your photographic and optical gear is safe, dust free and conveniently close.

This desert safari is all about the subtleties and wonder that surround us; witness the transformation of light and shadow within everything your eyes rest upon; witness the stirring and activity which the new day brings to the many sociable weaver colonies in and around their seemingly chaotic jumbled hay-stack nests; witness the prehistoric-looking quiver trees, silhouetted against the bluest of morning skies. Listen as your expert guide unravels the intricate and fascinating stories, as he reveals the wondrous tapestry of life that this ecosystem supports.

Our guides will invite and entice you out of the vehicle to walk with them as they reveal to you the life of the beetles and insects or show you some long forgotten cave within a chaotic jumble of granite boulders, littered with the tools and life-supporting implements left behind for our wonder by the ancient San Bushmen. Harmony, balance and tranquillity are key states of being that you will discover during this two and a half hour inspiring journey which is included within your daily rate at Sonop.

Your participation on this activity for the following day will be asked at dinner.

## AFTERNOON NATURE DRIVE

ADMIRE THE DESERT BEAUTY AT SUNSET

LIVE THE EXPERIENCE

- Duration: 2 ½ hours
- Summer times: 17h30 20h00
- Winter times: 16h30 19h00
- Price: Included in nightly stay
- A shared experience
- Minimum participants: 1
- Maximum participants: 12
- Drinks and snacks provided

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### AFTERNOON NATURE DRIVE

As the warm, sultry late afternoon begins its transformation in intensity and temperature, you depart Sonop atop one of our bespoke Land Cruisers. Every arm and head rested bucket seat is primely located to drink in the panoramic vista of the expansive, unique desert landscape. A secure, dustproof stowage cabinet is conveniently located in between the seats ensuring that your photographic and optical gear is safe, dust free and close.

Our sunset nature drive has been created to perfectly immerse you in the reawakening of infinite micro (and some macro) lifeforms, after their midday siesta. Our expert guides will demonstrate examples of careful yet ingenious energy-saving methods employed by some desert-dwelling perfectly-adapted inhabitants, leaving you with a glimpse into the colourful layer of understanding which makes a fragile ecosystem such as this so special and expertly evolved. Pausing often, alighting from your macro view seat onto the desert floor, you will experience a beetle-eye-view, enabling your full faculty of senses to create within you the deep understanding of what it means to successfully survive in a harsh environment such as this.

Stopping the vehicle at a carefully selected point as the shadows extend and envelope the watercolour-patchwork of the desert plains, you celebrate another passing day as it enters the night, rewarded by sipping on a dew-cold glass of Sauvignon Blanc or maybe a masterfully curated gin and tonic, whilst you eagerly await for the sun to kiss the horizon and the first of the celestial stars to appear.

Return to camp after this two and a half hour journey which is included within your nightly stay at Sonop, feeling rejuvenated and enlightened just a little more as to the wonderful world which we inhabit.

Your participation in this activity for the following day will be asked at dinner.

## MORNING HORSE RIDING

DON'T HOLD YOUR HORSES, RIDE THEM

#### LIVE THE EXPERIENCE

- Duration: 2 hours
- Summer times: 06h30 08h30
- Winter times: 07h00 09h00
- Price: Included in nightly stay
- A shared experience
- Minimum participants: 1
  - Maximum participants: 2
  - Hot beverage provided

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### MORNING HORSE RIDING

As you embark on this unique riding experience at the breaking of the day, you soon realise that you are at one with the desert, interwoven intricately within the network of living and non-living elements that make up this vast landscape.

Your horse, carefully chosen for its even temperament and suitability to the terrain, expertly led by your horse guide, take you from our state of the art stables on one of our bespoke trails. Ascend the ridge of a red sand dune and walk its ridge, feeling the cool breeze in your face whilst you become one within the grand desert vista. Pause in wonder as the light and sun changes the patterns and colours of the plain below. Disembark your horse as your guide prepares and hands you a steaming cup of freshly-filtered single-origin aromatic African coffee, which helps you find your centre within this place, the most ancient desert in the World. Having refreshed both body and soul remount and follow your guide descending the dune, homeward bound into the ancient river course, interspersed with desert hardened ancient Acacia Erilobas, some festooned with the World's largest avian dwellings – the communal nests of the sociable weavers.

Return to camp after this two hour desert safari, which is included within your nightly stay at Sonop, having become just a little more decompressed and a little closer to your place within the Universe.

Your participation on this activity for the following day will be asked at dinner.

## ELECTRIC FAT-BIKE TRAIL

EXPLORE THE DESERT BY YOUR OWN

#### LIVE THE EXPERIENCE

- Duration: 2 to 3 hours
- Any time of the day
- Price: Included in nightly stay
- A shared experience
- Minimum participants: 1
- Maximum participants: 12

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### ELECTRIC FAT-BIKE TRAIL

Invigorating, immersive, energising and rewarding are just a few adjectives that come to mind when describing this distinctive desert activity.

Depart Sonop at any time of your choosing. Fill your water bottle at one of our hydration refill stations (one is located near the e-bike shelter), read our simple, easy to follow e-bike operating instructions, points of advice in the shelter and you are ready to depart, following one of our clearly marked (Sonop) cycling and walking trail routes. Choose the White easy-peasy route... or choose the Orange medium exertion level route.

Like normal cycling, just the return is so much greater. Cycling with a turbo attached. We have selected several routes that will lead you outward alongside our fabulous red dune and return you back down the ancient river-course, if you have selected the White Route. Alternatively take the more strenuous, longer and technical Orange Route and return ridge-side bordering the NamibRand Nature Reserve. Why not do another round... remember; hydrate first and watch out for the sandy patches... maintain loose hands, sit back moving your centre of gravity backwards over your rear wheel, gear down and pedal like crazy...

These e-bike activities are included within your nightly stay at Sonop and are available throughout the day on a first-come-first-served basis. Please kindly return your bike to the stand for the next guests use.

## WALKING TRAILS

GRAB YOUR HIKING SHOES AND START RAMBLING

#### LIVE THE EXPERIENCE

- Duration: 2 hours
- Summer times:
- 06h00 08h00 & 17h30 19h30
- Winter times: 07h00 - 09h00 & 16h30 - 18h30
- Price: Included in nightly stay • A shared experience
- Minimum participants: 1
- Maximum participants: 24

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### WALKING TRAILS

Discover the delicate life-pulse of the desert through the sole of your boot. Nothing draws you closer to your environment and to Mother Earth, than on a walking trail. Your expert guide will demonstrate our many wonderful highlights, some obvious and others less so, educating you as to the many fascinating facets which make up the web of life which surrounds us at Sonop. Observe the geology and topography transition from one zone to the next, bringing with them their associated ecosystems. Experience the rawness, the ruggedness, the delicate balance in which everything is finely attuned to survival first-hand.

Remember to dress and shoe appropriately and keep well hydrated.

Guided walking trails of a two-hour duration can be arranged for the cooler times of the day, in both the early morning or late afternoon. These activities are included within your nightly stay at Sonop.

Your participation on these activities for the following day will be asked at dinner.

## **OUTDOOR CINEMA**

IT'S WRITTEN IN THE STARS

LIVE THE EXPERIENCE

- Duration: 2 hours
- Times: 21h15 23h15
- Price: Included in nightly stay
- A shared experience
- Minimum participants: 1
- Maximum participants: 24

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## OUTDOOR CINEMA

Be transported back to the timeless age of outdoor cinematography whilst you experience a classic movie, carefully selected masterpieces chosen for one purpose: to enthral you. Some in monochromatic, some in vivid technicolour, all wonderful.

State of the art HD image and surround sound by Bose. Relax, settle down, be transported into a world of desert fantasy, with a box of (homemade) hot buttered popcorn and maybe your favourite bottle of beer, all the while within a setting never to be forgotten.

The outdoor cinema will operate every second evening near the pool, weather conditions permitting and is included within your nightly stay at Sonop. Management will advise you the details of the next showing.

## **GROUP YOGA** ACTIVITY

SOAK UP THE DESERT'S VIBE

LIVE THE EXPERIENCE

- Duration: 45 minutes
- Summer times: 06h00 06h45
- Winter times: 07h00 07h45
- Price: Included in nightly stay
- A shared experience
- Minimum participants: 1
  - Maximum participants: 2

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### **GROUP YOGA** ACTIVITY

Gather before the breaking of the new day and follow the lead of our specialised Sonop yoga instructor. Routines are designed with the novice in mind, to ensure broad base participation and appeal. Connect with your inner-state as you move through several poses, feeling the light, warmth and freedom of the desert become synonymous with your being.

This fourty-five minute Group Yoga Activity will be offered every second morning just before sunrise, near the pool and is included within your nightly stay at Sonop.

Bookings are essential and can be made with the Reception before noon the day before your activity.

## ASTRONOMY DISCOVERY

LOOK UP AN ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF STARGAZING

LIVE THE EXPERIENCE

• Nightfall Summer times: 20h00

• Nightfall Winter times: 19h00

A shared experience Main deck

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### ASTRONOMY DISCOVERY

In arguably the darkest sky on our planet, you are naturally transported alongside and amongst the trillions of awe-inspiring celestial bodies. Surrounded by a swathe of a myriad stars and the Milky Way - so clear, so defined and so immense, you find few words to describe your first evening at Sonop and the experience of the night sky above you.

The enormity of space is a difficult concept to grasp but allow us to try and demonstrate this concept in simple, layman terms, during which you will realise how enormous the universe is and how minute we are in relation.

This discussion will take place at random on suitable evenings and is included within your nightly stay at Sonop.

## BREAKFAST ATOP THE SONOP DUNE

ENJOY A DELIGHTFUL SUNRISE

LIVE THE EXPERIENCE

- Duration: 2 hours
- Summer times: 07h00 09h00
- Winter times: 07h30 09h30
- Price: Refer to price list

- Private Experience
- Minimum participants: 2
  - Maximum participants: 8
  - Breakfast included

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### BREAKFAST ATOP THE SONOP DUNE

After a leisurely wake-up, depart camp with your guide on an informative journey following a desert track, hemmed between an ancient riverbed on the left and a long red-sand yellow-grass dune on your right. After watching the microlife shake themselves awake with the warming sun, your guide will stop the vehicle and show you the way as you ascend the dune to the top. Turn a full sweep at the apex of the dune in awe, as you drink in an elevated and unimpeded 360° panoramic view of the desert plains, dune and mountains beyond. Amble a little while further, being exposed to and immersed in the dune ecosystem, which differs from that of the plains... and then, perfectly yet discretely placed with crisply starched linens, napery, silverware and crystal glassware under the bough of an age-gnarled desert Camelthorn Acacia, your breakfast setting awaits you. Your moment has arrived where you are instantly transported back in time to an era of romance, of discovery, where a little danger heightens your senses and the exhilaration of knowing that you are probably the first humans to have stepped onto this vast tract of land.

Your personal Chef awaits to prepare a range of fare, 'à la minute', that would befit an aristocratic luxury 1920 safari. No breakfast of this nature would be complete without freshly squeezed orange juice and a bottle of desert-dry Brut champagne. A uniquely desert gastronomic experience.

Please book this activity with the Reception before noon the day before. Our Chef will meet you during the day of booking to discuss the menu and to suggest some wonderful menu and Champagne options. Departure from Sonop is at seven thirty in the morning.

## DINNER ATOP THE SONOP DUNE

ENJOY AN UNFORGETTABLE 4-COURSE DINNER UNDER THE STARS

#### LIVE THE EXPERIENCE

- Duration: 3 ¼ hours
- Time: 20h00 23h15
- Price: Refer to price list

- Private Experience
- Minimum participants: 2
- Maximum participants: 8

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### DINNER ATOP THE SONOP DUNE

Romance, drama, intimacy, imagination and grandeur are all emotions that you will experience in large doses during your privately curated dinner. Carefully chosen in site to allow for complete discretion and privacy, so that apart from the period setting paraffin hurricane lanterns hanging from the ancient branches of the Acacia Eriloba to the side of you and the candelabra on the table, no other human-created light can be observed. The immense Galaxy above you sets the dramatic stage in its incredible intensity, from which your grand style safari table takes its lead. Tastefully adorned with all that you would expect whilst on an extended luxury safari during the early twentieth century.

After being comfortably seated by a white-gloved waiter, served water and the wine of your choice (pre-selected and prepared to perfection) your private Chef takes you on an epicurean journey: four courses, inspired by the menu one would expect on an aristocratic African safari. Each course is worthy of time... time to converse, time to imagine, time to flirt, time to wander amongst the stars. Your imagination fills in the blank spaces as you sit amongst the ghosts of Burton, Roosevelt, Speake, Livingstone, Stanley, Baines and Selous, being regaled by their stories so fabulous and rich, that this one moment in life will be difficult to forget.

Please book this activity with the Reception before noon the day before. Our Chef and Manager will meet you during the day of booking to discuss the program and suggest some wonderful menu and wine options.

## HOT AIR BALLOON SAFARI

#### WITH CHAMPAGNE BREAKFAST

CAPTURE A LIFE ALTERING TIMELESS MEMORY

#### LIVE THE EXPERIENCE

- Duration: 7 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hours
- Summer times: 04h15 12h00
- Winter times: 04h30 11h30
- Price: Refer to price list

- Exclusive experience
- Minimum participants: 2
- Maximum participants: 8
- Breakfast provided

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### HOT AIR BALLOON SAFARI WITH CHAMPAGNE BREAKFAST

Fulfilling your most wonderful dream, this activity is truly spectacular and comes highly recommended.

Nothing in life that is rare and valuable comes without a little pain; consider to sleep early the night before. Wake-up call at quarter to four in the morning, for a departure at four fifteen, sharp. Glide effortlessly over the desert tracks and roads, cocooned in oversized leather seats within the Sonop luxury full-size 4WD. Be enveloped by a carefully curated classical playlist on the premium quality multi-speaker sound system. After a peaceful journey in superlative luxury arrive at the balloon launch site, where you meet your pilot who briefs you on the safety aspects pertaining to your flight.

Feel your excitement mount as you climb up and into the sturdy basket, which you into the day your balloon slips its pull of gravity and you are away, floating weightlessly upward and forward. Your pilot masterfully glides the balloon effortlessly over the dramatic desert land and dunescape. Skillfully raising and lowering the balloon to float mere meters from the sand at times and to ascend heavenward, quicker than a home-sick angel, at others... Capturing magnificent photographic memories are the order of the After safely coming to a stop, disembark taking additional photos then walk a ice-cold champagne will be served. After breakfast and receiving your Certificate of Flight, embark on your camp-bound journey within the exclusive Sonop luxury full-size 4WD.

share with seven other chosen ones and your pilot. Look heavenward and be amazed by the grand scale of the silk envelope that is filling with hot air from the burners, which your pilot deftly manipulates into roaring fire-breathing dragons. As the sun is welcomed day and you would do well to ensure you are well prepared. After being airborne for a full fourty five life-changing minutes, your pilot will prepare everyone for the landing. short distance to a long communal table where the tastiest full-English breakfast and Cold towels and refreshments will be served 'en route' as you relive the spectacle of the unique journey you have just experienced.

Please book this activity with the Reception any time before noon for the next day activity. Departure at four fifteen in the morning (precisely). Return to Sonop at midday.

### **TOUR OPTION**

#### SCENIC RETURN FLIGHT FROM SOSSUSVLEI TO SONOP

OBSERVE THE DESERT VASTNESS FROM ABOVE

#### LIVE THE EXPERIENCE

- Duration: 45 minutes
- Only available as a combination with the Sossusvlei Exclusive Safari and the Hot Air Balloon Safari.
- Price: Refer to price list
- Exclusive experience
- Minimum participants: 2
- Maximum participants: 4

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#### **TOUR OPTION** SCENIC RETURN FLIGHT FROM SOSSUSVLEI TO SONOP

Why not consider an alternative method for the return journey to Sonop? After a drive to the village of Sesriem, embark a light aircraft and experience a 30-minute spectacular scenic flight over the desert, as you return directly to the camp and land on the private Sonop airstrip.

Please book this activity with the Reception before noon the day before. This activity is only available as a combination with the Sossusvlei Exclusive safari and the Hot Air Balloon Safari.

## SOSSUSVLEI EXCLUSIVE SAFARI

WITH CHAMPAGNE BREAKFAST

EXPLORE NAMIBIA'S MOST-FAMOUS DESERT AND DUNES

#### LIVE THE EXPERIENCE

- Duration: 9 ½ hours
- Summer times: 04h30 14h00
- Winter times: 05h00 14h30
- Price: Refer to price list

- Exclusive Experience
- Minimum participants: 2
  - Maximum participants: 8
  - Breakfast provided

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### SOSSUSVLEI EXCLUSIVE SAFARI WITH CHAMPAGNE BREAKFAST

Departing camp at four thirty in the morning, to arrive at the oldest and largest sand dunes on earth within the "golden time" just after sunrise, makes the inconvenience of the early start a distant memory. As you effortlessly glide, cosseted in your leather and high-quality burled coachwork sound-attenuated interior of Sonop's exclusive luxury full-size 4WD, you have precious time to allow your thoughts, dreams and mind to wander over and within the spectacular desert landscape. Soft classical music carefully curated to set the mood, as your passage becomes more than a transfer, a complimenting highlight within your whole experience. Feel at one with the transition of light within the vista your eyes dance over. Witness the evolution from night through dawn, observe the subtle smudge of light in the East and the stars begin to blink their weary eyes before drifting into their slumber as the hint of dusty peach, pastel mauves and pinks grow stronger.

The duration of your wonderful desert voyage is soon over, as the landscape once again transforms and after a short but seamless transition, you enter the Namib Naukluft Park, home to both Sossusvlei and Deadvlei. Your breath is sure to catch as you become immersed in the beauty and enormity of the rich-red dunes, with the younger and lighter taupe-yellow coloured sand merging from their base on either side of the road. Your eyes are unable to savor the sights quickly enough, as your mind attempts to satisfy your insatiable thirst for this incomparable beauty. After a short while, your guide will come to a stop and invite you out of your comfortable carriage and you are able to stand in awe, as you face an enormous languishing ochre sand dune.

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### SOSSUSVLEI EXCLUSIVE SAFARI WITH CHAMPAGNE BREAKFAST

Serpentine lines of contrast that split light from dark. Ancient Acacia Erilobas crouch hunchbacked like wizen shaman and custodians at the feet of its master, this massive, mesmerising and seducing red dune that has long captured all your attention. After ensuring that you have sufficient hydration, sun protection and your essential camera plus extra batteries and storage, you don your backpack or sling and walking with your guide you begin your pilgrimage up the snaking razorback. Slow steady small strides are the order of the day. This is not a race but a journey of discovery, a life-enriching passage.

Stop and congratulate yourself on the progress you have made, take photos but before long your inner voice, soft at first, will beckon you upward and onward, growing too loud to ignore. As you reach the crest you might as well have summited Everest or Mont Blanc or Kilimanjaro, as the elation and euphoria course through your body, mind and spirit. Slake the vista greedily and possessively. Capture and record your moment as a significant milestone in time.

After recovery and sufficient time to pay your respects to your place within this extraordinary place, you descend the back of the dune, note how long and efficient your strides are in sharp contrast to the ascent.

#### SOSSUSVLEI EXCLUSIVE SAFARI WITH CHAMPAGNE BREAKFAST

Return to the Sonop luxury full-size 4WD and after a short journey your guide will stop in a carefully chosen spot, allowing for rest, recuperation and the natural beauty of your surrounds to continue to wash over you. A shaded shelter, table, safari chairs, linens and all the table adornments synonymous with the superior standard and level you have become accustomed to at Sonop, appear from the luxury full-size 4WD almost miraculously. Your guide has transformed into your personal Chef.

After a short while exploring your immediate surrounds and maybe capturing the moment on your camera, your Chef invites to you to sit and replenish your now growing appetite. A setting, an adventure, an experience such as this deserves to be celebrated and so an iced glass or two of Champagne adds its weight to the event.

2/2

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