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100s in captivity.

Less than 10 in the wilds of their natural habitat.

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Inspired Artists' Expedition

In Support of White Lion and Rhino conservation

Friday 26 September 2014 to Friday 03 October 2014

8-Day Itinerary

****Only 8 places available****

R19 500.00*

Join us for an excursion of a lifetime: deep into the wildlands of Venda - rhino country and enclave of the world's greatest indigenous wood sculptors - then travel south along the golden Nile Meridian to the Heartlands of White Lions, nature's *King of Kings*, and inspiration to artists around the globe.

DAY 1 (Friday 26 September 2014) – Arrival at Leshiba Wilderness, Venda

Guests will be collected at 09h00 from OR Tambo Airport, Johannesburg, for the expedition north to the magical nature reserve of Leshiba, situated on top of the Soutpansberg Mountains, Limpopo Province. This unique environment will be the setting for an enchanting, inspiring and life-enhancing journey allowing travellers to tap into their soul connection with nature, cultural mysticism and inner being through the transformative power of art.

The beautiful traditional lodge is converted from an ancient Venda village with ancestral pottery figures of ancestors presiding, designed by world-renowned Venda sculptor and medicine woman, Noria Mobasa.

Leshiba's Indigenous Knowledge Centre, situated in a paradise close to the cliff with endless views, is your inspirational home for the next three days. The camp is equipped to assist wood sculpturing. And you will be joined by leading artist and Venda elder, Avashoni Mainjanye, your guide into the world of indigenous art.

DAY 2 (Saturday 27 September 2014) – Leshiba Wilderness

Spend your day sculpting, or draw inspiration from meditative walks amongst wildlife including rhino, leopard, porcupines and pangolins; along spectacular trails through forests, across plains and down breathtaking gorges with sparkling pools, and visiting ancient rock art sites.

The guided archaeological trail at Leshiba offers an enlightening and mystical venture into the past. Leshiba has seven rock art sites where there are Bushman (San) paintings and Khoe Khoe hand and foot paintings and three sites where there is evidence of habitation. The paintings are between 200 and 2,000 years old.

Leshiba rangers have studied the subject extensively and are able to give interesting and insightful information on the lives and habits of the Bushman, including demonstrating the tradition of fire making with sticks. The walk also details the medicinal and useful plants that the Bushman and other African cultures used.

DAY 3 (Sunday 28 September 2014) – Leshiba Wilderness

An idyllic day of wood sculpting in Paradise on the top of the world.

DAY 4 (Monday 29 September 2014) – Transfer to Tsau

At dawn, we journey home with Shoni to meet with other sculptors in a rich Venda cultural tradition which includes the mysterious White Python and White crocodile, then continue south into the heart of the White Lion's Sacred Territory known as Tsau, originating from the ancient Bushman word incantation – "Starlion".

At the epicentre of the massive nature reserve region known as the Kruger to Canyon's Biosphere, in precise alignment with the great Sphinx of Giza due North, the fabled White Lions were birthed by miraculous natural occurrence. Declared a "sacred site", by African Kings for many hundreds of years, due to the mysterious occurrence of snow white lions in this region only, the name Timbavati means "the Place where the Starlions came down...."

The White Lion ancestral Heartlands is your base of inspiration for painting nature's King of Kings.

A chance to settle in prior to introduction safety and security protocols, before heading out on an open vehicle game drive to visit the Royal Prides.

Opportunity to enjoy a viewing of other artists' works from around the globe celebrating the White Lions in the African Legend Competition:
[***rhinolioncomp@gmail.com***](mailto:rhinolioncomp@gmail.com)

Traditional meal, around the fire, and story-telling under African skies.

DAY 5 (Tuesday 30 September 2014) – Tsau: White Lion Territories

After a dawn tracking session into the White Lion pridelands, a day of reflection and gentle journeying into inspirational Inner Worlds and artistic expression.

This part of the inspirational journey will be focused on capturing the essence of these luminous animals in paint.

Picnic at the Giant Wild Fig.

White Lion Meditation under the Giant Fig led by Linda Tucker takes us on a journey of illumination and empowerment, sharing White Lion techniques to help us integrate the principles and qualities of these most radiant of animals in our own lives. Tuning in to these qualities helps us to achieve greater self-fulfillment, self-healing, leadership potential and artistic expression.

Tranquil afternoon of painting, before heading out to track the royal prides at sunset.

After dinner screening of National Geographic documentary

DAY 6 (Wednesday 01 October 2014)

Dawn excursion to the Royals, and a full day of expanding your artistic horizons surrounded by nature's creative bounty.

At sunset, the artists take a picturesque excursion into the culture of the Tsonga people, joining Chief Harmony Khosa (principal guide) and Matimba (his brother); nephews of Maria Khosa, Lion Queen of the Timbavati; for a visit of their ancestral home. Enjoy a delicious traditional dinner, with warrior dancing around the fire drumming up the excitement of the heart and soul of Africa in the presence of the Ancestors of these sacred lands. **A nominal charge of R250 per guest is payable direct to the village to cover their costs.** *The Global White Lion Protection Trust will gladly add this charge to your donation breakdown and make payment on your behalf to the Village.*

Take advantage of a rare opportunity for authentic bone divination given by the traditional healers of the Khosa village. We suggest that R300 is a generous donation to the medicine woman, plus R150 to the interpreter.

DAY 7 (Thursday 02 October 2014) – Silent Retreat into inner worlds and creative landscapes

Day of Silent meditation, thanksgiving for the White Lions and enlightened knowledge from the Star beings, integrating the United Spirit across time, continents and species.

All day painting in silence.

Today starts with a journey to the Royal Prides in tranquility and deep silence, and ends at sunset with a journey to the site of the Crystal Star Lion monolith aligned with the Great

Sphinx of Giza, where Linda Tucker shares some background in the profound mystery that links the White Lions and ancient Egyptian mythology.

Evening farewells with the Royal Prides.

DAY 8 (Friday 03 October 2014, Departure)

After breakfast the journey ends with a session on how to integrate the experiences of the past few days here at Tsau with your everyday lives back home. Before last goodbyes are said, the group rounds up for a ceremony of thanksgiving. You are able to depart on your onward journey knowing that you have reestablished your soul connection with Mother Nature and that you carry the force of the Rhino and Spirit of the Sacred White Lions of Timbavati with you always.

Transport to Eastgate airport for your selection of flight or shuttle back home.

Price Includes

Transport from Johannesburg to Lesiba, and on to Tsau and return to Hoedspruit Airport. All accommodation on a per person sharing basis (single occupancy rates available on request)

All meals

All excursions

Wood for sculpting

Dusk and Dawn Lion Patrols whilst at Tsau

Price Excludes

Return travel from Hoedspruit Airport

All artists materials including wood sculpting tools, paint brushes, paints, canvas etc

***** Please note *****

- *14% VAT excluded [exception for South African artisans]*
- *This itinerary is not set in stone, and may change depending on the weather, the people and most important of all, the animals.*
- *This unique White Lion monitoring experience is not open to the public and is offered as an authentic eco-educational and inspirational opportunity.*
- *Please observe that there are strict safety and security protocols in respect of the reintroduction of the White Lions. Our scientific monitoring vehicles do not intrude on the White Lions' space, and we ensure that we keep our voices as low as possible when approaching them in the wild. The contact with the White Lions is a non-photographic experience and we avoid taking cameras, zooms or spotlights and other hi-tec devices into their environment and instead enter into the magic of their natural existence and share its timeless beauty.*

- *Magnificent photographic studies of the White Lions and other mementos are available. 100% of proceeds go directly to the protection of the White Lions in their natural habitat.*