Destination: Angola
Tour: ANGOLA Battlefields: Winds of Change over Africa
Date: 16 - 31 May 2011

Background:
Angola is a beautiful country with a war torn history. This tour will reflect the wonderful scenery, which is in stark contrast to the skeleton remainders of war that dots the countryside. The route will take you through various vegetation zones, landscapes and battle sites of various stages of the war.

On 14 October 1975 Task Force Zulu (South African Defense Force) crossed the border into Angola in what became known as Operation Savannah. This was the first large scale cross border operation of the “Bush War” and can be seen as the commencement of the so-called “War for Africa”.

This conflict ended with a showdown between the forces during 1987 and 1988 around the town of Cuito Cuanavale, which led to the independence of Namibia. However, the Civil War in Angola continued until April 2002 when a ceasefire agreement was signed.

The intention of the tour is not to justify the war, or project it in a one-sided light. We want to project a balanced view of the events in Angola, highlight the beauty and potential of the country and its people and make a positive contribution to economic development. Don’t miss this departure date!
### Our Experts:

**Brig-Genl. Dick Lord, South African Air Force:**
He has enjoyed a long and interesting career in military flying. Although a South African, he flew off aircraft carriers in the Royal Navy for 12 years, which included a 2 year tour operating with the US Navy, flying Phantoms out of NAS Miramar, the base featured in the Tom Cruise film Top Gun. Returning to the SAAF, he was appointed commander of the SAAF’s fighter school at AFB Pietersburg. He then led 1 Squadron flying Mirage F1AZ fighter-bombers during operations in Angola, before being appointed as SAAF operational commander in Oshakati, effectively running the air war.

**Lt-Col Eduardo Gonzáles Sarria, Cuban Air Force (Rtd):**
He recently retired after a long and distinguished career in the Cuban Air Force. This included 6 years of test flying and 26 years flying MiG-21 and MiG-23 fighters. His career included three operational tours in Angola during the Border War. During his first tour in 1976, he flew MiG-21s. During 1985/86, he was the MiG-23 squadron commander flying out of Lubango. In the 7-month long conventional battle around Cuito Cuanavale in 1987/88 he was an inspector of the Cuban Air Force tasked with ensuring the integration of all the involved forces. Ed has a first-hand knowledge of military tactics, politics and the involvement of the Cubans and Russians in Angola.

*It was the love of books and military history that brought Ed and Dick into email contact. During his research, Ed discovered Vlamagt, a book on the Mirage F1 written by Dick. One thing led to another and finally the two men established contact, which has led to a flood of email traffic between Havana and Somerset West and a mutual respect between former adversaries. They will meet in person on the battlefields of Angola during the Live the Journey tour in May 2011.*

### Previous Experts:
- 2007 – Genl André Bestbier
- 2008 – Genl Gert Nel
- 2009 – Col Jan Breytenbach
- 2007 – 2009: Jaou Nambalo (MPLA Forces)

### Our clients our ambassadors:

“*You have put on a wonderfully relaxing and enjoyable expedition – one that allows the individual to soak up all the many experiences of Angola, but without any of the hassle. Those experiences are without doubt some of the most extraordinary you’ll have anywhere on the planet.*”  
*Richard Washington, Oxford, UK – May 2009*

“*Ek wil julle gelukwens met die hele ekspedisie. Ek het al vergeet hoe pragtig Angola is en nou weer bevestig dat dit eintlik ’n hoë klas destinasie behoort te wees. Baie dankie.*”  
*Kol Jan Breytenbach.*

### Itinerary:

*This tour is going to be an expedition. The itinerary serves as an indication of the route, but due to road conditions and unforeseen circumstances, the day-to-day programme may be adjusted. Due to practicalities the route does not follow the timeline of the War.*
Day 0: 16 May 2011  Rendezvouz
Plan your travels to arrive by 17:00 latest at the Ombalunto campsite near Outapi (halfway between Oshakati and Ruacana). We suggest you try to arrive earlier to visit the newly opened Outapi War Museum. The Outapi War Museum is the initiative of Krisma Trading Enterprise, which has restored the decaying remains of the underground bunker that was used as the headquarters of the former South African military base in Outapi. Set-up camp and get acquainted with the guides and other tour members over dinner around the camp fire.
O/N Camp (dinner)

Day 1: 17 May 2011  Border crossing – Ruacana
Outapi – Ruacana – bush camp in Angola: travel distance: 150 kms
Breakfast and early start for the border crossing at the Ruacana border post. En route we will stop to see the Ruacana Waterfall. When in full flood the waterfall is 120 meters high and 700 meters wide.
Set-up a bush camp about 70 km north of the border.
O/N Bush Camp (dinner)

Day 2: 18 May 2011  Xangongo - Ondjiva
Naullia – Xangongo – Mongau – Ondjiva: travel distance: 255 kms
Depart for Naullia and visit the Portuguese monument. Then we head for Xangongo and will stop to take a look at the old and new bridge as well as an armour vehicle graveyard. During August 1981 Ops Protea was launched on Xangongo and Ondjiva (Pereira de Eca) to destroy the SWAPO forward bases.
Our journey continues to Mongua and then Ondjiva passing a couple of T55 tanks and BRDM’s along the way.
O/N Bush Camp (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
Not facilities ~ camp shower and toilet

Day 3 –6: 19 - 22 May 2011  Ondjiva – Menongue - Cuito
Ondjiva – Cassinga – Menongue – Cuito - Chitembo: travel distance: 1 025 km
Depart from Ondjiva and experience first hand Angolan road conditions as we proceed tiresome north. Stop in Mupa for a visit to a missionary church and school. Further north is a mass grave for civilian and government personnel who lost their lives in a landmine explosion.

Continue to Cuvelai the operational theatre for Ops Meebos, July 1982. Driving north from Cuvelai we pass through Tetchamutete where we stop at a Cuban mass grave. Tetchamutete was the site of Angola’s most productive iron mines.

Proceed to Cassinga the main target of Operation Reindeer (4 May 1978). From Cassinga the route goes via Jamba and Cuvango to Menongue. En route you will see the Swapo base that was the target of Ops Firewood.

Proceed through Menongue (Serpa Pinto) to Cuito Cuanavale.

During 1987 the MPLA/Cuban concentration in Cuito Cuanavale became a thread to UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, founded in 1966) who had a stronghold at Mavinga. UNITA approached the SADF for assistance, which resulted in Ops Modular (Sept 1987) followed by Ops Hooper, Packer and Displace in 1988.

The above operations took place south of Cuito. This area is not accessible. During Ops Modular it was the first time SA tanks were deployed in battle since WOII. It was also during this operation that a fully intact SAM8 missile was captured.

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From Cuito we backtrack back to Menongue and then head for Chitembo.

O/N: Bush Camps (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
No facilities – camp shower and toilet

Day 7 - 8: 23 – 24 May 2011    Chitembo - Lobito
Chitembo – Huambo (Nova Lisboa) – Lobito: travel distance: 470 km
Huambo is the main town of inland Angola with an approximate population of 203 000. The town served as a road, rail and air hub for the rich agricultural region. From the town grain, rice, hides, skins and fruit were exported. During the civil war the economy was devastated.

Visit a memorial situated on a hill from where you will have a beautiful view of the area. The journey continues via Alto Hama in a western direction towards the coast. Stop at a graveyard with very unique tombstones in the form of aircraft. At Mombolo we will stop to visit the graves of some Dorsland Trekkers.

There is an army base north of Lobito, which we will visit.

Lobito was an important harbour town as it was tied to the Benguela railway line. It was also a major holiday town and before fleeing it housed the largest concentration of well-to-do Portuguese families. The town was also famous for its festivals and carnivals.

Then we drive south along the coast and visit Fort Catumbela, some old train steam engines and take a look at all the shipwrecks.

O/N: Bush Camps (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
No facilities – camp shower and toilet

Day 9 - 10: 25 – 26 May 2011    Dombe Grande - Namibe
Lobito – Namibe: travel distance 395 kms
From Lobito we continue further south following the coastline driving via Benguela, the notorious Dombe Grande and Lucira until we reach Namibe formerly known as Mocamedes. The beauty and prosperity of yester-years is still very much visible in Namibe.

En route we will stop at an old sugarcane factory as well as some graves.

The harbour of Mocamedes was a strategic port for the MPLA. From this harbour T-55 battle tanks, PT-76 amphibious tanks, BTR-60 armoured personnel carriers, all of Soviet origin, was airlifted to inland centres such as Menongue and Cuito Cuanavale. It was also in Porto Namibe that Special Force frogmen sank one Soviet ship, badly damaged two others carrying weaponry and blew up oil storage tanks.

O/N Bush Camp (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
Namibe – Lubango: travel distance: 720 kms
Visit the Yuri Gagarin Memorial at the Namibe Airport. South of Namibe we visit the Bentiago Prison. We drive further into the desert to visit a number of amazing sites: an army base, Lake Arco, the Helmet Memorial and the Rocha viewpoint.

Lubango was the main commercial centre of southern Angola and the capital of the Huila Province. Overlooking the city is Monte Christo with the towering statue of Christ, a replica of the one in Rio de Janeiro.

Sightseeing in Lubango will include a drive to Humpata to see the monument that was erected to commemorate the Dorsland Trekkers as well as some of the graves. Also drive the magnificent Leba Pass with its waterfall and cantilevered hairpin bends. The road ascend from the coastal plain to an altitude of over 6 000 feet in just a few kilometres.

O/N Bush Camp (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
No facilities – camp shower

Day 14 – 15: 30 – 31 May 2011 Return to Namibia
Lubango – Border: 420 kms
Head back to the border via Cahama and enter Namibia. Our progress will be slow due to bad road conditions.

After crossing the border we will spend our last night together before it is time for sad farewells the morning of 31 May. You will be responsible for your own travel arrangements from there onwards.

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| **Rate** | group of 18 people: R15 800.00 per person  
*The tour cost will increase if the group size is less than 18 people* |
| **Date** | : 16 - 31 May 2011  
*This tour will proceed irrespective if travel documentation for Lt-Col Eduardo Gonzáles Sarria is successfully obtained* |
| **Included** | dinner daily, tea/coffee and rusks in the morning, experienced guides with own vehicle, tour leader, two way radio’s for vehicles, camping fees, concession fees, knowlegeable persons on Border War |
| **Excluded** | brunch, transport, fuel, camping gear, visa, travel insurance and vehicle insurance, drinks, cross border taxes and things of a personal nature. |
**Note**: To optimise your experience the number of participants will be limited. Bookings are essential.

For bookings: contact Live the Journey at tel 021 912 4090 or e-mail info@livethejourney.co.za

*Deadline for bookings are 01 February 2011*

**Special NOTE**: Live the Journey will assist with the organising of invitation letters that are required for visa applications, but each person will have to take responsibility for the visa application.

*Safety of passengers and vehicles receive priority. We will be travelling on routes that were swept by humanitarian operations.*