

# Safaris with a select touch



In the words of visiting Australian Travel Editor Steven Scourfield: Greg Garson is one of life's more fortunate souls. One day he could be in the visually spectacular uKhahlamba Drakensberg Mountains with its massive basaltic ceiling and the soaring sandstone buttresses holding stunning galleries of rock paintings that date back over 6000 years. Another day, he could be drenched in military history as he moves deep into Zululand providing spine chilling re-enactments of the Anglo Zulu War of 1879. And then, on another, in a wildlife treasure trove of innumerable mammals, reptiles and birdlife.

Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho and Mozambique are all part of Greg's stomping grounds.

Greg Garson is a highly respected, nationally accredited tour operator and nationally licensed touring guide. From the Free State to the Cape, Gauteng to the Northern Cape, Mpumalanga and Limpopo, Greg has followed the hippo, rhino and elephant game trails and paths that were to be beaten hard by countless thousands of tribesmen, warriors, traders, missionaries, soldiers and settlers.

He has worked with numerous academics, film crews and anthropological experts yet loves nothing more than guiding a young family or physically challenged individual through this land that he loves, and introducing them to the local people whom he respects and admires so much. He has collaborated with the BBC and Discovery Channel and various media.

Scourfield states: ... I am conscious that I had Greg Garson with me, of course – a local who knows how the place works... there is the enormity of the experience, the personal and excellent guiding by Greg, a passionate and knowledgeable South African with a real thirst for the African continent. He gives an engaging and personal insight... Greg is a local who truly knows his way around ... ”

As a national South African Guide, Greg is licensed to guide throughout South Africa. His more specific, niche market specialties are Zulu history and culture, with a particular leaning towards traditional healers, Bushman stone age rock painting, the Anglo Zulu War of 1879, the Anglo Boer War (1899-1902) and of course, the prolific mammal and birdlife of the sub-region. As an accomplished speaker and presenter, Greg is regularly requested to present the face of South Africa, its volatile past, kaleidoscopic cultures and the contemporary re-construction of this enigmatic yet beautiful land and people.

Greg directs his offerings to the discerning visitor with an ethos that reflects a standard that meets and exceeds the needs, wants and desires of the visitor to Greg's South Africa.

Garsons Expeditions has brought together the best in journeys and safaris that southern Africa has to offer. These expeditions are run on a private, exclusive basis, with leading guides. If special-interest groups want academic input, botanists, anthropologists and archaeologists may be

included. The journeys are tailor-made to each client's needs.

Principal and highly regarded guide Greg Garson says: "We have a wildlife component where we host and guide our guests on unique private safaris with walking trails, game drives and night drives included, ensuring stimulating and vibrant encounters. Our excursions are planned according to game movements, with exclusive use of open game vehicles.

"Significant elements of our journeys encompass southern Africa's tribal people, their cultures and history. We interact with the proud Zulu, the hardy Sotho tribesman in his mountain vastness of Lesotho, which we access via the dramatic and stunning Sani Pass, and admire Stone Age rock paintings of the San Bushman. Tribal art, vibrant ceremonies and the dramatic Anglo-Zulu battlefields are experienced.

"My objective is to provide guests with detailed and interesting itineraries that reflect, wherever possible, what their desires are rather than set tours. If there is a Zulu ceremony taking place at the time of our journey, this will be offered to our guests, as I am often at ceremonies which are strictly invitation-only and off the tourist trail. "I am in a fairly privileged position with regard to the Zulu friend I have who would invite me and my guests to what is a private ceremony."

As a national operator Garson is able to host guests throughout southern Africa, including Cape Town and the popular Garden Route.

To travel anywhere in South Africa, with Greg Garson, call Garsons Expeditions at 027 (0)31 561 1314 or email at [infol@garsons.co.za](mailto:infol@garsons.co.za). For South African Airlines flights, contact [www.flysaa.com](http://www.flysaa.com)