

Resume ~ Curriculum Vitae

Full Name: Vernon Stephan Swanepoel

Table of Contents

- [1 Career Objectives](#)
- [2 Personal Details](#)
- [3 Primary School](#)
- [4 High School](#)
- [5 University](#)
- [6 Technikon](#)
- [7 Other Training](#)
- [8 Work Experience](#)
- [9 Family](#)
- [10 Interests](#)

1 Career Objectives

Build my company, Frantic Naturalist Tours & Safaris cc and do interesting things.

2 Personal Details

- Cellphone: +264 81 2031334
- Personal Email: vernon@sandcurves.com
- Business Email: vernon@see-namibia.com
- Twitter: [Twitter](#)
- Personal Website: [Sandcurves](#)
- Frantic Naturalist Tours and Safaris cc websites:
 - [Frantic Naturalist](#)
 - [See Namibia](#)
- African Bush Stories Blog:
 - [Random African Bush Stories](#)
- Date of Birth: 1972-07-05 Wed
- Nationality: South African
- Nationality of primary passport: British
- Languages: English (passable Afrikaans and a little Swahili)
- Post Box 86554, Eros, Windhoek, Namibia
- Country of residence: Namibia

3 Primary School

- 1978 Riviera Laerskool (Pretoria, South Africa) in Afrikaans

- 1978 Richard's Bay Primary School (Richard's Bay, South Africa) in Afrikaans
- 1979-1980 Durban North Primary School (Durban, South Africa) in Afrikaans
- 1980-1983 Correspondence (Kenya) switched to English, British System
- 1983-1986 [St. Andrews](#) (Turi, Kenya) British System
- Primary School Achievements: School Prefect Boy Scouts Patrol leader
- Primary School Interests Programming with BASIC I started getting interested in running

4 High School

- 1986-1992 [Rift Valley Academy](#) (Kijabe, Kenya) American System
- Schooling I excelled in mathematics I really enjoyed Biology and developed a serious interest in nature
- Sport Rugby for six years
- Activities School yearbook staff for one year Involvement in a community project A great deal of hiking and time spent with friends out in nature. We were in a special area, on the Rift Valley Escarpment

I was a serious fitness fanatic in high school, which I still maintain (to a lesser extent) today I did a tour with [Game Tracker Safaris](#) and [Best Camping Safaris](#) while at school I did a lot of touring with friends, by car, motorbike and even sometimes on foot, in Kenya. My parents worked in Northern Kenya where I had an amazing upbringing, spending a lot of time in nature.

5 University

- 1993 [Rhodes University](#), Grahamstown, South Africa (BA HMS, first year)
- Reason for leaving - I had a growing interest in Nature Conservation

6 Technikon

- 1995-1997 [Port Elizabeth Technikon, Saasveld Campus](#), George, South Africa (National Diploma in Nature Conservation)

7 Other Training

- Inkwazi Ranger Training I did six weeks inhouse guide training with CCAfrica (now [&beyond](#)) at [Phinda Private Game Reserve](#) in 2010. This training included all aspects of lodge guiding, covering vehicles, presentation skills, walking and game drives, first aid, rifle handling (using .375 rifles), guest hosting and dealing with high profile game.
- [Nath \(Namibian Academy for Tourism and Hospitality\)](#)
 - Ornithology
 - A short course covering various aspects of birds and birding in Namibia (poorly named 'Ornithology').
- First Aid
 - I have kept my Level 1 First Aid current, and most recently also did it with Nath (November 2009).

8 Work Experience

- May 2010 to present: Owner/manager of Frantic Naturalist Tours and Safaris CC.
 - Currently we are operating purely as a booking agent for tourists who wish to do self-drive or fly around tours in Namibia.
 - We also operate the website [See Namibia](#) as an information portal about Namibia.
- July 2008 - May 2010: Freelance Tour Guide & Web design
 - I did a variety of tours around Namibia, including a few jobs with birding tours.
 - I worked on various websites, and learned to use PHP and Django along with other website tools.
- January 2004 - June 2008: [Sossusvlei Mountain Lodge \(now Sossusvlei Desert Lodge\)](#), CCAfrica (now &beyond)
 - I worked as a guide, head ranger (head guide in &beyond parlance) and assistant manager.
 - During that time the lodge was very highly rated, and remained the top lodge for Namibia on [Tripadvisor.com](#)
 - I contributed a number of sightings for the website [Wildwatch.com](#), which got me interested in blogging.
- November 2002 - December 2003: CCAfrica Expeditions, Windhoek, Namibia (Operations Manager).
 - I worked with all aspects of running a rather complex operation of up-market camping tours.
- December 2000 - November 2002: Sossusvlei Mountain Lodge, CCAfrica, Namibia, Head Ranger
 - I did guiding and managed the guides at Sossusvlei Mountain Lodge.
- May 2000 - November 2000: Afro Ventures, Swakopmund, Namibia, Quality Controller.
 - This involved all aspects of getting tours on the road, mostly dealing with equipment and vehicles.
 - I was also very involved with large event set-ups in the desert and on the beach.
 - I carried on guiding while doing this job, mostly day tours in Swakopmund and the surrounding area.
- February 1998 - February 2000: Afro Ventures, Tour guide.
 - I did mostly camping tours, but also a few lodge trips as well.
- January 1997 - July 1997: [Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology](#), University of Cape Town, South Africa.
 - This work was part of my in-service training for a diploma in Nature Conservation from Saasveld.
 - We worked on a number of aspects of Ornithology, including starting a project studying basic breeding biology of Red-winged Starlings.
 - We also worked in a vegetation project in the Karoo, looking at ecosystem dynamics in that system.
 - We also set up a display on seed-dispersal at a Museum in Prince Alfred, South Africa.
- July 1995 - December 1995: [Addo Elephant National Park](#), South Africa
 - I worked as a student conservator at Addo, mainly working at Zuurberg (north of the main park). I was involved in all aspects of conservation in the park, as per my diploma in-service training requirements.
 - I had a great opportunity to learn about Hippo management, as there were constant problems with hippos in the Sunday's river. A great deal of my time was spend with an operation to capture the hippos that had escaped the park and return them.
- Various other odd jobs: Managing a nursery, selling compost, delivering pizza and running a donut shop.
- In 1992 I finished high school and had a few months to kill before the academic year would start in South Africa. I worked with my parents in Northern Kenya, helping them with building of a literacy

center, laying out a new school, assisting with medical emergency trips and all sorts of other related things. They worked (and still do) with the Rendile in Northern Kenya.

- I did the same kind of work during my holidays throughout my childhood.

9 Family

- I have a wife and two young boys and live in Windhoek, Namibia with them. The main reason for running my company as a booking agent at the moment is to have the opportunity to spend more time with my wife and boys.

10 Interests

- Nature
 - I have a strong general interest in the natural world. A number of factors have contributed to this interest, including having grown up in the wilds of Northern Kenya, schooled on the Rift Valley escarpment, studying nature conservation and my work as a guide.
 - I have a specific interest in birds and birding.
 - I also have a strong interest in aridity and arid area ecology.
- Computers
 - My interest in computers also goes back to my childhood, though I had many years without access to computers.
 - I run Linux and I am interested in the open source movement.
 - I have an interest in programming, and especially enjoy working with Python. I have learned a little of a number of languages, including C, C++, PHP, JavaScript and Emacs Lisp. I plan to keep learning more in the future.
 - I have developed an interest in web-development, and currently mainly use Django web framework.
 - Most of my time on a computer is spent with Emacs (including writing this CV.) I use Emacs org-mode for my planning work, and also use it for writing blog posts.
- Fitness
 - I work out regularly, not only for maintaining fitness, but also just for fun.
 - My main interest is in strength training.
- I have an interest in flying, and would love to one day pursue it further.

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