

+ PRESENTATION

Sumey Did you hear that? We have the Lion's Share.
Hi, I am Sumey.

Leandra And I am Leandra.

Sumey In case you wondered, we are Nama ladies, and
this is a "voorskoot" and this is a "kappie".

Leandra And I am wearing a "kopdoek".
In our country the history of the Nama people and
their culture has left a deep imprint on South
Africa's heritage.

Sumey But we'll tell you about this a little later.

Leandra In South Africa we have the Lion's Share of both
natural **and** cultural heritage.

On the third of Dec 1999, South Africa was
granted the first of its three Word Heritage Sites:

Sumey These are, The Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park.

Leandra Robben Island, near Cape Town.

Sumey And the fossil hominid sites at Sterkfontein,
Swartkrans and Kromdraai, known as the Cradle of
Humankind.

- Leandra The Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park is the largest estuarine system in the Southern hemisphere and includes coral reefs, wide submarine canyons, sandy beaches, dune forests, lakes and savannah. It is situated along the North-Eastern Coast of Kwa-Zulu Natal and stretches up from the Mozambique border in the North for more than 220km southwards.
- Sumey Robben Island's history was immortalised by the suffering and endurance of Nelson Mandela, the World's most famous political prisoner and statesman. The Island has come to symbolize the triumph of the human spirit over hardship and adversity. It is located off Table Bay, 9.3 nautical miles north of Cape Town.
- Leandra The fossil hominid sites of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans and Kromdraai, located west of Johannesburg, contain some of the most extensive and valuable evidence in the world on the origins of humans. The findings made there, confirm that Southern Africa is where humans **first evolved**, which is why this site has been called the "Cradle of Humankind".
- Sumey A tentative list of a further **18** potential World Heritage Sites has been earmarked for development. These include: *Mapungubwe in the Limpopo province, *the Maloti / Drakensberg Park, *the Cape Floristic Region, *Kruger National Park and *Tswaing Crater in Gauteng.
- Leandra UNESCO officials identified the Drakensberg Park (Also known as Ukaglamba) as South Africa's next **World Heritage Site**.
- Sumey South Africa, along with neighbouring Southern African countries, is a world leader in involving communities in conservations and tourism.

Leandra Even so, Sumey, there is still a great shortage of skills and knowledge in some communities on how to manage and how to reap the benefits, which are so needed in this impoverished community, from the natural and cultural resources.

Sumey That is true, Leandra. Your statement immediately reminds me of that quaint mission village, in the Northern Cape Province, called Pella.

Leandra This tiny settlement dates back to 1814 when the London Missionary Society founded a sanctuary for people driven out of Namibia.

Sumey During our research of the heritage tourism potential at Pella, we came across a very unique, interesting and irreplaceable group of people whose 2000-year existence has left a deep imprint on South Africa's heritage. Ladies and gentlemen, may I introduce Pella's People...a vanishing culture!

Leandra We discovered this unspoiled gem in the outback of the Northern Cape Province and immediately recognized the huge heritage tourism potential of this unique village and its even more unique people; the Nama. The Nama are the only descendants of the Khoikhoi tribe who originally lived in Namibia. Their ancestors were driven out of Namibia because of a devastating war between the Germans and local tribes in the late 1800's.

Sumey The extreme suffering and the genocide against the Nama, forced a small group of Nama to flee to South Africa and they were given shelter by the missionaries at Pella. Numbering approximately 17 000, the Nama consist of 12 tribes or groups.

The portable Mat-house was an essential part of Nama material culture. It is a unique form of vernacular architecture in Southern Africa.

Leandra

It is a semi-permanent shelter. A tent that is almost a house, because its portable structure could be put up or taken down quickly. It was ideally suited to a nomadic way of life. The components of the mat-house; a framework of light poles and a covering of sedge mats could easily be loaded onto the backs of pack oxen when transported. This mat-house has clever design features:

Sumey

1. Maximum volume with minimum surface area.
2. No need for other support material.
3. Its interior has a spacious feeling.
4. Atmospheric conditions can be regulated. In hot weather, air passes through the mats to cool down the house. In rainy weather, the sedge expands to form a watertight roof.

Two mat doors can be rolled up to increase ventilation. Only a small number of Nama still use the Nama hut today, but fortunately many of the modern Nama regard it as an important part of their cultural heritage.

Leandra

A remarkably far-sighted entrepreneur, Mrs Christina Jannetjies, fondly known as "Ouma Toekoes", created the perfect out-of-the-ordinary accommodation experience by building four exact replicas of the traditional Nama hut. This could become one of Pella's major tourist attractions, because tourist can only here, experience a night in a traditional Nama hut in this isolated part of South Africa. She is presently developing a traditional Nama hut, without the modern amenities.

Sumey

In this hut tourist will have to make do with a leathery animal skin on the floor, "meelsak" pillows and a number of sheepskin covers. Reading will have to be done by the romantic light of a traditional "vetkers".

The Nama language is unrelated to any other African language. A very small number of people still speak this language and the parents have stopped transmitting it to their children, because they feel that their Mother tongue no longer serves a useful function. It is often referred to as a click language, because many of the words are pronounced with unusual clicking sounds. The written language is characterized by the use of many unusual symbols, each representing a different click or hissing sound.

While we were doing research in Pella, Leandra picked up a few Nama phrases.

Leandra please say something in Nama?

Leandra

No, I don't want to.

Sumey

I'm sure everybody would like to hear something, come on!

Leandra

Very well, I'll try. **(PRAAT NAMA)**

Sumey

Remember we told you we will be coming back to the "kappie", the "voorskoot" and "kopdoek"?

Leandra

In the heat of the African sun, Nama women wear long, flowing Victorian gowns and large headdresses or "kappies".

Sumey

(HAAL KAPPIE AF) This is quite a clever design. Note the ventilation holes at the top, the wide brim to protect the face against the sun and the flap at the back to protect the neck.

Leandra

The apron (or "voorskoot" as it is known) serves to protect the dress whilst preparing food. The missionaries introduced this style of dress in the 1800's and their influence is still a part of the Nama culture today.

Sumey The traditional Nama does most of their cooking on an open fire in an ash bush shelter. Ash bush is collected from the veld and stacked in a semi-circle. Wooden poles, planted at regular intervals, support it. The Ash bush is very versatile. The Nama uses it to make soap, shampoos, brooms, medicine, body lotion, fire wood and also for shelter.

Leandra Each Nama tribe has its own pantry of preferred foods. Their staple food is Mahango, a cornmeal porridge also for preparing a soup and is typically eaten with goat, lamb or beef stew. The spiky !nara melon made human existence possible in the desert regions. German cuisine also had an influence on the eating habits of the Nama. A good example of this would be the farmer sausage, cakes and cold cuts. When we visited them somebody ate a sheep's head and I still can't get the picture of the sheep's head out of my head.
Sumey, did you sample some of their traditional brews?

Sumey YES!! Do you remember the Walende?

Leandra Wasn't that the distilled palm spirit that tasted like vodka?

Sumey Yes, I personally prefer the Mataku or Watermelon wine. Remember we had that at Ouma Toekoes' Kultur Koffiekroeg.

Leandra I believe that is what gave us the courage to join in the Nama dances. But we'll come back to that one later.

Sumey The Pella village, which originated as a mission station, offers tourists a look at a bygone era.

It was founded 61 years ago, the Roman Catholic Cathedral was build by Father Simon and Father Wolf with only the aid of a picture from an encyclopaedia; it took them 7 years to complete.

Leandra

Church services are still conducted daily by an American Bishop, Father Harvey, assisted by Sister Theresa-Henriette and two other nuns. The Roman Catholic Cathedral at Pella is the only Roman Catholic Church in the world, where all the services are conducted in Afrikaans. (One of the 11 official languages of South Africa)

Sumey

During World War I the church hall at the mission station was used as a hospital, where many injured German soldiers were treated. The first date seeds, germinated at Pella, were found in the ration packs of the German soldiers. Today Pella and surrounding areas have the largest date plantations in the Southern hemisphere, a source of income for the church and the local community.

Leandra

Less then 30km west of Pella lies the well-developed scenic Klein Pella guest Farm. Klein Pella has the largest date farm in the Southern hemisphere and has 13 900 date palms. Klein Pella is a popular fully developed tourist destination, managed by Khaki and Glenda Goosen. Glenda arranges guided tours to the nearby Date Processing Plant where tourists can experience the picking, packing and processing of dates also known as Sweets of the Desert. Klein Pella boasts a wide variety of activities such as:

Sumey

Abseiling

Leandra

River Rafting

Sumey

4x4 Routes

Leandra	Horse Riding
Sumey	Hiking
Leandra	Fishing
Sumey	Bird watching
Leandra	Biking
Sumey	Rock Climbing
Leandra	A Gem Stone Route
Sumey	Camping Facilities
Leandra	And the world famous Quiver Tree and Half-mens tree.
Sumey	The spacious guest House consists of 7 tastefully decorated bedrooms, two dining rooms, a T.V lounge, conference room, a sparkling pool and shaded parking.(which is important in temperature of above 40°C in summer)
Leandra	Klein Pella, Pella village and its people offer a wealth of natural and cultural heritage and with the uniqueness, skills and capability of the Nama people, it can easily become one of the prime heritage tourism destinations in South Africa. We must however ensure that Pella's people do not become a vanishing culture.
	(ON SCREEN: WE'RE NOT FINISHED YET! CAN ANYONE OF YOU TELL US WHAT WE PROMISED TO GO BACK TO?)
Sumey	We promised to show you the traditional Nama dance called the Nama stap.