

ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

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BOTSWANA
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GENERAL UPDATES

Desert & Delta Safaris is launching its new Tsodilo Hills Sleep-Out Camp, which accommodates guests in three twin/double pods (two adults per pod maximum) and one family dwelling with two pods, accommodating up to two adults and two children (under 16 years old). The maximum capacity is eight adults and two children. The sleep-out is available for bookings staying three nights or more at Nxamaseri Island Lodge (subject to availability).

FIRST-HAND FEEDBACK

Tanya Karovsky, Jacqueline Cranko, Paul Rikhotso and George Karanga recently visited Botswana and had the chance to stay at Natural Selection's Duke's Camp, and here is what they experienced.

This was our first stop in the Delta, and flying over the dry semi-desert that changes into the water channels of the Delta was spectacular.

After being collected at the airstrip, we were looked after very well, with a comfortable drive in a new vehicle that had padding, cup holders and charging points. First impressions were very good, and our guide was extremely calm and very welcoming. Arriving at camp we noticed that there was a discreet electrical fence and found out this was due to the hippos that lived around the property. This camp is on ground level and not on raised walkways.

We had a very warm welcome and were taken into the main tent area where we sat in the tea room for our briefing, and were fed lots of lovely home-baked goodies with tea and coffee. It felt like we were transported back in time to the 1940s East African safari era. The tent and all the décor were collected by the owner from East Africa and Morocco and the Far East. It is a very eclectic collection that has been lovingly curated and placed in the camp.

The rooms are tented, placed on top of a wooden deck with views over the water. The tented accommodation allows immersion in nature, inviting in the scents and tranquil sounds of the bush. Hippos are neighbours, and can be heard chomping in the evening when they come out of the water to feed.

We were very impressed with the water saving efforts as there is a bucket in the shower to catch the cold water before it gets warm. This is used to clean the rooms, so there is very little water waste. Everything is run on solar, and we all received our own reusable water bottles.

The highlight of the stay was a trip out on the boat for the day, seeing huge crocs and old bull elephants standing in the water eating the soft papyrus grass. We passed hippos and spotted a large variety of birds; too many to

count! We ended off the trip with a very special evening learning all about the Delta, at a drinks station set up at sunset on the riverbank whilst sitting around a fire.

The staff were outstanding, warm and friendly. They really made us feel special and looked after.

