

ASSOCIATED PRODUCT


FIRST-HAND FEEDBACK

[Botswana](#) | [Namibia](#) | [South Africa](#) | [Tanzania](#) | [Uganda](#)

May 2025

BOTSWANA

Destination:	Karangoma Camp, Okavango Delta (Wild Expeditions)
Participants:	Kim Meecham
Suits which type of traveller:	Adventure/Classic camp traveller
Recommended activities:	<p>Mokoro when water levels allow</p> <p>Boat cruises when water level allows</p> <p>Walking – again, when seasons allow</p> <p>Morning and afternoon game drives</p>
Cuisine:	Each dish was a delightful blend of simplicity and taste that left a lasting impression.
Highlights during visit/stay:	<p>Helicopter transfers to/from Vumbura Airstrip</p> <p>This will be a good starter camp – clean lines with adequate amenities. Décor is based on the baskets designs from the local villages. The staff are wonderful, their genuine kindness and attentiveness truly shine, making the experience all the more welcoming.</p> <p>What was great to see was the growth available to the local villagers working with CLAWS (Communities Living Among Wildlife Sustainably) – case in point Mosomela was part of the construction team. Owners saw his potential and he is now employed full time as a training tracker due to his skill level as a villager who once poached; he is now a conduit to the local villages.</p> <p>Legendary guides, with many years of experience and a wealth of knowledge when engaging.</p>

Caveats:	This will be a seasonal camp where only certain activities are possible should water levels allow. Winter will no doubt showcase the elephants, roan, sable and other plains game.
	

NAMIBIA

Activity:	Catamaran Boat Cruise, Walvis Bay (Catamaran Charters)
Participants:	Natalie White
Suits which type of traveller:	All leisure travellers who enjoy outdoor activities – all ages
Recommended activities:	<p>Catamaran boat cruise</p> <p>Other recommended activities: afternoon Sandwich Harbour 4x4 tour</p> <p>(Note: Can be booked as a Combo Tour with add on Picnic Lunch)</p>
Cuisine:	<p>Welcome coffee/tea/juice – and of course 'Namibian coffee' (Old Brown Sherry)</p> <p>Biltong, nuts, snacks</p> <p>En route back to the harbour, guests are served snack platters and fresh Walvis Bay oysters followed by dessert cakes and pastries</p>
Highlights during visit/stay:	After a heart-warming welcome and introduction to the crew and Captain Eddie – a thorough safety talk is given before setting off out to sea

	<p>Breath-taking scenery of Pelican Point and the peninsula, as well as seeing the oyster farm with informative description and details given by guide Berti on how the farming process works</p> <p>Visited by the local harbour seal Speedy, and interesting Information shared on the Marine Wildlife in the area</p> <p>Overall informative and friendly, passionate team ensures an unforgettable experience</p>
Caveats:	Not recommended for people with disabilities



Destination:	Villa Margherita – Swakopmund
Participants:	Natalie White
Suits which type of traveller:	Medium budget leisure travel (Or corporate) – family friendly
Recommended activities:	<p>No activities on site (it is town accommodation offering B&B or DBB)</p> <p>Reception can assist with booking external activity suppliers</p>
Cuisine:	Dinner:



	<p>Canapes and bread rolls served at the table</p> <p>3-course set menu with 4 – 5 options per course</p> <p>Starter: Fresh beef carpaccio – well prepared and balanced finished off with Parmesan and balsamic glaze on bed of fresh rocket and cherry tomatoes from their herb garden</p> <p>Mains: Pan-fried kingklip with steamed fresh vegetables (some from their garden)</p> <p>Dessert: Soft apple cake with homemade cinnamon ice-cream to tickle the tastebuds</p> <p>Breakfast: Array of rolls, bread and pastries with marmalades for the table</p> <p>Set-menu for hot breakfast items – from omelettes to muesli, fruits & yoghurt</p> <p>They cater for vegetarians and other dietary requirements – must be pre-arranged</p>
Highlights during visit/stay:	<p>Family-owned small but bold boutique-style guesthouse comprising 4 properties next to each other boasting various room type options</p> <p>Unique and exquisite artworks uniquely decorating each room, shared common areas and hallways, personally selected by the lady of the house</p> <p>Lucious tranquil gardens with various seating nooks</p> <p>24-hr security and centrally located within walking distance of shops and restaurants</p> <p>Most welcoming and friendly staff – hosted by Joyce</p>




SOUTH AFRICA

Destination:	Santé Wellness Retreat & Spa, Western Cape Winelands
Participants:	Alex Rautenbach, Brendan McCarthy, Prudence Boikanyo, Pulane Moleli, Zalien Minnies, Chantel Kolbe, Nothemba George, Andrea Daniels
Suits which type of traveller:	For the discerning traveller; best for adults or couples seeking a quiet, peaceful and upscale wellness retreat, and winelands base. Kids over 12 years are welcome.
Recommended activities:	<p>The Spa is large and has an incredible offering that incorporates Hammam, Rasul, Hydrotherapy bath, Vinotherapy baths, Vichy shower, Kniepp therapy Steam rooms, saunas, indoor heated pool & Jacuzzi, a magical labyrinth, Fitness Centre and a state-of-the-art Health Optimising Centre.</p> <p>For those not interested in the Spa offering, they also have mountain bikes to explore their massive estate which is surrounded by beautiful mountain ranges; they have a lovely indoor hydro pool, and a large outdoor swimming pool.</p> <p>Would recommend staying here at the end of a busy safari itinerary, to recharge and rest before the long-haul flight. They have various fabulous wellness packages on offer.</p>
Cuisine & Offering:	We were treated to a delicious brunch. All meals are created using only real, unrefined foods, without the use of sugar, dairy, gluten, preservatives, colourants and additives. Nutritionally healthy cuisine with sensational flavours and aromas.

Highlights during visit/stay:	<p>We were blown away by the high-tech Health Optimising Centre. It is based on the latest and best technologies from all over the world. An all-encompassing assessment of the function of the cells, organs and regulation systems, using a combination of state-of-the-art medical assessment technologies is the starting point. The Bio-Centre focuses on rebalancing of one's biological energy field, using electromagnetic waveforms to stimulate the body's own healing capabilities.</p> <p>The proportions of the hotel are very large, reminded us of the Saxon. Each room is extremely spacious with a lounge area and beautiful bathroom. There are 10 Retreat Suites and a 5-bedroomed Villa.</p>
Caveats:	Not for families with young children. You are in the Winelands, but outside of the towns. So, you would need a car / transport to drive into town or explore the area.



Destination:	The Hazendal Hotel and Spa, Western Cape Winelands
Participants:	Brendan McCarthy, Prudence Boikanyo, Pulane Moleli, Zalien Minnies, Chantel Kolbe, Nothemba George, Andrea Daniels
Suits which type of traveller:	The Hazendal Hotel is perfect for families or couples seeking relaxation; it features luxury amenities like a Hammam spa and Wonderdal for kids. Located near the Stellenbosch vineyards, it offers an exceptional wine-tasting experience paired with gourmet cuisine.
Recommended activities:	<p>The Spa offers a range of treatments, including massages, facials, and detox wraps, with state-of-the-art facilities such as a nail studio, treatment rooms, and a Hammam room.</p> <p>For those not interested in the spa, there's a daily Art Tour at 16:00. Guests also enjoy gym access, a complimentary bottle of wine, a heated pool, golf facilities, and access to both the putting park and Padel court. It's an ideal place to unwind after a safari or before a long-haul flight.</p>
Cuisine & Offering:	Upon arrival, we were greeted with refreshing drinks and a taste of their Chenin Blanc wine. The Hazendal Hotel offers various dining options: The Restaurant in the hotel focuses on fine cuisine, the Deli is a tapas-style experience, The Eatery offers open-fire cooking, pizzas, and craft beer. There is also a bar, clubhouse and great picnics. A highlight is the Sensory Experience, which includes a cellar tour and tutored wine-pairing in the elegant subterranean Wine Library. Each

	wine is paired with a flavour-packed micro plate presented in a beautiful ceramic and glass tower.
Highlights during visit/stay:	We were impressed by how they have preserved the historical buildings and vintage cars, as well as the owner's collection of cigars and spirits in the Cigar Lounge. For movie lovers or gamers, the Cinema Room is a great option. My highlight was the beautifully decorated Library reading room, along with the diverse art throughout the corridors and gallery. Golf enthusiasts will enjoy the Pro Shop. Private wine tastings.
Caveats:	You are in the Winelands, but outside of the towns. So, you would need a car / transport to drive into town or explore the area.
	



TANZANIA

Destination:	Rivertrees Country Inn – Arusha, Tanzania
Participants:	Nick Beal, Michelle Miliyas, Elizabeth Gicheha, Mercy Kariri, Jo-Ann Larkan, Susan Thomas
Suits which type of traveller:	Couples, families, solo travellers, nature lovers, adventure seekers
Recommended activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wayo activity centre – bikes to rent (image below) At an additional cost – game drive, walking safaris, cultural tours in Arusha. On-site spa facilities Bird-watching, river walk, swimming pool On-site gift shop
Cuisine:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bar offering a range of cocktails and drinks Restaurant on site – a la carte menu Local Tanzanian dishes on the menu – Ugali, Sukuma Wiki and Nyama Choma
Highlights during visit/stay:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peaceful atmosphere in a natural setting – surrounded by lush garden and forest as well as along the Usa River Comfortable accommodations ranging between luxury rooms, cottages and family options

- Friendly staff



Destination:	Kuro Safari Camp – Tarangire, Tanzania (Nomad)
Participants:	Nick Beal, Michelle Miliyas, Elizabeth Gicheha, Mercy Kariri, Jo-Ann Larkan, Susan Thomas
Suits which type of traveller:	Couples, families, solo travellers, nature lovers, birders, adventure seekers
Recommended activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bush walks • Bird watching • Morning and afternoon game drives • Bush dinner under the stars • Night game drive • Cultural visits • Star gazing
Cuisine:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snacks and drinks are offered throughout the day. • Full breakfast is offered (fruits, cereal, pastries, coffee, tea Juice & eggs which are prepared to order. • For lunch, depending on guests' schedule, picnic or light meals are served. • Dinner is set under the stars – weather permitting and can be set menu or a la carte.
Highlights during visit/stay:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George, our guide. Gold star for him! • Located in southern Tarangire, the camp is famous for its large elephant herds and beautiful landscape which includes savanna, mature baobab trees and a wide river cutting through the park. • Tucked in a Fever Tree Forest, one is immersed in nature. Elephants can be seen right from the main area and from the comfort of the tents especially during the dry season. • Cosy mess area overlooking the riverside bush.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comfortable tents, woven in sisal, thatch and canvas, all en suite with private verandas, and inside and outside bucket showers plus a loo with a view 😊 Raymond, the Camp Manager is a great host. He stood out!
 	

Destination:	Crater's Edge, Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania (Wilderness Collection)
Participants:	Nick Beal, Michelle Miliias, Elizabeth Gicheha, Mercy Kariri, Jo-Ann Larkan, Susan Thomas
Suits which type of traveller:	Couples, family with older kids, solo travellers, adventure seekers
Recommended activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guided nature walks (flora and fauna within the lodge) Ngorongoro Crater game drives Cultural experience in the nearby Maasai villages Sundowner Private dining Spa
Cuisine:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bar offering a range of cocktails and drinks Dining: Lunch, breakfast – a la carte menu; breakfast can be packed or an English breakfast served in the dining area, depending on guest plans for the day. Lunches are also flexible, served as a picnic or in the dining room, while dinners are from an a la carte menu with two options for every meal, including the starter, which is salad. A curated selection of wines is available to accompany the meal
Highlights during visit/stay:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeing the beautiful sunsets from the room and the private terrace Each room has a telescope for viewing the Crater A gas-fuelled fireplace warms up the room Game drives to the crater, which is about 10 minutes away. The crater has an abundance of wildlife including lions, elephants, hyenas, wildebeest, and rhinos Bird watching Sundowner cocktails on the lodge viewing deck around a campfire

- Private dining; intimate dining experiences under the stars, either on your suite's private terrace or at a secluded spot within the lodge's grounds
- A small library to relax and enjoy a drink in the evening or read a book
- The food was great
- Wi-Fi available in all areas
- Wireless charger for all types of phones in the room
- Dyson hairdryers



UGANDA

Destination:	Karibu Entebbe, Uganda
Participants:	Linmarie Jacobs, Audrey Radebe
Suits which type of traveller:	Perfect for all types of travellers seeking great value for money. Conveniently located near the airport, it's a kid-friendly spot that caters for families, solo adventurers, and couples alike.
Recommended activities:	<p>Mbamba Swamp – Shoebill Experience This is a must-do, especially during the peak seasons in April–May and November, which coincide with the shoebill's mating season. Expect a bit of a crowd, with over 20 boats often out during these times. The experience includes a 10-minute drive to Lake Victoria, followed by a quick speedboat ride and a transfer into traditional canoes. You'll be poled through narrow swamp channels where you can spot the elusive shoebill, along with a wide variety of birdlife. Total duration: 3 hours</p> <p>Lake Victoria Sunset Cruise Unwind with a serene cruise across the lake as the sun sets – a perfect way to end the day.</p>

Cuisine:	The food is fresh, flavourful, and generously portioned. The owner has introduced several healthy options using locally sourced ingredients, creating a dining experience that's both wholesome and satisfying.
Highlights during visit/stay:	The abundance of birdlife is simply breath-taking. The staff's warmth and hospitality truly stood out, making us feel right at home.
Caveats:	While the accommodation is not at a 5-star luxury level, it offers clean, comfortable, and basic facilities – ideal for travellers prioritising experience and value over high-end amenities.




Destination:	Nile Safari Lodge, Uganda
Participants:	Linmarie Jacobs, Audrey Radebe
Suits which type of traveller:	Suitable for all types of travellers, including families and small groups. However, it's particularly well-suited to high-end guests looking for a touch of luxury and comfort in a scenic, nature-rich setting.
Recommended activities:	<p>Ziwa Rhino Walk</p> <p>This unforgettable walking safari is a perfect stop en route to Murchison Falls National Park or Nile Safari Lodge. From Entebbe, it's about a 1.5-hour drive to the Rhino Sanctuary. Upon arrival, you'll meet your guide and set off on a 30-minute guided walk to observe the rhinos in their natural habitat. The experience also includes an insightful conservation talk covering the history and ongoing protection efforts of Uganda's rhino population.</p>
Cuisine:	Expect fine dining with a Ugandan twist – each dish is crafted using fresh, locally sourced ingredients. The culinary experience is a highlight, combining quality and creativity.

Highlights during visit/stay:	The food was truly outstanding – beautifully presented and full of flavour. The overall experience blends nature, comfort, and meaningful encounters with wildlife.
Caveats:	A visible oil drill near the lodge can detract from the natural scenery, though it's expected to be removed by 2026. For the Murchison Falls River Cruise, consider booking a private boat rather than the scheduled cruise, which can be overcrowded. The lodge features a unique triangular architectural design – some may find it charmingly different, while others may see it as unconventional.



Destination:	Anyadwe House, Uganda
Participants:	Linmarie Jacobs, Audrey Radebe
Suits which type of traveller:	This mid-range property offers excellent value for money and a warm, homely atmosphere – comfortable, beautifully designed, and ideal for all types of travellers. Especially well-suited for small groups and multi-generational families.
Recommended activities:	<p>Murchison Falls & Private Sundowner Cruise</p> <p>Enjoy a scenic river cruise directly from the property's private jetty. You'll board a small private boat and cruise along the Nile with drinks and snacks included. Duration: Approx. 2.5 hours</p> <p>The cruise offers spectacular views and a chance to get up close to Murchison Falls – an unforgettable highlight.</p>
Cuisine:	Expect classic, comforting dishes made with fresh local ingredients, blending familiar flavours with a regional touch.
Highlights during visit/stay:	The sole-use option created a truly intimate and exclusive experience. Every room offers stunning views of the Nile River. The sunset cruise was a standout,

	offering an up-close view of the Falls. The area is a birdwatcher's paradise, with a wealth of birdlife visible from the river. Staff were exceptionally friendly and attentive, adding to the overall warmth of the stay.
Caveats:	While the property can be booked on an FIT (individual) basis, the communal spaces are shared. For guests who prefer privacy or are uncomfortable sharing, this may feel a bit limiting due to the cosy nature of the layout.
	

Destination:	Primate Lodge – Kibale, Uganda
Participants:	Linmarie Jacobs, Audrey Radebe
Suits which type of traveller:	Suited to all types of travellers, though particularly recommended for luxury- and experience-seeking travellers looking for immersive nature and wildlife encounters with a touch of comfort.
Recommended activities:	<p>Chimpanzee Trekking & Forest Hikes This is a more challenging trek compared to other regions, as the chimps here are less habituated making for a raw, authentic experience for adventurous travellers.</p> <p>Bigodi Swamp Walk A 1.5-hour guided walk through a biodiverse wetland. The trail winds through swampy, forested terrain and offers exceptional birdwatching and frequent sightings of primates. The terrain is uneven, making it more suited to active travellers.</p> <p>Nocturnal Walks Experience the forest come alive after dark—ideal for spotting night-dwelling species and enjoying the unique atmosphere of the park at night.</p>

	<p>Crater Lake Exploration</p> <p>Scenic excursions to nearby crater lakes offer dramatic landscapes and peaceful moments in nature.</p> <p>All activities are within or adjacent to Kibale National Park.</p>
Cuisine:	A delightful blend of Western-inspired dishes with local Ugandan flavours, using fresh regional ingredients and served with elegance.
Highlights during visit/stay:	The guided excursions within Kibale National Park were truly immersive – deeply engaging and unlike anything we’d experienced before. The lodge is ideally located just 5 minutes from the park, and you can even walk there directly. The natural setting adds to the experience – surrounded by lush forest and rich biodiversity.
Caveats:	While the lodge’s proximity to the park is a major advantage, natural odours from the forest can occasionally drift over the property, which some may find unpleasant. The terrain for many excursions is uneven and physically demanding, best suited for active travellers comfortable with off-the-beaten-path experiences.
