



August 2016

Greetings from Africa!

There is no doubt that Gomoti Tented Camp, situated in the south-eastern corner of the Okavango Delta in the Santawani Concession offers a fantastic land experience with outstanding game-viewing. The camp is nestled under large acacia trees in a diverse, game-rich area. The concession mostly comprises mixed woodland that gives way to open grasslands. In years of plentiful rain, these grasslands can be transformed into seasonal floodplains. The camp forms part of [The Great Wilderness Journey](#), [Botswana Summer Encounter 2016](#), [Botswana Summer Encounter 2017](#), and [Okavango Channels & Plains Explorations](#). This small and intimate camp can also be booked on an exclusive use basis for small families or friends of 4 to 8 guests.

Below are some recent sightings experienced from camp:

Thuto Moutloatse:

The Gomoti area came to life for our stay as we had many a good sightings. The high point was the day we did a day trip to the Gomoti river. That morning started with wild dogs hunting impala in camp whilst we were sitting around the camp fire for our early morning breakfast. Alex and I got the group going as fast as we could and followed the dogs on the hunt, they managed to kill an impala and whilst we were photographing them feeding a hyaena came in and tried to take the kill but the dogs put up a big fight and he had to wait for them to have their fill. The dogs moved off the kill and were on the hunt again. This gave the hyaena a chance at the kill, but not for long as a female leopard came running in and stole the kill. The leopard tried to take the kill up a tree but lost her footing and the hyena claimed it back. The group then enjoyed a bush brunch and a helicopter flight over the Gomoti river. The day ended with a sighting of a mother cheetah and her 3 month old cubs.



Thuto / Moutloatse



Ona Basimane:

This is traditionally big predator country supported by big numbers of prey species such as kudu, buffalo, giraffes, impala and many more. It was no surprise that we picked up two dominant lions as soon as we landed at Santawani airstrip. They were resting in a shade as it was midday and hot. We followed up with them again in the afternoon drive and found them at the same spot. We watched them as they got up and started their evening patrol. The light was stunning and allowed us to get great pictures as the two walked side by side towards a waterhole.

Perhaps the highlight of our time here was watching a pack of wild dogs coming up to drink at the camp waterhole one morning as we were getting ready to start our game drive. We then followed them as they started hunting east of the camp. Things escalated when I spotted a leopard in the grasses trying to silently slither away from the dogs. However the pack picked him up and chased him up a tree. Twice the leopard tried to get away but would be surrounded and chased up another tree. This was an epic sighting and the guests thoroughly enjoyed the interaction between these two big predators. You could say the leopard was at the wrong place at the right time, and we were happy with that!

On the last evening, I offered a night drive to the local waterhole, we had numerous sightings of lesser bush babies, a small spotted genet and a big civet drinking at the waterhole. While we had hoped to see cheetah, Gomoti still provided its usual magic as we had incredible sighting nonetheless.



Brooks Kamanakao:

We arrived at Gomoti Tented Camp in the late afternoon and went on a game drive after checking in. We saw porcupine, lesser bush baby, small spotted genet, scrub hare and spring hare. The following morning we spotted a cheetah with five cubs and in the evening we saw two female lion. On our second full day we saw the same lionesses attempting to hunt zebra. At the pan there was lots of general game including a jackal. On our last full day we tried to track dogs on foot, but we were not successful. Our last morning at Gomoti we found a pride of lions, one adult with seven sub adults.



On our first afternoon game drive we saw general game, including yellow mongoose, spring hares and many more. The following morning as we were leaving the camp the guides from Santawani Camp radioed me about a male lion that was at their water hole in front of the camp. We quickly rushed to go there but en-route saw a pack of Wild dogs going to the Gomoti Camp, however everyone chose lions so we couldn't stop. We found this handsome boy which led us to his three females. We followed them hunting but were not successful. We went back to the same pride of lions in the afternoon and saw them in same area. On our second full day we saw wild dog tracks and we started tracking them, one good clue that showed us they were close was that their skates were wet, the next thing we saw a cloud of dust and it was the dogs hunting. We followed them until they killed a young kudu. The same day we saw black backed jackal. After high tea we went to see the lions, we found two females and two males. One of the lionesses was a maned female. Our last morning we saw the same two male lions sleeping under a tree shade.

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View our [availability report](#) for the remainder of 2016.

Until next time
The Wilderness Explorations Team

For more information on Explorations, you can also contact your journey specialist or email explorations@wilderness.co.za