

Greetings from Africa!

One of the many secrets to a fantastic Explorations trip is your guide who leads your safari from beginning to end. Not only does this develop a relationship between you, but it also allows the guide to learn each individual's aspirations. Our guides are passionate, experienced and highly trained local individuals who make the whole journey seamless and interpretive from start to finish. Many are skilled photographers and can assist you in taking amazing wildlife photographs. These guides are also available to lead private tailor-made safaris and specialist trips – some even offering multilingual departures. With this in mind herewith an extract from a recent **Botswana Summer Encounter** trip with Richard Avalino.

Summer season, green, clean and plenty of lions

My recent Botswana Summer Encounter trip started with the flight to Maun and the drive to Deception Valley, the latter revealing productive sightings of oryx and springboks. The following day, as we drove to Deception Pan, we saw a Kalahari black-mane lion standing right by the pan, along with a pride of nine sub-adult lions lying under the acacia tree. At Sunday Pan we saw a black-maned lion with two females just by the side of the road lying under the tree, and as we continued to Leopard Pan we saw a further two female lions on the road. We also saw lots of raptors and storks around the Kalahari pans. All in all, we saw a total of fifteen lions in the Kalahari, and so we can say it was a very productive experience with guests enjoying the rustic adventure style trails camp set up in Deception Valley.



At Xigera Camp four more lions, one female and three sub-adults, were spotted stalking zebras and red lechwe along the flood plain not too far from the camp. Another fabulous sighting was a female leopard seen along the road next to the airstrip while her cub was spotted in a nearby tree. It unfortunately came down and disappeared into the tall grass.

The stay at Xigera also produced plenty of red lechwe grazing along the flood plain, a bull elephant that visited us in the camp as it fed around our tents and an abundance of Endangered wattled cranes. Guests enjoyed the stay at Xigera Camp with the Mokoro ride activity.

At Savuti camp we saw large pods of hippo, herds of elephant, kudu and two male lions just few minutes out of camp. A pack of fourteen wild dogs were seen unsuccessfully hunting impala and warthog, giraffe feeding around the area and a great sighting of a spotted hyaena walking along the road.

The boat cruise along the Chobe River was very productive, again seeing many hippo both in the water and grazing along the river bank, large herds of elephant drinking in the heat of the day, crocodiles lying on the banks and a great sighting of a water monitor lizard. The whole trip was wonderful, the camps were great and my guests really enjoyed the journey.



Warm Regards
The Wilderness Explorations team

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