



October 2015

Summer has arrived in southern Africa. The days are hot and cumulus clouds are building up each afternoon bringing with them the promise of rain. Throughout most of the sub-region, however, we are still awaiting our first substantial summer rains and as a result, the bush is exceptionally dry. This leads to some spectacular sightings as animals (both predators and prey) congregate around the last remaining water sources. In this month's newsletter, we give you some more information on Gomoti Tented Camp. We also profile Franco Morao, a Namibian-based Explorations guide of whom we are extremely proud.

### **ABOUT GOMOTI TENTED CAMP**

Gomoti Tented Camp is situated in the south-eastern corner of the Okavango Delta in the Santawani Concession. I was fortunate to spend 2-nights at Gomoti earlier this month.

The area around the camp is dominated by Acacia woodland. To the west of the concession lies the Gomoti Channel. The lush riparian terrain along the channel complements the drier areas near the camp itself. There is a small waterhole in front of the camp which is extremely productive, particularly in the dry season. During our stay at Gomoti, we had the pleasure of enjoying four wild dog sightings and two leopard sightings from the comfort of the main area of camp as these animals came to the water to quench their thirst. On both mornings here, the dawn chorus was interrupted by galloping impala as the dogs chased and caught impala in the camp.

Further away from camp, we also had excellent sightings of other high profile species such as elephant, buffalo and lion. Gomoti certainly offers a fantastic land experience with outstanding game-viewing. The camp itself consists of five tents. Each tent has views over the camp waterhole. Gomoti Tented Camp offers a truly authentic and intimate bush experience where you will feel as if you are a participant rather than a spectator in nature.



### **FEATURED GUIDE – FRANCO MORAO (NAMIBIA)**



Franco was born on a remote farmland on the outskirts of a Namibian town called Gobabis. At the age of two he entered a children's home (the SOS Children's Village) in Windhoek, where he stayed for most of his school life. On completion of secondary school in 2002, and in a stroke of incredible timing, Wilderness Safaris' Children In The Wilderness programme approached the SOS Children's Home to bring some of the kids out into the wilderness to experience their country's natural wonders. In this group was a young, ambitious and eager Franco.

His passion for the natural fauna and flora shone from his eyes as the bus arrived in Sossusvlei with the joyful kids. Receiving some mentorship skills from a Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Gang camp mentor, Franco was enlisted as a tent leader. After seeing the guides at work, he was sure that he wanted to be a guide.

In 2004 his dedication and passion to complete all the internal training that Wilderness Safaris offered led to him being appointed a trainee guide at the same lodge that his life-changing experience took place. After eight months of working through all the departments at the lodge, the Training Department assessed him as a guide and he passed. Franco worked as a camp guide in all of the regions within which Wilderness Safaris operate in Namibia. This allowed him to develop his knowledge across all the key areas of the country.

The natural progression for Franco was to become an Explorations guide and he joined the team in 2012. He has not looked back and continues to lead safaris for fortunate guests throughout Namibia.

He is very passionate about his work and loves meeting and socialising with people. He has a special interest in birding and is a keen and aspiring photographer. A safari with Franco will not only expose you to the highlights and intricacies of all of the ecosystems you visit, but it will also expose you to an inspirational person.

We are extremely proud to have Franco as part of our private guiding team, and we are not the only ones who think Franco is great, our guests feel the same way:

*"What a brilliant, kind, personable person Franco is."*

*"Enough positives aren't available to describe him."*

*"Franco is an exceptional guide."*

### **OKAVANGO CHANNELS AND PLAINS**

We still have availability on our new Exploration, the Okavango Channels and Plains. This 6-night itinerary combines the great game-viewing at Gomoti Tented Camp with an authentic Okavango Delta experience at Xigera.

10 January 2016

7 February 2016

20 March 2016

7 April 2016

To view our **availability report** for the remainder of 2015, click [here](#)

Until next time,

The Explorations Team

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