



Bush Buddy Programme

Wilderness Safaris Botswana is delighted to introduce its new Bush Buddy programme. An expansion of the current offering for children in camp, Wilderness now has six key staff members – known as Bush Buddies – who have been trained in childcare and educational aspects of looking after children in the bush. They either have children of their own or they have had previous experience working with youngsters, making them ideally suited to this position. They are all highly motivated and will ensure that children visiting our camps get the most out of the experience.



Selelo



Kelly



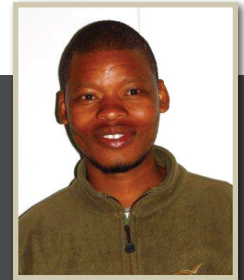
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On request, a dedicated Bush Buddy will join the family at each camp, where they will be the mentor and friend of the children wherever needed, throughout the day. The Bush Buddy's sole purpose during a family's stay is to focus on their new friends in camp. A complimentary service, Wilderness Safaris Botswana will arrange for the Bush Buddy to be in camp a day prior to the family's arrival so that everything is organised. Agents/Journey Specialists must book the Bush Buddy prior to the family's arrival.

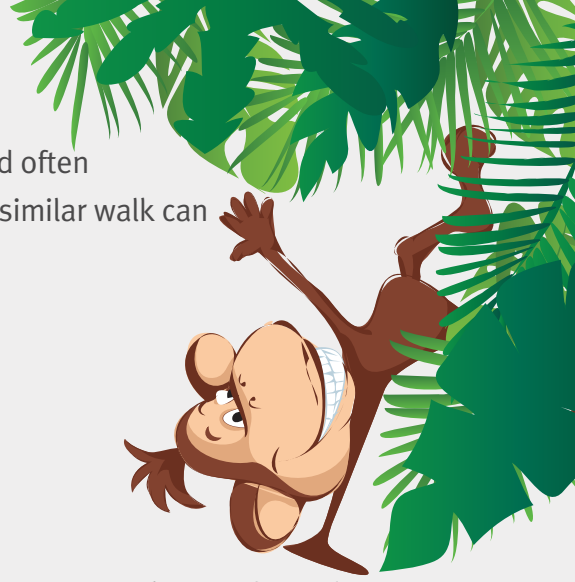
Current Offering:

- Bush Buddy Bags/Teen Backpacks given at first camp
- Individual, personalised handmade welcome cards – age-relevant
- Child-friendly menus served at time of parent's choice
- Child-friendly magazines in tent
- Animal-shaped biscuits for game drive snacks



Sample activities:

- Walk – taken with their guide to explain the minutiae of the natural world often missed out on game drives. For the less adventurous or kids below 12, a similar walk can be done in camp (e.g. Bushman Walk, Kalahari Plains Camp)
- Tracking lessons and competitions, and making casts of tracks
- Antlion trapping and catching – a test of dexterity and patience
- Bird and animal call identification
- Collection and ID of leaves, insects, dung etc. and scrapbook making
- Treasure hunt
- Soccer and volleyball with the staff teams
- Popular board games are available in each camp, as well as some African varieties that are fun to learn
- Cooking the bush way: chicken in the ground, mini-potjies, roosterbrood, pizza-making in termite mounds (these need to be discussed with management a day in advance)
- Assisting in the camp kitchen



ARTS AND CRAFTS IN CAMP

- Natural sculptures out of collected materials
- Basket weaving – at Xigera, Vumbura and Savuti camps
- Card making
- Painting with paints, as well as with natural dyes and materials such as berries, sand and roots as used by bushman tribes
- Story and poem writing on safari experience – they will be posted on our blog if submitted to us!
- Jewellery making

FOR THE NIGHT OWLETS

- Frogging
- Night drives after dinner
- Dancing and drumming – lessons for these are also given during the day
- Storytelling and presentations
- Star identification and legends



Botswana specific booking notes:

Each child (aged 6-12) to receive a Bush Buddy bag

Each child (aged 13-17) to receive a Teen Backpack

Please note that activities will always be supervised by the Bush Buddy

Activities – a list of age/interest-appropriate choices will be given to parents and children, to be discussed and arranged. Every child is different and we want to be able to appeal to the interests of each one, creating a wide range of activities for all types of child. Parents are more than welcome to join in wherever they wish!

Each camp will ensure that it finds out what the previous camps have done before the guests arrive.

Each camp will speak to the parents about meal times and arrange the family's schedule accordingly.