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## THE STORY OF *Wilderness*

It was in Botswana that we first fell in love with the wilderness.

In 1983, two experienced safari guides working in the remote reaches of Botswana decided to strike out on their own. They wanted to guarantee that the financial benefits of their safaris flowed to the country and its people, ensuring the sustainable protection of the country's wildlife areas. Today, this forms the central tenet of ecotourism the world over, but in the early 1980s it was a groundbreaking philosophy, and set Wilderness Safaris apart.

We began to offer authentic safaris that catered for people as passionate about nature as we were. Registering Wilderness Safaris as a Botswana company, with a logo representing the African skimmer (a bird restricted to pristine ecosystems), we based ourselves in Maun, south of the Okavango Delta, running mobile safaris.

By 1985, we had begun to establish tented camps on exclusive sites in the Okavango Delta, including an unknown camp called Mombo in an area that had been heavily hunted; within a few years of photographic safaris, Mombo had developed an international reputation of exceptional predator sightings and herds of plains game. From the early 1990s, we branched out to other countries, but our roots remain in Botswana – in 2010, Wilderness was listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange.

We believe that our most important achievement is to have built a sustainable business model that, through jobs, training, careers, adjusted horizons and hope, provides a realistic alternative to Africa's challenges. We are proud to have stayed true to our vision to conserve and restore Africa's wilderness and wildlife by creating life-changing journeys and inspiring positive action.



*Our humble roots in Botswana (photos above circa 1983 – 1997), where we started with one old Land Rover and two guides operating rustic mobile safaris with purpose.*







## *Botswana*

The Kalahari Desert, part of the world's largest unbroken expanse of sand, forms the bulk of Botswana. Yet within it lies a jewel: the Okavango Delta is a wondrous wetland that receives its waters from rain falling a thousand kilometres away and sustains a huge diversity of fauna and flora. In the north-east of the country, the Chobe and Linyanti reserves are renowned for their predators and high concentrations of game, while to the south lies the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, one of the biggest protected areas in Africa, its diverse arid-adapted wildlife and starkly scenic landscapes offering an amazing contrast to the rest of the country.

A savanna landscape featuring a herd of elephants and a group of antelopes. In the foreground, a group of antelopes, likely reedbuck, are gathered around a watering hole. Several elephants are visible in the mid-ground, some standing and others partially obscured by the dense green foliage. The background is filled with tall, leafy trees and a large, gnarled tree trunk on the left side. The overall scene is a natural, wild environment.

**LINYANTI**

KING'S POOL / DUMATAU / SAVUTI / LINYANTI TENTED CAMP

*Botswana's wild, wooded fault-line frontier*







## King's Pool

Named for Scandinavian royalty, King's Pool looks out over a sparkling oxbow-shaped lagoon framed with reeds. Its location within Botswana's 'elephant corridor' means it is the centre of elephant conservation initiatives. Expansive decks in the main area echo the natural spaces, and an open-air 'kgotla' (boma) is the perfect setting for fine dining under the stars. Two hides – one with the water (and wildlife!) literally at eye-level – are perfect places to spend your siesta: elephant feet and trunks are almost within touching distance. End the day with sundowners on the elegant, colonial-style *Queen Sylvia* barge floating down the Linyanti River.

- 9 tents • 100% solar • no Wi-Fi • game drives • guided walks • hides
- barge cruises • catch-and-release fishing • massages
- Olympus photography

PREMIER





*"Thanks to our amazing guide MP we got close to a herd of elephant crossing the river to Namibia with their babies, and later saw a mother lion and her cubs. I also saw a rare roan antelope."*



*"Saw so many lions (huge prides), lion cubs, wild dogs, lots of ellies. Elephants in camp within touching distance (we did not touch!) of the elevated walkways. Hippos outside your tent."*





## DumaTau

*Duma Tau* means “roar of the lion,” yet it is the elephant that reigns here. Set on a broad lagoon on the Linyanti River between two “elephant highways,” this stylish solar-powered camp is committed to numerous elephant conservation projects. In winter, enormous herds traverse the area, while its many habitats and the river create a diverse home for a variety of other wildlife, from plains game to predators; the endangered wild dog and the elusive leopard play starring roles. A Star Bed offers a unique sleep out under African skies. Taking in sweeping, dramatic views of the river, DumaTau’s airy architecture expresses the explorer aesthetic.

- 10 tents (2 family) • 100% solar • Star Bed • no Wi-Fi • game drives
  - guided walks • boating • barge cruises • hide
- catch-and-release fishing • massages • Olympus photography

CLASSIC









## Savuti

Standing on the elevated wooden deck of Savuti Camp, one is able to marvel at the phenomenon of nature at work. As part of a natural cycle, the nearby waters of the Savute Channel either flow strongly – a magnet for thirsty wildlife – or recede to leave behind a rich grassland. Regardless, both plains game and predators thrive, and exploring the length of the Channel and its associated woodlands is thus a highlight here. With its enormous seasonal concentrations of elephant, Savuti provides essential support to research projects and conservation initiatives relating to this species, as well as others.

- 7 tents (1 family) • Star Bed • no Wi-Fi • game drives • guided walks
- hides • boating • catch-and-release fishing • Olympus photography

CLASSIC





## *Linyanti Tented Camp*

On the banks of the Linyanti River, tucked under tall riverine trees lies Linyanti Tented Camp. Its four large, airy en-suite tents are designed to recreate the accommodation style of the early explorers, while the camp as a whole is an expression of authentic connection with river, land and wildlife. As evening creeps in, the campfire leaps to life on the soft sands of the riverbank – the ideal place for a family or small group to share an exclusive experience. The combination of habitats, from floodplain to savannah and woodland, makes for diverse game viewing, with regulars such as elephant, plains game and lion, to unusual antelope like roan and sable seen.

• 4 tents • no Wi-Fi • game drives • guided walks • hide

ADVENTURES











# THE "Disappearing River"

Famed as the "stolen river" owing to its periodic vanishing waters, the Savute Channel is a continually surprising spectacle. Depending on a subtle shift in the underlying tectonic plates, the river's waters appear or disappear into the ground. Between 1980 and 2008, the Channel stopped flowing, becoming an unusually productive ribbon of grassland that attracted herbivores in their numbers.

In 2008, the river reappeared. Water crept from its source at Zibadianja Lagoon towards the distant, long-dry Savute Marsh, creating a deep, clear waterway harbouring hippo, aquatic life and myriad waterbirds, a source of life-giving water for herds of plains game, and a legendary predator's enclave.

Such episodes over the past few hundred years suggest this is a regular, albeit unpredictable phenomenon. Whether the river recedes or returns, our guests have exclusive access to this occurrence, and to admire the way geology and nature can completely transform a landscape.

The Channel is a place of refuge and food, an obstacle, a navigational aid, a playground and, for some, a graveyard. Savuti has exciting front-row seats to this natural marvel, watching wildlife adapting to changing conditions, with both the threats and opportunities it creates.



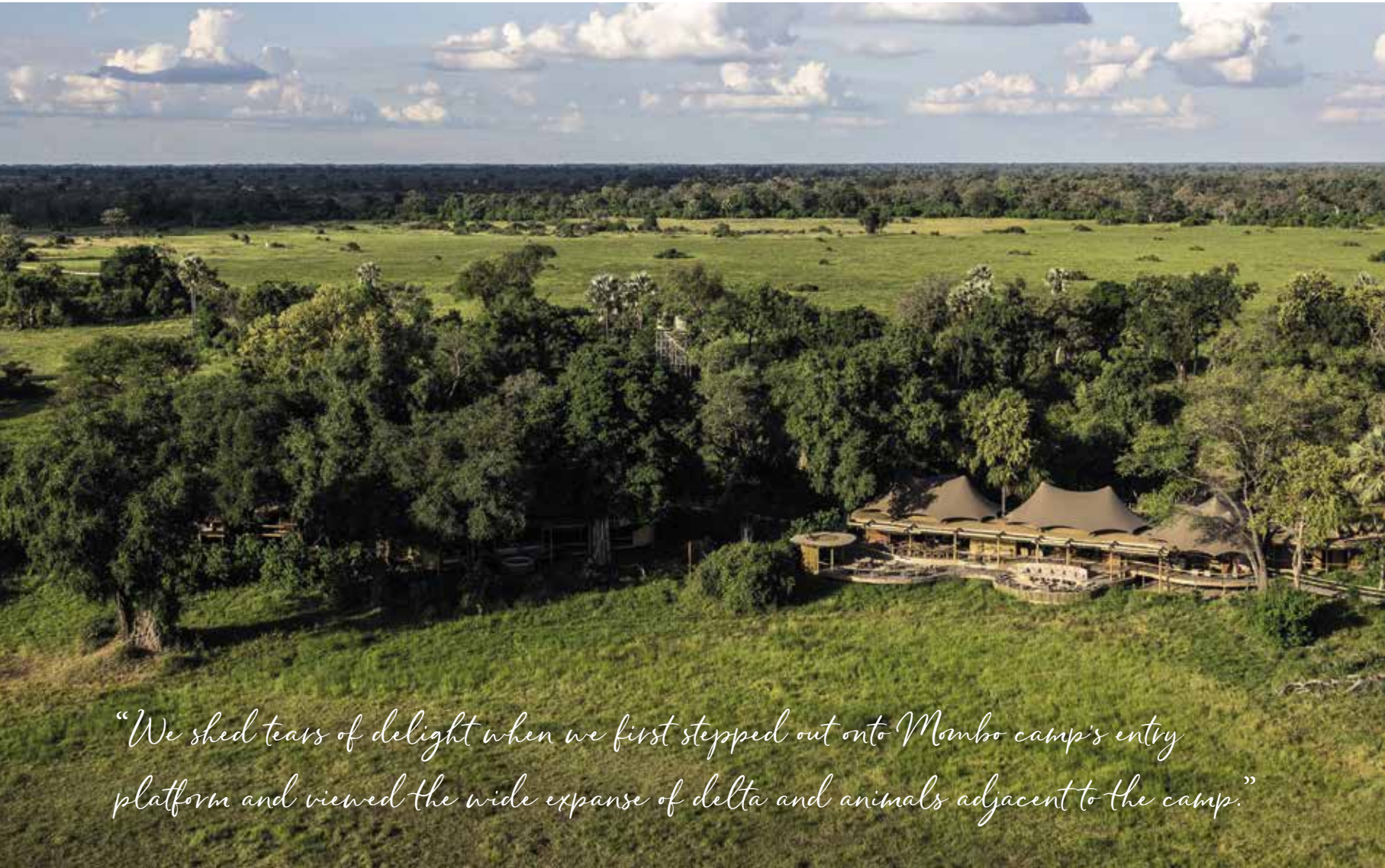


**OKAVANGO - LAND**

MOMBO / LITTLE MOMBO / CHITABE /  
CHITABE LEDIBA / QOROKWE



*Quite simply one of Africa's top wildlife experiences*



*“We shed tears of delight when we first stepped out onto Mombo camp’s entry platform and viewed the wide expanse of delta and animals adjacent to the camp.”*





## Mombo

It is often said that as soon as you walk out onto the main deck at Mombo and view a plain dotted with a variety of species of game, you understand why Mombo is known as “the place of plenty.” Situated at the northern tip of Chief’s Island, the largest landmass in the Okavango, the camp’s elegant design complements its magnificent surroundings, with the spacious, luxurious tents – each sporting a private sala and plunge pool – raised off the ground to maximise the views of the floodplain. The game viewing here is exceptional with abundant plains game and predators never far away, from leopard and spotted hyaena to large prides of lion.

- 9 tents (1 family) • 100% solar • no Wi-Fi • game drives • hide • gym
- massages • Olympus photography

PREMIER





## Little Mombo

With just three tents tucked away on the other side of the same island, Little Mombo is a smaller, more intimate version of its sister camp, Mombo. Built under a shady canopy of jackalberry and sausage trees, overlooking a floodplain regularly visited by herds of herbivores, the camp has its own facilities including a dining and bar area, lounge and plunge pool, while being connected to Mombo Camp via a raised boardwalk. Days are spent exploring the savannah and floodplain mosaics of Chief's Island in search of the area's teeming wildlife.

- 3 tents • 100% solar • no Wi-Fi • game drives • hide • gym
- massages • Olympus photography

PREMIER









## A SAFE HAVEN for Rhino

Since 2001, Wilderness Safaris and the Botswana Government have partnered in a pioneering rhino conservation programme that has seen healthy breeding populations of both Critically Endangered black rhino and Near Threatened white rhino reintroduced to the Okavango Delta after being declared locally extinct in the wild in Botswana in the early 1990s.

Between May 2014 and June 2015, we successfully achieved the largest cross-border move of black rhino ever on the continent. This event – a mammoth collaboration between the private and public sector, governments and private individuals, along with determination, negotiation and commitment – is the latest in a series of translocations that resulted in no less than 1% of the global population of the Critically Endangered black rhino being restored to a safe haven: Botswana's Okavango Delta.

It has always been a big part of the Wilderness vision to create viable thriving populations of both species here, where they can be monitored and protected by one of the best anti-poaching teams in Africa aided by the Botswana Defence Force. And, long after the hype and the headlines, our rhino monitoring teams continue their vital work to help pull these species back from the brink of extinction.

*“Having so many animals born wild in the last few years shows how successful the Botswana Rhino Reintroduction Project has been since its inception.”*

Kai Collins, Coordinator – Wilderness Safaris Rhino Reintroduction Project











## Chitabe

In the south-east of the Okavango Delta, a beautiful, shady tree-island harbours the well-known Chitabe Camp, its walkways and main area featuring sinuous curves and soft lines inspired by the graceful meandering of the Okavango waterways. Each individually-designed tent has its own character, aided by superb fine art wildlife photographs, and a sweeping view across a floodplain that transforms from dry rushes in winter to a lush oasis in summer. The concession is known for its mosaic of habitats and equivalent range of wildlife, from elephant, buffalo, and antelope such as lechwe and tsessebe, to a plethora of predators, with leopard, spotted hyaena, lion and even cheetah and wild dog vying to be the stars of the show.

• 8 tents • 100% solar • no Wi-Fi • game drives • guided walks

CLASSIC

*“What an amazing camp. Awesome staff. Our guide and his adventures took us to the most fabulous sightings... it's a must on your safari itinerary!”*





## *Chitabe Lediba*

This intimate camp, with its well-appointed canvas tents and uniquely-styled interiors, is ideally suited to families and small groups. Located on the other side of the same island as Chitabe, it is named after the lediba (a remnant lagoon that has become a waterhole) in front of camp. The surrounding mix of savannah, woodlands and palm-dotted floodplains that characterise this corner of the Delta support scores of game year round, so that game drives take in an abundant array of big game, herbivores, and an impressive cohort of carnivores.

• 5 tents (2 family) • 100% solar • no Wi-Fi • game drives • guided walks

CLASSIC









## Qorokwe

The name *Qorokwe* means “the place where the buffalo broke through the bush into the water” – a name that evokes the spectacular and productive mix of fertile habitat in which *Qorokwe* is situated. Such diverse landscape includes scattered acacia and mopane woodlands, open seasonal and permanent floodplains, fringed on either side by picturesque channels and islands along the Gomoti and Santantadibe Channels. In this area, the camp plays an important role in the empowerment of local communities through job creation and other income-generating opportunities.

- 9 tents (1 family) • 100% solar • no Wi-Fi • game drives
- guided walks • mokoro

CLASSIC





*“A treat to watch herds of elephant, impala, hippo and birdlife, while having breakfast!”*







**OKAVANGO – WATER**

XIGERA / JACANA / PELO



*The heart of the Delta... sea of land, land of water*

## Xigera

Xigera – the Yei word for pied kingfisher – is at the very heart of the Okavango. Pristine wetlands punctuated by jewel-like waterlilies, tranquil channels, open palm-studded floodplains and shady, tree-islands provide a home to the area’s bird and mammal life. Herds of lechwe splash through the shallow water, sitatunga glance up from their favourite reedbeds and a Pel’s fishing-owl peers from the deep foliage above. This is where Xigera – completely rebuilt and reimagined as a Premier Camp – will reopen in late 2019. Its essence will mimic that of the Okavango itself: a restorative and inspiring retreat in vivid contrast to the outside world, a sanctuary and haven through which to reconnect with the natural world and the self.

- 100% solar • Wi-Fi • mokoro • boating • game drives
- health and wellness • catch-and-release fishing

PREMIER













## Jacana

Peeking out from under a canopy of mangosteen, giant sycamore and wild date palm trees on a secluded tree-island, Jacana is a typical water camp. From here, the essence of the Okavango Delta is experienced by floating along its clear, quiet channels in a mokoro – a traditional dugout canoe. Jacana’s near-permanent water allows one to discover and encounter some of the fascinating creatures that flourish in this unique environment, from hippo and crocodile to a wealth of waterbirds, including the emblematic African jacana as it delicately steps from one waterlily to the next.

- 5 tents • no Wi-Fi • mokoro • boating • game drives
- guided walks • catch-and-release fishing

CLASSIC



*"Spent a weekend at Jacana, and was rewarded with typical unsurpassed Botswana hospitality, and the unparalleled beauty and tranquillity of the Delta."*







## CHILDREN IN THE *Wilderness*

In 2001, American actor Paul Newman and his family visited Botswana with Wilderness Safaris. After discussions around the campfire about the future of Africa's youth, Children in the Wilderness was born: a programme that creates a network of learning sanctuaries that uplifts and cares for Africa's children, exposes them to their natural heritage, and conserves our planet at the same time.

Children in the Wilderness is an organic evolution of Wilderness' vision. The areas in which we operate are some of the planet's more sensitive and fragile environmental hotspots. Therefore, by focusing on children, we believe that a programme of this calibre can impact significantly on the local communities in the hope of securing their future and that of the wilderness.

Throughout the year, Eco-Clubs are run at schools within the rural communities on the edges of the wild areas in which we operate, introducing them to their wildlife heritage. Select Eco-Club members are then hosted at a fun-filled three-night programme at a Wilderness Safaris camp, closed to guests for the purpose and run by volunteers and Eco-Mentors. The kids go on game drives and walks, enjoy games that build self-esteem and teach life skills, and are inspired about conservation and to continue with their education.

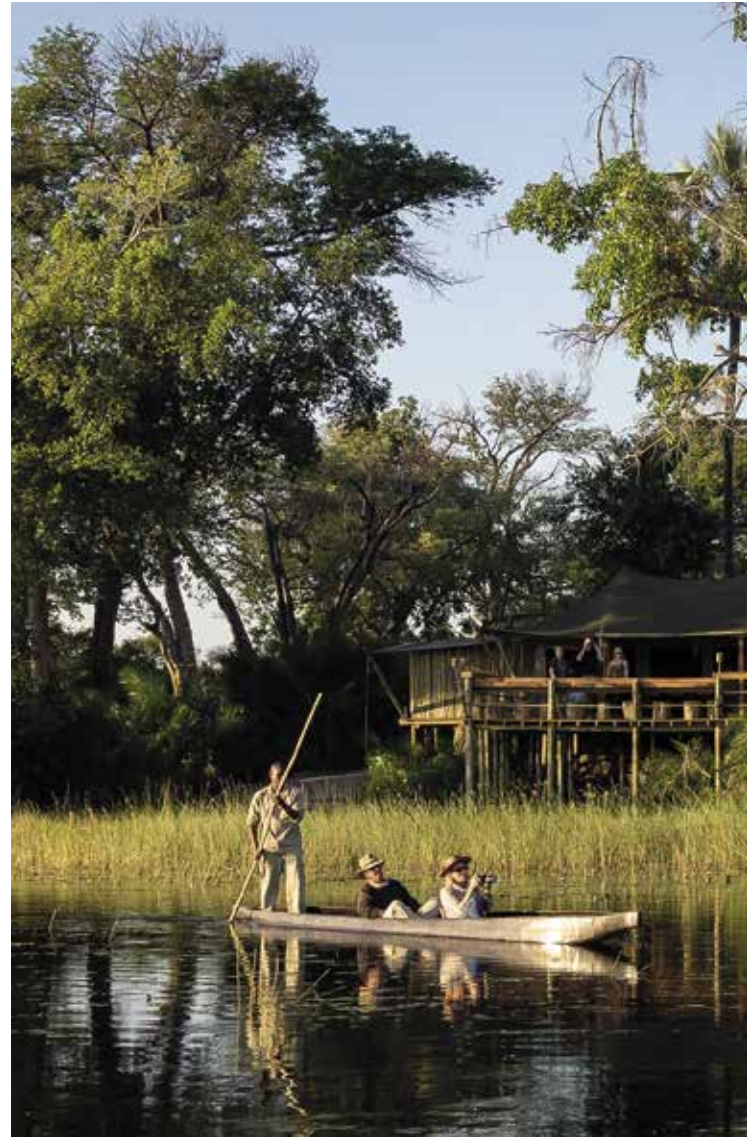


# Pelo

Almost as deep into the Okavango Delta as one can go lies Pelo. Intimate and unpretentious, with a light eco-footprint, its tents are sheltered by impressive fig, and jackalberry trees and a few sentinel mokolwane palms. Pelo means 'heart,' a most fitting name as, from the air, the small island on which the camp is located seems to be shaped like a heart. Given the water that surrounds the camp, activities here focus on mokoro (traditional dugout canoe) excursions – an adventurous, up-close and silent way to experience the beauty of the Delta and its distinctive flora and fauna.

- Seasonal camp • 5 tents • 100% solar • no Wi-Fi • mokoro • boating
- guided walks • catch-and-release fishing

ADVENTURES











## WATER *Wilderness*

As a biological resource, an aesthetic treasure and an economic engine fuelling Botswana's tourism industry, there is quite simply nothing like the Okavango Delta anywhere else in the world. Such uniqueness, coupled with the chance to help conserve it and show it to our guests are just some of the reasons that we consider it our origins and roots.

Its crystal-clear waters flow a thousand undammed kilometres from its source in neighbouring Angola before spreading out into one of the largest inland delta systems in the world: an area of 15 000 km<sup>2</sup> filled with channels, lagoons, swamps and islands. So crammed with life is it, that apart from its outstanding beauty, it is also considered one of Africa's most important wildlife sanctuaries and a World Heritage Site. Its huge diversity of fauna and flora includes specialised water-loving creatures, from the sought-after Pel's fishing-owl to the shy sitatunga, and myriad reed frogs that fill the nights with sound.

At its tranquil, watery heart, one can imagine a world without human impact, and truly appreciate an ecosystem in balance.



An aerial photograph capturing a massive herd of antelope, likely kudu, in motion across a vast, green savanna. The animals are scattered throughout the frame, with many running towards the right side. Their long, spiraling horns are visible on several individuals. The ground is a mix of vibrant green grass and patches of lighter, sandy soil. Long, dark shadows are cast by the animals, indicating a low sun position. In the lower-left quadrant, there is a small, dark, irregularly shaped area that appears to be a waterhole or a muddy patch. The overall scene conveys a sense of natural energy and movement in a wild, open landscape.

**OKAVANGO – COMBINATION**

VUMBURA PLAINS / LITTLE VUMBURA / JAO /  
KWETSANI / TUBU TREE / LITTLE TUBU / ABU / SEBA





*A tapestry of habitats – floodplains,  
channels, islands and lagoons*





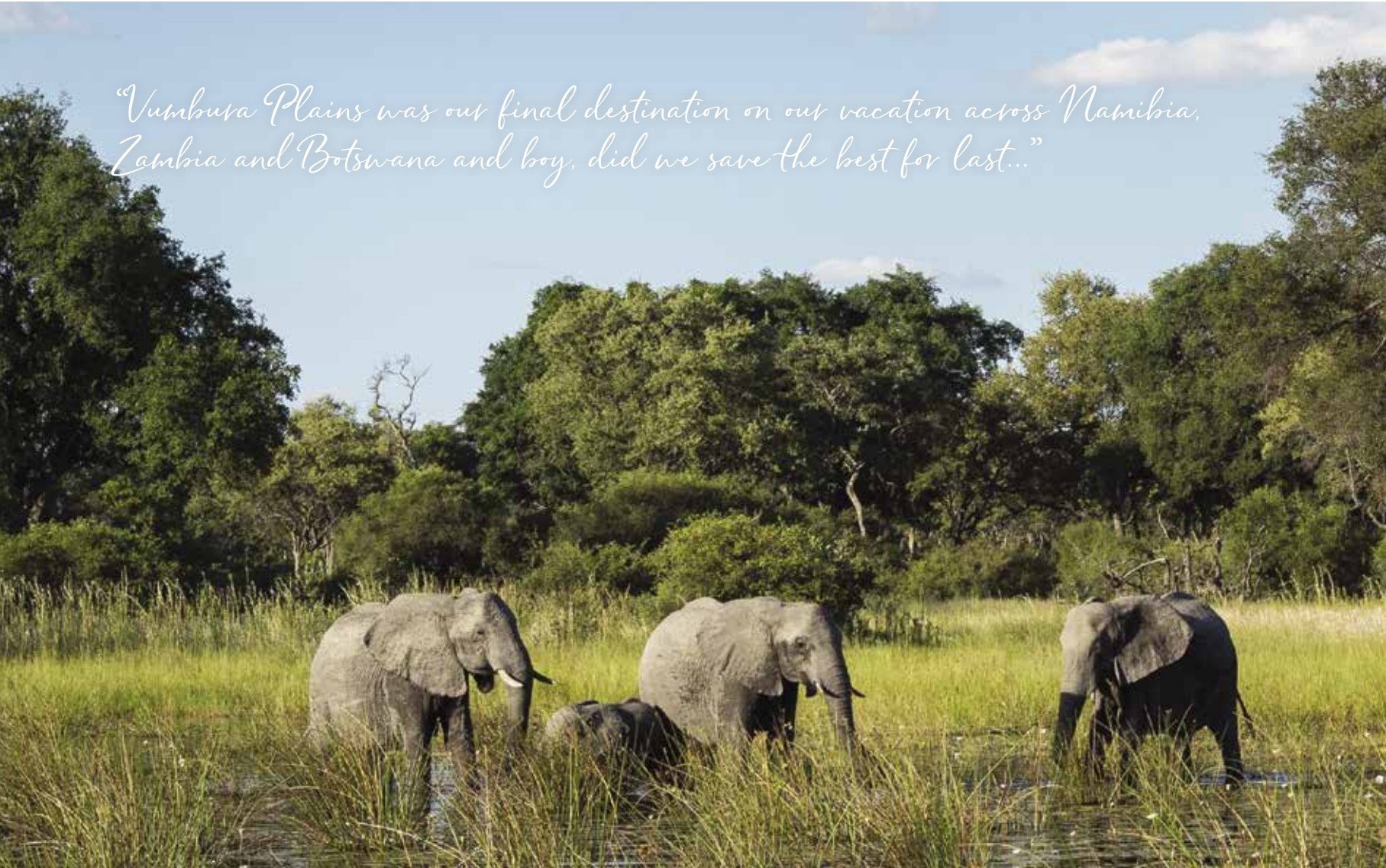
## Vumbura Plains

Vumbura Plains, a luxurious retreat of contemporary design, seems to float on a sea of waving reeds in the midst of a large floodplain. The sumptuous rooms, each with its own plunge pool and sala, are uniquely designed, spacious and elevated on wooden decks to take in a wide-angled vista. Because the area is a mix of water and dry land, wildlife is diverse, so water-loving lechwe splash through the reeds, while rare sable antelope can be seen in the dry savannah. A longstanding partnership between Wilderness and the community has ensured that that our ecotourism purpose fulfils its role in benefitting the people of the area.

- 14 tents (2 family) • 100% solar • no Wi-Fi • game drives • mokoro
- boating • guided walks • hot air ballooning
- catch-and-release fishing • massages • Olympus photography

PREMIER

*"Vumbura Plains was our final destination on our vacation across Namibia, Zambia and Botswana and boy, did we save the best for last..."*





## PARTNERING WITH LOCAL *Communities*

Without the support and understanding of local communities that adjoin concession areas, national parks and reserves, conservation would have a far more limited chance of success. Since its inception, Wilderness Safaris has led the field in recognising that the involvement of communities in conservation and tourism is not only ethically right, but also presents its own set of opportunities, both for the sustainability of conservation as well as its expansion into areas previously not available or considered for the purpose.

In Botswana, we are proud of our partnership with the Okavango Community Trust (OCT) in the Kwedi Concession where we operate Vumbura Plains and Little Vumbura. The concession is leased from the OCT representing five key villages to the north of this conservation area; community members make up the bulk of the staff employed in these camps. Benefits to the community include employment and lease fees, and in fact extend to a variety of community engagement and development projects. For example, Adult Empowerment Clubs have been created, where members engage in creating local crafts to be sold to or at the camps, thus providing much-needed income to poor rural households, as well as empowering local women.







*“If you are thinking of going to Little Vumbura... go! The staff, the food, the guides and the animals are unbelievable.”*





## *Little Vumbura*

A beautiful camp built on a small tree island beneath the canopy of an ancient Okavango forest, Little Vumbura, accessible by boat, is the epitome of island living in the midst of the water wonderland that is the Delta. Surrounded as it is by water, and with its proximity to large channels, a boat or a traditional-style mokoro are both excellent ways to explore this area, while classic game drives take in the plains game and predators that inhabit the area in good numbers.

Little Vumbura is situated in a concession leased from nearby rural communities. Ecotourism activities here thus help communities benefit from conservation.

- 6 tents (1 family) • no Wi-Fi • game drives • mokoro • boating
- guided walks • hot air ballooning • catch-and-release fishing
- Olympus photography

CLASSIC



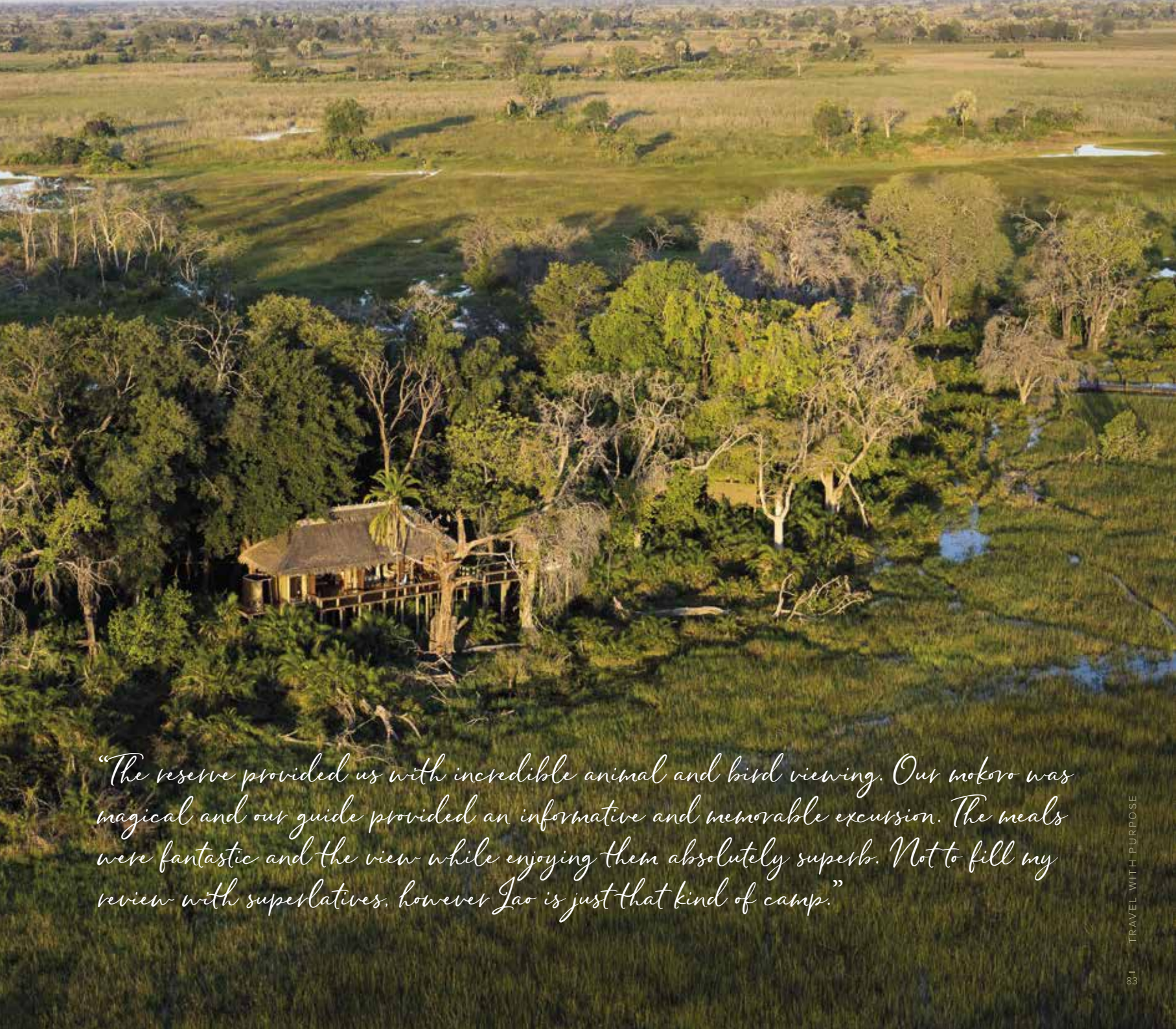


## *Jao*

Located on a large island in the Okavango's western enclave, Jao's individually handcrafted and luxuriously large tents look out onto classic Delta scenes: swathes of water, swaying reeds, leaping lechwe and dancing cranes. Its position – amongst waterways and lagoons, yet close to seasonal floodplains – allows for both land and water experiences, depending on the time of year and the level of the ceaselessly-moving waters. An elegant main area, excellent wine cellar and an award-winning spa epitomise luxury in the most remote, scenically splendid setting.

- 7 tents (2 villas) • Star Bed • Wi-Fi • game drives • mokoro • boating
- guided walks • catch-and-release fishing • gym • spa

PREMIER



*“The reserve provided us with incredible animal and bird viewing. Our mokoro was magical and our guide provided an informative and memorable excursion. The meals were fantastic and the view while enjoying them absolutely superb. Not to fill my review with superlatives, however Lao is just that kind of camp.”*











## *Kwetsani*

On an elongated Okavango island, spacious and stylish tents are raised high above the ground to overlook a picture-perfect, often lechwe-dotted floodplain. While hippo and crocodile reside in the deeper, permanently lily-filled lagoons, and tsessebe, wildebeest and reedbuck frequent the floodplains, nearby Hunda Island – largest landmass on the Jao Concession – provides ample room for plains game such as giraffe, wildebeest, zebra and impala and their predators, chiefly leopard, lion and spotted hyaena. Whether the water levels are high or low, there's always something to do at Kwetsani.

- 5 tents • no Wi-Fi • game drives • mokoro • boating • guided walks
- catch-and-release fishing

CLASSIC





## WHERE *Land Meets Water*

While some areas of the Okavango are very distinctly either land- or water-dominated, many straddle the cusp and fall into a blend between the two – a mix of dry land and watery habitats that give visitors access to representative parts of the overall Okavango experience. The relative combination of water and land along this edge varies depending on the time of year and the exact location within the Okavango Delta.

These areas – known informally as ‘combination’ – are in fact an ecotone and lie on the outer fringes of the permanent swamp. As a result, they contain a mix of habitats that range on one side from permanent water, open channels and lagoons to seasonal floodplains, and on the other side, various forms of woodland and scrub. These in turn host a diverse array of mammal and bird species that adapt to the changing conditions, to be seen while on an equally diverse array of activities.







## *Tubu Tree*

Tubu Tree, as its name suggests, lives high in the lush, leafy canopy on the western side of Hunda Island, the largest stretch of dry land in this part of the Okavango Delta. Its location makes for diverse game viewing, from water-loving lechwe to land-based predators, particularly leopard, lion and hyaena. Built in a classic and traditional style, Tubu Tree is also known for having the best-placed bar in all of the Delta, in the canopy of a marula tree overlooking the open grassy floodplain directly in front of camp – the perfect setting for evening sundowners.

- 8 tents (1 family) • Star Bed • no Wi-Fi • game drives • guided walks
- mokoro • boating • catch-and-release fishing

CLASSIC







## Little Tubu

Little Tubu is situated on the same island as its sister camp, Tubu Tree, and benefits from the same mix of landscapes – from Hunda Island, the largest dry-land environment in the area, to floodplains that increase with the arrival of the seasonal inundation. This makes for exceptional and varied game viewing, along with fantastic birding. Private and intimate, with just three tents, the camp is connected to Tubu Tree by raised boardwalks, but has all of its own facilities, including a beautiful bar built into a waterberry tree. Along with the other camps in the Jao Concession, Little Tubu focuses on providing a means of earning a living that is sustainable and good for people and conservation.

- 3 tents • Star Bed • no Wi-Fi • game drives • guided walks • mokoro
- boating • catch-and-release fishing

CLASSIC



*“Set on an island in the Delta, you get a great mix of wildlife on land and in the water. Such peace.”*









## Seba

Set in an area known for its plains game, lion and leopard sightings, and spotted hyaena dens, solar-powered Seba ensures that all guests, old and young, get the most out of their safari. Overlooking a perennial lagoon, this is the best camp in the Delta for families, with two uniquely-designed tents, each with its own plunge pool. Aided by guides who specialise in keeping children entertained on safari, from photography to bush cooking lessons, this is the perfect place to introduce your family, whether adult, young, or young at heart, to the wonder and magic of wild Africa.

- 8 tents (2 family) • 100% solar • no Wi-Fi • game drives • guided walks
- mokoro • boating • catch-and-release fishing

CLASSIC







# Abu

The light, airy villas of majestic Abu Camp echo the curved, grey hides of the Abu Herd, a unique group of pachyderms that guests are invited to interact with, seeing the splendid world of the Okavango through their eyes. Over and above the camp elephants, the area hosts other wildlife, from herds of lechwe, zebra, giraffe, tsessebe and even the rare roan antelope, to spotted hyaena, lion and leopard. Abu, set beneath ancient sycamore figs overlooking a lagoon, is an idyllic environment where sophisticated architecture is at ease with a pizza oven. Spend an evening curled up near the elephants in the unique Star Bed while the herd slumbers below.

- 6 tents • Star Bed • Wi-Fi • elephant interaction • game drives
- guided walks • mokoro • boating • catch-and-release fishing
- massages • gym

PREMIER







*“We have been fortunate to have been to a lot of safari camps over Africa – but we both agreed that Abu was the best we have experienced.”*







# Elephant

## AMBASSADORS

The whole premise on which Abu Camp is based is that of elephant conservation. These largest of land mammals are a keystone species on whose conservation the existence of many other aspects of biodiversity depends and which currently face the threat of a rampant illegal ivory trade.

Abu was originally opened as a haven for elephants who had previously been held in captive situations such as zoos or circuses around the world, the bold vision of the founder being to release as many as possible into the wild. On reaching adulthood, all young bulls from the herd have left to wander the Okavango, and a matriarchal unit of two adult cows and their respective calves has also chosen to leave. This latter group, as well as a number of wild elephants, have been fitted with GPS collars as a means of understanding the process of reintegration into the wild. In this way, these elephants are contributing significantly to our understanding of the conservation issues that the species faces and, of course, allow our guests first-hand insights.

The Abu Herd, present and past, are therefore eloquent ambassadors for elephant conservation.

A lioness is walking across a green savanna in the foreground. In the background, a herd of oryx is grazing, and there are several acacia trees under a clear sky.

**CENTRAL KALAHARI**  
KALAHARI PLAINS



A herd of oryx antelope is captured in a vast, open savanna landscape. The foreground is dominated by lush green grass interspersed with small, dry, scrubby bushes. In the middle ground, several oryx are visible, including two large adults with long, spiraling horns and a few smaller calves. They are scattered across the plain, some facing left and others right. The background shows a flat horizon line with a few more bushes and a clear, pale blue sky. The overall scene conveys a sense of wide, open space and natural beauty.

*Space, skies, vast plains and infinite horizons*

## *Kalahari Plains*

Situated in the immense Central Kalahari Game Reserve (twice the size of Vermont or Turkey), Kalahari Plains – one of our first 100% solar-powered camps – overlooks an open valley, offering endless vistas towards the horizon and star-studded skies by night. This area is home to the legendary black-maned lion and some of the best cheetah viewing in Africa, especially in the summer months when large herds of springbok, oryx and wildebeest attract predators from all corners of the desert. Our staff are always keen to share their fascinating San culture on an authentic Bushman experience.

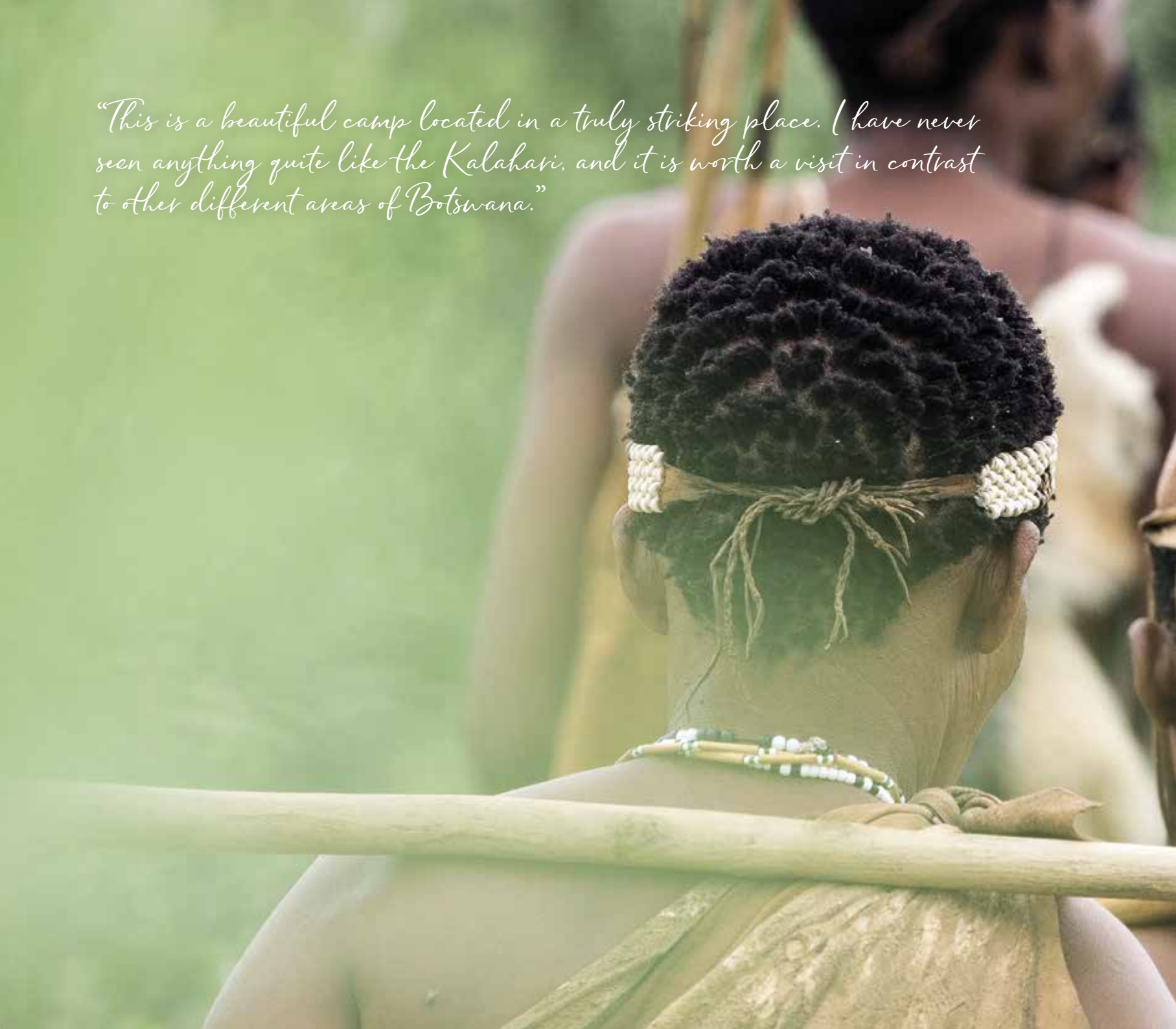
8 tents (1 family) • 100% solar • sleep-out deck • no Wi-Fi  
• game drives • guided Bushman walk • Olympus photography

ADVENTURES





*"This is a beautiful camp located in a truly striking place. I have never seen anything quite like the Kalahari, and it is worth a visit in contrast to other different areas of Botswana."*







## *True sustainability*

### ADAPTATION TO THE DESERT ENVIRONMENT

We established Kalahari Plains primarily to allow our guests to experience the unique dry savannah habitats of Botswana, so different to the wet northern regions. Both animal and plant life have adapted well to the arid Central Kalahari Game Reserve, and when we arrived, we had to too.

Between the low rainfall and high evaporation, this is an extremely dry biome with virtually no surface water for up to nine months of the year. In addition, the borehole water drawn from beneath the camp is very salty and undrinkable. We therefore used flat-roof technology to collect rainwater during the rainy season that directs water from the 990m<sup>2</sup> roofs via a system of gutters and pipes to tanks situated at the rear of all guest tents, the kitchen and office. When all tanks are full, the camp has 150 000 litres (39 600 gallons) of additional water, which is then purified using a reverse osmosis system.

The long, sunny, cloudless days are ideal for generating solar energy – making the environment also the source of all energy for Kalahari Plains.



A herd of wildebeest is grazing in a lush green savanna. The animals are scattered across the foreground and middle ground, some facing left and some right. The background is filled with a variety of trees, including tall acacia trees and palm trees. The sky is bright blue with large, white, fluffy clouds. The overall scene is a classic African savanna landscape.

**PRIVATELY-GUIDED JOURNEYS**





*Privately-guided journeys through the vast, unexplored nature of it all ...*

## PRIVATELY-GUIDED *Journeys*

Wilderness Safaris began with mobile camping safaris as the cornerstone of our operation, where we sought out prime wilderness areas throughout southern Africa and channelled our passion into guided safaris that were educational and fun filled. Our privately-guided journeys represent both a commitment to our origins and allow you to design your own safari, which takes place at your own time and pace, with a private guide. Noted for their passion and knowledge, one of our highly-trained guides leads your journey from start to finish, creating a seamless and detailed interpretive experience.





An aerial photograph of a winding river or stream flowing through a dense, lush green forest. The water is a deep blue, and the surrounding vegetation is vibrant green, with some areas appearing to be wetlands or marshes. The river meanders through the landscape, creating a sense of movement and connection between different parts of the wilderness.

## WILDERNESS AIR

*Connecting you to the Wilderness*

Our fleet of light aircraft provides seamless connections from camp to camp; the air-conditioned lounge in Maun a welcome retreat before international flights.



## OUR People

People are at the heart of Wilderness Safaris. Our staff is made up of individuals who share the beliefs and values of our organisation and who together form the extended Wilderness family. These warm, inspiring and enthusiastic individuals are the vital link and interface between our guests, our partners and the wilderness; their knowledge and passion gives a new meaning to service.

From the Maun and Gaborone offices to the far-flung camps and Explorations across the wild parts of the country, our people – approximately a thousand of them – are the custodians of what we call the Wilderness Way, which means to have a humble pride in the larger vision of the organisation and the difference we seek to make.

They share their enthusiasm and their learning with our guests, encouraging them to learn about ecology and conservation. In this way, we hope to inspire our guests, sending the message of African conservation out across the world.











# Planning a safari

## IN BOTSWANA

While the emphasis of a Botswana safari is often on large mammals – and there are plenty of these – there are many other specialised creatures to be seen and enjoyed. The lush floodplains and islands of the Okavango contrast with the woodlands of the Linyanti and their associated species, and then there are the arid-adapted animals and plants of the Kalahari, so that the differences to be experienced in this country range from subtle to extreme.

But overall it is often the sense of undisturbed wilderness and pristine functioning ecosystems that has the most significant impact on visitors.

Very few people have a month to spare for a safari though, so planning what to see and do in your available 7-14 days is critical. We strongly recommend working with an African travel specialist in your home country in order to receive the best advice. We work with a number of excellent tour operators and travel agents who know our camps and services intimately and will design the perfect safari especially for you.

When considering how to ensure the best experience from your safari, in our view the most important aspects to consider are diversity and logistics. How will you see as much variety as possible, while still having time to relax, reflect and enjoy your time? It is for this reason that we attempt to provide as seamless a journey as possible ... operating our own meet and greet services, an airport lounge, and our own 'bush airline' that flies you from camp to camp.

We want a journey with us to change your life, and to change the way you see the world and your place in it.



## CAMPS

1. Linyanti: King's Pool, DumaTau, Savuti
2. Northern Okavango: Vumbura Plains, Little Vumbura
3. Central Okavango: Mombo, Little Mombo
4. Western Okavango: Jao, Jacana, Pelo, Kwetsani, Tubu Tree, Little Tubu, Abu, Seba, Xigera
5. Southern Okavango: Chitabe, Chitabe Lediba, Qorokwe
6. Central Kalahari: Kalahari Plains



YOUR JOURNEY WILL  
*Make a Difference*

Experiences with wildlife, being in truly remote locations and interacting with our staff are the primary reasons why our guests choose to travel with Wilderness. But more than this; when you journey with us, you are helping make a difference – to Africa, its people and its wildlife.

A portion of every bednight that you book with us is dedicated to conservation. A small percentage goes to the Wilderness Wildlife Trust, our non-profit entity that supports a wide variety of projects throughout Africa: from research and conservation to wildlife management and educational bursaries.

Another share is portioned off to be used throughout the organisation in protecting and nurturing these wild places, in uplifting the communities that live adjacent to these, and in ensuring that our camps step with as light a footprint as possible on the Earth.

Our pride and joy is our Children in the Wilderness programme, which aims to educate the youth of Africa, inspiring and helping them to appreciate and thus protect their magnificent natural heritage.

We invite you to join us on a journey that makes a difference.



[www.wildernesstrust.com](http://www.wildernesstrust.com)



[www.childreninthewilderness.com](http://www.childreninthewilderness.com)





*Our journeys change lives*

ELSEWHERE IN  
*Africa*

**NAMIBIA** Little Kulala / Kulala Desert Lodge / Damaraland Camp /  
Desert Rhino Camp / Doro Nawas / Hoanib Skeleton Coast / Serra Cafema

**KENYA** Segera

**RWANDA** Bisate / Magashi

**SEYCHELLES** North Island

**SOUTH AFRICA** Private Journeys, Cape Town

**ZAMBIA** Busanga Bush Camp / Shumba / Toka Leya

**ZIMBABWE** Davison's / Little Makalolo / Linkwasha / Ruckomechi /  
Little Ruckomechi / Chikwenya / Zambezi Touring, Victoria Falls







KENYA



NAMIBIA



RWANDA



SEYCHELLES



ZAMBIA



ZIMBABWE





