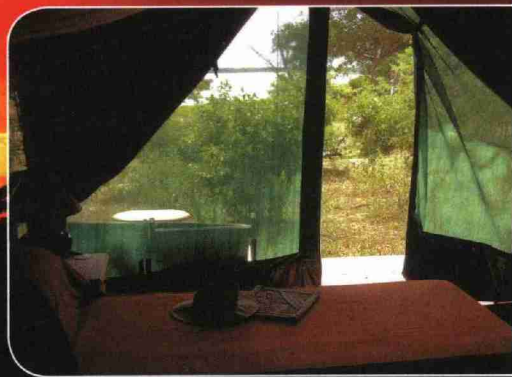


Tanzania and Botswana:

Remote Serenity

By Lisa Loverro



Tent accommodations at Safari camp.

Filled with national parks and numerous game reserves, you could say that safari originated in Tanzania. Not only because this country was one of the original game-view areas on the continent but also because the word "safari," meaning journey, originates here from the native Kiswahili language. This country is so vast it may be a bit daunting trying to figure where to send your clients for the best experience, so let's break it down for you!

In southern Tanzania the visitors are few, the scenery spectacular and the game plentiful. There are a few small lodges and camps in the Selous Game Reserve, a World Heritage site and home to the country's largest population of elephants. The **Rufiji River Camp** (www.rufijirivercamp.com) offers 14 secluded tents directly on the river. They were completely rebuilt in 2010 with each tent now housing two king size beds, a private deck and en-suite bathrooms. On the northern area of the park, the **Sable Mountain Lodge** (www.selouslodge.com) consists of eight stone cottages and five tented suites.

The Western edge of Tanzania offers the extremely remote national parks of Katavi and Mahale. Because of their remote locations, they can be quite expensive to reach, probably the

most costly in the country. Camps here are usually accessed on fly-in safaris using a small aircraft. **Nomad Tanzania** (www.nomad-tanzania.com) operates the Chada Camp in Katavi and the Greystoke Mahali Camp located on a sandy beach at the foot of the Mahali Mountains, home to one of the largest populations of chimpanzees in Africa. Getting to these spots is half the adventure, and ideal for those who are up for the long haul.

In Northern Tanzania, home to Tanzania's most famous safari area, the Serengeti, you'll find the wildebeest migration. Northern Tanzania can be quite overrun with visitors, but that's not to say one should stay away. On the contrary, the spectacle that is the wildebeest migration is one that should not be missed. The rainy season begins in early November and it's during this time, into December that the herds of the wildebeest arrive on the short-grass plains of the Serengeti. On a remote area of the southwest Serengeti, Kusini Camp, operated by **Expert Africa** (www.expertafrica.com) is comprised of 12 luxury tents. The camp is very private and serene, perfect for bonding with nature.

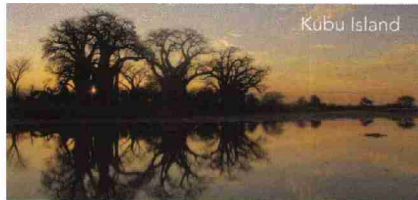
BOTSWANA

In a country whose wildlife is not

restricted, Botswana's national park holds a plethora of private reserves covering about 40% of the country's land area. While Botswana is probably best known for the Okavango Delta, the region is so diverse with ecosystems, waterways and the Kalahari plains, that visitors should be sure to see a number of these different habitats to ensure that they experience the best of the best within Botswana.

The Africa Adventure Company (www.africa-adventure.com) has introduced an exciting new six-day exclusive walking safari in northern Botswana. The 5-night walking and canoeing trail takes place in a remote area of the exclusive Linyanti Private Concession. Guests will explore the area with a combination of walking, canoeing and game drives in their own private vehicle. More walking and canoeing than driving, the experience is ideal for an active client. There will be days where they may walk 7-10 miles, depending on the group's fitness levels and the walking conditions. The wildlife is abundant with elephants, leopard, lion and wild dogs.

If you've got a client looking to step out of their comfort zone, send them on a giant leap with a one-of-a-kind Quad bike expedition through the vast remoteness of the Makgadikgadi Salt



Pans in Northeastern Botswana. Offered by the **Uncharted Africa Safari Company (www.unchartedafrika.com)** they'll head out into the remote Kubu Island, a 2.7 billion year old granite oasis for an evening in the wild before continuing to explore the rugged terrain and the mighty Baobab trees. The five-night itinerary includes three nights at one of their luxurious camps and then a two-day adventure where guests sleep under the stars. Expeditions run only during the dry season beginning mid-April. This area is so vast, remote and moon-like that you can actually see the curve of the earth.

For the equestrian lover, **The Safari Company (www.thesafaricompany.co.za)** operates a very unique horse safari experience. They offer 5-night and 10-night itineraries. The 5-night option takes place on the front or back end of their 10-night journeys. They run out of their Kujwana base camp in the Xudum River in the Okavango Delta. It's not at all a strenuous safari, but definitely a more adventurous option.

Both of these countries offer much more remote and unique safari options, well beyond the expected 4-wheel jeep rides. Visit **www.tanzaniatouristboard.com** or **www.botswanaturism.us**