

BARCLAY STENNER



**PRIVATELY GUIDED SAFARI FEBRUARY
PREPARED FOR SUMMER
DECEMBER - APRIL**





ABOUT YOUR GUIDE

JOHN BARCLAY

John Barclay, raised in Botswana from a toddler, heralds from a long line of African pioneers and adventurers; his first safari to the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans at the age of five ended up with him digging up Africa Rock Python babies out of the ground with his caretaker for the day, a member of the last of the great Sua/kwe! salt bushman, Cobra. John's family has guided African safaris for five generations, the first guide in the family being his maternal great great grandfather, Major Richard Granville Nicholson, who escorted Princess Eugenie to see her son's grave and the site where he was killed in the Zulu war on the 1st June 1879.

John's passion for the stunning dunes and deltas of the Kalahari Desert, their inhabitants great and small and the Ju/hoasi Bushmen began as a youngster after an exhilarating night spent out in the open with a broken down safari car, a mumbling lion researcher and a pride of 7 lions. On John's father's side, the family arrived in South Africa in the 1840s. John's Dad was the safari equipment tinkerer and his Mum was the story teller and care-giver and would often make nursing miracles bringing all sorts of wild animals back from near-death to full health. John grew up in the safari industry. John's uncle; Ralph Bousfield, owner of Jack's Camp in the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans and rated as Africa's top guide is his mentor. Ralph's respect for and knowledge of the Bushmen and the Kalahari environment rubbed off on John from very early on in his career and John had the great fortune to spend many exciting safaris learning from Ralph.

After graduating from Rhodes University John flirted with a desk job for 2 years in London but decided to trade his desk in for an exciting career with his Uncle Ralph at Uncharted Africa leading the Uncharted Africa Mobile Safaris Expeditions into the most adventurous corners of the incredible country of Botswana including the wonderful Okavango Delta, the stark Makgadikgadi Salt pans and the wide expanses of the Central Kalahari. Under the guidance of Ralph he carved a name for himself as a guide and achieved substantial recognition within the safari industry leading his mobile safari team to win the coveted Good Safari Guide Award - Best Mobile Operator in Africa twice! He was himself featured in *Conde Naste Traveller*, *Elite Traveller* and the *Robb Report*, and was quoted and defined as "a young Robert Redford" by *Gala Magazine*, June 2012. His favourite thing to do whilst in the bush is to find a hidden spot by a likely waterhole, and wait and observe the interesting behavior of whomever comes down to drink and learn something new.



ABOUT YOUR CAMP HOST

JAMES STENNER

From a young age, growing up in Northumberland in the North East of England, James dreamt about the 'Wild Continent' and always took great interest in African wildlife. Born into a family of English traditions with an adventurous rural upbringing, during his childhood years James was often to be found at sea, racing his family yachts in international competitions.

James has a colourful family history, descending from his Great Great Grandfather 'Hexham Jack' a famed bear wrestler and travelling circus legend. James takes his passion of photography from his Grandmother, who was a leading fashion and landscape photographer for Vogue Magazine in post-war Europe. James has always been a nature and wildlife fanatic and prior to arriving in Botswana lead an active and diverse life rising through the creative events industry in the UK and Australia. Due to his upbringing in a large and lively family, it is in his nature to warmly engage with people and make them feel at home straight away.

James was privately educated in England and following graduation from university spent 9 years circumnavigating the Australian continent, fundraising for a national charity in between running a weekly radio show and documenting his adventures for a well know travel website.



SAFARI OVERVIEW

BOTSWANA

Day 1

Arrive Maun International Airport, Botswana
Helicopter to Nxai Pan Salt Pans
Luxury Mobile Safaris Camp (3 nights)

Day 2 - 3

Nxai Pan
Luxury Mobile Safaris Camp

Day 4

Helicopter to Mababe
Luxury Mobile Safaris Fly Camp (3 nights)
Mababe Depression

Day 5, 6

Khwai River
Mababe Camp

Day 7

Helicopter to Moremi
Luxury Mobile Safaris Camp (4 nights)

Day 8, 9, 10

Moremi - Okavango Delta
Luxury Mobile Safaris Camp

Day 11

Fly to Maun for departure

BOTSWANA

SUMMER MOBILE SAFARI



MONTH TO MONTH TRAVEL CALENDAR

BOTSWANA

SUMMER

Peak breeding time for many of the colourful migrant bird species. Excellent wild flowers, brilliant green foliage, constant sounds day and night, from insects and birds. The bush is alive – the Okavango Delta is brilliant, noisy and alive. With the rainy season all plants are growing actively, butterflies, birds, frogs and all the small creatures are at their most active and at their best. Can have both wet and very dry spells within the month. The grasses are green and while the grazers enjoy the tender mouthfuls, the stalking predators are becoming increasingly visible in their lighter winter camouflage. This ensures that the predators devote much of their time to hunting the numerous species which produces plenty of predator/ prey activity.

Meanwhile in the desert - The Kalahari pans are inundated with rain water and the Salt Pans attract thousands of zebra which inhabit the pan providing a constant source of protein for the resident lion prides. At this time, the grass is at its most nutritious and the mammals of the Kalahari, adapted to long periods with minimal grazing and no water, revel in this time of plenty. Spectacular afternoon thunder storms and warm days are the norm.



NXAI PAN

BOTSWANA

A stark contrast Nxai Pan you will see the difference in the dry environment to the watery w, as the recently explored Okavango Delta would be if there was no water.

You will explore this area by vehicles on game drives, in an area that has the great concentrations of elephants, ostrich, zebra, lion, cheetah, bat eared foxes and other desert adapted wildlife, especially around the waterholes.

One of the major drawcards at Nxai Pan are the Baine's Baobabs, painted by Thomas Baines in 1862 and subsequently by Prince William. If you were to compare the 2 paintings nearly 150 years apart you will see that the trees have remained almost completely unchanged.

The sheer number of plains game is breathtaking! Springbok numbers into their thousands snorting at the first sign of a cheetah, gemsbok have been seen forming a wall of horns and chasing off lions, giraffe congregate under the watchful eye of a family of jackals and signs of brown hyena are everywhere.

This is one of the best places to find honey badgers which can be located by carefully watching the local pale chanting goshawk's behavior. The evening thunderstorms and flush of green grass during and after the rains turn this desert into a truly remarkable area for bird watching, game viewing and photography.





DAY 1 - 3

Arrive Maun International Airport, Botswana

Either fly or drive to Nxai Pan

Luxury Mobile Safaris Camp (3 nights)

On landing in Maun, your guide, John Barclay, will meet you and take you into the Nxai Pan. Peel back the layers as we drive or fly from Maun airport, the longest strip of airport tar in Southern Africa, leave the tarred roads and cellphones, and gradually lose signal but gain connectivity as we hit the dirt road of the salt pans.

Arrive and meet James Stenner, your host at your very own mobile camp, which provides a true experience of the land without sacrificing comfort and will be erected overlooking the pans, set amongst small trees and shrubs on the edge of the famous fossil pan system. An animal strolling along the scene as it feeds is the norm rather than the exception. At night we gather around the campfire under a luminous canopy of stars, share stories, and enjoy the camaraderie of the safari experience. Our campsite is ours alone—though we are sometimes joined by the inquisitive but shy Brown Hyenas that come out at night to scour the land for something to eat and the enchanting plinking of barking geckos serenades us to sleep.

We will explore this marvelous area by vehicle at first light over the following few days. What we do get up to on a daily basis is dictated by the environment. Some days we may leave after a hearty cooked English Breakfast, with a packed lunch and spend the day out of camp. If we were to find a cheetah that looks as if it will hunt, we can just sit and wait as the action unfolds, watching birds and taking in this marvelous environment, its completely up to you.



PRIVATE CANVAS

No safari is complete without time spent under canvas in the style of the old explorers. Our private mobile-tented camp allows us to visit some of the most beautiful and remote wilderness areas in Botswana, unhindered by any schedule or crowds of other people. The camp gives us the flexibility to position our camps for the best game viewing possible.

Designed by John and James, your mobile camp provides the ultimate in luxurious exclusivity whilst allowing for an intimate wildlife experience. Each of the Hexagon canvas tents have en-suite toilets and showers and are insect proof. Meals are taken in a central dining tent and are freshly prepared according to your group's needs. A full crew of exceptional safari staff are there to look after your every need, whether it is preparing a beautifully laid dinner under the stars or a piping hot shower upon return from your afternoon's adventures. For those who want to be kept active during their time in camp, activities range from photographic workshops, to learning about Botswana's wildlife, birdlife, and people.





“The professional set-up and the hospitality of your camp are as wonderful to us safari first-timers as anything on offer back home”

TAYLOR SWIFT
PERSONAL LETTER TO BARCLAY STENNER SAFARIS

MABABE ALONG THE KHWAI RIVER

BOTSWANA

Still a part of the Okavango Delta and bordering the Moremi Game Reserve, lies the Khwai River. The bridge over the river Khwai is a very special piece of history as John's grandfather helped to build the original, the remnant leadwood posts can still be seen as you cross the bridge. The Moremi Game Reserve was the first wildlife sanctuary ever created by a resident African tribe, the BaBukakhwe who no longer hunt in the area. Instead their community relies on income derived from tourism and once you see the beauty of the game rich Khwai floodplains you will agree that was a great decision. This tribe come from the nearby Khwai village.

Wildlife species that can be found include elephant, jackal, buffalo, southern giraffe, Burchell's zebra, greater kudu, lion, leopard, cheetah and spotted hyena. A large wild dog and hyena population occur here, and in June/July when the hyena and the wild dogs seek out a new den site the community keeps a close eye on them reporting back their chosen secret spot which provides us with a glimpse into these incredibly rare predators. The birdlife here is prolific.

Due to the density of the plains game in the open floodplains, the predator counts is almost unnaturally high and along the river Khwai is known to have the highest density of leopard anywhere in Botswana. Exploring a track with the Khwai river on the one side of the vehicle and riparian bush packed with countless animals on the other side of you - and not knowing which way to look is a pleasure inducing overload of all one's senses.





DAY 6, 7, 8

Fly to Mababe

Mababe Camp (3 nights)

Mababe overlooks the beautiful riverine treeline of the Khwai River and whilst John and his team mobilize the Nxai Pan Camp and travel to meet us in Moremi, you can recline in the luxury of your exquisitely detailed tents or sit on your personal verandah and watch the daily parade of animals as they come down to drink right in front of camp.

Besides the game drives at Mababe which can feature Africa's big attractions – lion, cheetah, leopard, wild dog, elephant, buffalo, hippo and giraffe – you are also able to explore nature after sunset with a night drive. This activity, along with the guided walking safaris, is not usually permitted in the National Parks or Game Reserves of Botswana and allows guests to get an up close and personal experience with some of Africa's nocturnal and / or more elusive animals.

If the time of year is right, this setting also provides the opportunity to visit a habituated Hyena Den located near to camp. Getting up close the den gives one a deeper understanding of these complex and often mis-understood animals.



OKAVANGO DELTA

BOTSWANA

The Okavango Delta in northern Botswana, covers 20,000 square kilometres and is the largest inland delta in the world. Flowing for approximately 300 kilometres from the pan handle in the north to the Thamalakane River in the south, the water is crystal clear, naturally filtered by the sand and aquatic vegetation that forms the delta's basin.

The delta is a natural phenomenon and is relatively young in geological terms. The source of this African oasis is in Angola, entering Botswana 1,600 kilometres later as the Okavango River. Here the fate of the flow is determined by a series of parallel fault lines. As it passes over the first, it splits and fans into a number of waterways and channels that from space look like the fingers of a giant hand. The second and third fault lines act as a natural bund guiding the flow down their length until reaching Maun.

The view from the air is one of breathtaking magnificence, a maze of meandering channels, papyrus reed walls and intermittent palm islands - a paradise encircled by the sands of the Kalahari. This dynamic ecosystem, in which today's channels may be the islands of tomorrow, provides a permanent and seasonal home to prolific bird and wildlife. Spectacular herds of elephant roam, buffalo graze, antelope species congregate under the watchful eye of predators such as lion, hyena, leopard and the less common cheetah and wild dog. This is a truly remarkable area for bird watching, game viewing and photography.

Through the signature cry of the fish eagle under clear African skies, the Okavango Delta extends an open invitation to indulge in its mystery. The thrill of exploring its wild corners by game drive vehicle, the intimacy and unique connection of rambling on foot, and the sheer peace of floating in a mokoro amidst the large leaves of lily scattered lagoons, all experiences without parallel.





DAY 7, 8, 9, 10

Fly to the Moremi Game Reserve
Luxury Mobile Safaris Camp (4 nights)

Departing early, we will drive to the Heli Spot area where we will meet the chopper to fly us over the and beyond the endless Mophane, and into the Moremi Game Reserve where our camp and team from Nxai Pan awaits us with a warm face towels and a cold Gin and Tonic.

Here, we will explore the landscape and wildlife in the area by 4WD vehicle along the floodplain, home to elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard, cheetah, and the rare wild dog, along with exceptional populations of wildfowl and raptors. This area is typically water than where our camp was in Mababe, providing us with fun water crossings and a varied topography.

Our exclusive mobile camp, moved from Nxai Pan is set along the famous Mboma Lagoon where the waters of the Okavango disappears into the sand. By June, when all the rain-filled pans dry up, wildlife continues to be attracted to this area in ever-greater numbers until the rains arrive in November.







DAY 11

Fly to Maun.

International departure

We will say goodbye to our crew and fly by private charter aircraft to Maun. Here you will connect with your flight to Johannesburg or to Cape Town for glorious Cape Town weather, wine and food.

SAFARI COST

Per person cost based on:

3 nights at luxury mobile safari camp - Nxai Pan

3 nights Mababe Camp - luxury mobile safari camp

4 nights at luxury mobile safari camp - Moremi

10 nights

Total per person based on 4 guests: US \$13500.00

This cost includes:

Professional private guides (John Barclay , James Stenner) and exclusive use of vehicle throughout your mobile sections of safari

Private camp throughout your mobile sections of safari

Full board accommodation and all meals

All drinks including soft drinks, beer, house wine and spirits

Laundry service

All game drives and park fees

Flying doctor emergency evacuation

This cost does not include:

All private charter and helicopter flights as described in the itinerary

Anything of a personal nature

International flights including flights from Maun to Johannesburg, and Johannesburg to Victoria Falls

Trip cancellation and health insurance

Any options not described in the itinerary

Visa and passport fees

Gratuities

SAFARI TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Bookings and Payments

All safaris are booked on a 'first-come, first-served' basis.

Booking Fee

Due to the individual nature of our safaris, a non-refundable booking deposit of 30% must be received before your safari dates can be confirmed. This fee is non-refundable and it will be deducted from the total amount payable for the safari.

Payments

- The final payment is due 90 days before your safari departure date.
- Checks should be made payable Barclay Stenner. Payment by bank wire transfer is preferred. Credit cards are not accepted.

Cancellation

The booking deposit is a non-refundable booking

From 90 days to your departure date there is a 100% cancellation fee

Your itinerary and costing is subject to change in the event of exceptional cost increases such as fuel surcharges and park fees, or extreme currency fluctuations.

Risks and Insurance

While participating under Barclay Stenner arrangements with our safari operators, certain unavoidable risks and dangers may occur, including but not limited to: accidents, illness, travel by air, automobile, or other conveyance, wildlife and the forces of nature.

You will be in isolated, rugged and wilderness terrain, often away from medical facilities, and involved in activities that are potentially dangerous such as: climbing, game spotting, horseback riding, canoeing, and nature walks. Neither Barclay Stenner, nor our safari operators accept responsibility or liability for any injury, loss or damage suffered by any person or property from any cause whatsoever.

We do, however, make all our clients members of a medical air evacuation service, which if conditions are right, will provide an emergency air ambulance evacuation to the nearest hospital.

Neither Barclay Stenner nor its operators accepts responsibility for any delay prior to or during the course of our safaris brought about by strikes, weather conditions or any other circumstances beyond our control. If Barclay Stenner judges any destination to be unsafe it will offer to reschedule, relocate, or refund your trip. If field conditions should not be optimum due to weather conditions, operators reserve the right to change the itinerary at any time.

All individuals come on safari at their own risk and must therefore provide their own travel, health and accident insurance coverage during the safari. In addition, we strongly advise guests to take out cancellation insurance to cover any possibilities of personal health or family matters that would result in the inability to travel.

“All I wanted to do now was get back to Africa. We had not left it yet, but when I would wake in the night I would lie, listening, homesick for it already”

ERNEST HEMINGWAY, *GREEN HILLS OF AFRICA*

