

**SOUTH AFRICA,
BOTSWANA &**

ZIMBABWE

Photography Expedition

May 19th to June 2nd 2016



When

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Positions are filled strictly on a first come, first served basis.

Where

The trip will depart from Cape Town, South Africa, travelling to Zimbabwe and Botswana and finishing in Johannesburg. From Cape Town's quintessential melting pot of creativity, colour, sounds and tastes, to Victoria Falls and the giant national parks and game reserves, our expedition will encompass a great variety of Africa's history, geology and wildlife.

About

What is it about Africa that touches the soul? Is it the music and magic of historic Cape Town, the romance of sipping sundowners while elephants, zebra and antelopes graze floodplains, while crocodiles slide down riverbanks? Or is it the heart-stopping roar of a lion that reverberates through your chest and lodges in your memory forever?

The world's second-largest continent promises countless experiences, but few that compare to the wine regions around Cape Town, the wildlife reserves of South Africa and Botswana, and Zimbabwe's spectacular Victoria Falls.

Rich. Beautiful
and Mysterious





The Expedition Experience

The Expedition Experience but unabashedly luxurious!

While many of our trips to remote regions are expedition style, often featuring comfortable basecamps, whether it be on ships or in tented camps while trekking, our Africa trips are unabashedly luxurious.

We explore vibrant Cape Town, with its lively music and contemporary artscene. We visit its nearby wine-growing regions to sample South Africa's renowned wine and local foods.

We discover the power of Victoria Falls from its most famous hotel, enjoy luxurious safari lodges in Kapama Reserve and Chobe National Park, and sail the Chobe River, the natural boundary between Botswana and Namibia, on board the glorious Zambezi Queen (with special, small expedition boats that carry us even closer to the wildlife).

Discover the elegance of a bygone era as we search out some of the world's largest herds of elephants, (Chobe National Park alone has some 45,000), giraffe's grazing on thorn trees, antelopes like kudu and puku and bathing hippos. There is something profoundly humbling to see lions, cheetahs and leopards stalk their prey. Birdwatching is incredible and best at dawn, and the simple act of walking on African soil makes you feel as if you are coming home.

- Historic Cape Town's vineyards, beaches and treks beneath Table Mountain
- Explore Cape Town's vibrant art scene
- Observe Mosi-ao-Tunya, the 'Smoke that Thunders', from the ever-so-gracious and elegant Victoria Falls Hotel
- South Africa's Kapama Private Game Reserve, home to over 40 different mammal species and 350 bird species
- Explore the banks of the Chobe River, natural boundary between Botswana and Namibia, from the luxury Zambezi Queen
- Generator-free evenings on river for stargazing and hearing night sounds
- Chobe Game Reserve, home to elephants, lions, leopards, giraffes, cheetah and 450 bird species
- Mowani Safari Lodge, set amongst fantastic baobab trees



Africa's dust-drenched sunsets, lions and leopards hunting at night, a raucous dawn chorus set in a landscape that has long-inspired artists and writers.

Expedition Highlights

The Wildlife of Africa



This African Safari Expeditions will see the diverse wildlife of Kapama Private Game Reserve. Travelling to Botswana enjoy some safari lodge luxury in Botswana's Chobe National Park, home to 45,000 roaming elephants as well as lion, leopard, giraffe, cheetah, buffalo and over 450 species of birdlife.

Zambezi Queen



Affectionately known as ZQ, the Zambezi Queen offers comfort and elegance in one of the most remote locations on Earth, the Chobe River between Botswana and Namibia, only kilometres from where they meet Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Built in the early 1990s, and completely refurbished in 2008, its 14 suites feature air-conditioning, ensuite bathrooms with shower, and a private balcony offering unobstructed views of the river and grasslands. An upper deck dining room offers the chance to dine and observe animals gathering on the banks at dusk, as does a pool deck, lounge and bar. Small boats carry us on river-based safaris allowing us to get close to animals without them feeling threatened.

Itinerary

Days 1-3

Arrive into Cape Town at your leisure and meet your Expedition Leader and fellow expeditions for a sumptuous welcome dinner. Enjoy a full day exploration of the Cape Winelands region, sampling a wide range of local produced wines and cheeses. We'll spend time exploring Cape Town's colourful Malay quarter and Milnerton Lagoon's spectacular views of Table Mountain as well as enjoy a cultural dining experience at one of Cape Town's finest African restaurants.

Days 4-6

We take a mid-morning flight to Hoedspruit and transfer to our lodge in the Kapama Private Game Reserve, situated in South Africa's northernmost province of Limpopo and renowned for its prolific and diverse wildlife, including over 40 different mammal species (including the famous Big Five), over 350 bird species and a myriad smaller species. Predawn safaris feature the departure of night predators, the dawn chorus and visits to many local waterholes. We rest during the hottest part of the day then board our open-sided Land Rovers for a night safari before returning for dinner and entertaining talks.



Days 7-8

Our charter flight to Botswana offers a spectacular bird's-eye view across the African landscape. Arriving into Kasane we travel to luxury Mowana Safari Lodge, set amongst baobab trees with magnificent views to where the Chobe and Zambezi Rivers meet. In the surrounding Chobe Game Reserve, some 45,000 elephants share their lands with lion, leopard, giraffe, cheetah, zebra, buffalo and more than 450 species of bird. As in Kapana, our overland safaris will be early in the morning and early evening, with a rest in the middle of the day.

Days 9-11

Today we board Zambezi Queen on the Chobe River. Over three days we delight in viewing Chobe National Park's teeming wildlife from the open air lounge or from watercraft that allow close views of the wildlife that has come to bathe and drink. Generator free evenings allow us darkness for stargazing and the stillness to enjoy sounds of the Africa night.

Days 12-14

Disembarking the Zambezi Queen, we make our way to Victoria Falls and the elegant Victoria Falls Hotel for three nights, delighting in the magnificent views over the Fall's Bridge to Zambia. A sunset cruise on the Zambezi River reveals crocodiles, hippos and birdlife, while on a trek through the rainforest, we learn local legends of 'The Smoke that Thunders'. Enjoy a traditional Boma dinner, featuring kudu, warthog, crocodile and the local delicacies like Mopani worms, while being entertained by tribal dancing and storytelling.

Day 15

Today we transfer to Victoria Falls Airport for our return flight to Johannesburg and our trip's end.





CABIN	PRICE PER PERSON
Suite	US \$8,250
Master Suite	US \$9,250

Expedition Inclusions

- Flights Cape Town to Hoedspruit, Hoedspruit to Kasane and Victoria Falls to Johannesburg
- Accommodation, land and shore excursions and most meals
- Escorted by Aurora naturalist and our team of local guides
- All taxes and charges during expedition
- All national park entry fees
- + Pre-departure information and briefing.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance, including medical evacuation cover, is mandatory for all Expeditions.

We always recommend the purchase of Travel Insurance in the event of illness or any other emergency which delays or otherwise prevents you from travelling on the trip.

Your Photography Expedition Leader



Antony Watson - Wilderness Photographer

Working as a full-time professional wildlife, wilderness and landscape Photographer. Antony has combined his lifelong passion for the environment and wildlife with a career in Photography.

Antony graduated from Photography Studies College majoring in Commercial Photography. As a fully Accredited and Associate member of the Australian Institute of Photography (AIPP), he has won awards both at the State and National levels for his nature photographs.

Starting from a young age he has been fascinated with the great outdoors, spending his youth hiking and camping with family and friends. It wasn't long before his father gave him his first rangefinder camera for his birthday igniting his passion for all things photography and he rarely goes anywhere without a camera. This has led him to a career working as a Photography Guide in some of the world's most exotic beautiful and pristine locations our planet has to offer.

Antony is passionate about expedition travel as it provides truly unparalleled photographic opportunities. Antony relishes nothing more than being able to share these rare and amazing experiences with fellow travellers, helping them further develop their photographic skills so they too can capture the majestic beauty of our expedition experience in photographs.



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**ACCREDITED
PROFESSIONAL
PHOTOGRAPHER**

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