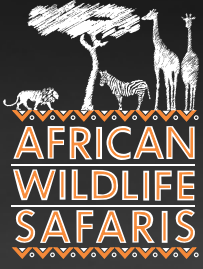


NATURAL FOCUS



THE TALKING DRUM

2024 Volume 2

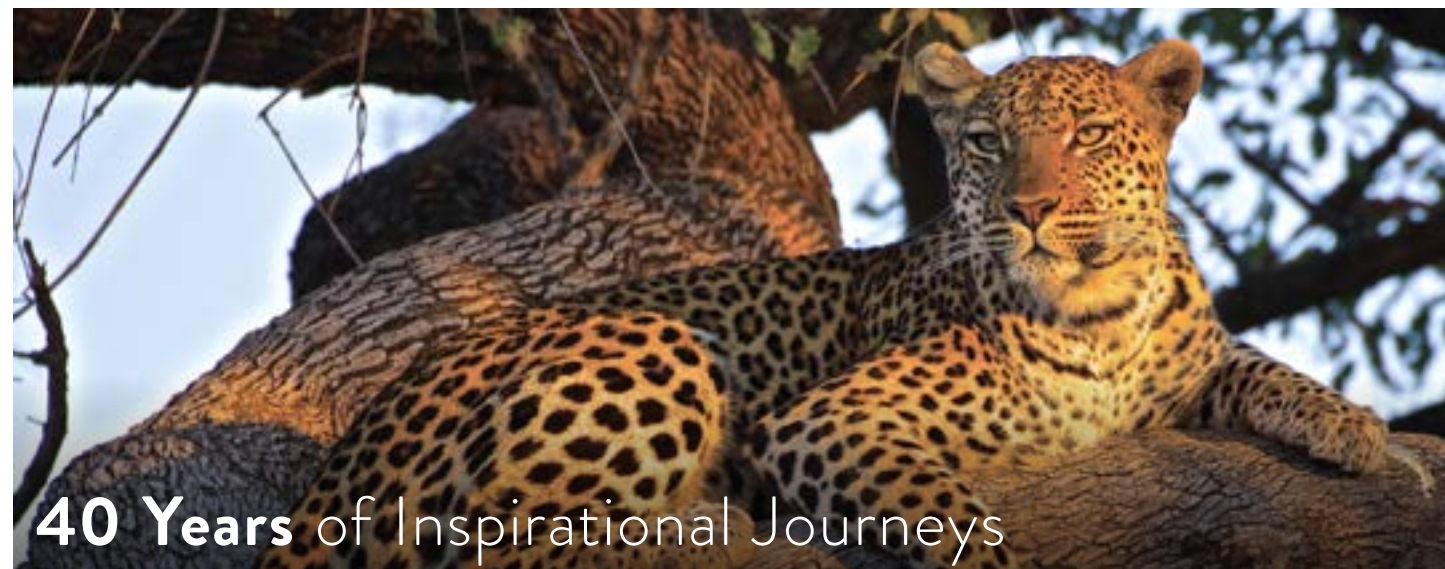


CELEBRATING
40 years
OF INSPIRATIONAL JOURNEYS

AFRICAN WILDLIFE SAFARIS

The experts in bespoke travel

AFRICA
INDIAN OCEAN
NORTH AFRICA
THE MIDDLE EAST



40 Years of Inspirational Journeys



Welcome to our Spring edition of The Talking Drum magazine, featuring exciting travel ideas, conservation news and special offers. Share the stories of our recent adventures in Africa and beyond, and be inspired to embark on new journeys of discovery.

In January 2025 African Wildlife Safaris will pass a very significant milestone – our 40th Anniversary. It has been an incredible journey since the company was founded back in 1985, when Africa was that little bit wilder, the safari camps and lodges a bit more rustic, and telex was the main means of communication. In this age of the internet and mobile phones it's hard to imagine a time when we survived without them!

Then 25 years ago we founded Natural Focus, broadening our horizons with superb wildlife and wilderness experiences in other parts of the world. If you would like to read more about our history, and even our pre-history when we crossed the

length of Africa by Bedford truck, visit our website at: africanwildlifesafaris.com/about-us/our-history

We would like to thank all our past and present clients for supporting us over the years. Many of you have travelled with us multiple times since the early days, and it has been an immense joy to share in your own incredible journeys. The stories of your adventures have become a part of our history. We are especially grateful to those who have referred us to friends, family, and colleagues. Your referrals are the highest compliment we can receive, and they continue to be an essential part of our success.

Our partners in Africa have also been part of our journey and have shared our passion for eco-tourism and its role in protecting wildlife for future generations. See the Sabi Sabi Collection's uplifting story on rewilding the wilderness (pages 14-15) and the work of the Natural Selection Foundation on our Conservation Update (p5). Our partners are joining with us in celebrating our 40th Anniversary in 2025 with some amazing specials and offers exclusive to African Wildlife Safaris, so keep an eye out for these in our newsletters, email promotions and on our website.

Thank you for being a part of our journey—we look forward to creating more extraordinary travel experiences together in the future.

Wishing you many happy future travels,

Stephen Cameron Sara Cameron
Steve and Sara Cameron - Founders

FEATURES

- 5 CONSERVATION UPDATE
Supported Projects 2024
- 6 CLASSIC BOTSWANA 2025
Escorted Group Tour
- 8 UNTAMED ZIMBABWE & ZAMBIA 2025
Escorted Group Tour
- 10 WILD ABOUT AFRICA 2025
Escorted Group Tour
- 12 TAJ, TEMPLES & TIGERS 2026
Escorted Group Tour
- 14 SABI SABI COLLECTION
Guardians of the Wilderness
- 16 ROVOS RAIL
The Pride of Africa
- 18 OKAVANGO WONDER, AT TAWANA
Natural Selection
- 20 TANTALISING TANZANIA
Asilia Africa
- 22 QUARK EXPEDITIONS
Arctic Dream
- 24 UNCRUISE EXPEDITIONS
Big, Bold and Beautiful
- 26 TÜRKIYE
Discovering the treasures of Türkiye

On the cover

AFRICAN ELEPHANT

© Ruan Mey, Sabi Sabi Collection



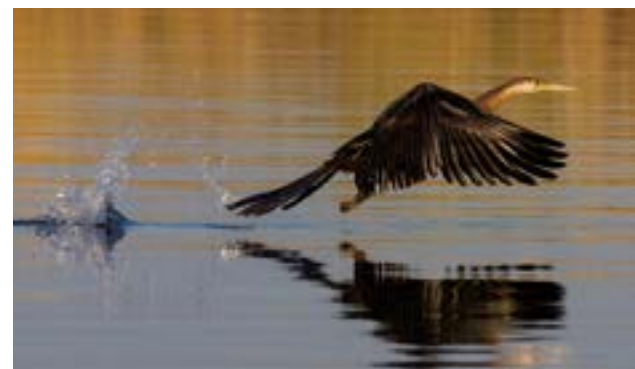
NATURAL FOCUS

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
ANTARCTICA & THE ARCTIC
CANADA & ALASKA
INDIA, SRI LANKA, NEPAL & BHUTAN
SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA
EUROPE & TÜRKIYE



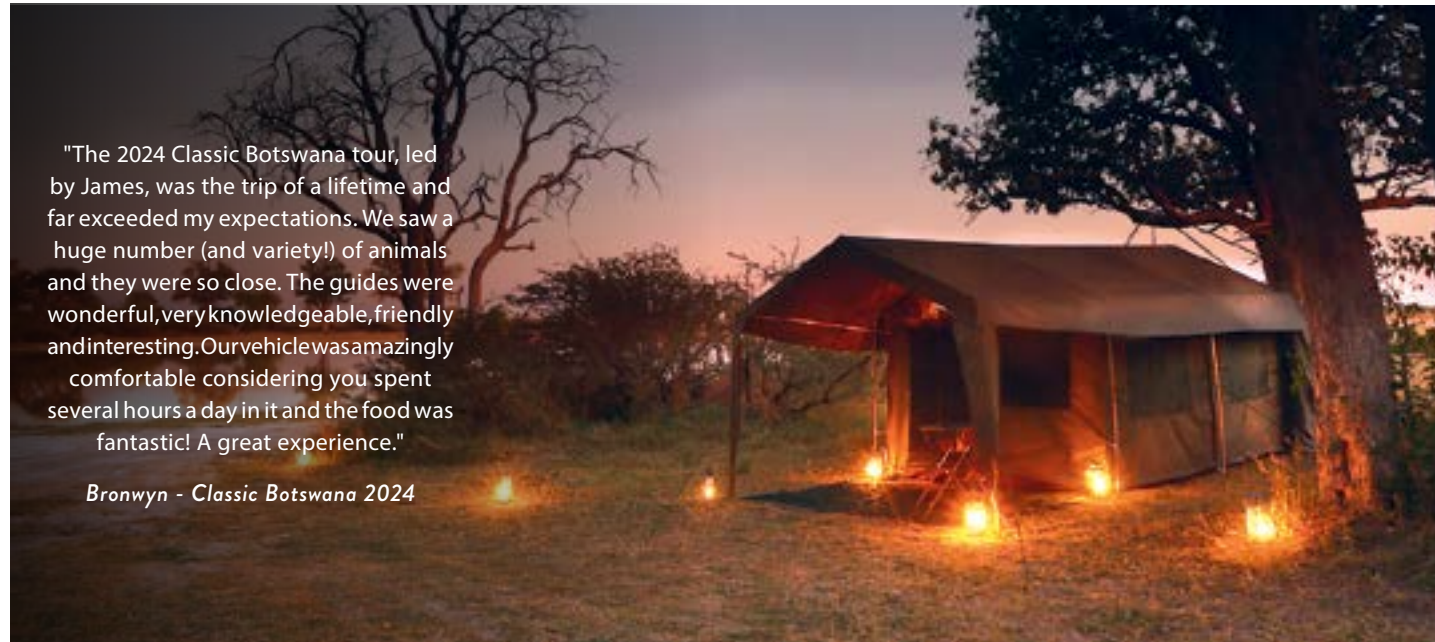
Plan Ahead

We highly recommend that you plan your holiday up to **15 months before** you wish to travel to avoid disappointment. Many of our boutique lodges and camps are small and exclusive and book up quickly. Destinations like Botswana are incredibly popular and the best camps and lodges can fill up a year or more in advance.



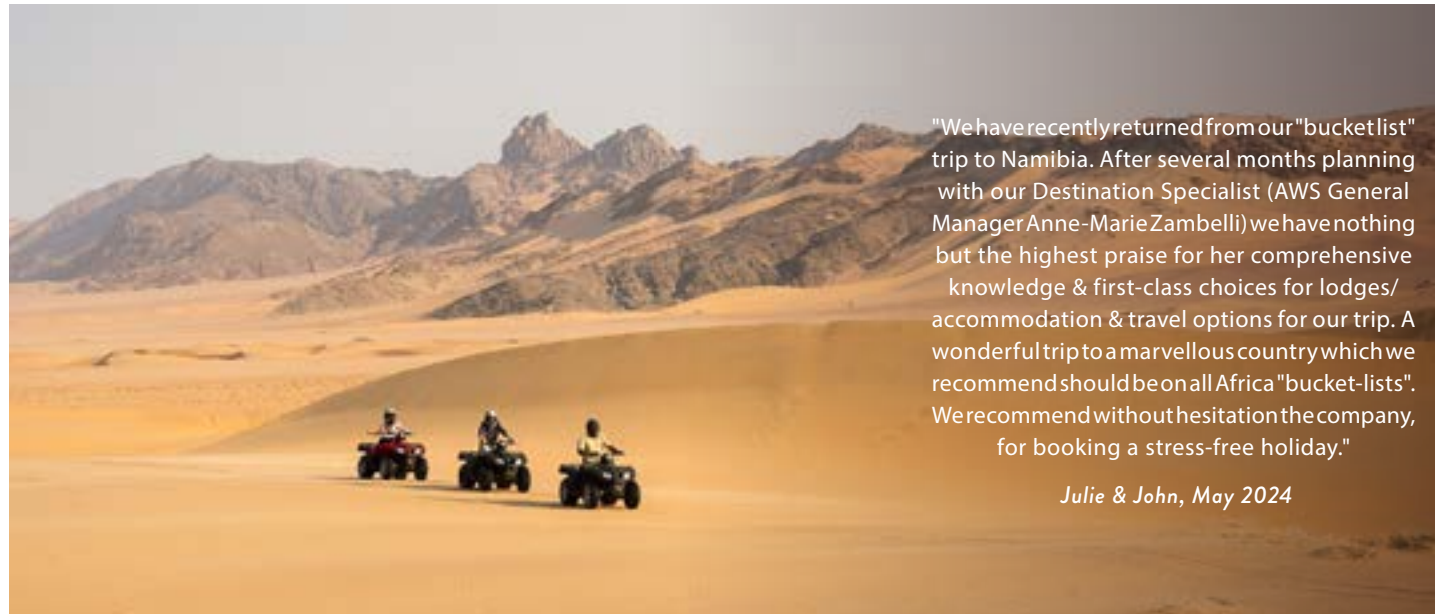
Internal photographs courtesy of: Aditya Singh, African Bush Camps, Asilia Africa, James Cameron, Lemala, Letaka Safaris, Machaba Safaris, Natural Selection, Quark Expeditions, Rovos Rail, Ruan Mey, Sabi Sabi Collection, Stephen Cameron, Tirath Singh, UnCruise Adventures, VFAPU

2024 CLIENT TESTIMONIALS



"The 2024 Classic Botswana tour, led by James, was the trip of a lifetime and far exceeded my expectations. We saw a huge number (and variety!) of animals and they were so close. The guides were wonderful, very knowledgeable, friendly and interesting. Our vehicle was amazingly comfortable considering you spent several hours a day in it and the food was fantastic! A great experience."

Bronwyn - Classic Botswana 2024



"We have recently returned from our "bucket list" trip to Namibia. After several months planning with our Destination Specialist (AWS General Manager Anne-Marie Zambelli) we have nothing but the highest praise for her comprehensive knowledge & first-class choices for lodges/accommodation & travel options for our trip. A wonderful trip to a marvellous country which we recommend should be on all Africa "bucket-lists". We recommend without hesitation the company, for booking a stress-free holiday."

Julie & John, May 2024



"Having used African Wildlife Safaris ten years ago we decided to contact them again. From there it was a seamless process. We had our "hands held" from when we landed in Nairobi until we left from Johannesburg. In South Africa at Mala Mala Private Game Reserve we enjoyed four days of game drives, twice daily for an unbelievable experience with countless animals and a hugely knowledgeable guide. In Namibia, most of our camps in the desert were air conditioned and all had ensuite and outdoor showers. We cannot fault the service and expertise afforded to us from Michael and AWS. It is a must do!!"

Colyn and Sandra, January 2024

CONSERVATION UPDATE

VICTORIA FALLS ANTI-POACHING UNIT (VFAPU)

For many years AWS has been a major supporter of VFAPU which is dedicated to protecting wildlife and wilderness in Victoria Falls National Park. In July this year AWS tour leader James Cameron and a group of our clients joined the VFAPU team on a behind the scenes safari into the park, learning about the challenges the unit faces. This active excursion also provides "eyes on the ground" searching for wire snares or signs of poaching. Our latest donation on behalf of our clients to aid in their efforts was USD 4,170.58. For more information on the VFAPU visit <https://vfapu.com/>



CARBON POSITIVE AUSTRALIA



There has been a lot of negative press recently about greenwashing and carbon offsets. For many years we have supported Carbon Positive Australia, a respected not-for-profit with over 20 years' experience in environmental plantings for reforestation, biodiversity and carbon reduction. They don't accept donations from organisations not committed to genuine carbon reduction, or direct emitters. If you donate to plant a tree or offset your carbon footprint, your funds will support long term restoration in Australia and be allocated against a register to ensure no tree or offset is 'sold' twice. With their partners they have planted over 7.5 million trees. See <https://carbonpositiveaustralia.org.au/>.

QUARK EXPEDITIONS AND POLAR BEARS INTERNATIONAL



Natural Focus and polar experts Quark Expeditions recently hosted a dinner for clients in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane with a fascinating presentation on Arctic expedition cruising. In the past these presentation dinners were complimentary but going forward we have introduced a small fee of \$20 per person to support a designated conservation initiative. In this case the donation was for Polar Bears International. A total of AUD \$1200 was raised at the events so many thanks to our generous clients.

For more information on Polar Bears International, visit www.polarbearsinternational.org/.

NATURAL SELECTION

Natural Selection, one of our long-term safari partners, is committed to environmental conservation. Through their Foundation they have funded 98 conservation and community initiatives in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Madagascar. In November Peter Allison from Natural Selection will be joining us for one of our popular client dinner presentations in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide. As mentioned above these will attract a small fee of \$20 per person, which will go towards the Foundation's Elephant Express project. Launched in 2020 this project provides 3 buses to transport school children, and patients visiting local clinics, through an elephant corridor.

For more details visit: www.naturalselectionfoundation.org/conservation/natural-selection-ele-shuttle/



CLASSIC BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE

DEPARTS 06 JULY 2025 EX MAUN, BOTSWANA



Don't miss out on our 2025 Classic Botswana & Zimbabwe escorted group tour, exploring Botswana's iconic Okavango Delta and Zimbabwe's breathtaking Victoria Falls.

After the success of our two trips in 2024, we are running this group tour for a second straight year. Escorted this year by Jeremy Cameron, this all-inclusive 13-day tour provides guests with a classic safari experience during prime gameviewing season with mobile camping in one of the world's most remarkable and pristine areas – the Okavango Delta. The maze of lagoons and islands sustains a huge variety of flora and fauna, including iconic African animals such as lion, elephant, leopard and hippo.

In keeping with our company philosophy, this is an African safari of old, visiting iconic wildlife areas whilst staying in a comfortable mobile camp. Travelling by 4WD vehicle and accompanied by knowledgeable guides, you will explore three contrasting landscapes, spending

a number of days in each. The camps are set up in advance by a superb team of camp staff who cater to our every need. The tents are spacious with ensuite bush showers and toilet. This safari also offers the chance to paddle by mokoro (dugout canoe) through the delta's pristine waterways.

The last 3 nights are spent in Zimbabwe, staying at beautiful Ilala Lodge, just 10 minutes' walk from the falls themselves. Here we will enjoy a tour of the falls, a sunset cruise along the Zambezi River and a fun-filled elephant interaction experience.

Highlights

- 3 different regions of Botswana – Moremi, Mababe & Chobe
- Mokoro excursion through the waterways
- Elephant interaction experience
- Tour the incredible Victoria Falls (Mosi-oa-Tunya)
- Take a sunset cruise along the Zambezi River



JOIN US IN 2025

CLASSIC BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE
Sun 06 July 2025 ex Maun, Botswana

AUD \$15,485 /pp twin share*

Book now and SAVE AUD\$500 /pp

*Conditions apply. Single travellers on request

[Click here for more information](#)



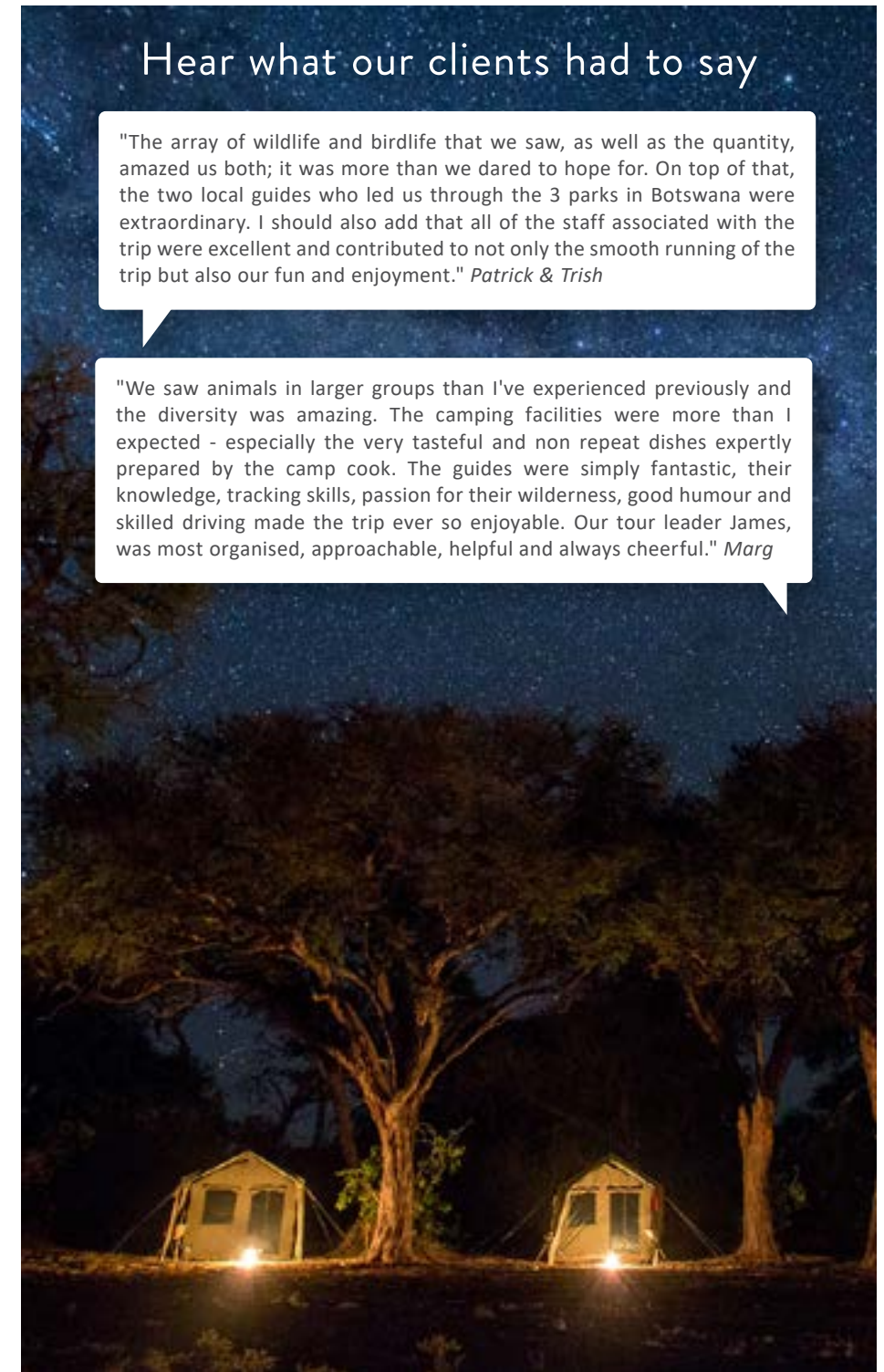
By the time Jeremy was 18, he had travelled through many African countries, including beautiful Botswana, Kenya and Tanzania. He has visited the famous Victoria Falls, camel trekked in Kenya and camped under the stars in Tanzania's Serengeti National Park. A more recent safari took him to Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa, visiting renowned Hwange National Park and the wildlife rich Sabi Sands adjacent to the Kruger National Park where he encountered the 'Big 5'. Jeremy is looking forward to once more returning to Botswana and escorting this classic safari.

Call us on 1300 363 302 to enquire

Hear what our clients had to say

"The array of wildlife and birdlife that we saw, as well as the quantity, amazed us both; it was more than we dared to hope for. On top of that, the two local guides who led us through the 3 parks in Botswana were extraordinary. I should also add that all of the staff associated with the trip were excellent and contributed to not only the smooth running of the trip but also our fun and enjoyment." *Patrick & Trish*

"We saw animals in larger groups than I've experienced previously and the diversity was amazing. The camping facilities were more than I expected - especially the very tasteful and non repeat dishes expertly prepared by the camp cook. The guides were simply fantastic, their knowledge, tracking skills, passion for their wilderness, good humour and skilled driving made the trip ever so enjoyable. Our tour leader James, was most organised, approachable, helpful and always cheerful." *Marg*



UNTAMED ZIMBABWE & ZAMBIA

JOIN US IN SEPTEMBER 2025

After escorting three successful trips to Zambia over the past 3 years, our CEO, Steve Cameron, has chosen the magnificent wildlife parks of Zimbabwe for his personally guided, small group safari in 2025. Always close to Steve's heart, Zimbabwe is home to famous Mana Pools, a national park on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River, where vast numbers of animals gather during the dry season from June to October. A UNESCO World Heritage site, Mana Pools is famous for its huge variety of animals and birds, its breathtaking glades of giant riverine acacia trees, and unique experiences like walking and canoeing safaris. With up to 12,000 elephants, huge numbers of hippo and crocodiles, buffalo and antelope, as well as lion, leopard and other cats, this is a wildlife paradise which is hard to equal.

From the pristine wilderness of Mana we fly by light aircraft to Hwange, the country's flagship national park, encompassing over 14,000 square kms. Here iconic African landscapes of grassland savannahs, woodland, vleis and shallow pans support an amazing

number of animals, with up to 100 mammal species and 400 bird species recorded. Famed for its large herds of elephants we hope to see hundreds of these grey giants congregating around the waterholes, as well as large horned antelope like the statuesque kudu, gemsbok and elegant sable, with their black and white mask-like faces and sweeping horns.

In the untrammelled wilderness we will still enjoy the luxury of eco safari camps with large, tented, ensuite rooms, excellent food, and expert guides. Awake with the dawn chorus for a thrilling day of game viewing by 4WD vehicle, by canoe or on foot. Enjoy sundowners in the bush, 3 course dinners under starry skies, and go to sleep with the sounds of the African night.

Finish off this magical 14 day journey with a visit to the mighty Victoria Falls, one of earth's most amazing spectacles.

For details of our Untamed Zimbabwe & Zambia please see the adjacent page.



Steve Cameron



Escorted by African Wildlife Safaris CEO Steve Cameron, this 14 day small group safari visits some of Zimbabwe's most prestigious wildlife areas during the peak viewing season, including Hwange National Park and beautiful Mana Pools on the lower Zambezi River. Accommodation includes one night at boutique Highlands House Hotel in the suburbs of Harare, 3 nights at exclusive Nyamatusi Camp and 2 nights at intimate Kanga Camp (both in Mana Pools), 4 nights at Somalisa Camp in Hwange, and 3 nights at the famous Victoria Falls staying at beautiful Thorntree River Lodge on the Zambia side.

This fabulous escorted safari is designed on an all inclusive basis (except in Harare) so that you can relax and enjoy and make the most of your time in Zimbabwe's untamed wilderness. Expect sustainable luxury in intimate safari camps, expert guiding, game drives by 4WD vehicle, and exciting walking and canoeing safaris away from busy tourist areas, guaranteeing an unrivalled safari experience.

Please note: maximum group size is 12 and a minimum number of 8 with a tour escort. We can assist with any pre or post extensions and book your flights in your preferred class of travel.

For further information please call Steve on 1300 363 302

UNTAMED ZIMBABWE & ZAMBIA

14 days/13 nights - ex Harare

Thursday 04 September 2025

AUD \$29,270 /pp twin share*

Book now and Save AUD \$750 /pp

*Conditions apply. Single Travellers on request.



WILD ABOUT AFRICA

ESCORTED GROUP TOUR

2025 is a special year for African Wildlife Safaris and to celebrate our 40th anniversary, our General Manager Anne-Marie (Annie) Zambelli is escorting an iconic safari to Tanzania's best game parks. Commencing in Arusha on Friday 14 November, this 15 days/14 nights trip traverses the famous Serengeti National Park before visiting the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Ngorongoro Crater, the largest intact caldera in the world. Last but not least is beautiful Tarangire National Park home to herds of elephants, giant baobab trees and red soil landscapes.

Designed to take advantage of shoulder season pricing, guests will stay at fabulous accommodation while experiencing the wilderness with fewer vehicles out on the plains. Annie has carefully chosen a collection of smaller, more intimate permanent tented camps and lodges located in the heart of wildlife-rich wilderness. From Day 2, everything is included: a light aircraft transfer to the northern Serengeti, full board accommodation, drinks (premium brands excluded), game drives and safari experiences, park fees, laundry, and gratuities. Group size is limited to 16, with just 4 clients in each vehicle. With the opportunity for some great wildlife viewing, this exclusive small group tour offers an unforgettable experience of Tanzania.

For more information scan the QR code opposite or chat to Annie directly on 1300 363 302.



Tour Escort

Anne-Marie (Annie) Zambelli our General Manager has clocked over 35 years' experience in travel. She has worked as an African specialist in Australia & the UK and is passionate about Africa having travelled to the continent countless times, as well as living and working there for 3 years. Through our partner company Natural Focus she is an expert on India, has led bear tours in Canada and voyaged to Antarctica and the Galapagos. With her incredible depth of experience, Annie is an outstanding tour escort, and her friendly and enthusiastic nature makes her a fantastic companion to have on any safari.

WILD ABOUT AFRICA

15 Days/14 nights

Departs 14 Nov 2025 ex Arusha

AUD \$24,887 /pp twin share

Book now and save **AUD \$500 /pp**

Single Travellers on request



TAJ, TEMPLES & TIGERS

Did you miss out in 2025?

JOIN OUR TAJ, TEMPLES & TIGERS GROUP TOUR IN MARCH 2026.

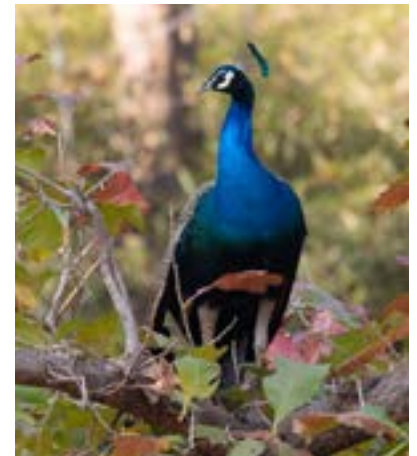
If you love wildlife, history and culture this is perfect for you, with unprecedented opportunities to get up-close to the majestic Bengal Tiger. Nothing can quite prepare you for seeing this magnificent creature in its natural habitat, as it wanders through the jungle, a privilege that few people will ever experience. Throughout this 17-day trip you will be escorted by our General Manager Anne-Marie Zambelli, whose knowledge and zest for India (and travel in general) knows no bounds, as well as naturalist Tirath Singh who has accompanied most of our previous tours. Whilst this tour visits three of India's national parks there is also plenty of time for cultural experiences and historical sites.

NOW is the time to book and secure your spot on our next Taj, Temples and Tigers tour, departing Delhi on Friday 06 March 2026 – our most successful and popular escorted small group tour.



Highlights

- Total of 10 guided tiger safaris in Bandhavgarh and Kanha
- The avian paradise of Keoladeo National Park
- The historic treasures of Delhi, Jaipur & the beautiful Taj Mahal
- Accompanying naturalist and Australian escort
- See the magnificent one-horned Indian Rhinoceros in Kaziranga NP (extension only)



Tour Escort

A passionate traveller with over 3 decades of experience in the travel industry, Anne-Marie (Annie) Zambelli's knowledge is unrivalled. As our General Manager she is an expert on all our destinations. As a tour leader she is a knowledgeable, enthusiastic and entertaining travelling companion. Captivated by India on her first trip in 2002, Annie has returned many times, and this will be her 16th Taj Temples & Tigers Tour.



DEPARTS EX DELHI
Friday 06 Mar 2026
17 days/16 nights

TOUR COST EX DELHI
AUD \$16,395 /pp twin share
Book now and save \$500 /pp
Single Supplement AUD \$3,495

Kaziranga 4 night Extension

AUD \$4,270 /pp twin share
Single Supplement AUD \$650

There is also an option to extend your time in India and add a 5 day/4 night stay exploring Kaziranga National Park. Located in the north east of the country in the state of Assam, Kaziranga is home to the endangered one-horned Indian Rhinoceros.

For further information and to reserve your place, please call Annie on **03 9249 3705**.



GUARDIANS OF THE WILDERNESS

For over 45 years, esteemed Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve in South Africa has been renowned for its luxury safari experiences as well as its commitment to conservation and community. Now they are expanding their horizons and entering an exciting new era, re-branding as the Sabi Sabi Collection. The legendary, family-owned private reserve already has 4 award-winning luxury lodges - Bush Lodge, Little Bush Camp, Selati Camp and Earth Lodge – and now they have included the 4,500-hectare Sandringham Private Game Reserve.

The Sandringham property is a former hunting reserve at the confluence of 4 rivers and surrounded by other reserves, offering enormous potential. The project is a joint venture with a longstanding Sabi Sabi guest and philanthropist, and with Sabi Sabi's experience in conservation behind them, the reserve is being re-wilded and re-vegetated to transform it back into pristine wilderness and a protected home for wildlife.

Huge progress has already been made. In the beginning the land was very degraded and the wildlife on the property was very skittish. There were still signs of some hunting and one heartbreaking discovery was of an old white lioness found in a cage. Slowly the wildlife began to get used to the vehicles and the humans who meant them no harm:

"Our first lion sighting was of a female in the thicket. She was so spooked by our presence that she hid in the bushes never once taking her eyes off us. We left, to show that we mean no harm, and have since then engaged with her almost daily, and we now see the entire pride out in the open undisturbed by our presence. This pride has had two sets of cubs in 2024, of which one is a young healthy white lion - symbolic of the lioness we had to euthanize when we took over."

The hope is that in the future this natural environment will be proclaimed a protected area, providing an open wildlife corridor to the Kruger National Park, and enabling the free movement of game across the Greater Kruger Protected Area.

The Sabi Sabi Collection's vision is to provide immersive and authentic experiences for their guests, while balancing the protection and sustainability of the land and its people. Their new journey has just begun with the rehabilitation of the magnificent Sandringham wilderness and with plans to expand into the future.

For further details on this story and the rehabilitation of the Sandringham reserve, visit the *stories* page on our website.



SABI SABI
COLLECTION
FAMILY SINCE 1979

Stay 4/Pay 3 At Sabi Sabi*
*Conditions apply



Earth Lodge

Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve is a wildlife-rich wilderness in the Greater Kruger area. Their four luxury lodges each have their own character and style and their guest experiences include game drives by open 4WD vehicles, walking safaris, nocturnal drives, bush picnics and community tours. Their expert guides and trackers and welcoming in-house team are all committed to making your stay extraordinary.

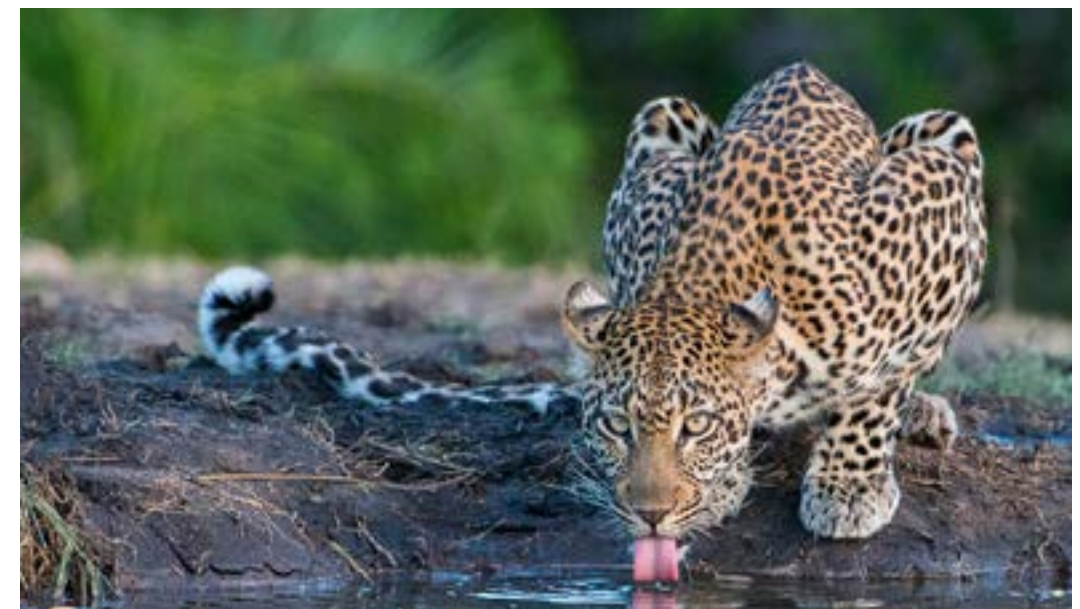
So call us now on 1300 363 302 to book this sensational offer.



Little Bush Camp



Selati Camp



THE PRIDE OF AFRICA

Long-time partner Rovos Rail celebrated their 35th birthday in 2024. Still a family-owned and operated company, Rovos Rail started thanks to the dream of owner Rohan Vos - who simply wished to take his family on a holiday through South Africa.... by rail. In 1985 he purchased several old carriages and restored them to their former glory. As a result of difficulties working with the South African Transport Services, he decided to purchase a 1938 Class 19D locomotive he found in a Johannesburg scrap heap.

However, further challenges arose when he was told he could only run his train if he commercialised it. Rohan got

permission to sell tickets to offset the operating costs. It was here that the idea of Rovos Rail as a business was born. On 29 April, 1989, the first train was launched, consisting of a locomotive and seven carriages.

Fast forward to 2024 and Rovos now operate some of the world's greatest luxury rail journeys - 11 different routes all up spanning all of East and Southern Africa. In May this year, Rovos Rail celebrated their 35th Birthday with a special 2-night South African departure from Durban to Pretoria. This was hosted by Tiffany Vos-Thane, Rohan's daughter, and Rovos' Chief Operating Officer. James Cameron joined the trip on behalf of African Wildlife Safaris.



"I grew up on stories of Africa from my parents - Steve and Sara Cameron - and I often remember hearing tales of my father's time on Rovos. After experiencing this firsthand in May, all I can say is I agree wholeheartedly with what he has been telling me for 25+ years.... That Rovos Rail create the greatest rail journeys in the world. Everything runs like clockwork, and Rohan has meticulously put together a product that is perfectly organised in every way. The carriages are marvellous, food exquisite (dining onboard is an experience in itself), the staff unbelievable - you can genuinely see how much they love working for Rovos - and the off-train excursions are handpicked and varied. Tiffany was an exceptional host, and seemed to know all staff by name, which I found utterly incredible when you consider how many employees there are across their entire network".

James Cameron, May 2024



Namibia Safari

21 Mar, 12 May & 14 Nov 2025

19 Mar, 7 & 20 Apr, 22 Nov 2026

Note: Some itineraries operate in reverse.

Journey from the savannahs of South Africa's Highveld to the Atlantic Ocean in the west, exploring Namibia's vast desert landscapes. Departing from Pretoria, traverse diverse regions, including the Northern Cape, remarkable Fish River Canyon and the untamed beauty of the Kalahari Desert. Visit a cheetah conservation project and enjoy a night in the game-rich Etosha National Park. Finally, travel the Namib Desert. This is a rail journey not to be missed!

Book with us and save 5%*

*Conditions apply

Contact us on 1300 363 302
for more details



Join the Club

For those who have travelled on Rovos before, and wish to do so again, you can sign up to the "Rovos Club" and enjoy extra savings! This can be in the form of discounted trips or even a free trip! Contact us for more details.

OKAVANGO WONDER AT TAWANA

In June this year African Wildlife Safaris Destination Specialist James Cameron visited Natural Selection's newly-opened luxury lodge Tawana - situated in a secluded, game-rich pocket of the renowned Moremi Game Reserve. Tawana is their latest premier camp within the company's impressive portfolio of camps and lodges across Botswana and Namibia.

"It was a joy to return to Botswana once more this year, and I was lucky to visit a few lodges operated by our close working partner, and seasoned safari operator, Natural Selection. Tawana was one of these properties, and it did not disappoint!

I met NS guide Kyle McIntyre in Maun and from there we reached Tawana by helicopter, which gave a breathtaking birds-eye view of the landscape below. With much of southern Africa experiencing a serious drought, the

landscape was a mottled brown and gold, speckled with patches of green and blue from the remaining water sources. It may not be the lush, green landscapes of February/March, but the dry season (May-Oct) is the best time for wildlife viewing.

On arrival, we met Tawana guide Aubrey, and took a short 5 minute drive to camp to get settled in. I was blown away by Tawana as soon as I walked down the reed-covered path to the main area. It was simply incredible! All of a sudden you are met with a spectacular view over the floodplain in front of the camp, filled with abundant wildlife and the chirping of birds that nest in the tree canopies surrounding the lodge. Enjoying a delicious late lunch, we sat down on the deck and looked out over the plains... spotting elephant, several antelope species and even a couple of lions off in the distance, all over a glass of wine!



Accommodated in a family suite (main image), we each had a bedroom and ensuite bathroom to ourselves, with a beautiful communal space in the middle. The private deck spans the whole suite, and includes an outdoor shower, Sala and private plunge pool. The entire lodge was thoughtfully and ingeniously designed, with features such as lockers in the main area for storing your cameras and bags without having to go back to your room.

The game-viewing was next level as well. As Kyle and I didn't really mind where we went for the afternoon game drive, Aubrey took us to an area he was yet to traverse, to see if we could find a rare Pel's Fishing Owl he had heard might be in the vicinity. After jumping out the car and looking up in a few big trees, we managed to spot one! We also had terrific lion sightings and a beautiful encounter with two male adult cheetah, who were closely following a herd of impala in the late afternoon sun. My two nights at Tawana were simply bliss, and I'd love to go back one day soon!"

**To book your Botswana Safari,
contact James on 03 9249 3729**



TANTALISING TANZANIA

AFRICA WITH ASILIA

For decades, Asilia Africa has been leading the way in offering unforgettable and immersive safari experiences in East Africa. In Tanzania they have the safari circuit well and truly covered, with properties in the Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, Ruaha and Nyerere (formerly Selous) national parks, and even on the chimpanzee island-sanctuary of Rubondo.

Their range of tented camps and lodges are small and intimate, offering exclusive and stylish accommodation in some of the best known wildlife locations, as well as off-the-beaten-track sanctuaries such as the Usangu Wetlands. By making bold, and often pioneering investments into areas that are ecologically and economically vulnerable, such as Ruaha National Park, Asilia is slowly turning these areas into viable conservation economies, benefitting both the local communities and the environment alike.



Asilia

USANGU - A WETLAND PARADISE

A hidden gem, Usangu Wetlands in Ruaha National Park is one of these remote, wild, unexplored and untouched adventurous safari destinations. Though remote, guests will still experience complete comfort and outstanding service, staying at Usangu Expedition Camp, a boutique six-tented camp offering a personalised and exclusive experience. Guests will enjoy game drives in search of big cats, elephant, giraffe, and sable antelope, or head out on foot to explore the dry seasonal floodplains, learning about their importance from experienced guides. You can even sleep out under the stars, and set up a camera trap at the start of your stay which contributes to the biodiversity data collection of the ecosystem. Step beyond the ordinary and immerse yourself in a realm where tourism is playing a crucial role in the protection and rehabilitation of an ecosystem.

Usangu is the perfect complement to Asilia's other properties in Nyerere National Park, or even those in northern Tanzania, including sensational Namiri Plains in the Serengeti, and The Highlands in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. The Serengeti plays host to one of the greatest wildlife spectacles in the world - the wildebeest and zebra migration of more than 2 million animals, whilst the Ngorongoro Crater is a remarkable Garden of Eden that needs to be seen to be believed.

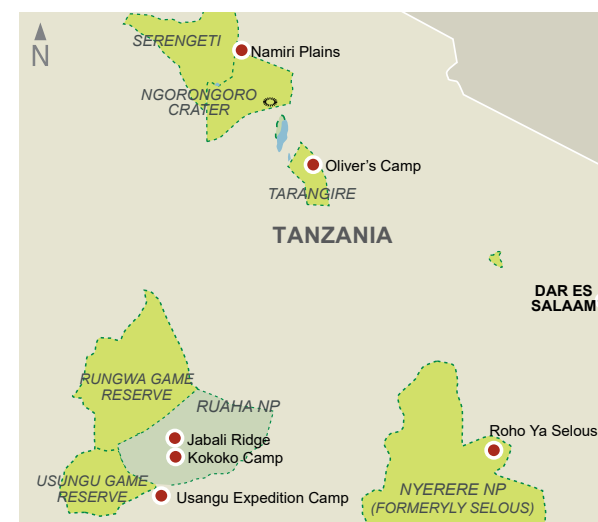


SOUTHERN TANZANIA SPECTACULAR

12 days/11-nights

Those looking for a different and unique Tanzania experience will revel in this 12 day safari, the ultimate way to explore the region's most remote and spectacular wildlife reserves. Enjoy thrilling walking safaris, boating, and stargazing staying at beautiful Usangu Expedition Camp. Next, head to either lovely Kokoko Camp (pictured above) or splendid Jabali Ridge, both in the Greater Ruaha region, before exploring the diversity of Nyerere National Park where Roho ya Selous awaits with game drives and more, creating the ultimate wilderness and wildlife experience.

For more information on Usangu Expedition Camp or this Tanzania safari contact our Africa Specialists on 1300 363 302.



ARCTIC DREAM

Voyage in 2025/2026 with our Polar cruise partner Quark Expeditions to ethereal arctic landscapes at the top of the world. In these remote and mysterious regions Inuit communities live alongside spectacular wildlife like polar bears, reindeer, Arctic fox, walrus and whales. Giant cliffs are crowded with nesting sea birds and glaciers calve into ice-strewn fjords. Enjoy breathtaking diversity and endless discovery during long summer days when the sun barely sets and adventures abound.

Since 1991, when they first took adventurous travellers to the North Pole, Quark Expeditions have led the way in polar travel to both the Arctic and the Antarctic. Their expedition team is celebrated as the best in the industry, with an unyielding passion to uncover new polar destinations and create groundbreaking ways to explore them. This spirit of

discovery shines through in their Arctic 2025 season, with 12 fabulous itineraries, 5 new voyages, 5 new destinations like Iceland, Newfoundland and Labrador, plus the debut of their state-of-the-art ship, the Ocean Explorer.

A trailblazing new voyage is their 16-day Northwest Passage to Newfoundland. This 2,500-nautical mile journey cruises through the legendary Northwest Passage in Canada's High Arctic, then down the rarely explored east coast of Baffin Island to Newfoundland and Labrador, visiting the magnificent Torngat Mountains and the windswept Viking ruins at l'Anse Aux Meadows, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Looking ahead to the Arctic 2026 season, Quark Expeditions is offering some sensational new voyages, including the Iceland Circumnavigation, Iceland to Greenland, and a special voyage **Iceland to Greenland: Total Solar Eclipse**.

2026 Total Solar Eclipse in the Arctic

On 12 August 2026 the Arctic will be the arena for a rare cosmic event, a total solar eclipse. Voyage with Quark Expeditions on their 13 Day Iceland to Greenland Total Solar Eclipse Expedition for a chance to see this cosmic wonder. Renowned experts in solar eclipses Dave Baron and Michael Zeiler will join the onboard expedition crew for the whole journey, making this Arctic experience even more spectacular and informative. Using sophisticated and detailed meteorological forecasts (and a little luck) this voyage offers the chance to see a total solar eclipse in one of the most spectacular locations on the planet.

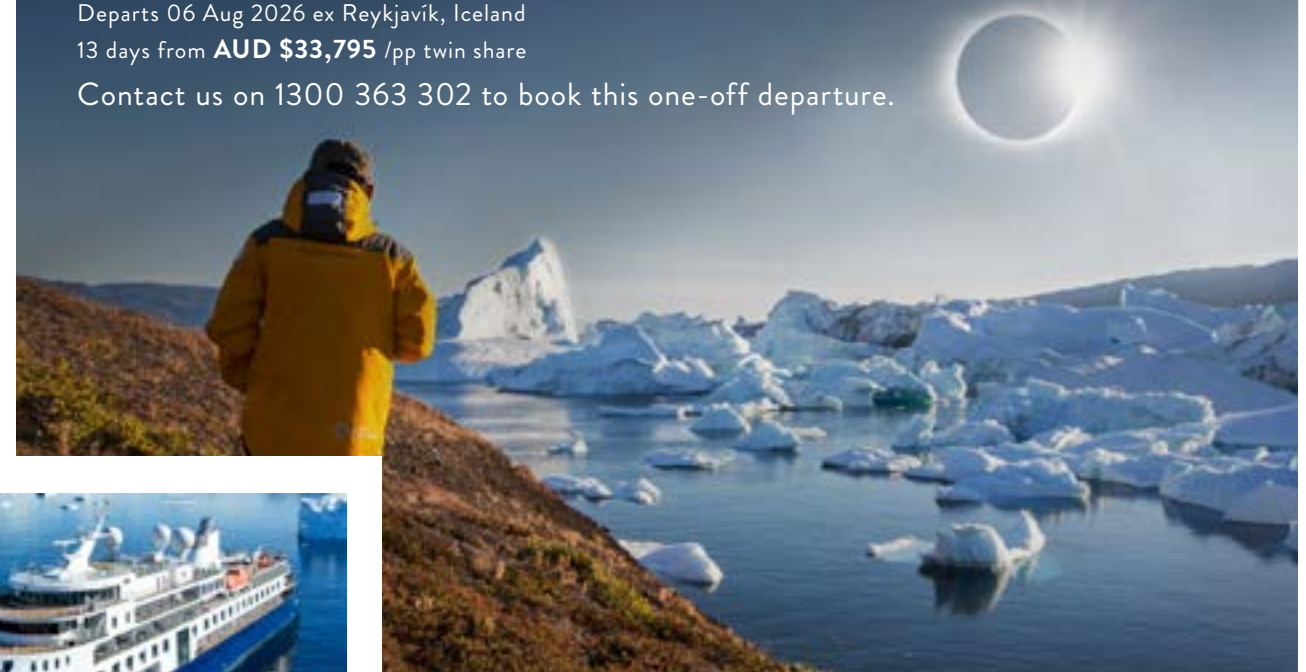
Guests will also have the opportunity to go heli-flightseeing over remote Greenland, explore Iceland's seldom-visited Westfjords, cross the Arctic Circle twice, and witness incredible wildlife in Northeast Greenland National Park.

Solar eclipse cruises tend to fill up quickly so don't miss out!

Iceland to Greenland

Departs 06 Aug 2026 ex Reykjavik, Iceland
13 days from **AUD \$33,795** /pp twin share

Contact us on 1300 363 302 to book this one-off departure.



The Expedition Ships

Ocean Explorer

A brand new addition to the fleet, the Ocean Explorer will embark on its inaugural Arctic voyage in 2025. This elegant, state-of-the-art vessel elevates the polar experience with its advanced expedition technology, extensive adventure capabilities, exceptional safety and sustainability features, and luxurious interior spaces. Its distinctive X-Bow design allows for smooth sailing and two-story forward lounge creates a stunning backdrop for unforgettable Arctic adventures.

Ultramarine

Returning for another Arctic season, the purpose built Ultramarine has advanced safety and sustainability systems for the ultimate polar travel experience. This magnificent ship is equipped with two twin-engine helicopters, a fleet of 20 quick-deploy Zodiacs, and the largest portfolio of off-ship excursions in the industry. The beautifully designed cabins and multiple restaurants, bars and lounges add to the high end onboard experience.



Birthday Celebrations

Book any Arctic or Antarctic voyage in 2025 and receive a **USD \$250** /pp onboard credit. Exclusive to Natural Focus

 **Quark Expeditions**
The Leader in Polar Adventures

BIG, BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

Experience Alaska with UnCruise

Alaska is one of the most popular cruise destinations in the world, with stunning landscapes and abundant and diverse wildlife. From humpback whales to grizzly bears, there is an endless number of marine and terrestrial species to be encountered, and the best way to see them is with UnCruise.

As their name suggests UnCruise Adventures is not a typical cruise company. They offer smaller ships that can go beyond, more personalised voyages, laid-back comfort, and excellent guides and adventure equipment. For over 25 years they have been providing their guests the chance to view some of the world's most incredible animals up-close and in their natural, wild habitats - without the crowds.

Alaska boasts the highest density of bears in the world, with the regions where UnCruise sails being home to brown

bears, black bears, and Kodiak bears. They travel through a variety of ecosystems where you can observe bears fishing, foraging, and nurturing their cubs. Their itineraries visit Admiralty Island National Monument ("Fortress of the Bears"), the Kenai Peninsula, Chichagof Island, and Kodiak Island, all home to some of the densest bear populations on the planet.

While you will see remarkable wildlife on land, the marine life seen on an UnCruise is unmatched. Alaska is home to 100,000 to 150,000 sea otters, a species that is endangered in many other parts of the world due to human impact. These animals play a crucial role in maintaining the health of coastal ecosystems and can most prominently be found in Prince William Sound and the Kenai Peninsula.

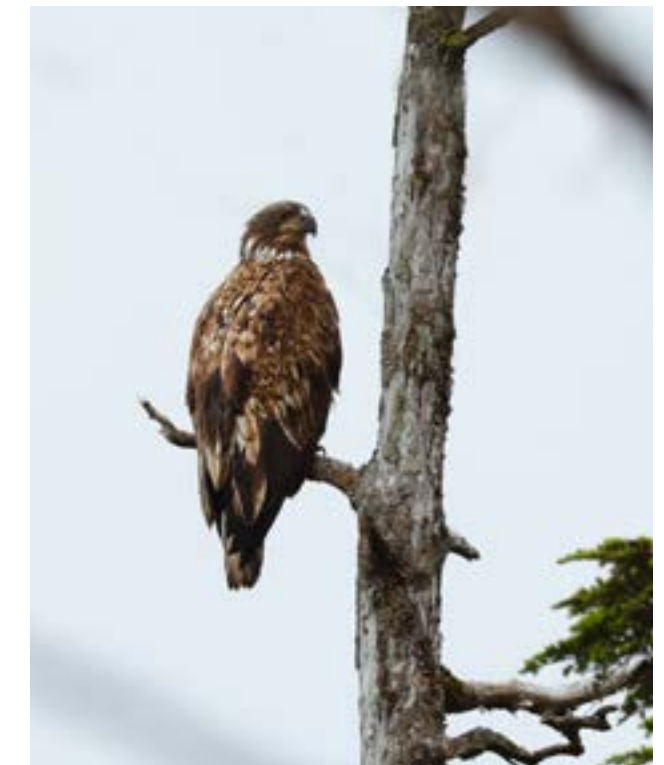


Enjoy a **USD \$250** /pp discount on any UnCruise sailing in 2025 exclusive to Natural Focus. Book now and sail through 2025 with incredible savings!



Tens of thousands of whales migrate to Alaska each summer to feed in its nutrient-rich waters. On an UnCruise you will have the chance to spot humpback whales, gray whales, killer whales and fin whales. They sail through channels that are known to have some of the best whale-watching opportunities in the world, and their onboard guides offer educational presentations that allow you to learn more about the various species.

Alaska is most famous for its salmon runs, with anywhere from 40 million to 70 million fish returning to its rivers each year. You can find five main species here: Chinook (King), Coho (Silver), Sockeye (Red), Pink (Humpy), and Chum (Dog) salmon. They are a vital part of Alaska's ecosystem and culture, and watching these salmon make their way upstream to spawn is an amazing experience, especially since they attract much of the other wildlife mentioned, like bears, eagles, and seals.



Alaska is also home to many other incredible species:

- Moose (175,000 to 200,000)
- Wolves (7,000 to 11,000)
- Bald eagles (30,000 to 50,000)
- Harbor seals (60,000 to 100,000)
- Steller sea lions (50,000 to 80,000)

UnCruise have been one of our close partners since their foundation back in 1996, and we can guarantee that taking one of their adventures is the ultimate way to experience Alaska. Be as relaxed or active as you like, from sightseeing on deck or by zodiac, to paddle boarding, snorkelling and hiking through rainforests. Their hands-on approach means you'll create memories with wildlife that simply can't be matched on a big ship.

For more details on an UnCruise please contact us on 1300 363 302 or visit our website



DISCOVERING THE TREASURES OF TÜRKIYE

BY SARA CAMERON CO-FOUNDER OF AWS



Türkiye was always one of my dream destinations, but until this year I had never been. So I was really excited when Steve and I embarked on a 3 and a half week tour of this astonishing country, which took in many major highlights as well as going off-the-beaten track.

This is an ancient land, and the weight of history is everywhere, from iron age settlements and legendary classical cities to biblical Christian sites, Ottoman palaces and mosques, and the poignant

reminders of World War I. We spent a week just in Istanbul visiting such treasures as the 6th century Hagia Sofia Grand Mosque, once a Christian cathedral, and the famous Sultan Ahmed Mosque, or Blue Mosque, from the Ottoman era. We also toured the magnificent Topkapi Palace, home of the Ottoman sultans for 400 years, and the stunning Basilica Cisterns which are more like an underground cathedral. We cruised the famous Bosphorus, wandered the Grand Bazaar, sampled scrumptious Turkish mezze and ate syrupy *baclava* with our strong Turkish coffee.

Out on the road with our private guide we visited some of the many legendary Greek and Roman archaeological sites: Ephesus, Laodicea, Perge and the stunning amphitheatre of Aspendos - one of the world's best preserved. Another highlight was Hierapolis and the amazing snow-white steps, blue pools and hot springs of Pamukkale. At Bodrum we watched the sun set over the Norman castle, glittering white-washed houses and the blue Aegean Sea.

The landscapes too are overlaid with stories, myth and legend. In Cappadocia we floated in a balloon over strange volcanic mountains sculpted by wind, water and human endeavour into a honeycomb of underground cities, rock churches and ethereal "fairy chimneys". We hiked through the hills and rocky cliffs of ancient Lycia on the Mediterranean, wandering amongst old villages and the remains of once-great cities and inaccessible rock tombs.

We had researched and planned the itinerary ourselves with the advice of our amazing ground operator, and we had a private car and guide throughout. Our guides were amazing, sharing their in-depth knowledge of history, religion and culture. The vehicles were spacious and incredibly comfortable and with good roads travel was a breeze, even for long distances.

From mystical Whirling Dervishes, romantic caravanserais, and cruising by traditional gulet into secluded bays perfect for swimming and snorkelling, this was an incredible journey which lived up to all expectations.

Book with us and save 4%*
*Conditions apply

Türkiye's Timeless West Coast

12 days/11 nights ex Istanbul

From **\$17,228** /pp

On this privately guided trip visit Istanbul's great mosques, the Topkapi Palace, the Spice Market and cruise along the famous Bosphorus. Discover the history of the WWI Gallipoli campaign, explore the ancient sites of Troy, Assos, Ephesus and Pergamon and enjoy local cuisine and cultural tours on this unforgettable journey.



Wonders of Türkiye

13 days/12 nights ex Istanbul

From **\$12,730** /pp

Explore the Wonders of Türkiye, a country adorned with 22 World Heritage sites. With your private guide see the sights of Istanbul, float over Cappadocia's unique landscapes by hot air balloon, discover the ancient cities of Sagalassos, Hierapolis (Pamukkale), Laodicea and Ephesus. Enjoy local cuisine and cultural tours throughout your journey.

For more details scan the QR Code below or call us on 1300 363 302





CELEBRATING
40 years
OF INSPIRATIONAL JOURNEYS



NATURAL FOCUS

"It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living."

Sir David Attenborough

AFRICAN WILDLIFE SAFARIS

ABN 18 006 516 285

1st Floor, 333 Clarendon Street,
South Melbourne VIC 3205

All Reservations & Enquiries

P: (03) 9249 3777

P: 1300 363 302

E: info@awsnfs.com

www.africanwildlifesafaris.com

