



Lioness with cubs



The lounge at Chobe Chilwero

botswana

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

This superbly designed safari offers the first-time visitor or seasoned traveller an exciting game experience in some of Southern Africa's most pristine and remote areas.

You'll fly into the heart of the Okavango Delta with a choice of camps on the southern tip of Chief's Island.

Activities revolve around exploring the waterways by *mokoro* (seasonal), open 4WD vehicles on the plains or on foot at leisure.

A&K's 9-day 'African Waterways' itinerary includes seven nights in Botswana – two nights at Stanley's Camp or Baines' Camp, three nights at Chief's Camp and two nights at Chobe Chilwero – with an optional extension of two nights at either the Victoria Falls Hotel in Zimbabwe or the Royal Livingstone Hotel in Zambia.

For more information phone 1300 851 800 or visit www.abercrombiekent.com.au.



Pygmy Kingfisher



Hippopotamus

Wild animals may prowl freely through camps so guests are escorted once it gets dark, however, in your tent you are perfectly secure. Being alone, under canvas, hearing the often eerie sounds of the African night is a raw thrill. This should be a mandatory portion of any safari itinerary.

Stanley's is a community-based project employing local villagers. Our guide is Kotlhao Basuti – "Just call me Kort". His fluent discourse on animal behaviour and bush lore, his affability and wit make my Stanley's experience that extra bit special. One evening we return from a three-hour game drive to a surprise – a bush banquet a short distance from camp and magically illuminated by dozens of paraffin lamps hanging in the surrounding trees. We eat heartily, quaff red wine, listen to a lion roar in the distance and hear hyenas howl as we sit mesmerised by the flicker of bush TV – the blazing fire.

Leaving the canvas-clad simplicity we fly north east to Chobe Chilwero, overlooking the Chobe River. Chobe Chilwero has 15 spacious thatched cottages within a lush garden fringed by an electric fence, a barrier that nevertheless fails

to deter one particularly feisty elephant! For this reason guests are escorted once darkness falls. Each morning and afternoon we drive into the adjacent Chobe National Park for extensive game drives, or climb into a boat for a classic Chobe experience, watching herds of elephant swim between the shore and midstream islands.

Guests might almost be forgiven for staying put at the lodge, enjoying the refinements expected of a fine resort hotel, including in-room massage and beauty treatments. Emperor-sized beds covered in soft linen and woven bedspreads are enclosed by flowing mosquito nets. Interiors are the colour of Chobe sand and floors are decorated with an inlaid chevron of bright ceramic chips. Your bathroom has a walk-in shower and a concrete tub sunk into the floor, large enough for two. Windows look onto a private courtyard with outdoor shower and garden seating. The lodge is equally proud of its fine table. Crocodile, kudu and river bream feature regularly on the menu. South African wines are included in the tariff but guests may also choose and pay for a premium bottle from the compact cellar. *A&K*



Outdoor dining at Stanley's Camp