

# TRAVEL ESSENCE MAGAZINE

ISSUE 4 • OCTOBER 2020

**DAMIEN  
MANDER  
AND THE  
AKASHINGA  
RANGERS**

.....  
**A JOURNEY  
THROUGH TIME  
AT ZANNIER  
HOTELS SONOP**

.....  
**EMERSON  
ZANZIBAR:  
WHERE HERITAGE  
MEETS PASSION**

+ 70  
**MOST ROMANTIC  
PLACES IN THE  
WARM HEART OF  
AFRICA - MALAWI**

# over LENNISWE BHENGU

SERVING UP AFRICA ON A PLATE



# Travel <sup>MAGAZINE</sup> Essence

A NARRATIVES PR PUBLICATION



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# TravelEssence<sup>MAGAZINE</sup>

Culture • Lifestyle • Taste-Making





On The Cover:  
Chef Lentswe Bhengu

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“You cannot leave Africa,” Africa said, “It is always with you, there inside your head. Our rivers run in currents in the swirl of your thumbprints; Our drumbeats counting out your pulse; Our coastline, the silhouette of your soul.”  
– BRIDGE DORE

“Sawubona” – a greeting in Zulu that means “I see you.” When we started our journey to sharing the wealth of travel experiences on the Mother continent 3 months ago, the goal was simple: to create a platform in which we could support our friends in the industry with any publicity we could muster – because we saw how hard hit the landscape was when COVID-19 struck. We saw the disparaged looks on some of our friends and family members’ faces when they had to cancel their vacation plans because borders were closed. For some, it wasn’t even about going on holiday, but rather the desperate need to reconnect with loved ones they hadn’t seen in a long time. The global pandemic has forced us all to press the reset button, and in that reset, nothing would delight us more than for you, our readers, to know that we see you.

We see your need for inspiration because we need it too, especially as we are all grappling with the new reality in an active COVID-19 era. We also see the need for a new

wave of positive messaging that allows us to dream again – be it about a leisurely escape to far off places or for an adventure that may lead to financial reward. And so being African gives us the added responsibility to debunk a lot of the adverse messaging that plagues our channels because in fact, that is the bigger pandemic. We are allowing the lands we call home to be discredited by not sharing more of what makes Africa so rich and vibrant in its people, cultures, the arts and traditions. In our October Issue, we take you back to Namibia, the land of contrasting landscapes, and Mozambique, whose coastlines boast the pristine beaches and azure waters. You’ll take a glimpse at the rich savannah of Zambia and Tanzania before soaking up the romantic allure of Zanzibar and Malawi, and so much more!

I thank you for choosing to immerse yourself in our pages, as we collectively celebrate the people and places that make our continent such a gift.

Love and Light! 

*Gywnne C. Mtengwa*

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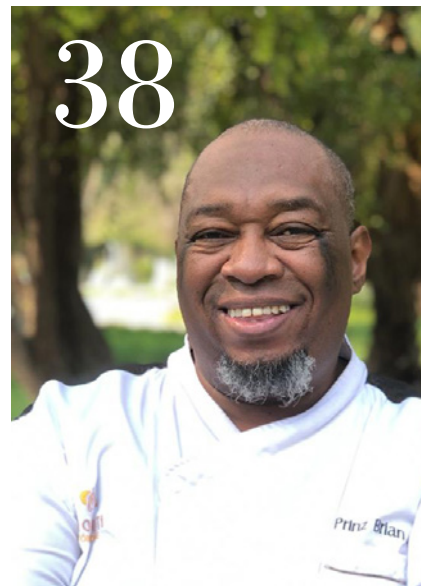
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# FINANCIER TURNED CHEF *serves up* AFRICA ON A PLATE

Meet TV personality and **CHEF LENTSWE BHENGU**, making waves in South Africa's culinary space as the host of the widely loved TV series "Africa on a Plate".



# P

assionate about African food, the cultures that inspire its preparation and intentional celebration of African heritage, Lentswe Bhengu is an avid, ever curious traveller who is scaling the continent to explore the evolving African lifestyle landscape. The result has been nothing short of exciting and eye-opening for Lentswe, as he discovers authentic traditional dishes, while exploring the use of spices and ingredients and their symbolism to the wider African culture.

“My style of cooking is definitely a blend and I say this because of where I come from. As a people, we are a unique blend of different cultures. My brand and my message are really about celebrating contemporary Africa; an Africa that pays homage to its own people, culture and traditions but also accepts outside influences,” says Lentswe.

Born and bred in Kwazulu Natal, South Africa, Lentswe spent five years in the investment finance industry at a business development level, working with companies such as Old Mutual, Allan Gray, and more. However, it was in the kitchen, playing around with his tools of the culinary trade that he truly found his zest for life. The financier turned Chef openly weighs in on how his sense of fulfillment evolved when he decided to go at life his way and on his terms.





“ I remember having a chat with my father and he gave the best advise that would change my life forever. ‘In order to achieve success Lentswe, start focusing on being better at the things that you shine at, things that make you happy, and that are positive in your life’.

## *Lentswe's call to the culinary world*

"I worked for a few banks and finally after moving around the country between Cape Town, Durban, and Johannesburg, I found myself back in the Cape working as an Investment Portfolio Manager for a government agency. I was flying all around the world sourcing direct foreign investment for the province, yet still here I was filling relatively unfulfilled. I had a lot but, but I wasn't happy," recounts Lentswe.

"I remember having a chat with my father and he gave the best advise that would change my life forever. 'In order to achieve success Lentswe, start focusing on being better at the things that you shine at, things that make you happy, and that are positive in your life,' he said. After this chat, a week later, I went to my senior manager and resigned from corporate life."

In 2010 Lentswe exchanged his suit and tie for a chef jacket and enrolled at the prestigious Culinary Academy in the Cape Wine-lands. He later graduated as a professional chef underwritten by City & Guilds. From then on, he worked his way up in the food industry, enjoying opportunities such as those awarded to him when he joined fine dining establishments like the Savoy Cabbage, The Roundhouse Restaurant, Saucisse Deli and a number of catering companies in and around Cape Town & Durban.

## *Chef turned TV personality*

Lentswe is not only a creative and culinary enthusiast in the kitchen but also has a keen interest in exploring life in front of the camera. Having taken a liking to the arts back in high school, Lentswe carried that passion with him and combined it with his love for food. These two passions came together when he started producing his own YouTube videos, back in 2012.

"This content was seen by the Hollywood execs at the Africa Channel and subsequently the first season of Africa On A Plate was commissioned and my newly formed TV production house "Green Zebra Production" was born. We filmed 21 episodes across Africa in total." Lentswe propelled from being a





chef to a TV personality and content creator, curating online food content including weekly recipes, videos, and blogs for the site. Africa on a Plate is the channel's flagship programme and airs weekly to over 10 million homes across the US, Canada, Caribbean, and Australia. The show is currently in its second season and is now also on the BET Channel and accessible all over the African continent.

Lentswe has also worked on 'Taste Africa', which focused on fine dining cuisine and celebrating African Heritage, while maintaining the authenticity of the experience. The show is hosted in different cities throughout South Africa, exploring African cuisine to the discerning foodie palate. Lentswe also does regular appearances on SABC's Expresso as a guest chef. He is a regular Master of Ceremony and invited Chef to food festivals, events and expos, with his most recent opportunity to add to his growing portfolio being named a Celebrity Chef for the Cape Town Good Food and Wine Show for four years running. Lentswe has garnered much acclaim as a mastermind in the kitchen and a golden celebrity chef on TV with a passion to showcase his culture and creativity to the world. Through his many ventures, such as the Flavours of Africa, where he successfully curated the first ever fully African Food focused exhibition, Lentswe always manages to engage well with the crowd, charming them with his talent and dazzling personality.

His ambition continues to nurture his passion for food and media, bringing the best of South Africa's culinary experiences to viewers, while simultaneously discovering and celebrating its complexities.

"The South African food scene is a melting pot of different cultures and a variety of cuisines, which makes it all an adventure that awaits our indulgence and exploration. We have been vastly influenced by Indian cuisines and spices through the Indian Spice route on our South Eastern Coast for instance. The Dutch colonial era also played a big part in impacting our palate and some of the food choices we now have at our disposal. What it means to me as a chef, is that we still have a big job in

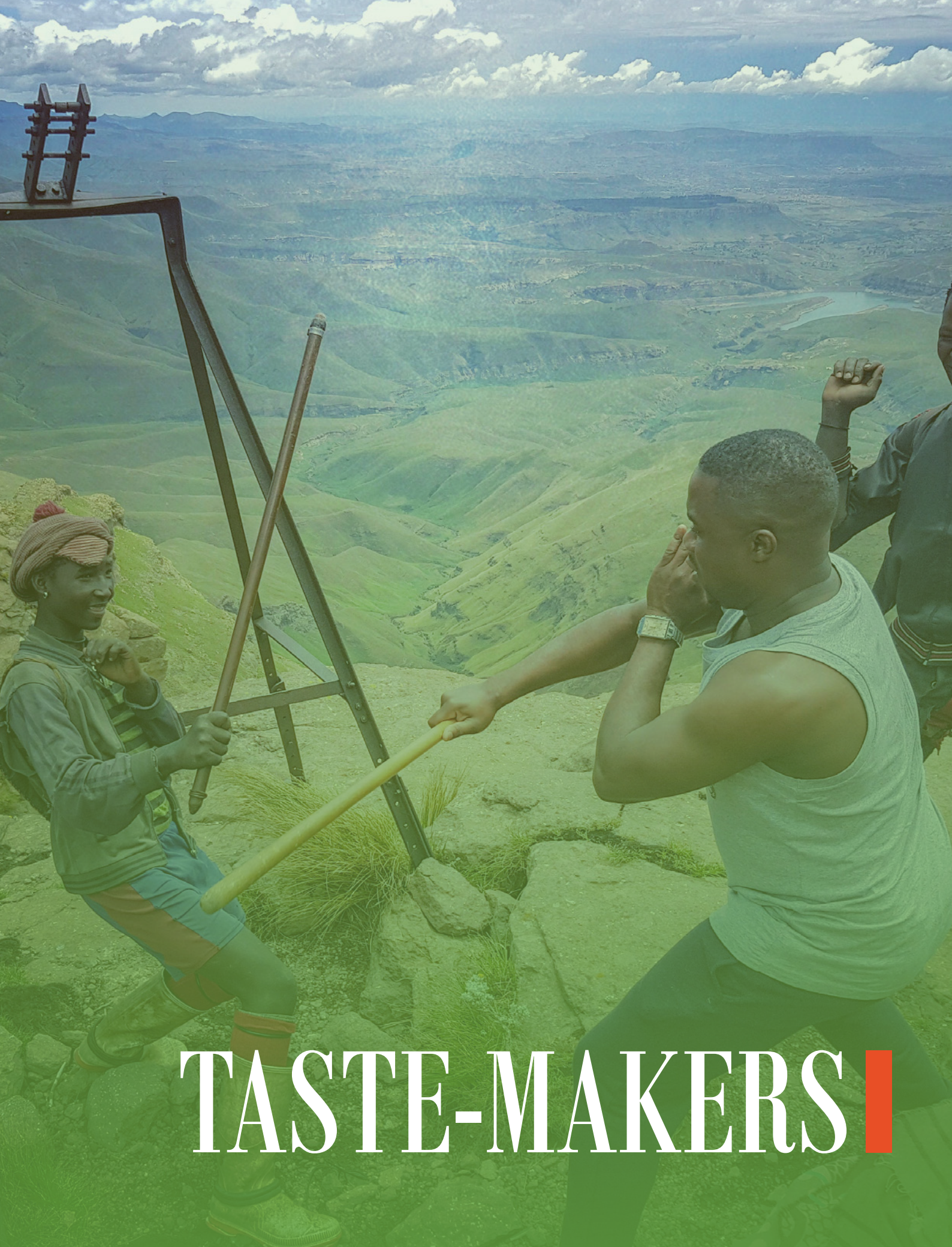
discovering, documenting, and showcasing our food types and preparation methods, uplifting it to world stages."

Lentswe's favorite meal is a Wild Mushroom with Lamb dish. Having been brought up on the East Coast of Durban, Lentswe also has a love for food that is infused with Indian cuisine such as the bunny chow, a popular meal from that region, as well as Lamb Vindaloo. However homely, more traditional foods are the comfort for him. "I enjoy the traditional meals I grew up eating because they remind me of my upbringing and its rootedness in our culture. Some meals I jazz up and modernise like samp, but others like ipapa (soft maize meal) must stay true to their origin. I also love wild vegetables, like Morogo and Spinach. Amadumbe (yams) are also a childhood favorite as my mom always made them as a snack on weekends," shares Lentswe. 🍷

*Check out more of Lentswe's food experiences by tuning in to his shows or following him across social media under his self-titled handles.*







# TASTE-MAKERS |

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# Inside "The Brave Ones" Ranger Program

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Photos by: Adrian Steirn;  
Brent Stirton; Kim Butts





A

kashinga is an all-female, armed anti-poaching unit that is responsible for protecting endangered animals in Zimbabwe. "Akashinga" - meaning 'The Brave One/s in Zimbabwe's Shona dialect - is an initiative which prides itself in being one of few if any at all in the world, whose efforts have resulted in nature reserves being managed and protected solely by women. Founded in August 2017 by Damien Mander, an Australian native with a background of Special Forces and 3 years spent in Iraq, Akashinga credits its success to the female rangers' commitment to personal and community development, coupled with Damien's training tactics, as he was already a trained military man when he started the International Anti-Poaching Foundation ([www.iapf.org](http://www.iapf.org)) in 2009. Travel Essence Magazine caught up with Damien to go over what inspired his transition from military to conservation, and how this first all-female led initiative is making a huge difference to the region's collective efforts in protecting wildlife.

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## 1. What first spurred you to become involved in the anti-poaching movement?

My background was as an Australian Navy clearance diver and then with special operations. I went on to work in Iraq for 3 years as part of the coalition effort. I started the International Anti-Poaching Foundation ([www.iapf.org](http://www.iapf.org)) in 2009 and wanted to carry a similar theme from my military days into conservation.

## 2. HOW HAS THE COMMUNITY RESPONDED TO THIS PROGRAM? AND HOW ARE THEY BENEFITTING?

We began to experience constant conflict with local communities, and this made me

think back to all the mistakes we had made in Iraq. We had to think outside the box and while I saw other industries progressing by having more women in management, conservation was stifling. An article in the NY Times in early 2017 about the US Army Rangers putting women through training for deployment, and not just desk work, made me really look hard and thus came the idea of the all-female program.

## 3. HOW DID THE FIRST TEAM OF AKASHINGA TAKE SHAPE AND WHY DID YOU SELECT THEM SPECIFICALLY?

From 2009 to 2017 the IAPF ran conservation programs which were largely focused on law enforcement. In conservation, tactics were becoming increasingly militarized across the world in an act of retaliation to poaching and desperation to defend what was left. We wanted to explore

new methods which reunited conservation and community, so in August 2017 we set out to recruit and train the first all-female, armed anti-poaching unit in the world in an abandoned trophy hunting reserve in Zimbabwe. Making over 200 arrests in the first 3 years of operation, these women helped drive an 80% downturn in elephant poaching in Zimbabwe's Lower and Middle Zambezi Valley, one of the largest remaining populations left on earth. The concept has now taken off and we are in the process of training 240 more women for full-time positions as we scale towards 1000 rangers and a portfolio of 20 parks by 2025.

## 4. How has Akashinga changed the conservation game?

The Akashinga program we are running focuses on re-appropriating trophy hunting wilderness areas in Africa that are being left vacant as the hunting industry has a downturn due to less business and shrinking wildlife populations. Collectively these areas across Africa are the size of Texas. They have equal biodiversity importance as national parks, and generally greater strategic importance as they surround national parks and border communities.

Historically, these areas have not had great support from the non-profit sector due to the nature of business. This lack of support has carried on into the current climate and these blocks are being left to die. If we were to



advertise that we were going to wipe out 700km<sup>2</sup> of national parks across Africa, there would be an international outcry of support. Well, this is happening with these hunting areas, silently, and little is being done about it. We have been partnering with local stakeholders and implementing an alternate economic model in Zimbabwe where 20% of the country's land-mass is set aside for hunting.

In the initial pilot area with the Akashinga model, we were able to put the same amount of investment into the local community every 34 days as what trophy hunting was able to do per annum, motivating conservation from the surrounding communities. We have an economic alternative to hunting which for us, only works with women at the centre of the strategy. This involves acquiring long term leases (up to 50 years) and managing these areas with the local community as a growing platform for empowering and education women in rural Africa.

##### **5. HOW HAS THIS PROGRAM HELPED THESE WOMEN? HOW HAVE YOU SEEN THEIR WORK CHANGE LOCAL ATTITUDES ABOUT THE ROLE OF WOMEN?**

The Akashinga rangers are carrying out one of the most demanding and respected jobs in the world while thriving at it and building their own lives, their families, and their communities in the process. For some of these women, joining Akashinga is more than a job but a change in life and an opportunity to feed their families. Some of these women have gone through years of domestic abuse and so Akashinga offers them a new start. But it does not come easy. We put them to the test through back-breaking exercise. We push them to their limits, and when they get to the other side, they emerge stronger, confident, and ready to face any challenge.

The decision to join Akashinga is not an easy one, as many of the women in the community are threatened by the poachers not to join as they will destroy their



homes and even kill their families. However, once they harness the will power to join, they can use their skills to fight back and arrest the poachers. Also, it's important to note that women in the African community are generally trusted due to their motherly instincts. Therefore, they can easily form relationships with people in the village and get information on who is a poacher. This has helped us attain valuable information on poacher activity which often leads to successful arrests and wildlife being saved.

#### **6. WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS GOING FORWARD TO HELP END POACHING, SPECIFICALLY ELEPHANT POACHING IN ZIMBABWE?**


Zimbabwe is home to the world's second largest elephant population and as the poaching wars rage on, the Akashinga rangers are essential in protecting these vulnerable species. As we expand in partnerships with local government and communities, we will contract more and more wilderness areas that would otherwise be lost. In the process, we endeavor to protect biodiversity, which is the key, not just the elephants.

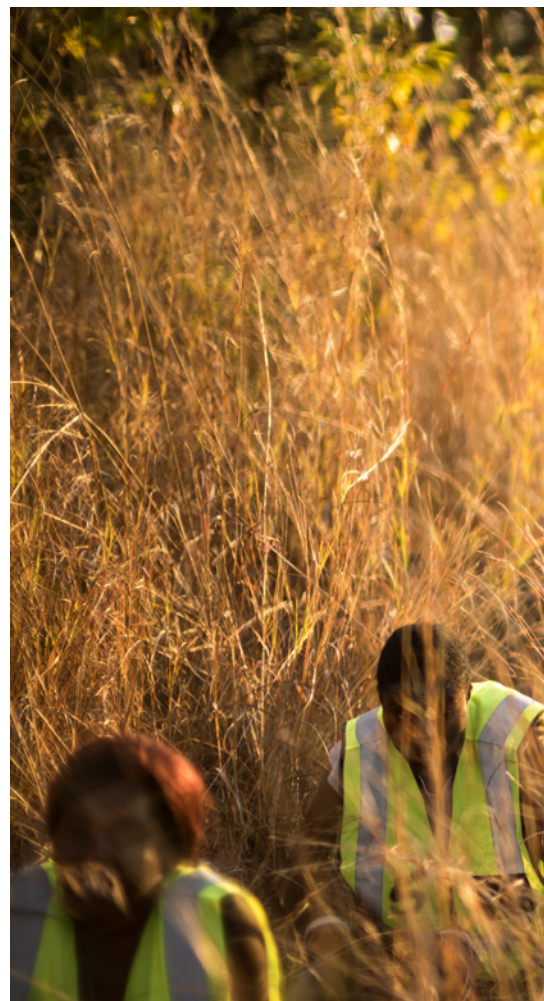
#### **7. WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER HAVING BEEN YOUR BIGGEST WINS FOR THE PROGRAMME TO DATE?**

What excites me about this program are the possibilities. We started a trial in a small landlocked country of sub-Saharan Africa, in a conservation industry which is becoming increasingly antagonistic with local indigenous communities, on a continent which has had a an increase in armed conflict in the past decade. All we did was shift the male roles to construction and labor and put women into the power roles of law enforcement, management and decision making. In doing so, we completely deescalated local tension, brought conservation and community together, while cutting our operational

costs by two thirds. The remaining third, invested mostly into women, becomes the most effective form of community development, while our core business of conservation is more successful than ever. The model is working and if this has been possible here in Zimbabwe, what is possible beyond Zimbabwe? What is possible beyond conservation?

*8. Comment on the topic of breaking stereotypes on gender roles in communities, especially as it relates to conservation and the Akashinga Rangers success story?*

For us, the proof has been in the results really. Akashinga focuses on the exclusive employment of women to manage and protect these areas. The pilot area became the only nature reserve in the world to be protected by women, and the economics involved with doing things this way shifted the entire strategic approach of conservation. We chose to put women at the center of the model, focusing on their personal vision and development, and the results have been nothing short of inspirational as much as they have really aided in community development. When a community is witnessing positive changes through inspired guidance, conservation becomes an automatic biproduct led by the communities themselves. 









# SUSTAINABLE

# Tourism

A SPOTLIGHT ON **EVIE NDHLOVU** – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST, EAST & SOUTHERN AFRICA

**Z**imbabwean born Evie Ndlovu is a woman with a passion for community development and indigenous tourism. From a very young age, she was actively engaged in social work and progressive roles that later saw her pursuing a career in community service. A holder of a degree in Economic Development and Management from Monash University in South Africa, and currently pursuing a Master's degree in Global Development, Evie has over the years discovered that her truest fulfillment lies in promoting and fostering sustainable tourism and micro-economical business training for indigenous entrepreneurs. Describing herself as an activist for gender-based equality, she has dedicated her time to involvement with key organizations that are firm in raising awareness and aid for young women and children in Zimbabwe. Evie believes that there are a very few problems in life that can't be fixed with a smile or a hug.

#### WHERE THE STORY BEGAN WITH PLANETERRA

Established in 2003 by global adventure travel company G Adventures' Bruce Poon Tip, Planeterra Foundation is a non-profit organization that has contributed millions of dollars towards projects in areas of social enterprise, healthcare, conservation, and emergency response. And so this naturally became a great fit for Evie, as there was strong alignment between her need to pursue her passion, and Planeterra's dedication to ensuring that local and indigenous communities would truly benefit from tourism through business training, conservation activities and integration into the tourism industry.

Today, Evie works as the Community Engagement Specialist for Planeterra, whose entire footprint spans operations in Canada, United States, Thailand, Zambia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Italy, India, and Peru. With frequent travel in the field, Evie is responsible for East and Southern Africa, yet her team's efforts contribute towards the outputs of an entire global community - including in-country partners, G Adventures' global staff, the board and advisors, who are all integral to the success of their work in Africa.



#### PLANETERRA SIMPLIFIED

Planeterra currently boasts 85 projects all over the world across 6 continents, all of which have helped thousands of people benefit from tourism. With trillions of dollars spent yearly on travel, most local and indigenous communities find themselves not receiving money from the tourism activities in their countries, and so what Planeterra does is look at methods in which travel is carried out sustainably and in a way that benefits local communities.

“Planeterra projects directly meet the needs of travellers and are driven by market demands” cites Evie when asked to elaborate on Planeterra's mandate.

“All projects fall within one of the following categories: Meals and Food, Tours

and Experiences, Handicrafts, Accommodation, and Transportation. By providing capacity training, catalyst grants and connecting partners to a market partner, Planeterra has been able to provide a foundation of customers for projects, making them successful and sustainable in the long-term,” says Evie.

#### MAKING AN IMPACT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Planeterra currently has partnerships with 13 Social enterprises in 10 different African countries, and through those partnerships, over 10 000 lives have benefitted directly and indirectly. The organisation's social enterprises are uniquely designed with the tourism value chain in mind, such that businesses become self-sustaining through an already existing customer base of travellers. Where other development models typically generate positive results over a 3-5 year horizon, Planeterra has witnessed positive returns within the first year and proudly, in the case of some of their earliest projects, there's been a steady year-on-year growth for over a decade.

“What we thrive for is to ensure that a large portion of money spent by tourists remains in the hands of local people and by doing so we start to see local communities grow and tourism being a force for good,” shares Evie.

“Take for instance the Victoria Falls based Lusumpuko Women's Club, where 29 women and their families, and a total of 200 community members, are benefitting from our collective efforts. When Zimbabwe experienced the world's worst case of inflation in 2008, many of the country's inhabitants struggled to meet the basic needs of their families. Today, approximately 95% of the population of Zimbabwe is unemployed and either partake in informal work on contracts or in subsistence farming. However, there is a growing movement for those with skills in trades to form cooperatives to

create thriving businesses, and this is where organisations such as Planeterra can contribute toward positive impact,” Evie weighs in.

Planeterra partnered with the 20 members of the Lusumpuko Project to create a cooking demonstration and meal for G Adventures travellers who visit Victoria Falls. Starting off as a cooperative which involved rearing chickens and providing catering services for local churches and events, the group is thriving with the task of creating traditional meals, much like their mothers and grandmothers used to prepare.

Not only are they rediscovering this cultural history, but through this project, the women are bonding as friends, each playing a critical role in empowering one other. Harnessing the tourism industry in this small town has helped the women of Lusumpuko to provide for their families, with Planeterra having also given the cooperative a grant to kick-start their traditional meal demonstration, to ensure the group has the capital injection it needs to grow their collective enterprise.

### PLANETERRA FOOTPRINT IN EAST AFRICA

Over in Monduli, Tanzania, Planeterra in collaboration with G Adventures has helped create a community tour alongside partners at the Maasai Stoves & Solar Project. This is the first revenue-generating program, with each visit led by an all-female engineering team, which takes travellers to experience the air quality of a boma (homestead) with





and without a clean cookstove. The tour pays for the cost of a new stove in the home that does not have a cookstove. A new stove installed in a family's home removes 90% of indoor smoke pollution. Along with the stoves, the entire boma also receives solar power, increasing security and safety in the homes.


“Our project partner works closely with Maasai women to incorporate their ideas into the stove construction. Through a training course, we've seen women become experts at stove and solar panel installation in their villages and neighboring villages,” says Evie as she chronicles the successes of the Masai Stoves & Solar Project.

“So far, the Maasai Stoves & Solar Project has trained 75 women and installed 750 stoves in over sixty Maasai villages across the Serengeti. G Adventures trips have supported over 200 of the stoves installed, with each new stove removing 90% of indoor smoke in a family's home,” she adds.

Evie Ndlovu has been at the cusp of Planeterra's growth as the organisation continues to build its impact across the continent through working with local partners in over 40 countries.

“Our community partners are local nonprofits, grassroots community organizations, and existing social enterprises. Our local partners are working directly to empower women, youth, communities, and the environment through travel. I like to say I am privileged to be able to contribute towards Africa's diverse tourism opportunities through the work we do at Planeterra, as it is a good combination of adventure and purpose,” Evie concludes.

### THE PROGRESSIVE ROLE OF SOCIAL TOURISM IN AFRICA

The benefits of tourism to local communities are immense, as they not only connect tourists to the people, experiences, heritage, and culture of destinations, but on a more granular level, truly contribute to the livelihood and strengthening of communities. Tourism can be credited for the commercialization of culture and access to natural tourism assets as well as a destination's artistic landscape. The call remains for more global organisations to help give locals a sense of pride in their customs and available experiences in their communities, while simultaneously addressing social gaps through revenues generated from travel, tourism, and leisure experiences. 





# Drakensberg MOUNTAINS

*through the lens*

**A**n impassioned individual who has grown immensely fond of the outdoors, hiking, travelling and landscape photography, Butho Ncube views his camera as his travel companion, ensuring that he never misses a moment to capture life and the beautiful world that surrounds him through the lens. Born in the City of Kings – Bulawayo in Zimbabwe, Butho is currently based in South Africa in the Drakensberg area, where he works in the power generation industry at the Eskom Drakensberg Power Station.

It was the pristine mountain-scapes and rocky outcrops in the region he calls home that got him hooked on hiking and photography. “The Drakensberg mountains are one of the most spectacular mountain ranges in the world and I have the privilege to be staying and working in the area,” cites Butho.

“My everyday view is the Drakensberg Amphitheatre, which I see when I open my bathroom window. From here I can see the Tugela waterfall, the second highest waterfall in the world and as an adventurous person, one can only imagine what it’s like to be blessed with such a view. You really don’t need any more inspiration to get out and explore as the views are difficult to resist.”

Butho asserts that the tall, grandiose, and intimidating appearance of the mountains give one a sense of accomplishment after they climb to the top. It’s a great feeling of achievement and after climbing up the elevated terrains, it’s easy to appreciate how well worth the effort the climb was.

“For me, over and above that, I go up just to get that one photo. I literally go out for an 8-hour hike for that one photo, and that’s my accomplishment and satisfaction,” says Butho.

“You have to understand too that hiking isn’t exactly everyone’s cup of tea. Most people who hike the Drakensberg are not natives to the area but come as far as overseas. The local people don’t see anything extraordinary about the rock face; after all they have been seeing it since birth,” Butho asserts.

Mystical beliefs by the local communities govern their willingness to explore the mountains, with some believing there is a big snake at the source of the Tugela River, and that if one sets foot anywhere

near the River, they will disappear. It's because of this lack of interest that Butho has had to grow comfortable hiking alone.

“One hike that comes to mind is when I took on Rainbow Gorge, and I was shaking as I approached the trapped rock in the Gorge. This did not stop me from catching some breath-taking photos of myself using remote photography. I have however gone on hikes with my workmates, who requested that I guide them to the places where I have taken some of my photos. Only on one occasion has a travel agent asked me to be a tour guide up the Amphitheatre as well as the Rainbow Gorge” shares Butho.

Why does he choose Drakensberg? It is like his backyard garden he says, and besides the fact that there are still a lot of hikes that he'd like to conquer in the area, Butho prefers to stay in as it requires little effort beyond the climb itself.

“I don't have to book anything or drive long distance, so if I feel like hiking, I just pick one hike and I go for it.”

## *What to expect if you've never been to The Drakensberg*

Drakensberg is beautiful, and if one needs a full package of relaxation, play, wine, dine and spa, swimming (both in constructed and natural pools), hiking, camping, helicopter rides, a little snow in Africa, spectacular views of waterfall or a family retreat, Drakensberg is the place to be.

Every season brings its own beauty. The summer waterfalls are magnificent. One gets to see the Tugela waterfall at its full capacity. You can see it from deep within the valley as far as the hotels and gold courses. In winter, especially between June and September months, the mountains are capped with





snow, giving the whole landscape a spectacular view. There is always something for everyone, long and short hikes, easy walks, picnic spots, breweries, and coffee spots.

The Drakensberg boarders with Lesotho and the Afri Ski Mountain Resort, a wonderland for skiing and snowboarding, is only a few hours' drive from Drakensberg, passing through the Golden Gate National Park, home to scenic sandstone cliffs, especially the imposing Brandwag rock.

### *Butho on photography inspiration*

"I wouldn't call myself a photographer. I think I am still far from being called that. If clicking that shutter button qualifies one to be a photographer, I would accept that but I believe there is more to photography than clicking that button. I am not a good orator or a story teller. I wouldn't be able to describe what I see to someone in Netherlands so what I cannot put in words, I use pictures. The surroundings played a big role in my interest in photography. To me photography is a form of expression. I sometimes go out to get a picture that I will



caption with what I feel. It makes me feel better when I am down,” Butho says.

When asked which his favourite camera was to use on his excursions, Butho responds with: “Edward Steichen once said ‘A portrait is not made in the camera but on either side of it’. He was right. It’s not the camera but rather the eye behind the lens. One can have the most expensive / best camera in the world but if they don’t have the eye, it’s useless”.

“But that doesn’t stop one from having the best camera in the world if they feel they have the eye. My current cameras are Samsung Note 10 Plus as well as an old Nikon B700. I will consider the best cameras when I go pro or have the budget, and knowing myself, I will go for gold and that won’t come cheap. Another option will be to get a drone.”

## *Hikes to embark on while in the Drakensberg*

Butho cites that he hasn’t really thought much about hiking outside South Africa as he still has a backlog of hikes within the country’s borders. He does share however that the sand dunes in Namibia as well as the Fish River Canyon are among the places he would like to one day visit.

“There are many interesting hikes and walks in the Drakensberg, from family-friendly to experts hiking trails. I’m particularly biased towards the Northern and Central Drakensberg as that is where I have done most of my hikes. The most popular hike is the Drakensberg Amphitheatre. The first part of the path is paved but as one goes further, it’s rugged and uneven. This takes one to the top of the Amphitheatre, right where the Tugela waterfall plunges 948m to the valley. You can enjoy a swim at the top of the waterfall, which is typically a day-long hike to get to the top. Moderate fitness is required for this hike but involves scaling chain ladders,” Butho recommends.





The Tugela Gorge is another interesting hike in the Royal Natal National Park. Classified as a fairly easy hike along the Tugela river to the base of the Amphitheatre, the path is clear and along the way, one gets to see eroded sandstone known as the Policeman's Hat. At the gorge itself, you can encounter tunnels where the river cut across a rock forming a high walled cave. This is also a day hike for the whole family and is about 17-20km return, depending on where one starts 🚶

### **OTHER HIKES IN THE ROYAL NATAL, INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:**

- The cascades – short day hike, about 30min, with a natural pool.
- Bottom of Gudu Falls – short day hike.

### **CENTRAL DRAKENSBERG**

- Long and difficult hike – Cathedral Peak, though it's a day hike.
- Rainbow Gorge – short easy hike, but one can easily get lost.
- Mushroom Rock – Short moderate hike, there is an option of branching to 3 waterfalls on your way back.

### **BUTHO'S TOP TIPS BEFORE YOU EMBARK ON YOUR DRAKENSBERG HIKE**

1. Know which hikes you want to do. This will help you to choose the closest accommodation.
2. Do not hike alone. Though crime is not a common thing in the area, the terrain can be rough, and one can fall or get lost.
3. In the summer months, the weather can change very quickly.
4. It can be very chilly at the top. Carry the correct gear just in case.
5. Pack your lunch. Water is usually not a problem, but it will be advisable to carry a small bottle.
6. A small first Aid kit is always handy. Do keep one in your backpack
7. To capture the moments, have a fully charged camera and extra battery. A drone is always a fantastic add-on to your gear.





# Mission Travel

# *Aviague.*

SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICAN TRAVEL  
ENTREPRENEURS TRACY KUELO  
AND CALVINO MIGUEL

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BEHIND TRAVEL AFRIQUE ARE **TRACY KUELO AND CALVINO MIGUEL**, BOTH AGED 27 AND TOGETHER, THEY HAVE MADE IT NOT ONLY THEIR MISSION TO INSPIRE PEOPLE TO SEE THE REAL AFRICA BUT TO ALSO MAKE AFRICA MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE WORLD.

One of their core values is to be revolutionary in their approach in doing business in the continent's travel landscape. Because they seek to "drive humanity forward, even if it means to go against the tide" we had to find out more about the young African entrepreneurs behind Switzerland based bespoke tour company Travel Afrique.

#### TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT TRAVEL AFRIQUE. WHO MAKES UP THE COMPANY'S LEADERSHIP AND WHAT DO YOU DO?

Our formula is quite simple. We offer a selection of our best addresses and tips for a pleasant and unforgettable stay in Africa. Tracy Kuelo as one of the co-founders, is responsible for researching and developing marketing opportunities, planning, and implementing new sales plans. She is also our secret weapon in building up a good network with local travel agencies across Africa.

Calvino Miguel, the other co-founder, is the tech guy with a good eye for design. He is responsible for the technical development of the Travel Afrique platform and manages the overall operations of the company.

#### AS YOUNG AFRICAN ENTREPRENEURS LIVING IN SWITZERLAND, HOW DO YOU PAY HOMAGE TO THE COUNTRIES FROM WHICH YOU COME FROM?

**Tracy:** Our heart has always been set on the African continent. I was born and raised in Switzerland by Congolese parents, but grew up being exposed to Congolese culture. It was always important for my parents to ensure that I was connected to our roots. Calvino was born in Angola and came to Switzerland with his family at the age of 9. Even in Europe his parents never ceased teaching him African values.

We both inherited the love and longing for Africa from our parents. In this sense, we have always celebrated Africa, and kept doing so even more after we founded the Travel Afrique people see today. However, when it comes to Travel Afrique, it actually all began with me wanting to build a community to get travel tips and inspiration for Africa. Very soon it became clear to me that besides the most popular African countries (such as South Africa, Morocco, Tanzania, and Egypt), there is little information and opportunities to book trips to less popular African regions. As an avid traveler of the African continent, I was eager to discover new places and adventures. Calvino joined my journey 2 years later after he successfully sold his first company and decided to invest in something that inspires him – Africa.

#### WHAT IS YOUR INSPIRATION? (BEING IN THE TRAVEL BUSINESS)

**Calvino:** None of us have a background in the travel industry, however, we have noticed the beneficial economic impact that travel and tourism can have on countries, as well as the profound effect international experiences can have on individuals. For these reasons we envision a world where people both inside and outside Africa can easily journey across the continent. This is what drives us every day.

#### TWO MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS IN BUSINESS?

**Calvino:** To have the opportunity to express our passion for Africa with our business and to shine Africa in a more beautiful light, which is already suppressed by many clichés.

#### COVID AND THE IMPACT ON YOU?

**Tracy:** Covid-19 has been quite the lesson so far. We never expected to experience a pandemic of this magnitude. This naturally affected our income, but it also provided us with a window of opportunity. We are now very much focused on product development based on the needs of our users. We are pulling out all the stops to position the company in such a way that we can operate in this new environment from 2021 onwards.

#### HOW DO YOU VIEW THE FUTURE OF TRAVEL?

**Tracy:** More and more people can afford to travel and inspire themselves to travel. Travel has become an absolute trend in the past years, especially with the great influence of social media, where people prefer to share their travel experiences. Even though COVID-19 currently poses one of its greatest challenges to the industry, we are optimistic about the future of Africa travel. After all, Africa is one of the most culturally and naturally diverse, if not the most diverse continent in the world and has so much to offer.

Furthermore, the African continent is the second-fastest growing region when it comes to tourism, after Asia-Pacific. That is already enormous. With Travel Afrique we would like to contribute to this growth so that the continent develops into the fastest growing tourism region.

#### YOUR TOP 5 DESTINATIONS IN AFRICA AND WHY?

**Tracy:** Ghana conquered all hearts last year with 2019's Year of Return. Ghana is on a very solid pathway to keep up with the big players like Kenya, Morocco, and South Africa.

Then Congo, my home of course. This country is as big as western Europe and has so



many hidden tourist attractions. It is my first love.

Morocco stole my heart in 2018 when I did my Educational tour with a partner. I liked it so much that 5 months later I did the same tour again with my friends. The south of Morocco is incredible. The south of Morocco is especially magical.

Next is Ethiopia, rich in culture and tradition plus it is the only country that has never been colonized and that itself is hugely intriguing. I am very fascinated by this land that has so much hidden history.

Lastly, the Seychelles, with its blue sky, blue sea. It consists of about 115 beautiful islands and every time I see videos and pictures from the Seychelles, I want to pack a bag and catch a flight to the island destination.

**Calvino:** Naturally, Angola will always have its place in my heart, as it is my country of origin. Nevertheless, it still has huge and untapped tourism potential. From north to south the vegetation ranges from tropical rainforest in the north and in Cabinda, to tree savannah in the center and the dry grass savannah, which is interspersed with spurge plants, acacias, and baobabs. Starting from Namibia, a strip of desert stretches along the southwest coast.

DR Congo has a very special meaning to me. It is the country that accommodated a part of my family during the war in Angola. Who knows if I would have ever existed if this had not happened?

Egypt, the country known in ancient times as Kemet (the black country), fascinates me because of its history. The mysteries around the pyramids, the sphinx, the pharaohs, and their legacy are a subject that amazes not only me but the whole world.

When we are talking about Tanzania I don't even know where to start. Whether it is the natural beauty of the country or the amazing wildlife, dazzling beaches, captivating ancient towns or geological wonders, Tanzania knows how to seduce its visitors in so many ways. It is a country that strongly encourages more than one visit to capture the extent of the highlights it has to offer.

Who can resist this paradise land?

Thanks to videos and images from the Internet, I have fallen in love with Mauritius' landscape and crystal-clear waters. It's definitely on my list of countries to visit next.

### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THE WORLD TO KNOW ABOUT TRAVELLING TO AFRICA?

Tracy: One thing we know for sure: travelling to Africa is worth it. Put aside the negative images you are used to from television and go see for yourself. After your first trip to Africa, don't be surprised if your worldview turns 180 degrees and you become addicted to travelling to Africa! 🌍



# CULINARY ESCAPADES





Head  
Chef  
of  
Prinz  
Brian  
of  
Prinz  
of



“ I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN LOVE WITH THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY; AND IT ALL STARTED WITH A TV SERIES BY ARTHUR HAILEY IN THE 80’S TITLED ‘HOTEL’.

– CHEF BRIAN C PRINZ

**G**rowing up, I have vivid memories of traveling a lot as a family, taking trips back home to South Africa since we didn’t have relatives living in Namibia where we were based. We travelled all over South Africa, making pit-stops wherever inspiration would lead us, but one place that truly captured my heart was the little landlocked nation of eSwatini, still referred to most by its former name of Swaziland. Bordered by South Africa and Mozambique, it was the landscape and its people that I found to be quite compelling. To this day, when I think of eSwatini, my mind journeys me to moments of picking fruit that was growing on the roadside, being able to pluck your own brunch of bananas and going camping. What was there not to love?

#### MY CHILDHOOD INSPIRATION

My father was a Minister of the Methodist Church, and my mother a devoted, well-respected woman also serving in the Church. Side by side they spread the gospel, travelling extensively on ministry related assignments with their 5 sons and 1 daughter in tow. And so my mother taught us all the domesticities of life at an early age, including cooking, doing the laundry, ironing and cleaning. She wanted us to be independent, and so perhaps in some way, our childhood experiences fuelled my desire to pursue a career within the hospitality industry.

My father, being the preceding Bishop and the Secretary General of the Council of Churches back then; pioneered a renowned feeding scheme in Namibia, which not only left me in awe of the impact he was making, but also inspired me to view giving without receiving as a real life-changing opportunity.

#### PURSUING A CAREER IN THE SERVICE INDUSTRY

I embarked on my culinary studies and hotel management training in 1994, carrying on until 1998 through an in-service block release program. It was part of the national Affirmative Action requirements for institutions to provide training and support for people coming out of



disadvantaged communities, grooming them for success in leadership roles for any business.

I started out at the Kalahari Sands Hotel before becoming a private chef, which further allowed me to work in different places across Namibia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates and China. I enjoyed the wonderful privilege of cooking for the Sheikh of Ajman Emirate in the UAE and the King of eSwatini, Head of States and global business icons, but even with this honour, cooking for my parents always holds a special place in my heart as they have tasted my culinary creations since the very beginning.

### *Inspired by traditional meal preparation*

With every pursuit comes inspiration, and for me, my biggest inspiration still is and will probably always be Madam Chef Dorah Sithole - the Queen of African cuisine. From the time she was featured in Drum Magazine and then went on to become the Editor of True Love Magazine, I remember her cooking samp and beans to making a doughboy, and her preparation of tripe in such a way that it was a dish fit for royalty. Though looked upon by many as “food for the peasants” – for me, seeing her dishes took me back to my childhood, when my mother used to prepare similar dishes for our family. There is so much culture attached to traditional dishes and so in some way, that has always been my creative driving force, as I too want to prepare and promote the local Namibian traditional dishes from the Ovaherero, Oshiwambo, the Basters and Nama tribes in the South of Namibia.

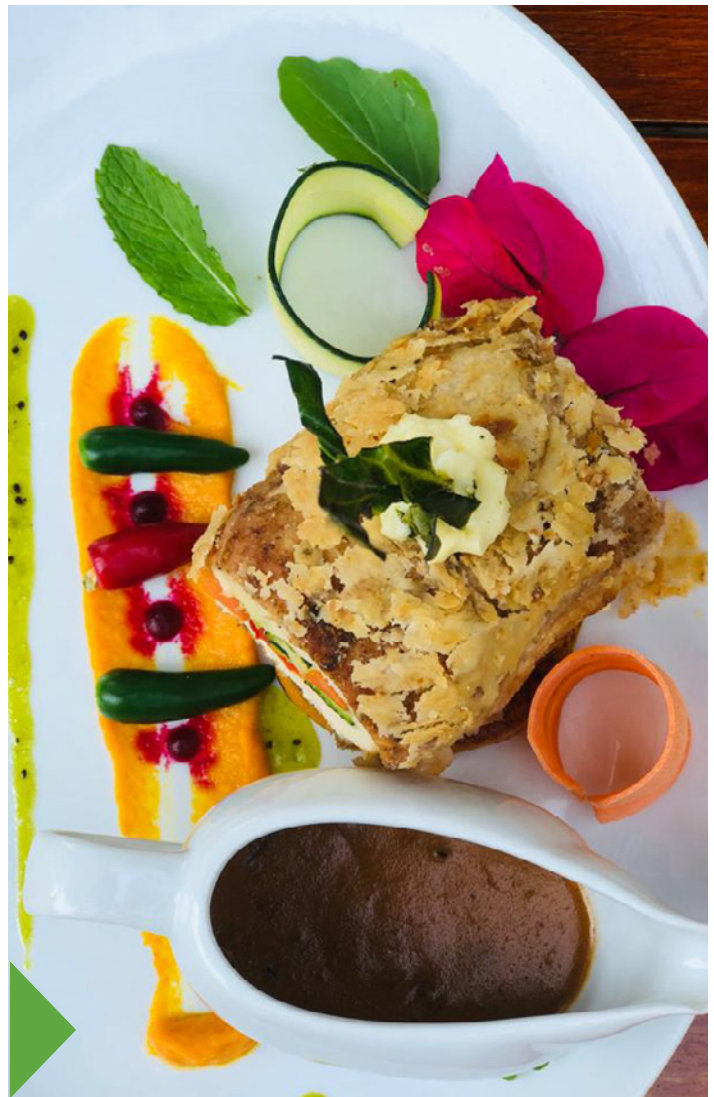
I love taking African dishes to the next level; incorporating different methods of preparation and presentations while infusing flavors mostly found in European cuisines. Keeping up with current trends within the industry and also encompassing the cultural trends regarding textures; and being on the cutting edge of modern day society, one has to be well informed of the demands of the current customer base as many guests have evolved from the way they used to experience traditional meals. Today's food lovers are well exposed to different types of food from different cultures and so as a chef, it's important to keep up with the trends in the culinary landscape.

### **GROWING THROUGH INDUSTRY CHALLENGES**

Within the industry as chefs, we face many challenges as much as our entire journey is an adventure. We are to take our guests on culinary experiences that take them from the norm into the unknown. Having a following normally makes things easier, but then again I've come to realise that your location also makes the world of difference. Working in the bush at the prestigious Mokuti Etosha Lodge has given me the opportunity to give guests a different way of looking at lodges; as it's not just about booking a bed to lay your head on while on a break, but an entire experience that includes enjoying a unique presentation of sundowners, fine dining in the bush next to the waterholes where wild animals come to quench their thirst from the hot blazing Namibian sun; to also carrying out farm drives with wine tastings at the old farm house. This offers an educational experience, also allowing guests to appreciate a true Namibian cultural experience in the Boma restaurant, where we pay homage to the diversity of Namibian cultures by interacting with our local Heikum San bushmen tribe communities, who are the historical descendents of the Etosha National Park.

### *Chef Brian Prinz on looking ahead*

I believe the future for us in the industry looks brighter than ever before despite our having been heavily impacted by the COVID-19



global pandemic. We anticipate more international and local guests looking to experience what Africa has to offer given how long we have been collectively held back from doing so through the lockdowns across the world. As a chef and industry professional, I remain hopeful that we will soon be able to reintroduce the real Africa to the world; from our cultures to our food, into our homes and our hearts. Diamonds are no longer found in just mines; but within the people we work with who are our best kept secrets and help us preserve our heritage.

I believe an advanced exploration of African food will be the new, next best thing as part of our local and regional culinary landscape. Being a chef has taken me to so many places, allowing me to meet people from all walks of life, while also getting involved in feeding children in orphanages and the vulnerable members of our communities through charitable initiatives.

Taking my team members to the next level in our field is definitely one of my passions. It is what I love doing. I do believe my purpose in life is to provide opportunities for others, from training team members from being stewards to becoming hot line chefs, and teaching them how to curate a la carte menus and top of the line buffets. The aspirations of so many youths wanting to become a part of our industry is incredibly heart warming, and a reminder that our food culture will live into the unknown future; for many to learn and appreciate. As we say in South Africa, “Umuntu Ngumuntu Ngabantu” which is loosely translated to mean a person is a person through other people.



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- Day 5 : Eastern Serengeti
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# Mad over Mo's *Cake Couture*

MOYRA MAPEZA ON PASSION FOR PASTRIES  
TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

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**A**fter living and working in Victoria Falls for two years, Moyra Mapeza, affectionately called “Mo” by her family, friends and colleagues, fell in love with the hospitality field, much like most people who find themselves navigating life in the small yet globally renowned resort town that borders Zimbabwe and Zambia. Although she held an office job as a Personal Assistant, she enjoyed the unique opportunity to see and experience the many facets of the tourism industry, including operations, guest relations, event hosting and so on. Moyra was hooked. But time came again for her to move on from her short stint in Victoria Falls, and so off she headed back to Zimbabwe’s capital after her contract had ended.

Upon moving back to Harare, Mo’s next job became a beaconing call to truly consider making a shift into the events’ space from office administration. And so, it was in 2009 that her journey towards becoming a culinary professional would begin. The young and spirited, curious at heart adventurer started looking at where she could pursue training for a career in hospitality and event management. While her plan was set, life as she would have it took her in a totally different direction. In this season, it was not to be.

## *Lemons to lemonade – and becoming a Pastry Chef*

Passion inspires, as much as it can often lead us to unexpected, life-changing spaces as it did for Moyra. A few years later, well after her plans to

attend a hospitality school had come to a halt, a new opportunity presented itself, literally turning what Mo viewed to be lemons into lemonade. A month of forced leave coaxed the adventurer in her to head down to Cape Town, a trip that would be the first time to the Mother City for her.

“I looked into schools and life in Cape Town because it seemed to promise a new start for me. I wanted the exposure to global trends in the industry and because Cape Town is well positioned on the map as a global destination in Africa for tourism, a stint in this ocean front city seemed like the perfect opportunity for me,” Moyra recounts.

Despite getting rejected at some places because of her age (she would be turning 30 in the year she would enroll as a first-year student), Mo found a school that was perfect for her stringent budget. It also allowed her the flexibility she needed to be able to work on other things to help sustain her student life. It was nine months later that Moyra sold her belongings, traded her stilettos in the administrative world for flats and life as a foreign scholar.

“I studied at South African Chefs Academy (SACA) in Salt River, Cape Town. It was a year-long course structured with more practicals than theory, with a two-month internship at the One & Only Hotel, Cape Town. This was such a wonderful experience and opened up my eyes to the world of Pastry Chefs and not the glitz and glamour we watch on TV!” says Mo.

“I fell in love with pastry, and for someone who had never baked before, it really was life-changing. Like the saying goes “time flies when you are having fun”. The year went by so fast but, it was worth it and, I would not trade it for anything!”

After graduation, desperately wanting to travel and explore the world through her creativity in the kitchen, Moyra headed up north to Gauteng Province, where she worked briefly at a Country Club in Johannesburg. Though she struggled to secure a work permit, she refused to give up on her dream of becoming a Pastry Chef. Equipped with certification from the training she had completed in Cape Town, Mo started researching ways in which I could elevate the skills she had acquired from her course and experience in the kitchen.

“I decided to explore the world of cake decorating. So, I returned to Cape Town to study cake decorating with La Petite Patisserie and that was the birth of Mo's Cake Couture. It was more of a plan B whilst I waited for the perfect Pastry Chef opportunity,” says Mo.

“I felt I could use my pastry experience to produce a great product and, the decor skills would help because we eat with our eyes first, right?” Moyra chimes in.

From the Mother City, Mo headed back to

Harare, her hometown, as the permit issues persisted. She was surprised to see how well her newly formed brand took off. Mo was selling cakes and cupcakes in the numbers, and in the process, she was exploring new techniques of baking and pastry décor. But the call for further exploration of opportunities outside Zimbabwe never waned. It was not too long after that she received the call to head over to the United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi specifically, to work as a Pastry Chef.

The season in the UAE led to remarkable exposure to new baking methods and opportunities to try out a wide variety of culinary experiences. Mo's creative prowess in the kitchen further blossomed during this season, before choosing to return to Zimbabwe on a maternity sabbatical. Armed with more of what she had learned in one of the world's most iconic travel and culinary destinations, Mo got back on the saddle with building her brand – Mo's Cake Couture.

“This time Mo's Cake Couture was bigger and better. Receiving compliments and repeat customers, I also worked as a pastry chef at a local restaurant. I could tell that I had grown so much from being a girl that had a dream to move from being an office administrator only a few years before. But the situation in Zimbabwe forced me to seek greener pastures for my child and I, and so we packed our bags and moved to Durban, South Africa,” shares Mo.

Today Mo's Cake Couture is doing well and growing. She not only sells cakes, but her cupcakes are also a hit especially with the women's clubs that host meetups and events in her community. Moyra has since added some pastries on her list with her signature cinnabuns being a favourite with some of her customers.

When asked to weigh on the bigger picture or the dream as it were, Mo responds: “My aspirations? Well, I would love to one day own a coffee shop or maybe two. I'm still torn between Victoria Falls and Cape Town because that is where my story began at varied intervals.”

Mo maintains that her inspiration comes from experiencing various cultures. “I'm a sucker for the beach, am a complete coffee addict and, I strongly believe food makes a huge part of people's culture and heritage. I would love to incorporate these elements into my brand,” she says.

“Mo's Cake Couture is my baby, born of a need, but now I am in love with it and, it will always be a part of me wherever I go. I believe the cake is for all to enjoy, and this thinking is what inspired my tag line – ‘Let them eat cake!’”<sup>TM</sup>



A FEW MINUTES WITH...

FOOD EXPERIENCE MANAGER  
*Claudine Swart*

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CLAUDINE SWART IS A FOOD EXPERIENCE MANAGER AT WILDERNESS SAFARIS, ACCLAIMED AS ONE OF AFRICA'S LEADING LUXURY AND SUSTAINABLE SAFARIS COMPANY WITH OPERATIONS IN BOTSWANA, KENYA, NAMIBIA, RWANDA, ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE. SHE RUNS DOWN HER JOURNEY OF HOW A DECISION TO SWITCH TO CULINARY ARTS PAVED WAY FOR HER SUCCESSES TO DATE.

**B**orn 36 years ago in Sasolburg, a town in the Free State in South Africa, Claudine vividly remembers having to beg her parents to change one of her study subjects to Hotel Economics.

“It took a while but finally I was allowed to make the change and so perhaps one could say that’s when the food journey began for me. I was exposed to the world of food preparation, gaining experience beyond the kitchen in more commercial spaces by helping my cooking teacher with catering for private functions over the weekend,” shares Claudine

It soon became very clear to her that her decision to make a change in her subject choice was her best one yet. While her mother in particular, was very surprised when she mentioned that she wanted to try a hand at culinary school, Claudine was relentless in her campaign to get the go-ahead to chase her dream. With time, off they went to Centurion to the very well-known Prue Leith Chef Academy to see where fortunes would take her.

With only 30 Students that get selected, favour was on Claudine’s side. Training was intense with 2 practical sessions at a time at an establishment for 2 months. With each opportunity, Claudine opted to get her practical training at lodges located remotely in the bush. Jaci’s in the Madikwe Game Reserve was her first choice. Little did she know, 4 years later she would end up back there, working her way up to becoming the Head Chef at Tree Lodge.

After 8.5 years in Madikwe, it was time for a change and Claudine headed off to Botswana.

“I started at Wilderness Safaris in 2013 as a Food & Beverage Manager, before working my way up to a Chef trainer for our Classic Camps. Today I am proud to be the Food Experience Manager for our Classic camps at Wilderness Safaris,” says Claudine

### FAVORITE INGREDIENTS TO USE:

“You will always find fresh ginger & garlic in my kitchen together with a collection of herbs out of my vegetable garden.”

### FOODIE INSPIRATIONS:

“Marco Pierre White, Gordon Ramsey, Heston Blumenthal and one of my new favorites Jan who has 2 restaurants in Paris and cooks South African favorites with a modern twist.”

### FAVORITE SOUTH AFRICAN DISHES...


Where do I start? There are so many to choose from. Milk tart, Malva Pudding, Koeksisters and the list can go on and on, but if I have to choose, my favorite remains the Amarula Malva Pudding. Who can resist the sweetness of the pudding flavoured with one of South Africa’s favorite drinks?

Second is Koeksisters - a favorite throughout my childhood. My mom’s Aunt Lena used to make it for everyone’s birthdays, weddings and at Church functions. Everybody always hoped there would be a little bit left over to take home.

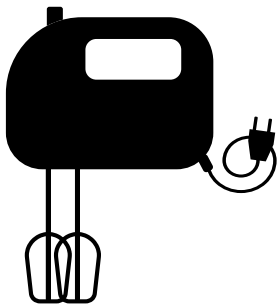
Another favorite of mine is a good Bobotie. This is a meat dish that has some Malay flavors in it, often served with yellow rice and a good old dollop of Mrs. Balls’ Chutney.

A winner with a good old South African Braai is a “Braai broodjie” which I can best describe to those new to South African cuisine as a toasted sandwich. Except you can’t say this out loud to a South African person! Think cheese, onion, tomato and Mrs. Balls’ Chutney with a mix of the goodness that comes off the braai.

### AND WHEN CLAUDINE’S OUTSIDE THE KITCHEN?

“When I’m not playing around with flavours in my kitchen or at the lodges, you can find me curled up with a good book or in my vegetable garden. If not there I’m usually out and about with my partner and our 3 dogs. On occasion I do try my hand at photography, and there’s still lots for me to learn, but I love playing around with my camera,” she says. 

# Claudine's AMARULA MALVA PUDDING

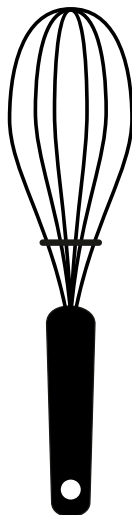


## Malva Pudding Ingredients

- 1 egg
- 250g sugar
- 1 tbs smooth apricot jam
- 2 tbs softened butter
- 250g flour
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- pinch of salt
- 250 ml milk
- 1 tsp vinegar

## Amarula Sauce

- 125 ml melted butter
- 200 ml cream
- 125 ml caster sugar
- 80ml Amarula Cream

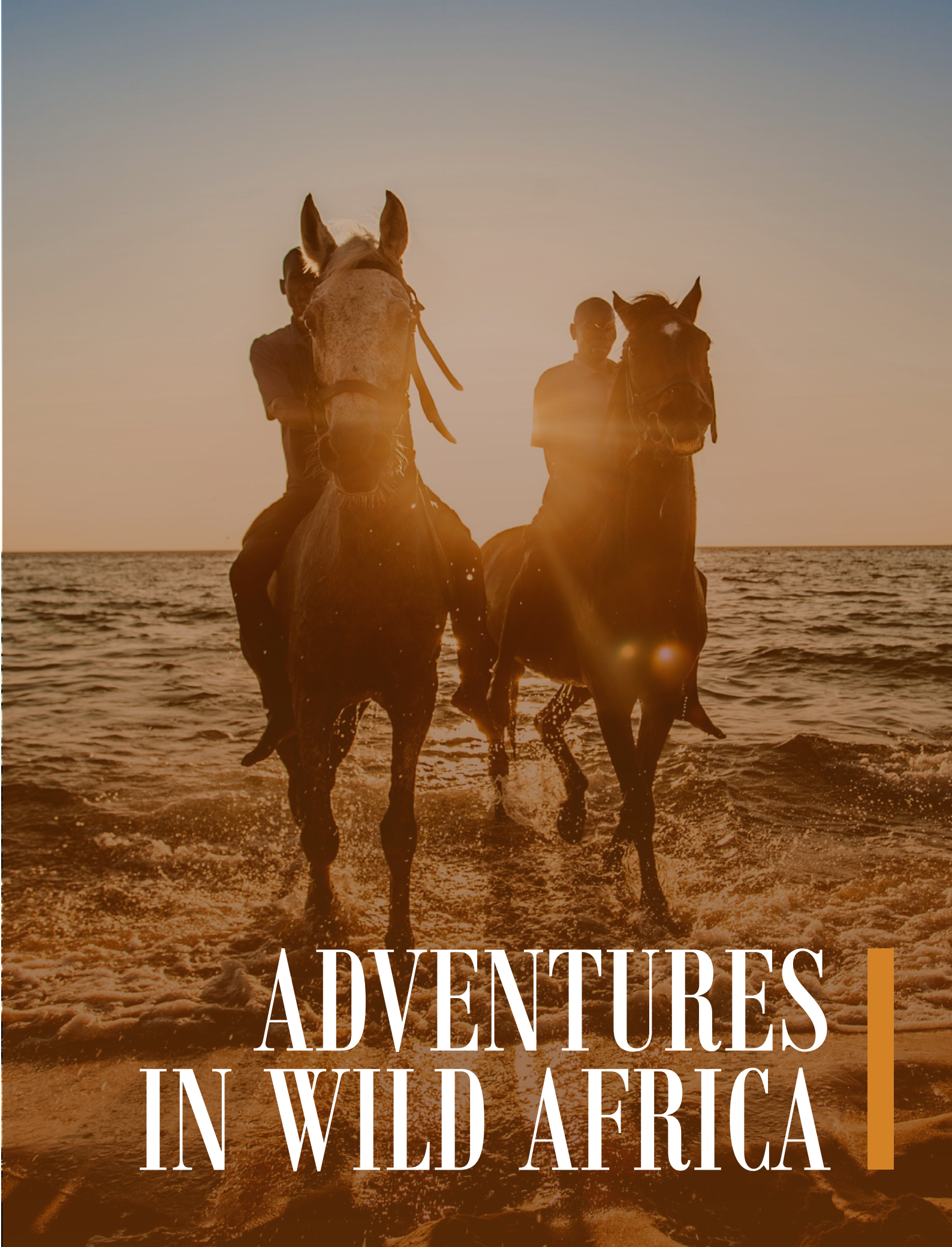


Beat egg and sugar until creamy, then add jam and butter, stirring to combine thoroughly. Sift together the dry ingredients and pour them into the egg-and-sugar mixture. Stir to combine. Pour in the milk slowly. When the mixture is combined, add the vinegar. Pour into a baking dish and cover with foil. Bake at 180°C for about 45 minutes. Remove foil and bake for a further 10 minutes, or until golden brown.

To make the sauce, combine the butter, cream and caster sugar in a saucepan over low heat and stir until the sugar is dissolved and the sauce thickens. This will take a few minutes. Take the sauce off the heat and add the Amarula. Pour the sauce slowly over the pudding as soon as it comes out of the oven. Once the pudding is saturated with sauce, pour the remainder into a jar for guests to add. Serve immediately. It's best to serve it with just plain cream but one can also use a custard.

Serves  
8





# ADVENTURES IN WILD AFRICA





A CONVERGENCE OF AFRICAN  
ISLAND SECLUSION &

# NATURAL LUXURY



**A**nantara Bazaruto Island Resort brings authentic luxury to an African island hideaway. An escapist's dream, this is a place to lose oneself in total seclusion, dazzling tropical beauty and protected ocean life. Signature experiences immerse travellers in the remote and captivating charms, embellished by world-class pleasures.

### **BREATHTAKING SECLUSION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN**

30 kilometres off Mozambique's coast, the Bazaruto Archipelago of protected national park islands scatter like emerald jewels across the turquoise Indian Ocean. On the largest of these islands, far removed from modern distractions, travel to Anantara Bazaruto is both seamless and breathtaking. A 15-minute flight from Vilanculos Airport, which connects to Johannesburg with a direct two-hour flight, provides Anantara guests with their first glimpse of paradise.

### **LUXURY IN HARMONY WITH LUSH NATURE AND TRANSLUCENT OCEAN**

44 villas, ranging from a spacious 90 to an incredible 330 square metres, reveal soothing garden and shoreline panoramas. Crafted from indigenous reed, fringed thatch and wood, rustic charm integrates understated luxury and modern amenities. Verandas are perfect for dining in privacy under the stars. Five villas types are set apart by unique allures. Beach Villas and Beach Pool Villas are decorated with traditional African charm while, Beach Pool Villas offer direct access to the beach and cool dips in a personal plunge pool. Sea View Pool Villas are spacious and enjoy elevated positions overlooking the bay and Deluxe Villas are perfect for families, with two ensuite bedrooms opening onto a central living room. Indoor and outdoor dining spaces are enhanced with a kitchenette and wet bar. The one-of-a kind Anantara Pool Villa affords exclusive seclusion and unrivalled ocean views and is the perfect sanctuary for families and friends to share with a private driveway and entrance, two generous en-suite bedrooms, spacious lounge and dining areas inside and out, a pool and Jacuzzi.





## ISLAND FLAVOURS AND REFINED GLOBAL TASTES

Culinary experiences offer signature tastes and unique views. Golfinho serves breakfast and themed dinners in a dining room and on the outdoor terrace with a pool and bay vista. By the pool and beach, Clube Naval's à la carte lunch menu showcases European and African flavours, with sundowner cocktails enjoyed in between, while a fine dining menu can be savoured from the Sea, Fire, Salt menu. At the Beach Deck, grilled meats and seafood can be relished on the shore. In-Villa Dining lets guests enjoy snacks, meals, and drinks on their private veranda. Dining by Design tailors romance with dream settings, fine dining menus, a private chef and butler service.

## GOURMET ADVENTURES ABOUND

Richly interactive, Spice Spoons cooking classes introduce the essential ingredients of Mozambican cuisine with a guided tour of the resort's vegetable garden and orchard. With step by step guidance from an expert chef, students learn traditional techniques to craft authentic African recipes and sample their creations in a chef hosted meal. Taking home a Spice Spoons shopping bag with recipe cards, guests can host an African



dinner party for family and friends.

Beyond the resort, Anantara's culinary offering is served while exploring island life and the Indian Ocean.

Trips out on horseback ascend towering dunes for canapés and cocktails at sunset. The Honeymooners Hideaway excursion to Sailfish Bay promises total seclusion on a postcard-perfect beach surrounded by sand dunes, with a shaded tent set up for a picnic lunch. A choice of picnics and beverages are also offered in the boat charter experiences. Fishing expeditions guided by a head chef provide a glimpse into secrets of Mozambican cooking with travellers learning firsthand how to prepare them. After catching your own lunch and picking and choosing produce from the resort's vegetable garden, a step-by-step private class will ensure the fresh catch and ingredients become a beautiful meal. This unforgettable sea to table experience comes full circle with a glass of wine while relishing the creations

### SUBLIME RELAXATION AND RARE ADVENTURES

Equestrian enthusiasts can go horseback riding through peaceful forest trails, along powdery beaches and even into the ocean to take their steed for a swim.


The spectacular dunes of Bazaruto Island are the highest in the archipelago. Thrill seekers clamber up the towering works of art to go sand boarding down at exhilarating speed. As this activity requires very little skill, it is suitable for every age, and the coastal panoramas from the crests are jaw-dropping.

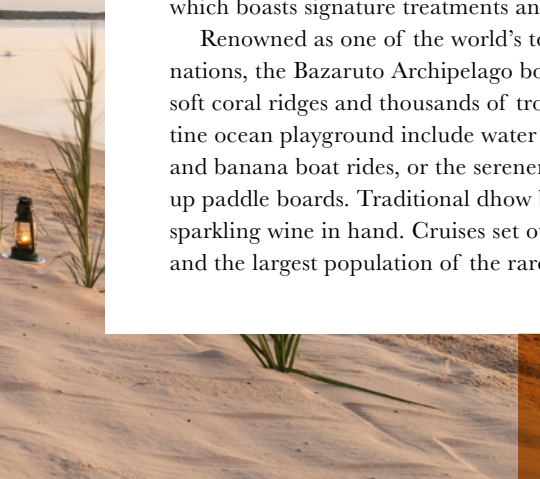
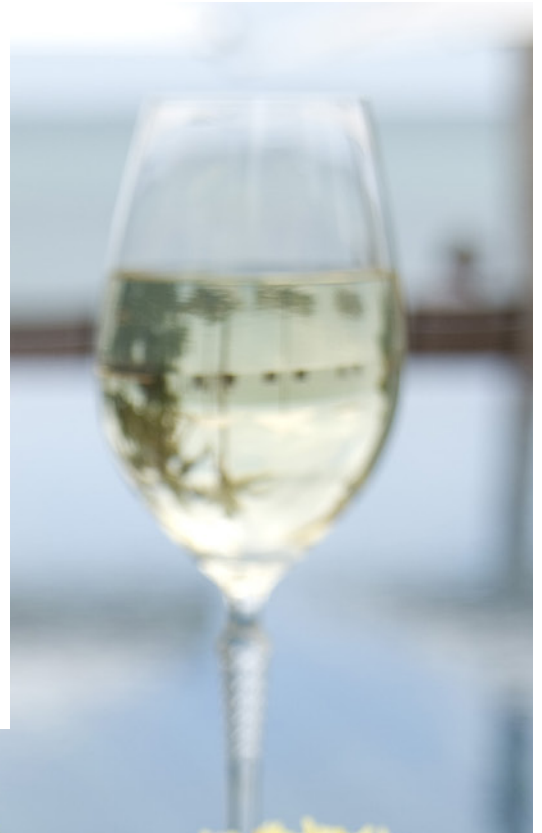
Uncovering the island's most picturesque havens and colourful local life, 4x4 safaris encounter a wealth of exotic flora and fauna, traditional village customs, a 19th century lighthouse, and secluded



highlights such as stunning Sailfish Bay on the pristine eastern shore. From one utopia to another, a boat trip to aptly named Paradise Island wows with superb snorkelling, relaxed sunbathing without a soul in sight, and extends the pleasures with a leisurely BBQ picnic.

Youngsters splash out at the family pool and engage in interactive fun at the children's entertainment room. Couples can relax in peace at the adults-only pool and indulge in award-winning pampering at Anantara Spa, which boasts signature treatments and specialist hydro facilities.

Renowned as one of the world's top snorkelling, diving and fishing destinations, the Bazaruto Archipelago boasts year-round warm waters, dazzling soft coral ridges and thousands of tropical fish species. Water sports in a pristine ocean playground include water skiing, knee and wake boarding, donut and banana boat rides, or the serener pace of exploring by kayaks and stand up paddle boards. Traditional dhow boats sail into sunset, with a glass of sparkling wine in hand. Cruises set out in search of dolphins, whales, turtles, and the largest population of the rare dugong on the African east coast. 



# SINGITA GRUMETI: *Luxury* ON A CANVAS OF NATURE

T

he Singita experience is unmatched in its setting, design, and staff, who are all trained to offer each guest an unparalleled immersion into the grandeur that is the African wilderness during their stay at any one of Singita's properties. At Singita Grumeti, which forms part of the Serengeti Mara Ecosystem, elegant accommodations are perfectly situated, giving guests an up-close encounter with nature while overlooking the vast terrains of Serengeti National Park. Views are breathtaking and the food and wine are top class. Singita is well-recognized as one of the most influential buyers of wine

on the continent, with their wine lists having scooped many coveted awards over the years.

The décor and design are a refreshing interpretation of safari style and African elegance at each of the lodges and camps – all underpinned by Singita's impeccable service levels and attention to detail. Singita aims to keep adding a delightful element of surprise, enhancing the brand's acclaim as a destination as much as it is an experience in itself. The combination of the location of their lodges and reserves, with the appeal of complete exclusivity and inimitable game-viewing opportunities, is augmented by award-winning levels of luxury. This not only ensures that Singita's offering goes above and beyond the expectations of high-end travellers but cements the brand's reputation for providing experiences that guests won't find anywhere else.

*Your sanctuary when  
in the Serengeti*

Golden threads include intuitive and seamless service; flawlessly personalised attention to detail; surprisingly limited guest and vehicle numbers in proportion to the expansive reserves; and an authentic farm-to-table food journey that's entirely homegrown – benefiting both our guests and the local entrepreneurs we support.

Within the Singita Grumeti, 4 properties ranging from





private villas to luxurious tented camps are found, each one uniquely designed to provide guests from far and wide with a high-quality experience to leave an imprint in their memories.

## *Villas at Singita Grumeti*

Singita Private Villa Collection offers seven exclusive-use villas across Africa to travellers looking to spend quality time with loved ones in a private setting, where they can experience a once-in-a-lifetime adventure together in pristine spaces.

More than just ideally located, each villa is designed with the guests' needs in mind, boasting comfortably spacious interiors with furnishings that strike the perfect balance between luxury and functionality, while exteriors branch out into nature and offer unhindered views of unspoilt Africa.

Additionally, each villa is also serviced by a full staff complement, including a chef

and host, as well as a guide and private vehicle for games drives on the guests' own schedule. As is the golden standard, Singita celebrates on-going commitment to taking bold action in conserving threatened parts of Africa's wilderness.

## *Singita Serengeti House - a stunning 4-bedroom villa*

Refined and opulent, this modern-African home on the slopes of Sasakwa Hill offers uninterrupted views across the Serengeti's open plains. Designed for exclusive use, there's a sense of relaxed freedom for families or friends to enjoy shared experiences in nature here. New, casual, living spaces include an eat-in kitchen and media room. All furnishings and art are exceptional, and the bedrooms and bathrooms are a decadent oasis.

For those that must exercise even while





on holiday, a fully equipped gym is available, adjacent to the extended outdoor space, and a brand-new tented spa suite at the updated tennis pavilion. A 25-metre lap pool, outdoor dining decks and fire pits provide intimate interactions with a busy water hole in clear view. Private staff, including a full-time guide and dedicated vehicle, ensures an easy, flexible rhythm to each itinerary with tailor-made activities and meals.

### *Singita Explore - 6 tents to immerse you in the outdoors*

A private-use camp set up on the plains of the magical Serengeti – this is viewed by many as arguably, the most unfiltered yet luxurious tented camping experience in Africa. It's camping but without having to forfeit the creature comforts or attentive service that are intrinsic

to a Singita experience. Singita Explore is particularly appealing to those in search of an opportunity to connect up-close with the earth and wildlife in a way they have never done before. Set up based on the requirements of each booking, the camp offers a maximum of six 1-bedroom tents configured to suit each group.

### *Singita Sabora Tented Camp - Modern interpretation of classic East African safari*

Reopened in September 2020 and set in a 350,000-acre concession in the Serengeti plains of northern Tanzania, Singita Sabora Tented Camp has captivated guests for more than a decade with its stellar location. The lodge's extensive redesign is a modern interpretation of luxury tented safaris, while retaining the quintessential elements of a romantic experience under canvas. The new, forward-thinking camp features sophisticated





details such as hand-stitched leather finishes, as well as durable canvas and campaign furniture, and it echoes the unmistakable spirit of classic East African adventures combined with intuitive simplicity. With added comforts such as private meditation decks and secluded outdoor salas with shaded daybeds, the new camp is now set even closer to the ground. Guests can spend languid afternoons reading on their decks, idly watch game passing by, and immerse themselves in Sabora's unrivalled setting. With not much separating them from the bush, every sight, sound and smell is amplified, maximising the thrill of this tented experience.

### *The Singita Promise*

Singita's lodges and camps are truly symbolic of the meeting of luxury and untainted wildlife encounters. The brand prides itself in its ongoing recognition as an ecotourism pioneer, founded on an enduring 100-year purpose to preserve and protect large areas of African wilderness for future generations. Adventurers are invit-

ed to connect with Singita's vision, seeking individually tailored long-stay packages that will fulfil their needs as travellers looking for undiluted space and time, and the opportunity to unwind and restore their most precious connections – with loved ones, themselves and the unspoilt wilderness. The Singita promise is undoubtedly, one that begins with a carefully curated itinerary, slated to provide guests with private access to Africa's most sought-after sanctuaries. <sup>AW</sup>

To learn more about Singita's lodges, tented camps, and conservation efforts, visit [www.Singita.com](http://www.Singita.com)

# EMERSON ZANZIBAR

## *Where heritage* MEETS PASSION

CULTURE, HISTORY, ART, MUSIC & GASTRONOMY  
EXPERIENCES SET IN STONE TOWN HERITAGE  
BUILDINGS OF BOUTIQUE HOTELS.

**E**merson Zanzibar is a homegrown brand located in the World Heritage Site of Stone Town. Two unique hotels where culture, history, design and art have richly fused together to create exclusive award-winning experiences – with its partner Emerson’s Foundation, the beating heart of community and environmental engagement.

Originally merchants’ houses, the sprawling Emerson on Hurumzi is known for its flamboyance and ostentatiousness, while Emerson Spice offers lovingly restored, stylishly furnished rooms structured around an airy central courtyard. Similarly, Emerson Zanzibar celebrates gastronomy with its popular conceptualized restaurants that honour the heritage of Zanzibar with international influences – be it at the Secret Garden in Emerson Spice, the Tea ceremony at Roshani in Emerson Hurumzi, or one of the two rooftop Tea Houses.

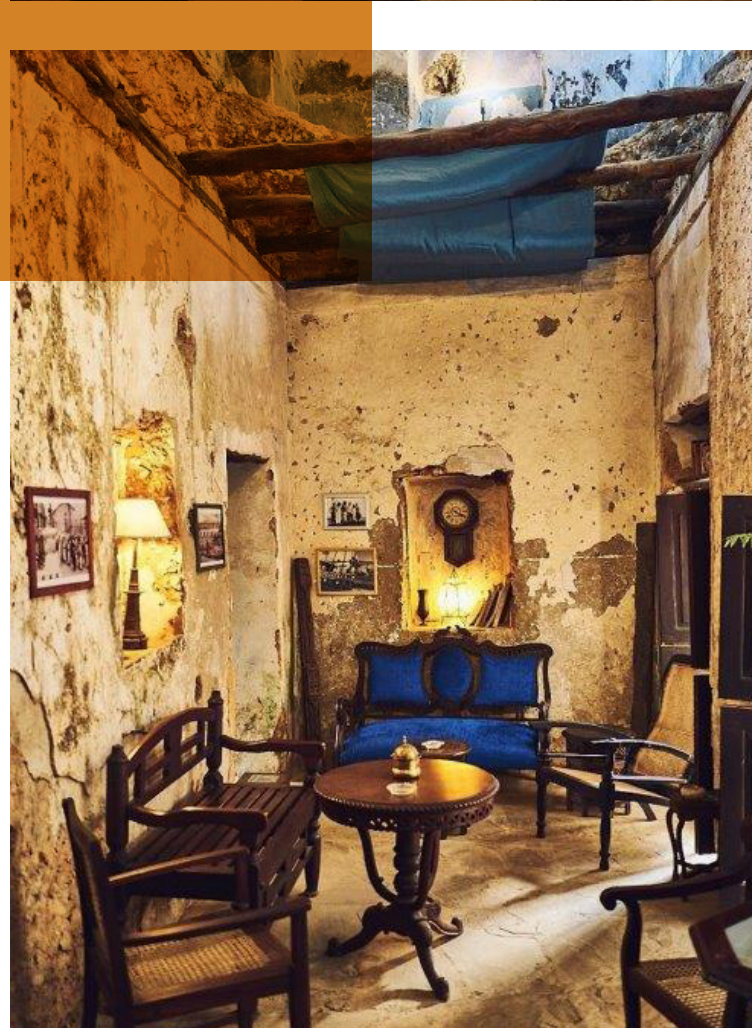
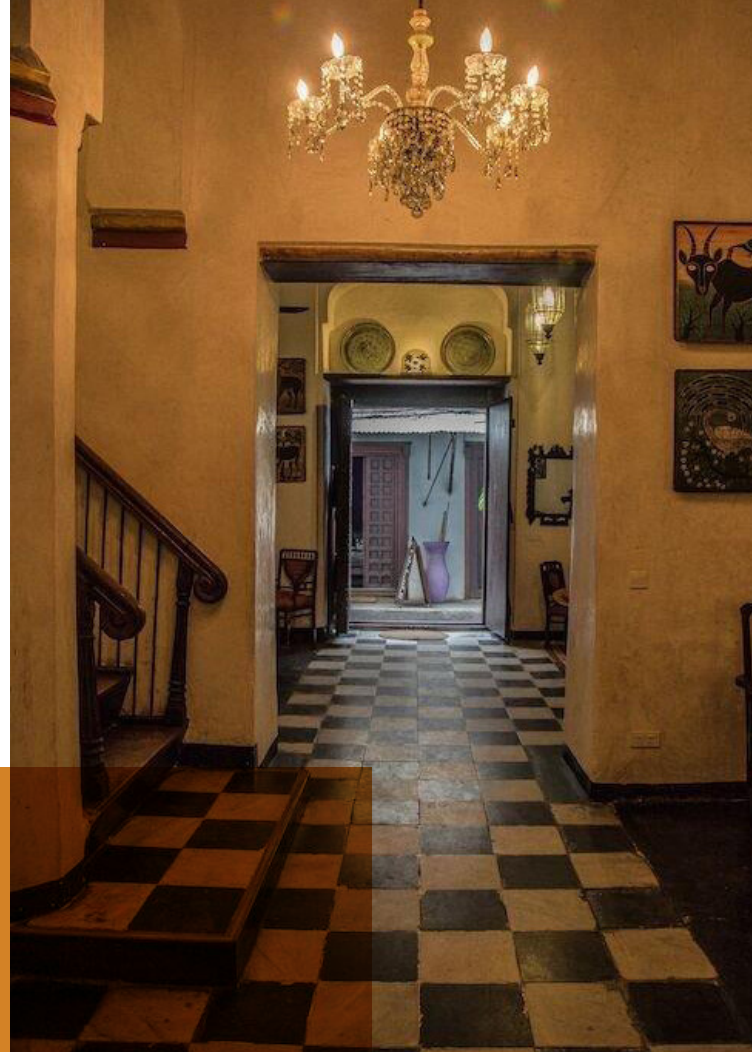
Furnished with antique Zanzibar furniture, be it the classic ornate Swahili bed, or the Zenji Déco take on the international design era, every single room is different from the other. Built for romance, the bathrooms are fully or partially open to the bedrooms. The mixture of glamour, mystery and history make them the best hotel rooms for your stay in Stone Town. Here you can experience the real

Zanzibar, with its several distinct styles of architecture typical of the Stone Town heritage site – offering the visitor a feeling of stepping back in time when crossing the threshold.

### **EMERSON ON HURUMZI**

Grande Dame of restored palaces in Zanzibar, Emerson on Hurumzi resides in an exotic and curious building of historical significance and unique style. The recent refurbishment combines the elegance of the period in which it was built with period antique furnishing and the colour and comfort of the 21st century.

The cuisine in the rooftop teahouse restaurant celebrates the



distinct culinary heritage of the epoch in an oriental menu of Persian and Omani dishes prepared with authentic ingredients and served with faithful attention to the customs and etiquette of the era.

### *The Rooftop Tea House Restaurant*

A lavish à la carte lunch offers the choice of Vegetarian, Fish, or Seafood Sinia - the antique copper trays from which all meals are served. Advance reservation is advised, and because a seat at the Rooftop Tea House is so coveted, tables are held for 15 minutes after reserved time, and released to waiting guests who are ready to indulge themselves in an evening of gastronomic and atmospheric pleasures should one miss their slot.

Marrying the culture and style of the building with the distinct culinary heritage of the era, the unique dinner menu celebrates the pleasure of oriental Persian and Omani dishes prepared with attention to customs and etiquette of service. Traditional Taarab is performed by accomplished musicians from the Dhow Countries Music Academy most nights.

Guests are reminded that there is one exclusive sitting for dinner only, and service begins at 7PM, though dinner guests are welcome from 6PM to enjoy the sunset hour and spectacular views of sea and city. Seating is Swahili style on the cushioned floor, or baraza style at regular table height, with a call to specify your preference at the time of your booking.

### *Roshani Tea Ceremony*

Chambre séparée Roshani, is available for reservations for private groups of up to 15 guests. This is also where the Emerson Zanzibar Tea Ceremony takes place, a uniquely delightful experience which introduces you to this melting pot of cultures and religions living side by side.

Guests are shown the tea spices, how to mix them and also learn more about the traditional tea and coffee drinking culture of Zanzibar, while enjoying them with traditional appetisers and sweets. For added measure and atmosphere, seating is on low chairs and on Swahili style cushions.

### **EMERSON SPICE**

An inspired and lovingly restored Merchant's House, this Boutique Hotel also features Zenji Décor colours and motifs and has eleven stylishly furnished rooms







Photos by: Yagazie Emezi; Zan Tours; Caroline Langevoord; Allen Jenkins; Brian Sokol



structured around an airy central courtyard. The hotel hosts two restaurants: The Secret Garden, located in the distinctive ruins of the adjacent garden and the rooftop Tea House - one of Stone Town's most renowned restaurants offering a stylish ambience amidst the sound of the calls to prayer from the town's many mosques.

### *Emerson Spice's Rooftop Tea House Restaurant*


Lunch offers a delectable choice of a grilled Seafood or Vegetarian platter, with seasonal variations of accompaniments, and served along with chilled beverages, while five course Seafood based tasting menu is especially prepared daily for dinner by Zanzibari chefs, with all ingredients locally sourced. The Sunset Hour is an integral and pleasurable part of the 'Emerson Experience' and as expected, diners are encouraged to arrive around 6pm, as the first course is served promptly at 7pm.



### *The Secret Garden*

Set within the al fresco ruin of the adjacent building, the Secret Garden offers a Zanzibari inspired à la carte menu. You can expect jazz infused evenings, occasionally featuring live music, with the hidden away Sebleni lounge a perfect spot for a discreet coffee or cocktail.

### **EMERSON'S FOUNDATION**

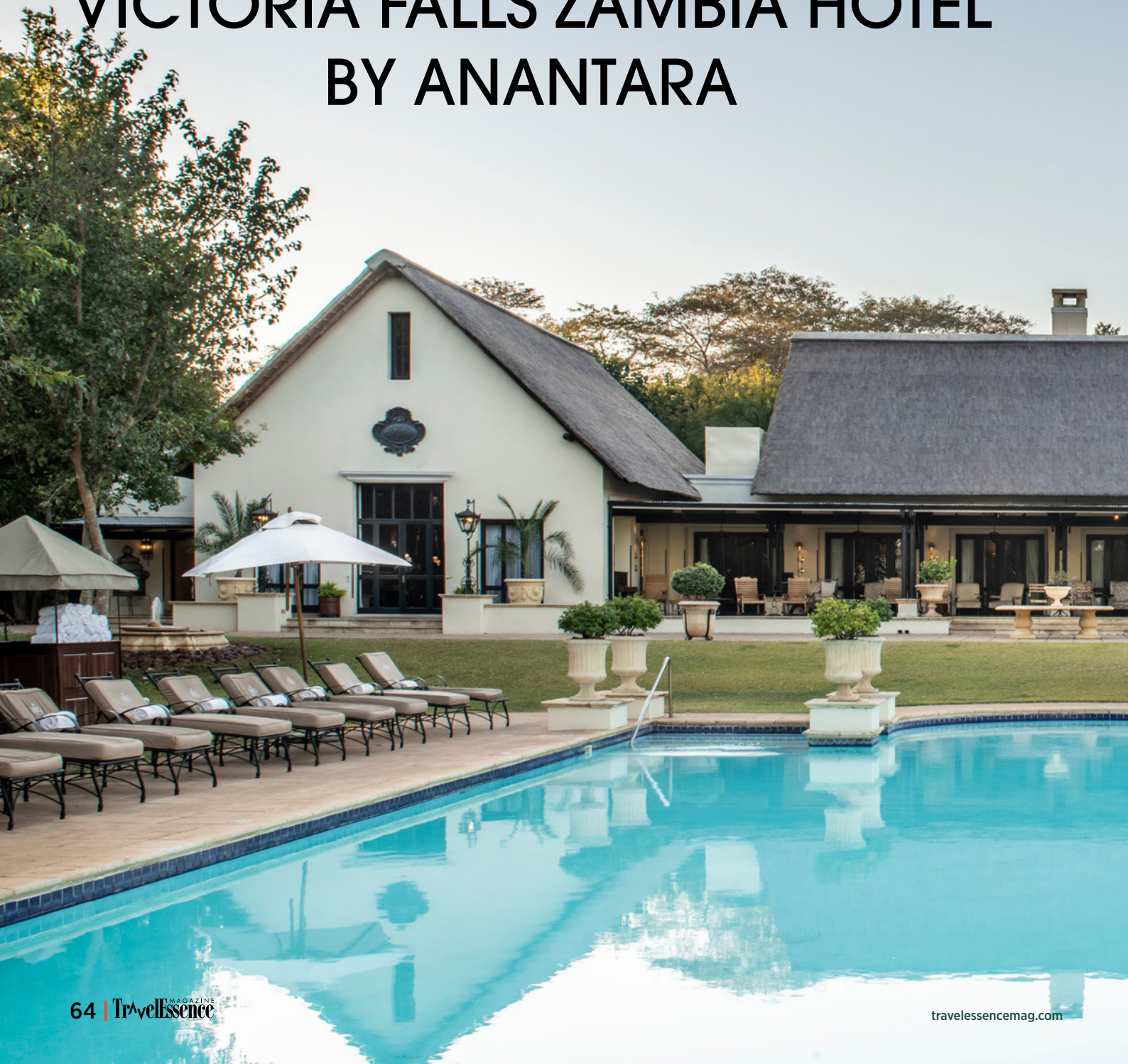
The Foundation lovingly continues the legacy of its founder Emerson Skeens, whose passion for all things Zanzibari – art, music, film, food, people, community – is deeply embedded in the texture of Stone Town life. 

To know more about Emerson Zanzibar and Emerson Foundation's projects, events and exhibitions, simply connect with the boutique hotel on the below listed channels:

### *Contact*

**Email:** [reservations@emerson-zanzibar.com](mailto:reservations@emerson-zanzibar.com)  
[www.emersonspice.com](http://www.emersonspice.com)  
[www.emersononhurumzi.com](http://www.emersononhurumzi.com)

*Serenity Welcomes You*  
**AT THE ROYAL LIVINGSTONE  
VICTORIA FALLS ZAMBIA HOTEL  
BY ANANTARA**





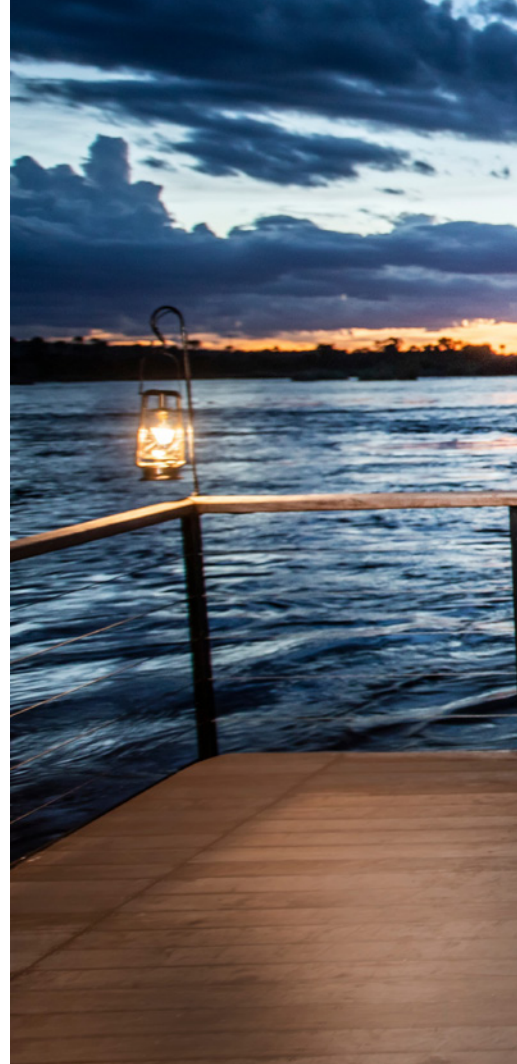
## ADVENTURES IN WILD AFRICA • THE ROYAL LIVINGSTONE

**I**mmersing travellers in Africa's wild beauty, The Royal Livingstone Victoria Falls Zambia Hotel by Anantara boasts a unique location overlooking Victoria Falls. Taking its name from the famous explorer Sir David Livingstone who named the Falls after his queen, poignant reminders of this era embrace guests in nostalgic luxury.

A one-hour 40-minute flight from Johannesburg to Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula International Airport, followed by a 25-minute drive through historic Livingstone, The Royal Livingstone Hotel by Anantara is set along the banks of the great Zambezi River, in full view of the spray of the Victoria Falls. One of the

world's Seven Natural Wonders, this iconic waterfall is a mere 10-minute walk away, with guests enjoying unlimited complimentary access via the hotel's private entrance.

Exuding the charm of Victorian times, luxury guest rooms and four spacious suites all feature a balcony or veranda with an outdoor seating area facing gardens frequented by free-roaming zebras, impalas, giraffes and monkeys, and the Zambezi River beyond. Elegant furnishings blend with the warmth of African tribal culture. Marble bathrooms offer invigorating rain showers and long soaks in the tub. Deluxe Rooms offer a king size bed or twin singles dressed in fine white linen, air conditioning, a desk and WiFi, tea and coffee making facilities, a mini bar and satellite television, with personal service offered by a dedicated butler, along with laundry and





valet services. Deluxe Corner Rooms also feature an enclosed glass-walled patio with refined mosquito netting, a wicker sofa and ceiling fan, providing clear Zambezi views protected from the elements. Expansive Livingstone Suites offer lounge comforts, a dressing area, wet bar and veranda loungers. The one-of-a-kind Presidential Suite, boasting regal lounge and dining spaces that open onto a generous veranda, has been graced by royalty, heads of state and celebrities.

Known to locals as “Mosi-oa-Tunya” – “The Smoke that Thunders” – the gushing waters throw a cloud-like spray across the bush and sends rainbows soaring hundreds of feet into the air. As the magnificent cascade rushes over a wide basalt cliff, the placid Zambezi River transforms into a ferocious torrent and cuts through a series of dramatic gorges. Across from The Falls, a path along the edge of a sheer basalt wall rewards walkers who are brave enough to encounter the tremendous spray with spectacular views. Those that dare can swim in the Devil’s Pool, at the edge of Victoria Falls, where the water plummets 350-feet down, providing a pulse-racing dip. The pool is also special in that it can only be visited from late August to late December before the summer rains swell the Zambezi River, after which it remains hidden under the river’s pounding flow.

4x4 safari drives through vast and unspoiled national parks explore broad plains and rugged wilderness, with seasoned guides skilled at tracking a rich eco-system of free-roaming animals, including the mighty elephant, rhino and buffalo. Quad bikes zoom along eco trails and through untamed African bush. Wildlife river safaris on the mighty Zambezi reveal excellent game and bird viewing aboard specially designed boats, which have the unique ability to traverse the rapids safely

and comfortably, even in water as shallow as 200mm.

Some of the world’s most challenging gorge rapids bring the excitement of white water rafting and jet-boating. Anglers flock to test their skills against the legendary tiger fish. For more relaxing adventures, travellers can opt for a leisurely canoe trip or a mesmerising sunset boat cruise. Offering sweeping bird’s eye views, an adventure flight in a helicopter skims over the African bush, deep down into the dramatic Batoka Gorge and over Victoria Falls, while a microlight flight soars above Victoria Falls and continues upstream over Long Island, Palm Island, Kakunka and Kandahar Islands and onto Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park. Adrenalin junkies conquer spectacular heights with abseil, gorge swing and high wire thrills in the Bakota Gorge.

Three riverside spa gazebos for individuals and couples afford the rare opportunity to enjoy treatments at Anantara Spa immersed in the idyllic beauty of the Zambezi River, with rushing water, chirping birdsong and the calls of wildlife providing an uplifting soundtrack. Anantara Spa’s treatment menu reads like an Out of Africa odyssey, drawing on revered local wellness traditions and age-old beauty secrets.

Culinary experiences celebrate local flavours and ingredients, complemented by international culinary traditions. Stories are shared in splendour at The Royal Livingstone Lounge over high tea in the afternoon, and later






fine wines or whisky are the perfect accompaniment to live piano music. Drinks are spectacular on Kubu facing the Zambezi River, ending with sunset cocktails.

An exclusive Gin Bar menu offers a true Out of Africa experience. The menu includes Mundambi Gin, produced by the New Harbour Distillery in Cape Town especially for The Royal Livingstone Hotel by Anantara. This unique crafted gin is infused with the spectacular Mundambi flower - a plant that is indigenous to Southern Zambia and part of the delicate Hibiscus family. The resident mixologist serves this with cucumber rind over lots of ice, with a splash of cold Fever Tree tonic. The smoky spice and citrus notes of this distinctive gin drink offer the perfect refreshment after a day of exploring.

The nearby town of Livingstone is a monument to historic intrigue. Reliving a pioneering era, Livingstone's famous museum has galleries dedicated to archaeology, ethnography and art, history and natural history, and includes an interesting collection of the explorer's belongings and descriptions of his routes.

Celebrating a heritage of travel, the Railway Museum houses some of the finest examples of Zambia's vintage steam locomotives. While there are some beautiful 19th century locomotives to clamber aboard in the Railway Museum, the Jewish Museum is also of interest, offering an insight to Livingstone's Jewish community that settled here in the 1890s via South Africa after fleeing persecution in Lithuania. The town also saw an influx of European immigrants during the next 50 years, including those fleeing WWII.

Preserving Zambia's crafts and culture, the Mukuni Park and Victoria Falls Curio Markets feature hand-carved crafts and curios. 









A journey  
*through time* at  
Zannier Hotels  
SONOP

**N**amibia, well known for its vast terrains of contrast, with desert dunes rolling into the sea and savanna-scapes tapering off into salt pans, has become an intriguing destination for holidaymakers

looking to truly escape life's unending hustle and bustle, to reconnect with the essence of oneself, remnants of history and scenery to usher in needed relaxation.

Zannier Hotels Sonop, an incredible new lodge right in the heart of the Namibian desert, recently opened, and is designed as an invitation for its guests to journey through the rolling seasons of time, perhaps through what our imaginations would have us believe to have been the experiences of voyagers that once scaled the continent in search of new territories.

Nestled on the southern edge of the Namibian desert in the karas region, only two hours from the majestic red dunes of Sossusvlei, this new Zannier Hotels gem has been created in the form of a luxurious tented camp. Constructed on top of boulders, ten lavish tents invite guests to live the life of yesteryear's wealthy explorers from the early 20th Century. Just like those British travelers who traded their beloved homes for the bare Namibian desert dunes, as a guest of Zannier Hotels Sonop, you will get a taste of living in complete isolation, immersed in the surrounding landscape but still able to enjoy the bespoke Zannier Hotels high-end luxury.

Arriving by plane to Windhoek, travellers can choose to hop on another jet to Zannier Hotels Sonop (soaring over the Namibian desert with its magnificent landscapes, to land 80 minutes later at the lodge) or rather opt for a road trip (4 to 5 hours by 4x4 jeep) to get to this exquisite Zannier Hotels retreat. From the minute they arrive, guests will be pampered by a team whose sole aim is to cater for their well-being.

Moving on, guests will find the ten unique and individually designed "smart British" style tents, overlooking the panoramic landscape – stretching as far as the eye can see. To underline the contrast with the seemingly denuded surrounding landscape, each tent stands out with its warm and lavish decoration, recalling the era of English explorers. The architecture and interior design remind us of the British colonial style from the 1920s. Upon entering a tent, you will take a step back in time, in the middle of the desert, for a short while, where you will experience the intensity of the moment. From the terraces of every tent, one can contemplate the magnificent silent view stretching



Zannier Hotels Sonop's unforgettable journey can be experienced through an all-inclusive rate with various excursions to discover Namib desert. **There is a special promotion currently in place with rates lowered by 10%.**

For more information, kindly contact [communication@zannier.com](mailto:communication@zannier.com).






into the distance. Then, when it's time to close your eyes and dream peacefully, the four-poster bed invites you to rest in absolute harmony with the surroundings.

### EXPLORE YOUR SURROUNDINGS ON HORSEBACK OR ELECTRIC MOUNTAIN BIKE

This new and unique site is incomparable. But for those who wish to explore and discover yet more, the lodge sits on 5.600 hectares of land, offering a wide array of extraordinary excursions. Hikers can opt to take an excursion on foot to enjoy the breath-taking landscape by sunset or sunrise from several viewpoints in the hills, taking in the spectacular artwork of different blues in this massive expanse of sky – seemingly from an artist's canvas with a plethora of colors sweeping over. The property also has a stable with horses to take out on excursions and bicycle lovers can devote themselves to a rather unique activity in the desert, using the electric mountain bikes, offering a more wide-ranging but environmentally respectful outing.

Whatever your means of transport, the appearance of desert animals such as the oryx, brown hyenas, rabbits, bat-eared foxes, ground squirrels, meerkats, jackals, kudus, and even leopards, will be part of your journey of discovery through the Namib Desert.

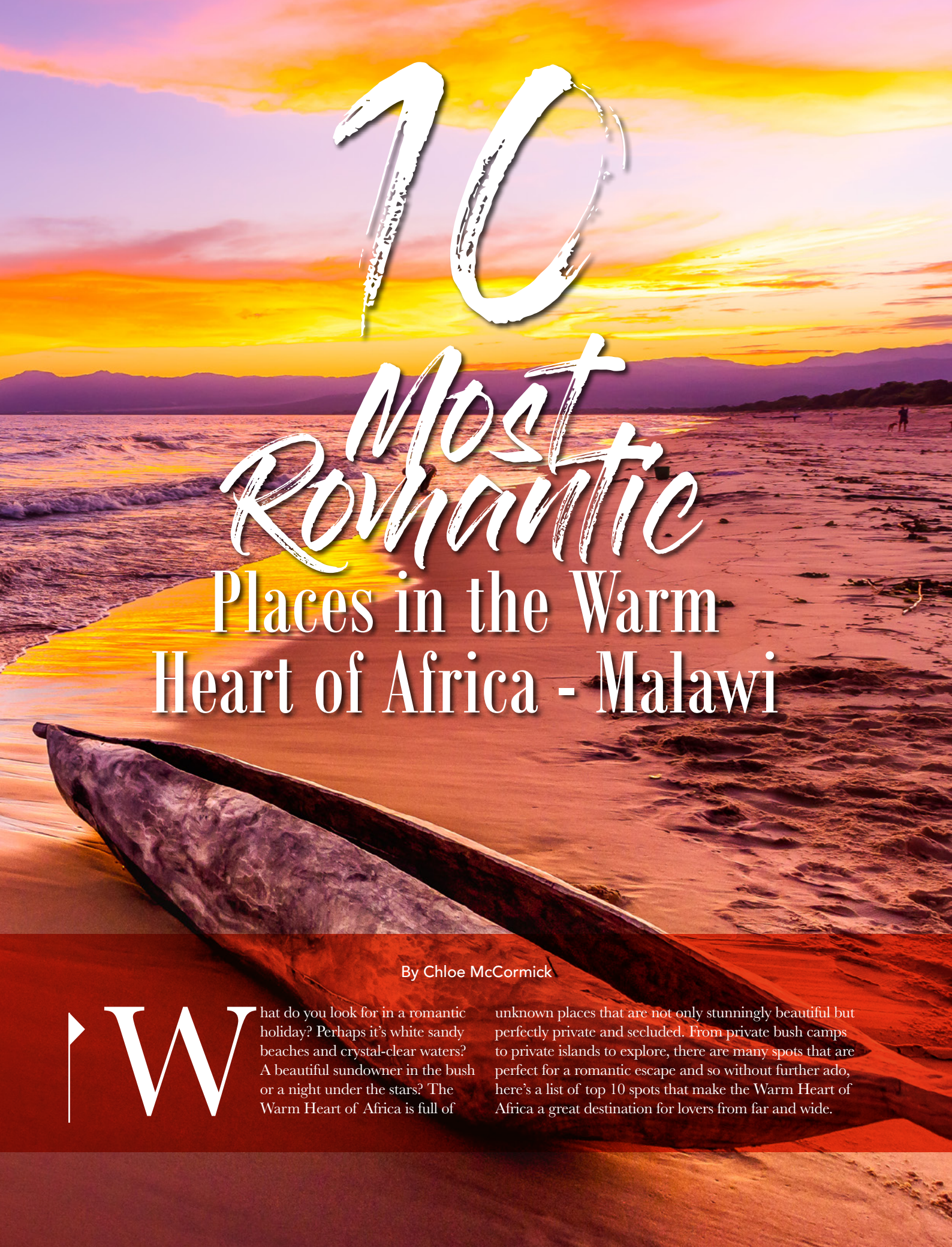
And if that is not enough to leave you speechless and full of unforgettable memories, you can opt to take a hot-air balloon ride followed by a Champagne breakfast or maybe a romantic candle-lit dinner in the dunes or a classic film at the open-air cinema under a canopy of a million stars.

At Zannier Hotels Sonop, the aim is to provide that once-in-a-lifetime experience that will remain with you forever. It's no wonder the this desert escape continues to welcome guests from beyond Namibia's coasts and borders, seemingly to escape the modern world's realities, to immerse themselves in scenes from yesteryear, yet with the opulence that today avails to the guest of distinctive tastes. 



THE  
WANDERLUST  
WITHIN



A sunset over a beach with a wooden boat in the foreground. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and purple. The beach is sandy and has some driftwood. The water is calm with small waves. In the distance, there are mountains.

# 10 Most Romantic Places in the Warm Heart of Africa - Malawi

By Chloe McCormick

**W**hat do you look for in a romantic holiday? Perhaps it's white sandy beaches and crystal-clear waters? A beautiful sundowner in the bush or a night under the stars? The Warm Heart of Africa is full of

unknown places that are not only stunningly beautiful but perfectly private and secluded. From private bush camps to private islands to explore, there are many spots that are perfect for a romantic escape and so without further ado, here's a list of top 10 spots that make the Warm Heart of Africa a great destination for lovers from far and wide.



## MVUU LODGE IN LIWONDE

Liwonde National Park has just a few lodges within its boundaries and so is a great park for limited numbers of tourists and romantic seclusion. With lots of conservation success including the re-introduction of some key species and lots of thriving game, it is a great place to see 4 of the big 5 by vehicle, foot, boat or helicopter! Take a gentle sail down the Shire River, breakfast on board as you watch elephants bathing and hippos return to the water, take flight over the park learning about its history and seeing the animals from the air with an African Park's Helicopter pilot, or stop for sundowners in the bush as you admire your sightings. The private chalets at Mvuu lodge offer some incredible game viewing from their own private decks overlooking the river. Some of the chalets have private plunge pools and outdoor showers. There is even the option to have a sleepout on the deck under the stars.

*The detail that makes all the difference?* Arrange a bush dinner to surprise your loved one surrounded only by the twinkle of candle and star light!

2

## FLY TO THE LUXURIOUS LODGE KAYA MAWA

Fly across the Azure water of Lake Malawi to Likoma Island and discover a piece of your own paradise with unique rooms overlooking the bay. Each room is built into the island's rocks with open plan rooms, outdoor showers and huge four poster beds. The island is famous for its massive cathedral which is well worth a visit during a Sunday service to hear the choir. Relax at the beautiful lodge while enjoying fine dining and delicious drinks or explore the tranquil lake and all it has to offer.

**The detail that makes all the difference?**

Upgrade to a superior room for your own private pool, for a stay where you really don't need to leave the comfort of your own room.



## BLUE ZEBRA ISLAND LODGE

Just a stone's throw from Lilongwe you can enjoy dips in the infinity pool, a brilliant selection of cocktails from the resident mixologist and strolls around the island to see their resident bushbaby, excellent array of colourful birds and the newly rehomed duiker. Each stunning chalet is set to overlook the lake and are spread out round the island. Opt to upgrade to the chalets for the best of the tents overlooking the lake and large bathrooms with showers big enough for two.

*The detail that makes all the difference?* The staff here are incredible - from the famous chef who makes delicious food which you can enjoy on a private beach dinner, to the expert barman who can knock up a wonderful margarita to enjoy at the infinity pool. Or perhaps the magical masseuse who can ease out any tensions from the day so you can relax with your loved one in style.

# 4

## HIGH TEA AT HUNTINGDON HOUSE

Huntingdon House has endless views of the tea fields, beautifully manicured gardens and an old school charm. Enjoy high tea in the gardens with tea themed cocktails for a date with a difference. A place of peace and serenity with some of the best food in the land, this is the spot to sit back relax and enjoy each other's companies. Take a stroll round the grounds, play croquet on the lawn, snuggle up in one of the huge four poster beds and take endless sips of different types of tea.

**The detail that makes all the difference?** Enjoy a candle lit dinner in the gardens for a trip to a different time in old school colonial Malawi.



## A PRIVATE ISLAND EXPERIENCE ON MUMBO ISLAND

The ultimate private island escape with no electricity or Wi-Fi - you can re-connect with nature by exploring the white sandy beaches, sunset lookouts, unique wooden chalets and crystal-clear surrounding waters. It is the perfect place to disconnect from everyday life and enjoy each other's company and the stunning surrounding landscapes. The Robinson Crusoe style chalets on the islands rocky outcrops all have lake views with open verandas and outside bucket showers!



*The detail that makes all the difference?* Sundowners on pod rick, a short 15-minute hike to the other side of the island makes the ideal spot. If you are not already engaged this would be the spot to propose!

## A candle lit bath at Tongole

The incredible wilderness retreat in Nkhotakota offers incredibly luxurious and comfortable rooms but the real treat is the extra-large bathrooms and bathtubs that are definitely big enough to share. They overlook the river below so either you can check out what wildlife is about or stare at the stars. The lodge is beautifully tucked away in the forest which gives you the perfect wild escape watching the colourful birds, searching for the elephants, hippos or antelope!

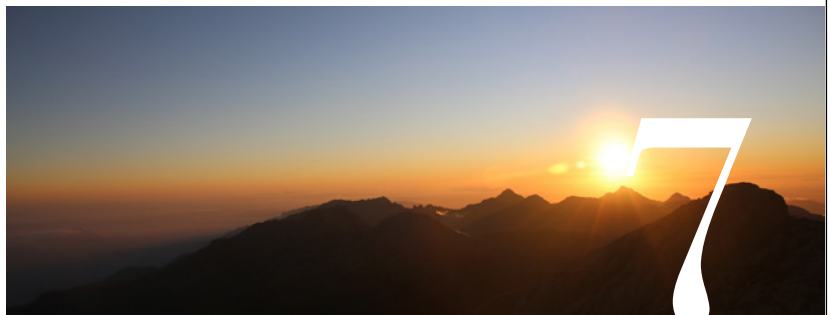


**The detail that makes all the difference?** The bath for two in the enormous tubs with a bottle of wine, candle lit overlooking the stars!

## CLIMBING MOUNT MULANJE

If you and your partner love an adventure why not take the 3-night hike up Mount Mulanje, sharing amazing views, helping each other push onward and sleeping under some of the clearest skies in Africa. The endorphins of reaching each hut and eventually the top make it all the more magical and bond the two of you together over your incredible achievement.

**The detail that makes all the difference?** Reaching Sapitwa for sunrise together. A magical sense of shared accomplishment with an unforgettable sunrise overlooking the whole of Malawi.





# 8

## WOODLAND HIKES AND COSY CABINS AT NTCHISI

Ntchisi Forest is an incredible escape from the cities into the trees, hike around the beautiful nature trails and spot some incredible bird life. Take gentle strolls among the beautiful flowers before settling down for well-deserved meals overlooking the valley of trees. The private cabin offers a beautiful mix of large glass fronts for stunning views and cosy fireplace to warm up next to on the colder nights.



*The detail that makes all the difference?*

A traditional log cabin fire in your own private cabin in the woods on the cosy chairs as you share a bottle of wine after a long day of hiking.



# 9

## A Dhow breakfast at Pumulani

Pumulani is fresh out of a bond film, the stunning rooms built into the hill all have incredible views and huge rooms with some welcoming air-cooling systems. Each built alongside the hill, you have views from the bed, bath and deck. There are many private spots at the lodge from the top infinity pool to the telescope where you can view the twinkling stars. Here you can take a traditional Dhow boat onto the lake at both sunrise and sunset as the lake turns from blue to orange, pink and fall dark and once again is lit up by the stars.

### THE DETAIL THAT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE?

A romantic breakfast on the calm lake as you tuck into your sumptuous goodies on board. You can watch as the sun lights up the lake and the fishermen return from their fishing trips.

## Livingstonia's swing at Lukwe Eco Lodge

The views from here are just incredible, one for the adventurer as it is a steep dirt road in but well worth the climb! The peace and quiet will help you relax and settle into your surroundings and the magical touch of the swing is a unique feature to the lodge.

*The detail that makes all the difference?*


Take a go on the swing overlooking the lake and trees, perfect opportunity for that picture with your love.



### ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTOR:

**Chloe McCormack** has lived and worked in Malawi for a ground operator for the last 3 years. Having worked in the safari industry for almost 10 years and initially trained as a safari guide, her love of nature led her to Malawi to explore the area for clients. Falling in love with the up and coming destination, she packed her bags and moved across in order to sell Malawi to the rest of the world. The huge range of activities suited her endless enthusiasm and she now happily calls Lilongwe home.





# An invitation to Mauritius Pristine ocean views and rushing waterfalls at the "Shangri-La"

By Louisa C Choruma

**H**igh School English literature classes brought with them the joys of learning new terms and the pleasures of imagination! "Shangri-La," Sister Clare shared, "refers to an imaginary paradise on earth; a hide-away of idyllic beauty and tranquillity!" Thandeka and I continued the discussion at break time and there and then decided our honeymoons would be in some place that was reminiscent of a real-world Shangri-La!!

Two years ago, I received a message from Thandeka which read, "Am at the airport and off to Shangri-La!" It turned out Thandeka's honeymoon was at the Outrigger Mauritius Beach Resort in the Indian-ocean pristine island nation that many of us can only dream of being able to one day visit.

Located off the south east coast Africa, and famous for its beaches, lagoons

and reefs, Mauritius also hosts mountainous interiors such as Black River Gorges National Park, rainforests, waterfalls, hiking trails and diverse wildlife.

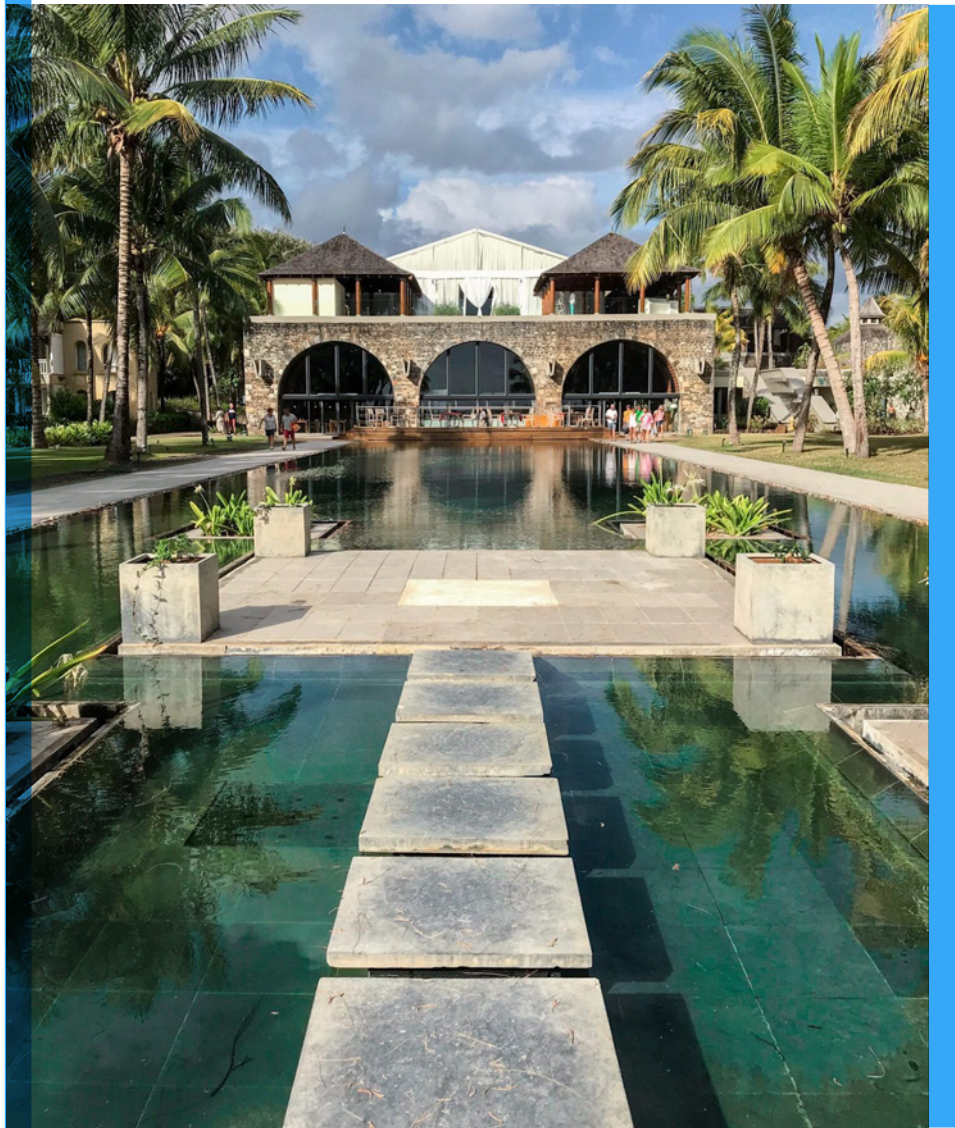
Thandeka – always great with her words, devoted a whole afternoon sharing the beauty of Mauritius upon her return! Outrigger Beach Resort as she described it, is just over an hour’s drive from the airport, which allows for the opportunity to see and feel more of the landscape. Tourists to the island destination are almost always awed by how the vegetation and landscape transforms as one drives towards the wild South Coast of Mauritius. From the modern airport infrastructure, to crowded but clean and vibrant villages, to the lush greenery of the sugarcane plantations and dense tropical vegetation, it truly sounds like a place one would like to call home for a time – or longer. Thandeka’s inbound flight landed in the evening, so they saw more of the landscape on their way to catch their morning outbound flight.

## *Hello Outrigger Beach Resort*

Outrigger Beach Resort is located on the island’s South Coast, and is nestled in the quieter Bel Ombre, an untamed and definitely less commercial part of the island. The villas are setup with plenty of room for privacy, with the open layout of the units at the fairly large resort making it easy to enjoy a great view of the sparkling sea and incredibly blue skies. For Thandeka, it was the best place to settle into peace, serenity and tranquillity. Thandeka shared the joys of having one’s own beach portion alone in the mornings and late afternoons, especially as a honeymooner, with the marvel of clean sands, crystal waters and seclusion. This was truly a perfect Shangri La for Thandeka!!

## *Snapshot of Mauritius*

Boating is the best means of sight-seeing. In Thandeka’s words, snorkelling was beautiful, and the underwater scenery was beyond



amazing! All this and more just off the coastline! The water was strikingly clear and a heart-stopping sight to behold!

### *Maconde' viewpoint*

This is a must-see when in the South of Mauritius and one such attraction is the Maconde view point, situated on a portion of the winding coastal road that leads to a small rocky cliff where you can enjoy breathtaking views of the Indian Ocean. Believed to be named after the Makonde Tribe of Southern Africa, Maconde is tucked into a hairpin bend in the road, a feature that most visitors find quite intriguing. For one to get to the actual viewing point atop the Maconde Rock, there is a path that leads you through the most breath-taking of views of landscape, the Cap River and glistening colours of the lagoon below.


### *Chasing waterfalls*

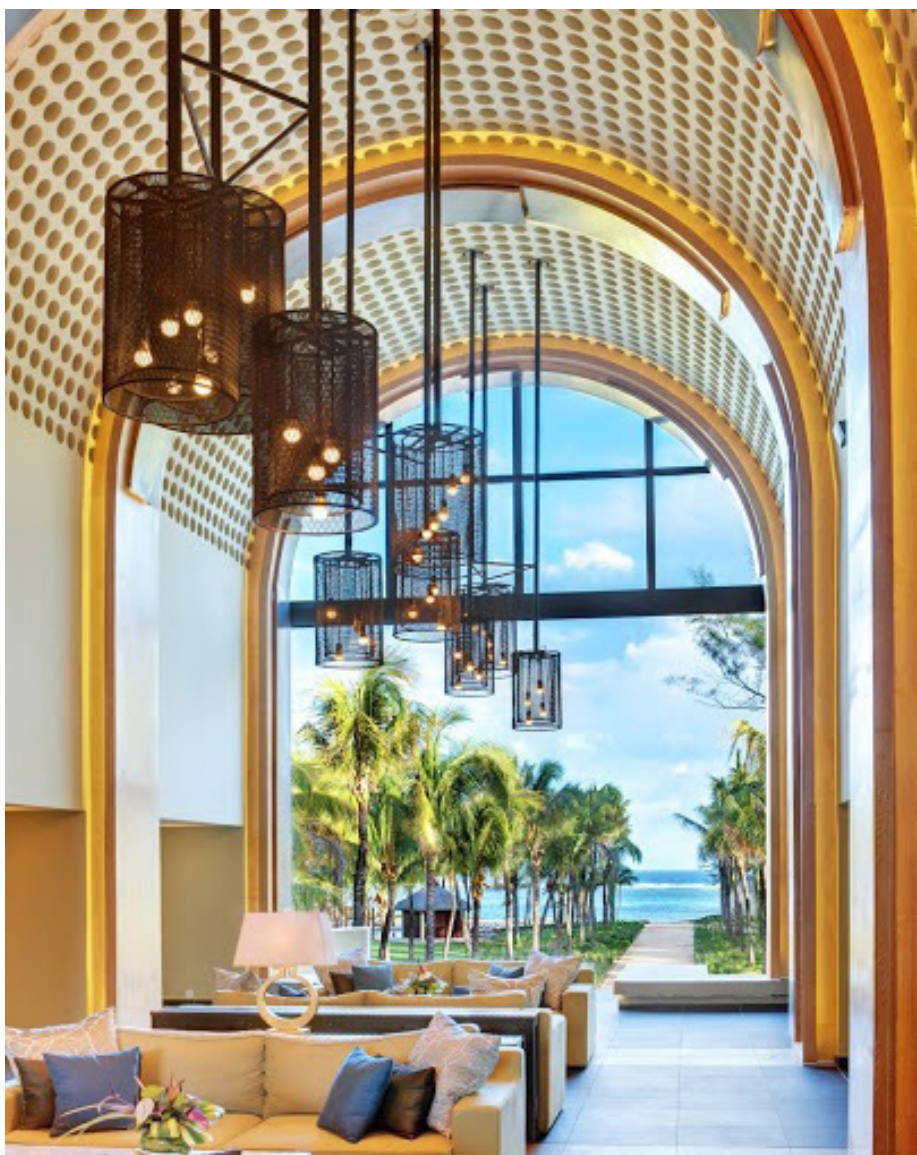
Thandeka loves waterfalls, and like those of us that do, she too is fascinated by the phenomenon that characterises their formation. The natural settings around the river that forms the body of falling water are always lush, green and together, create the most postcard worthy of images. Perhaps it's the purity in the flow of water, the cleansing and refreshing effect that it provides, and the life that comes from rivers that add to ones love for a curtain of falling water. And so, it was no wonder why Chamarel Waterfall was a sight Thandeka had to conquer during her trip to her Shangri-La.

Chamarel Waterfall is the tallest single-drop waterfall in Mauritius, scaling heights of about at 100m high and is easily ranks among the most sought-after sightseeing spots in Mauritius! It is a striking piece of nature standing amid dense vegetation, with the waterfalls fed by the waters of three distinct streams pouring into Saint Denis River. Offering a front-row view of this wonder of nature, Chamarel Falls can be accessed via a trail snaking through dense foliage. An almost 3-hour trek takes visitors to the base of Chamarel Waterfalls, where they can enjoy a swim in the pool while the waterfall showers you from its majestic heights.

### *Thandeka's Shangri La*

Thandeka's summary of her honeymoon in Mauritius was enough for me to add this pristine destination to my bucket list of countries to visit. "For me, there's nothing like feeling the cool embrace of the ocean or hearing the sound of a looming waterfall. Seeing the landscape changing, feeling and smelling the air change as you get closer to the sea or drive across Mauritius' terrains, all add to the excitement of the experience that awaits you.

I love Mauritius because the ocean's beauty and the rolling hills with thick vegetation invite you to become a part of them. Every direction you turn provides a delightful welcome and it is yours to choose where to begin your exploration." 



# Jumping to Conclusions:

## GIRLS TRIP ACROSS NAMIBIA'S DESERT LANDSCAPES

By Christy Sakuyungwa

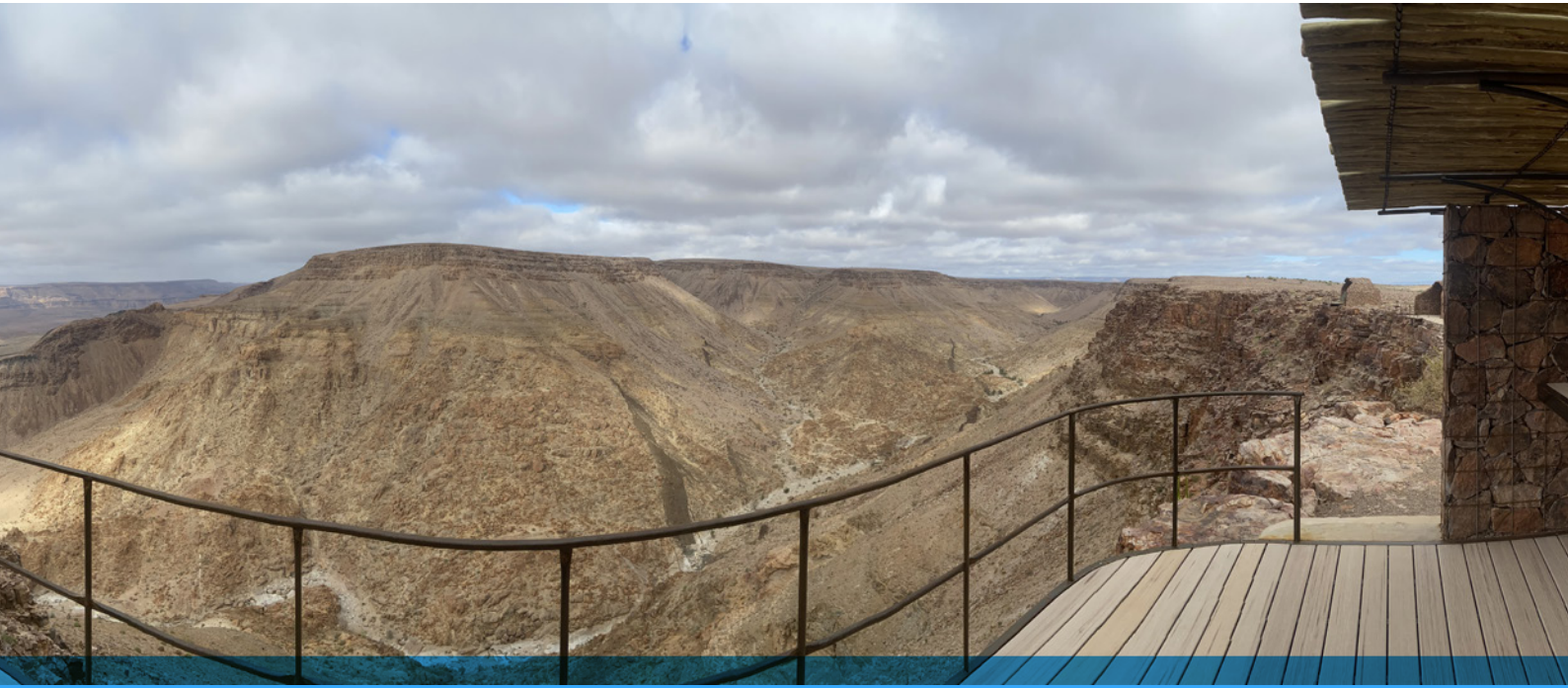




▶ **W**hat started out as an impromptu discussion on the possibility of taking a trip to explore Namibia with my longtime friend Ester (we've been friends for 20 years, and I was her Maid of Honour), resulted in a 7-day adventure across our home country's southern region. After loading up her Toyota Fortuner and bullying my baby sister into taking a few *Boomerangs* for our WhatsApp statuses, we were ready to set off. It was a Monday morning and ours was going to be a full week of girls on the road enjoying each other's company.







## THE ROAD TO SOSSUSVLEI

A 268km drive southbound from the capital Windhoek, located in central Namibia, would lead us to Mariental, a town along the main National Road, the B1. In Mariental we refuelled our car, grabbing a quick bite while scanning a newly acquired map. 4km out of Mariental, we turned off the B1 onto the C19 to Maltahohe, another 111 km or 1-hour drive to our next destination. But not before stopping by the Maltahohe distance road signs and taking the mandatory air jump shot, which we then dubbed “jumping to conclusions.”

After Maltahohe, the tarred road ends and the gravel road begins. It is a 140km drive through landscape that change quickly from dry rocky mountains and grass, to a valley-like terrain, with mountains made of dark rocks. It is a breathtaking journey and the road take you through a myriad of steep ascents. Although now and again we drove past what seemed like a farmhouse, we did not encounter a single soul on the road. It was just us and nature. After what seemed like a 3-hour drive, the terrain changed again, with the sand becoming red, and the mountains more majestic and defined. There was a herd of oryx and a few buffalos on the road, and as the sun was about to set in its golden magnificence in the west, we had arrived in the *Naukluft Park*, home to the famous Sossusvlei.

## A WARM WELCOME FROM LE MIRAGE

We got out of the car to take pictures of the sunset because such breathtaking beauty should never be

missed. After driving for a few more kilometers, like a real mirage, there she was - *Le Mirage*, a real castle in the middle of the desert.

Le Mirage was exactly what the hotel’s website and promotional material promised us as we carried out some research ahead of our trip. A fortress in the middle of the desert, with welcoming feeling of being in an oasis of some sort, its rooms are built as towers that collectively surround a beautiful pool and jacuzzi, which in turn are also bordered by exotic palm trees. The room we checked into had a balcony overlooking a water point, that was lit even at night and one could see the animals as they came to get their evening drink of water. Dinner was 5 course affair, such that by the time desert was served, we were stuffed and ready to call it a day.

## SOSSUSVLEI EXPLORERS

The following day was when the real adventure started. After a scrumptious buffet, we set off from the lodge on a self-drive towards the Sesriem gate which leads to Sossusvlei. Along the road, a herd of oryx ran along the car for a while. Strangely, it felt as though they were being chased, a spectacular thing to behold as if it was like the herd was looking to hitch a ride with us! Shortly afterwards we ran into a herd of springboks again, and the car chase game ensued. What a way to start the day!

After arriving at the Park gate and paying entrance permit fees, we were off. The road into the Park is tarred and will take you through 65 km before you arrive at the main attraction of the Park - the *Deadvlei*. But because for us the theme of the trip was “Life is

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a journey not a destination”, we stopped after a few kilometers, took pictures of the spectacular dunes and the provocative landscape, and obviously more of us doing the “jumping to conclusions” air jump.

A further drive along the road brought us to Dune 45, aptly named as it appears at the 45th kilometre marker that connects Sesriem Gate and Sossusvlei. A striking dune that towers to heights of more than 170m, Dune 45 is believed to be made up of 5-million-year-old sand accumulated by the Orange River before blowing repeatedly to form the dune.

Arriving in the Sossusvlei area signals the end of tarred road ends, and where cars that are not 4-wheel drive capable are required to park. You then board a shuttle that drives you to the Deadvlei area which is about 5 km away. Unfortunately for us, our trip came about during the country’s lockdown season, with borders having been closed to international tourists due to Covid-19, therefore no tourists were coming in.

### IN SEARCH OF DEADVLEI

We decided to take what was arguably the longest walk in our lives – a 5km trek from that point to catch a glimpse of Deadvlei. Since there seemed to be no shuttle in sight and our Toyota wasn’t equipped to tackle the terrain, we decided to carry on with our adventure by on foot. It was searing hot and at a point we thought we were lost. Walking against the wind with its speeds picking up and lots of sand to contend with, we walked for what seemed like an eternity, eventually taking off our shoes! After going over a dune favour located us. There she was, the Sossusvlei DeadVlei, which eerily means “dead marsh”.

The marsh being described is now a dry white clay plan, contrasted by some of the highest fiery orange sand dunes. Deadvlei is a riveting display of nature’s ability

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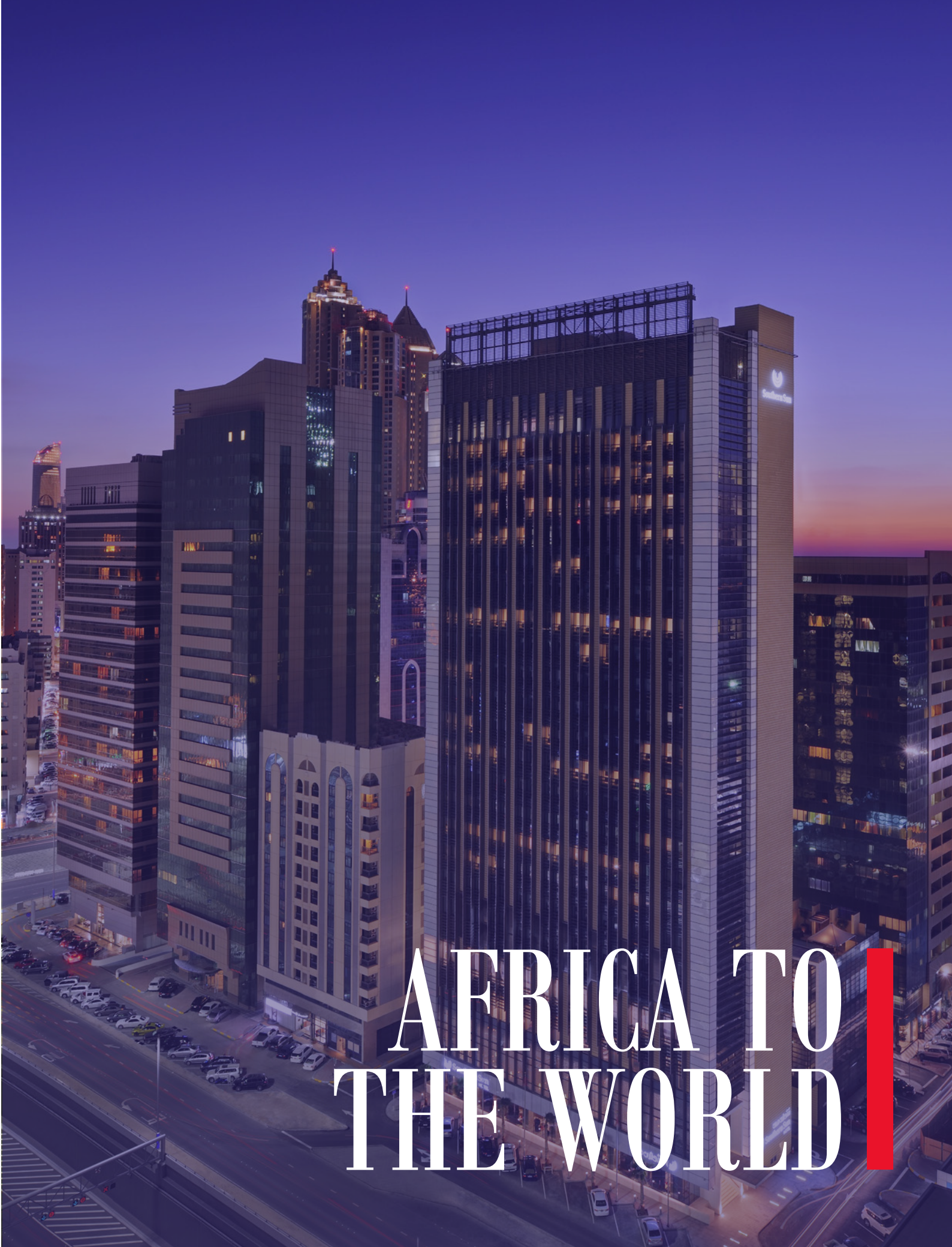
to provide the best metaphors for life. There were trees that had withstood the harshest conditions possible, but instead of dying and breaking down, they stood tall, adapted to the conditions brought on by the drought of hundreds of years before the very moment we saw them. We stood there for a while, captivated by the beauty of the contrasting scenery before us, took more pictures and headed back to our car. Deadvlei was behind us, but we carried memories of that day we were sure would last a lifetime.

## A DAY TO REMEMBER

Namibia provides an evocative escape for vacationers who are truly looking for a break from their everyday routine, enveloping themselves in the warm welcome of nature's arms. The deserts can be harsh with the high wind speeds and incredibly hot temperatures, but still beautiful in that few destinations can take you through a transcendent experience like that of savannah temperatures and vegetation, to a desert with rolling sand dunes that are near impossible to scale because of their heights – all this in a few hours between each other.

At this point in our journey, we hadn't even made it to the coast. As we arrived at the lodge just in time for dinner, after a quick freshening up exercise, we sat down for yet another decadent 5 course meal. Finishing off the evening in light-hearted conversation, toasts to each other, to friendship and the future were made, glasses were raised, before retiring for some much-needed rest. Tomorrow would be another day with new opportunities for further exploration as we tackled more of Southern Namibia. 🌍





# AFRICA TO THE WORLD



# A TASTE OF SOUTH AFRICAN HOSPITALITY IN THE UAE CAPITAL

By Daphine Mabhiza





**S**outhern Sun Hotel Abu Dhabi has since its opening, become well recognized as one of the city's finest hotels that offer luxury at an affordable price. Perfectly situated close to the UAE capital's Corniche District, the property welcomes its guests to a unique combination of great access to Abu Dhabi's popular tourism landmarks, dining, and shopping experiences as well as adjacent commercial hubs. This undoubtedly makes it the perfect hotel accommodation for families and couples visiting the city for leisure or professionals in town for business and seeking city convenience.

The Southern Sun brand is part of the Tsogo Sun stable, a leading, proudly South African hospitality, which is well

respected for its ability to foster a distinctive heritage and theming, synonymous with what you would find among leading global competitors. Staying at a Southern Sun property will bring you to the fore of experiencing calm ambience, seamless service and a decadent cuisine offering to match.

Walking into Southern Sun Abu Dhabi, the hustle and bustle of the city fades away as you take in the imposing beauty of the hotel's lobby. The earthy tones and glow of lighting, and an unmissable contemporary designed water feature, all come together to create a tranquil, welcoming environment for guests. Whether you are there for a few nights or just for popping in for lunch or dinner with friends, Southern Sun Abu Dhabi quickly feels like a home away from home, especially given the friendly staff who go the extra mile to assist you as you take in your surrounds.







### *A Perfect city getaway*

Southern Sun Abu Dhabi is perfectly situated at the edge of the city centre and a walking distance to Abu Dhabi's Corniche area, famed for great views of the adjacent Persian Gulf with a backdrop of an impeccable skyline. This convenient location means any destination, be it a wide variety of shopping malls to choose from, a trip to the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque or nearby heritage sites, Abu Dhabi's entertainment island attraction Yas Island, or the pristine beaches and arts and cultural districts of nearby Saadiyat Island – are all a quick taxi drive away. A return to the hotel ushers in a mood of pure relaxation within the city, with luxurious, well-appointed rooms to offer one an opportunity for quiet reflection of the day's events. Southern Sun Abu Dhabi makes for a great hotel for an in-city staycation, giving you the convenience of access and the appeal of comfortable luxury.

### *Award-winning dining and night life*

One must enjoy a mouthwatering steak meal at the Foundry, Southern Sun Abu Dhabi's award-winning steakhouse. The Foundry also boasts a delectable wine list with some of the best wines and champagnes to suit your palate. Beyond indulging in a sumptuous steak dining experience that's characterised by the chef's uses of the freshest ingredients, this city hotel is well famed for its seasonal Sushi Nights and the roof top lounge experience at Hytes Bar. Kahraman restaurant on the





hotel's mezzanine floor offers a fine dining experience for those craving an Arabic fusion cuisine option. Guests can also head over to Blu Sky Lounge & Grill, which promises a great evening out with friends especially during game nights. This casual establishment offers a great selection of beverages to accompany a mouthwatering menu of grill favourites too, an awesome accompaniment to a thrilling football or cricket match on show on the large HDTV screens.

### *A welcoming meeting place*

Whether you have a business meeting or a special party to organise, Southern Sun Abu Dhabi boasts a good selection of meeting rooms for small to medium sized meetings and events. Perfect acoustics allow you to host your event without any disturbances from those taking place in other rooms. The meetings team also goes the extra mile in curating tailor-made packages that also include wide selections of snacks and sandwiches, refills of coffees, juices and more.

### *A taste of South African hospitality*

Whether you are find yourself in the United Arab Emirates, or any one of Africa's cities where the Southern Sun brand has its footprint, the appeal of the South African hospitality chain's service culture and quest to anticipate the needs of its guests stands out. For those in the UAE yet to experience distinctively South African hospitality, Southern Sun Abu Dhabi is a great place to start, having garnered acclaim as a hotel that draws expats from all over the Emirates, especially the resident Southern African community in search of the nostalgic dishes on the menu, as well as others looking to come together for in-city rest, or fellowship with friends around sports watching, great food and all-round good vibes. 



# A CALL FOR *Contributors*

ARE YOU A **HOTEL, TOUR OR WILDERNESS CAMP OPERATOR** OFFERING DISTINCTIVE EXPERIENCES YOU WANT PROSPECTIVE GUESTS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT?

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR MORE COVERAGE OF YOUR **TRAVEL, HOSPITALITY, LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE BRAND** AND OPERATION TO EXPAT TRAVELLERS IN THE UAE?

ARE YOU A **TRAVEL BLOGGER OR CONTENT CREATOR** LOOKING TO SHARE YOUR STORY WITH THE WORLD THROUGH AN ENGAGING TRAVEL AND LIFESTYLE FOCUSED PLATFORM?

Register your interest in becoming a contributor or send your proposed content (press release, feature article, listing guides or reviews) to [info@travelessencemag.com](mailto:info@travelessencemag.com).

All content should be accompanied by relevant hi-resolution images or video content, facts sheets and a bio for personality profile pieces.

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