



## UN-GOOGLEABLE GEMS

It's getting harder to find real safari gems. The kind of family-owned, small-scale camps that we love - the places you won't easily find via Google or AI - are famously elusive. Most guests arrive via word of mouth, like members of a secret society swapping hushed recommendations. And frankly, none of them want Joe Public let in on the secret.

Our challenge? Without corporate rulebooks or glossy best-practice manuals, quality isn't guaranteed. Will they stand up against the well known names of the luxury safari world? Late last year we sent our team - Julie, Jeffrey and Thomas - on a mission to find out.

The team travelled extensively through Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana. And what treasures they uncovered!

Beautiful, understated camps run by people who are personally invested in your experience. Tiny, remote outposts uncorrupted by big-brand dollars, delivering relaxed hospitality, genuine warmth and that rare can-do attitude you only get when the decision-makers are the ones hosting you in the bush. They're not flashy — they're earthy, authentic, wild and quietly brilliant. Exactly how safari camps used to be in the '90s. And exactly why we love them today.

We've always been pioneers in bringing unique African offerings to the Australian market, and this is the latest wave. Here we share just a few of our findings, but the best thing to do is reach out and have a chat. We have plenty of beans to spill...

CHAT TO US



## TOP PICKS

A small selection of stand-out properties according to Julie, Jeffrey & Thomas



**CHUNDUKWA**  
LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA  
Chundukwa is just thirty minutes from Victoria Falls, yet tucked away on the banks of the Zambezi on a 300-acre property where elephants roam, it feels a world apart. Serene horse rides and gentle guided bush walks offer a wonderful sense of remoteness, while easy access to the Falls means you never miss a beat of the action. Truly the best of both worlds.  
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**MOELA**  
BOTETI RIVER, BOTSWANA  
Botswana's great zebra movement and a steady procession of elephants pass quietly by Moela Lodge - an intimate, community-run retreat with private decks overlooking one of Africa's most understated wildlife spectacles. This is a place to slow down on a busy safari circuit. Skip the game drive to enjoy enriching cultural experiences, or simply sit back on the deck, G&T in hand, and let the wildlife come to you.  
[READ MORE](#)



**KARANGOMA**  
OKAVANGO, BOTSWANA  
Karangoma sits in the far-northern reaches of the Okavango Delta, where floodplains meet woodland and wildlife moves freely across an extraordinary convergence of habitats. As a small camp with just six elegant tented suites, it offers an immersive experience that places you deep in the rhythms of the Delta. Connection with the land takes precedence over any corporate glitz.  
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## BEAGLE EXPEDITIONS

*Privately guided mobile safaris in Botswana's Okavango Delta*



Offering an exclusive, totally unscripted Okavango safari, Beagle Expeditions pairs the romance of a classic mobile camp with refined comfort, revealing a quieter, rarer side of Botswana. Expert guides read the land and its wildlife, adapting to every twist and whim of the Delta, so just a handful of guests enjoy extraordinary, unspoilt encounters in complete seclusion. Experiences like this can't be scaled up or sold from a brochure - their intricacies are too nuanced.

EXPLORE

## ITINERARY INSPIRATION

*The Safari Trifecta: Zambia, Zimbabwe & Botswana*

If you're looking for the ultimate safari trifecta, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana deliver. Each offers breathtaking wildlife and unique experiences on its own, but together, the magic truly unfolds. The three countries meet at one remarkable spot —Victoria Falls—and with the KAZA UniVisa, crossing borders is effortless.



*These two safaris are identical for the most part, blending time in Zambezi National Park, a private exploration with Beagle Expeditions through the Okavango Delta, and time at the beautiful Moela (see above). One starts in a watery Zambian paradise, the other at Zimbabwe's buzzing Victoria Falls.*

### ZAMBIA & BOTSWANA FOR SOLITUDE SEEKERS

Begin your safari adventure in Zambia, exploring the mighty Victoria Falls from the watery paradise of Chundukwa, where days are spent exploring the Zambezi and its floodplains on foot or horseback. Slow-paced immersion in nature for wilderness lovers and silence-seekers.

### ZIMBABWE & BOTSWANA FOR HUSTLE & BUSTLE LOVERS

Kick things off with a couple of days in the vibrant town of Victoria Falls to see the mighty 'Smoke that Thunders' up close, take a scenic microflight or heli ride, or even tackle the white water rapids! Then retreat to the quiet of the bush, where the theatre of the wilderness unfolds.

SEE ITINERARY

SEE ITINERARY



## FURTHER READING



### A LUXURY WALKING SAFARI IN ZAMBIA

A safari on foot in the big, bad wilderness is amazing — and nerve-racking, as our guest Steve Madgwick discovers on a walking safari in Zambia. An excerpt from The Sydney Morning Herald Traveller Magazine, December 2025

[READ THE BLOG](#)



### REDEFINING A 'LUXURY' SAFARI

Thomas is the newest member of The Classic Safari Company, and whilst he's no stranger to adventurous travel, he's never experienced a safari done 'our way' before. Here he shares his reflections on 'experience over extravagance'.

[READ THE BLOG](#)



### VICTORIA FALLS: WHICH SIDE?

The Zambezi River forms the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe, and since Victoria Falls straddles both countries, we're often asked: "Which is the better side to visit?" Our answer? A resounding 'both', of course.

[READ THE BLOG](#)

## GET IN TOUCH

*We know because we go (often!)*



Julie, Jeffrey and Thomas are freshly inspired and full of excitement to share all their finds. Get in touch to chat. There's no better way to plan a safari than to pick the brains of those who have recently experienced a destination first-hand.

REACH OUT TO THE TEAM



START PLANNING YOUR NEXT GREAT ADVENTURE

