

Okavango Trail 2011



Dear Parents, Gr 9, 10 & 11 Trailists/Fellow Travellers

We invite any intrepid travellers in grade 9, 10 & 11 in 2011 to join us on this amazing life changing journey. The aim of the trip is to expose our learners to new areas throughout Africa, comraderie, African skies, highlighting the need for wilderness areas and wild country to be protected and where possible increased.

The perfect place to do this, is on an overland trip, highlighted with the Delta in the middle of it. The uniqueness of the Okavango is also its Achilles heel. The rivers that give rise to the delta flow through Angola and Namibia before entering Botswana, and these rivers are being targeted for their water. The trail goes deep into the heart of the Okavango, giving trailists a unique insight into this river system and the animals that thrive in these conditions.

The trailists use both dug out canoes and boats to access the walking areas, trailists will get wet during their trail. Wading through crystal waters and trailing along dry channels are just part of the experience.

Night watch under the big African sky adds a new dimension to ones imagination, as do the vocalisations of lion and hyena which pierce the night silence.

Trails are accompanied by the distinctive call of the fish eagle. The trail is for five nights and six days. Starting and ending in Maun, Botswana.

The trail guides meet us in Maun, and the equipment is distributed to all trailists to pack and get ready. All essentials are carried in back packs by trailists including food. The trail then

leaves by boat or vehicle for the Okavango Delta, depending on the time of year. The first night is spent deep in the Okavango, in the Moremi Game Reserve.

There is no fixed format for the trail from here but generally the group will walk to a different camp site every night so as to access different areas. The trails are not armed, but guides carry protection in the way of bear bangers and flares. All trails are accompanied by a wilderness leadership school guide and a guide from the Okavango region.

The Okavango Delta is a place that has, until now, been out of reach to the average trailist. The Wilderness Leadership School together with Rondebosch Boys' High School is proud to be able to offer this opportunity to you.



Upon leaving the Delta, we meander North, spending two night in the Chobe National Park. Notwithstanding the elephants, Chobe has some of the finest game viewing in Africa. It is notable for huge herds of buffalo and zebras, lechwe, Chobe bushbuck and being the southernmost point where puku antelope can be seen. Where there are buffalo, lions are never far away and there is a good chance of seeing large prides who laze around in the shade all day and only yawn themselves awake at dusk. Hyena and leopard also hunt at night while cheetah are diurnal predators.

The most popular area in and just outside Chobe National Park is the short 9-mile (15km) stretch of Chobe River from Kasane town to the Serondela campsite. Few people come to Chobe without taking a trip on this river to see hundreds of hippopotamuses and crocodiles. Both hippo's and elephants epitomise this park more than any other animals and are often featured on the cover of brochures to the area. The only subject more photographed in Chobe are the exquisite sanguine sunsets sinking slowly over the water

CHOBES SPECIALITIES

- Elephants by the hundreds especially by the Chobe River during the dry season
- Sundowner river cruises culminating in spectacular Chobe sunsets
- 440 species of birds
- Big cats may be seen stalking buffalo on the grassy floodplains
- Fishing on the Chobe River for 20 different species of edible fish
- Spectacularly positioned camps along the Chobe River
- Rare Pel's Fishing owl can be spotted at night
- Small flocks of African skimmers, only found in this region are best seen at this time
- Exceptional photographic opportunities

Crossing the boarder posts is a unique "African" experience and a good lesson in patience and African time! Not to mention Mr Bowley's very experienced manner in dealing with our neighbours! From there it is onto Livingstone, Zambia and then crossing over in to Zimbabwe. Besides now experiencing Africa in a very different way to being in South Africa, you meet and chat to international visitors from across the globe and get to absorb the absolute unique sights, sounds and smells of Africa.

Without a doubt, Victoria Falls is one of the most spectacular natural wonders of the world and viewing her splendour is awe inspiring.



We experience an absolute highlight of a life time when going **White River Rafting** down the **Zambezi gorge!** What a rush!!!!!!



Logistics:

Dates of the trip: Leaving very early am of 25th June 2011, to return to Cape Town late pm 14 July 2011. This date needs to be flexible by about a day or two – depends on bookings. A trip of about 18 days.

Adults involved: Mr Rob Bowley and Mr Ken Starke are to accompany the group. Both have done this trip overland a good number of times. There are currently two drivers and two vehicles.

Eating arrangements: All food is included in the cost of the tour.

Sleeping arrangements: Boys will be camping in tents and will require sleeping bags.

What to bring along: A comprehensive kit list will be supplied closer to the time. No specialist equipment will be required.

Cost per person: Currently about R14 000.00. This is a variable due to changing food, petrol, entrance fees and the dollar exchange rates, but having said that, it should not go up too much!

Spaces are limited and we already have commitments from a few, but your place will be secured by an **nonrefundable deposit** of R4000.00.

Once you have made the commitment, please do understand that withdrawing at a later date does affect the finances of the entire group and trip and is not looked upon kindly. If you are very interested and want to know more, see some photo's of the last three trips etc, please do email Mr Bowley or Mrs Starke for the above info.

Also email when making the commitment of joining us, so that we can give you banking details to secure your place.

**Money must be deposited into the School account with the following reference:
Your Name Okavango.**

If paying by cheque please put the reference on the back of the cheque.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

e-mail:

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Regards
Robert Bowley and Tracy Starke