

MAKUTSI SAFARI SPRINGS



Walking with Rhino's

Since August 2011, Makutsi Tented Camp has proven to be very popular. For the month of November we have 6 fully booked sleep outs. The Tented Camp allows you to experience the bush on foot. One of the most exciting encounters you can have is walking with a Rhino, or in this case, the Rhino walking with you! Over the last few months our guests have had a female Rhino following & tracking them as they were walking. This has certainly been a highlight of the trip.

October 2012

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Rythms of the Bush

Earlier in the year we had an Australian guitarist, composer and producer, Michael Fix, visit us here at the lodge. During his stay at Main Camp and Tented Camp, he could not resist the African influences and rhythms, which made him write a beautiful song, called "Makhutswi" meaning "Place of rest".

Our kitchen girls got such a surprise when on his last night he went to the Kitchen with his guitar & dedicated this song to them.

You can also listen to his track "Makhutswi" by going to:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7-RRJg_H9g&feature=em-share_video_user



Early rain in September

This year we were grateful to receive some early rains! The rainy season normally starts in October/November but in September we got 73 mls of rain. The Acacia trees are starting to get new leaves, the flowers are blooming in camp - so both the guests & wildlife are happy to the start of summer.



Heli Patrol Flights

We are very proud & excited to announce a new product we are offering to our guests once they are at Makutsi. One way that our guests can contribute in the fight against poaching is to join us on a 45 minute scenic Heli Flight over the reserve. By using a helicopter we are able to cover more ground in less time as well as be a visual deterrent to potential poachers. If poachers see that we are flying over the reserve on a regular basis it might deter them from trying to enter our reserve.

We also conduct anti-poaching activities during the day and night, on foot and in Land Rovers. We search for snares, broken fences, injured wildlife, human tracks & signs of trespassers. One can only cover a limited amount of land in a certain time frame. By using a helicopter we are able to cover the whole reserve with a birds eye view.

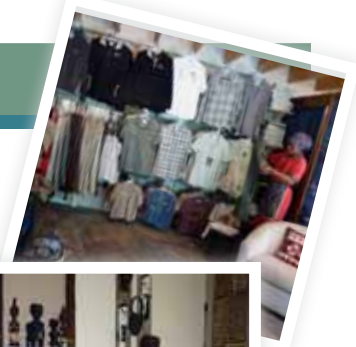
Over the last few years we have lost a Cheetah, a Rhino as well as numerous antelope to poachers. By booking a Heli Patrol Flight, you will experience something memorable, as well as help in the fight against poaching. *This is a non-profit excursion; you only help Makutsi in covering the costs of the helicopter & guide.*



Safari Shop

The Safari shop is full of exciting products! It is located next to the restaurant & pool and offers guests everything from Makutsi branded clothing to Antique wooden carvings

- Unique hand made & locally made jewelry
- Beaded jewelry & souvenirs
- Women, men's & children's clothing, hats, scarves, socks etc
- Traditional hand painted table clothes & fabrics
- Wooden bowls, animal figures, spoons, antique masks, candle holders
- Wildlife books for adults and children, postcards & paintings



Safari Sightings

There are so many great sightings we want to share with you from the last few months, but here we have chosen just two that were our favorite. You can visit www.facebook.com/makutsi to see more regular updates from the lodge.



Bone!

Why do Giraffe's chew on bones?

Have you seen a Giraffe chewing on a bone? Very strange I thought, but in fact this is very normal.

Giraffe are classic browsers, which means they feed on the leaves from trees. With their long necks they are able to reach the highest foliage.

However they are also known for bending down to ground level to pick up bones or soil that they chew on to supplement calcium & phosphorus that is lacking in their diet. This is called **ostephagia** and **geophagia** respectively.

Did you know - They are the only ungulate (mammal with hooves) species with a gestation period of more than one year!



October - the month of the Leopard

In the last few weeks we have been having more and more regular sightings of Leopards.

One morning safari we had two jeeps out & between them they had 4 different sightings of Leopards! In the same afternoon during a Cheetah Research Drive they saw another heading into Makutsi camp (2 guests also saw the Leopards from their terrace).

A few weeks ago some guests also spotted a Leopard from the Hippo Hide.

We have also had the Elephants regularly visiting the camp. Always a nice way to start the day for our guests. However, it's a challenge for the girls in the Veggie Garden... trying to keep them out!

The Makutsi Team

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