

How do grasses, elephants, thorns and predators shape the world? Find out on this special safari, handcrafted for curious nature enthusiasts.

True Wild LLC is offering a truly unique opportunity to travel to Africa on a powerful safari to explore the wild savannas of Southern Africa.

Join experts in their fields, big cat conservationists Dr. Quinton Martins and Liz Martins and maverick botanist and ecologist Prof. William Bond, for the curious and conservation inspired traveler.



## ‘Natural Curiosity’ African Luxury Safari

9th - 21st December 2023 | \$15,800 p/p/sharing\*





## Itinerary Overview

Africa's savannas are famous for the incredible abundance of wildlife they support and for being home to intact ecosystems still inhabited by a large assemblage of megafauna. Quinton, Liz and William, together with exceptional local African guides, will take you on a visceral and enlightening journey through the African Bush, absorbing the beauty and exciting wilderness and wildlife, while exploring fundamental ideas about our natural world that will also give you insight to your own home. Learn about the intricate ecology of these ecosystems, the biology of big cats and other wildlife, their behavior and the complexities associated with human coexistence. One of the privileges of visiting these vast protected areas is that animals are relaxed around game-drive vehicles. This allows one the unusual and wonderful opportunity to closely observe even the most elusive creatures.

December is a fascinating time to travel to Botswana and Zimbabwe because it is the beginning of the rainy season where the parched land flushes with green, flowers appear, animals have their babies and migratory birds have arrived. The weather is dramatic, with gorgeous cloudscapes and breathtaking sunsets. When it rains it is usually in short bursts which adds to the excitement.

**The Palm River Hotel, 2 nights:** Your journey begins in **Victoria Falls** where you will recover from the international travel and witness one of the largest and most beautiful waterfalls in the world, set deep in the heart of Africa.

**Linkwasha, 3 nights:** Fly to Zimbabwe's **Hwange National Park**. The wildlife

here is abundant, with a large population of elephants, and is a fantastic start to your safari. Zimbabwe is famous for its excellent walking guides, so we'll take this opportunity for a careful look on foot at the small as well as the large. For insight into the conservation issues in the area, we will connect with the Scorpions Anti-Poaching Unit and/or Oxford's WildCru to hear about lion conservation.

**Chobe Safari Lodge, 1 night:** Fly back to Vic Falls then do a road transfer across the Zimbabwe border to Kasane, Botswana. End the day on the Chobe River doing a wonderful sunset wildlife boat cruise in **Chobe National Park**.

**Vumbura Plains, 3 nights:** A private charter flight takes you to begin your exploration of the **Okavango Delta**, a remarkable World Heritage Site. This gorgeous Premier Wilderness camp is set in a diverse ecosystem with permanent water channels, floodplains and wooded 'islands' which you will explore through game drives and mokoros (traditional dug-out canoes). This area has excellent game and birding! You will start looking more closely at interpreting animal behavior and should have excellent photographic opportunities for those interested in wildlife photography.

**Chitabe, 3 nights:** Your safari culminates at Chitabe, the best game area in Botswana. It has an extraordinarily varied ecosystem - with 7 different habitat types - which is home to a great diversity of animal and bird life. If possible, a talk will be arranged by a wild dog researcher from the Botswana Predator Conservation Trust and hopefully you will get a glimpse of these fascinating endangered creatures. From here you fly to Maun, from where you go home.





## Group Leader: Dr. Quinton Martins

Dr. Quinton Martins is the co-owner of True Wild and studies California's mountain lions as Principal Investigator for the Living with Lions Project. The research aims to identify priority habitats and key wildlife corridors while promoting ecosystem conservation and co-existence with wildlife throughout San Francisco's North Bay. He is the former founder and CEO of the Cape Leopard Trust, a successful predator conservation NGO based in South Africa and is considered a leading expert on these leopards. Prior to his research work, Quinton spent 10 years as a specialist safari guide and safari camp manager and led wild-camping safari experiences throughout East and Southern Africa.

## Group Leader: Liz Martins

Liz Martins is a managing partner at True Wild. Liz runs the Living with Lions education program, teaching children about these top predators and connecting them to their wild neighbors. She is also a docent at ACR's Bouverie Preserve where she volunteers to take children out hiking to learn more about the local ecosystem. Liz has a background in Waldorf teaching and has years of experience as an environmental educator, setting up the Cape Leopard Trust's Education Project which focused on bringing children and adults into the wilderness mountains on environmental camps. Liz has assisted with leopard and mountain lion research and conservation work in both South Africa and California. Liz is particularly interested in the art of tracking.



## Specialist: Prof. William Bond

Prof. Bond is an internationally recognized South African ecologist with broad interests in the processes most strongly influencing vegetation change in the past and present, including fire, vertebrate herbivory, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and climate change. He is an avid champion of grassland ecosystems. Prof. Bond is an emeritus Professor in Biological Sciences at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and retired Chief Scientist for the South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) which monitors the impacts of climate change and other environmental concerns. William's research has been influential, and, amongst other marks of recognition, he was elected as foreign associate of the US National Academy of Science and fellow of the Royal Society of London. William has an unusual ability to bring the world of plants and ecology to life for all people, so for the curious nature enthusiast he is a source of fascinating thoughts and insight. His driving curiosity is contagious, and he asks simple yet profound questions that reveal multiple layers in the landscape.





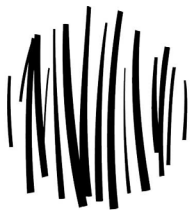
## Logistics

Group size: 8-12 people. Price is all inclusive (accommodation, food, drinks, activities, transfers between camps, group leaders) but excludes international travel (to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, and from Maun, Botswana), visas, insurance, and gratuities.

\*Singles in their own room will be charged an additional single-supplement rate and quoted separately.



**True Wild LLC** is a conservation and safari company based in San Francisco's North Bay. Our mission is to connect people strongly to nature through experiences and encourage individual action to conserve our planet. We do mountain lion research and conservation, and work with communities on how to co-exist with wildlife. We offer outdoor experiences connected to this work. We also design personalized safaris, specializing in authentic journeys to Africa. In all we do, we strive for conservation impact.



W I L D E R N E S S

For this journey we have chosen **Wilderness** safari camps. Wilderness is Africa's leading eco-tourism operator, renowned for their excellent camps and service. It actively conserves millions of acres of wilderness in the areas in which it operates. They are deeply committed to creating a positive impact on the communities of people and animals that live within and adjacent to these extraordinary wild ecosystems.



**Join Us!**  
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