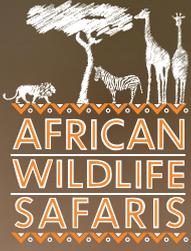


NATURAL FOCUS
SAFARIS



THE TALKING DRUM

2018 - Volume 3



HISTORY RE-WRITTEN

Located at a river crossing point once favoured by early colonial explorers, newly constructed Old Drift Lodge is the closest property within the Zambezi National Park to mighty Victoria Falls. Lavish canvas-clad suites overlook the Zambezi River, while the activity menu is designed to showcase the area's abundant wildlife.

MANA POOLS MAGIC

Historic Chikwenya Camp re-opens this October under the Wilderness Safaris umbrella, offering unrivalled luxury and access to a sublime stretch of the Zambezi River in Zimbabwe's UNESCO World Heritage-listed Mana Pools National Park. Expect extraordinary gameviewing amid the giant acacia and mahogany trees that characterise this beautiful region.

REMEMBER TO BOOK EARLY

We specialise in small, boutique lodges and wild destinations - as such, space is often limited. Please ensure you book early to avoid disappointment.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

We love to know how your trip went and we warmly welcome your feedback. Send us an email, photos or even videos of the places you saw and the animals you encountered. Alternatively, leave us a Google review. We may publish this information on our websites, in our brochures or on our social media channels with your permission.





CONSERVATION UPDATE

Every client who books with us has the opportunity to donate \$10 (or more) to selected non-profit organisations in the destinations we travel to. We match these donations dollar for dollar, plus we don't charge administration fees so every cent goes towards the projects we support.

In the first half of 2018, we gave USD\$2,520.82 to the Westgate Community Conservancy which works with residents of Kenya's northern rangelands to maintain the fine balance between livestock ranching and conservation. Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit (VFAPU) also received USD\$2,649.20 from us to assist with the protection of wildlife residing near the waterfall. In India, TOFTigers secured GBP£1,690.14 to fund their Village Wildlife Volunteers Program, which enlists villagers to safeguard and monitor the movements of endangered Bengal tigers.

THE TIGER GUARDIANS

In 2005, Rajasthan's tiger population was in trouble, with just 11 individuals remaining in an ever-shrinking reserve. The state government declared an emergency, and various groups sprang into action, including the police and a non-government organisation called Tiger Watch. Incredible efforts were made to employ locals to help arrest highly skilled Mogiya poachers, and when caught, these predominantly nomadic tribespeople were provided with an education and alternative livelihoods.

Today, Ranthambore is the finest tiger reserve in India and visitor numbers are booming. Tiger populations have reached historic highs and many rural residents now work in the tourism industry, yet these majestic felines are not out of the woods. With more tigers than the park can support, many males have been forced to carve out territory on the reserve's fringes, often coming into conflict with farmers and cattle herders.

In response to this 'tiger squash', there are generous and well-administered cattle compensation schemes. Village relocations have also taken place in order to expand park boundaries, while paid engagement of local wildlife guardians continues. Julian Matthews, Chairman of TOFTigers, who works closely with Tiger Watch also had this major achievement to report:

"Since October 2017, our village wildlife volunteers relentlessly tracked and monitored straying male tiger T-91 aka "Cowboy", and kept him safe from threats like poachers who were soon apprehended after being identified by camera traps."

With the help of the government and funding from international tour operators such as Natural Focus Safaris, T-91 was relocated to the Mukundara Hills, Rajasthan's newest tiger reserve.

To find out more about the valuable work done by TOFTigers and Tiger Watch, please visit www.toftigers.org and www.tigerwatch.net.



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Zambezi National Park - protected by VFAPU © Charles Brightman



DISCOVER SRI LANKA

Contact Us to Start Planning Your Tailor-Made Journey on 1300 363 302