Africa
Zimbabwe & Okavango Delta
November 4-19, 2015
Depart November 3, 2015 New York to Johannesburg (JHB) in Republic of South Africa (RSA)

*Your own arrangement:* We suggest South African Airways; Ker and Downey can book for you.

*Excluded in Safari Costs to Wildlands Network*

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**Wednesday, November 4, 2015**
Arrive JHN, RSA - Overnight: City Lodge-JHB Airport

**Thursday, November 5, 2015**
Commercial Flight from JHB to Harare, Zimbabwe
Private Air Charter from Harare to Mana Pools National Park

**MANA POOLS NATIONAL PARK**

*Thursday, November 5th – Monday, November 9th*

**A World Heritage Site,** Mana Pools National Park is situated along the middle Zambezi Valley in northern Zimbabwe. This remote and pristine national park is one of the world’s wildest and most preserved natural ecological areas and was rated the 5th Best Park in Africa by Getaway Magazine (September 2003).

This unique park has a wide range of large mammals, crocodiles and monitor lizards, and is home to more than 350 bird species. Elephant, rhino, eland, buffalo, impala, waterbuck, baboons, monkeys, zebra, warthog and hippo are some of the larger herbivores to be seen regularly on the river terraces; lions, leopards, spotted hyena and cheetah are also very present in the area.

Mana Pools itself is 1,365 square miles in extent, but it is part of the 6,524 square mile Parks and Wildlife Estate that runs from the Kariba Dam in the west to the Mozambique border in the east. This large area is without physical boundaries and the wildlife is free to move throughout - even northwards across the Zambezi River into Zambia, where there are also large wilderness areas set aside for wildlife conservation.

Mana Pools is named for the four large inland pools that are remnant ox-bow lakes that the Zambezi River carved out thousands of years ago as it changed its course northwards. “Long Pool,” the largest of the four pools, extends nearly 4 miles in a west-east direction. As one moves north towards the Zambezi River from the forests on the Karoo sediments, the vegetation changes to open *Acacia albida* woodlands on the old river terraces. This vegetation gives a unique look to the area and a surreal light filters through the trees giving Mana Pools its distinctive cathedral-like atmosphere.

**Accommodation**

Because of the remoteness of Mana Pools, we start the safari with the most rustic camping conditions. Tents are 2-man pup tents with very comfortable cots and bedding. Several rudimentary ablutions are provided on this leg: short drop toilets with sit down seats surrounded by safe, discreet and closable tents. Hot/Cold bucket showers are available inside a safe tent with a chair, table and raised duck board on which to stand.
Monday, November 9, 2015
Private Air Charter from Mana Pools to Bulawayo
An hour’s drive from Bulawayo to Matobo National Park

MATOBO NATIONAL PARK, MATABELELAND, ZIMBABWE
Monday, November 9th – Thursday, November 12th (3 nights)

A UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site, The Matobo National Park forms the core of the Matobo or Matopos Hills, an area of granite kopjes and wooded valleys in southern Zimbabwe. The entire Matobo Hills area comprises 1,926 acres of which 172 square miles is national park. These majestic hills were formed over 2 billion years ago when granite was forced to the surface and eroded to produce smooth whaleback dwalas and broken kopjes, strewn with boulders and interspersed with thickets of vegetation.

The park is situated in the magnificent Matobo Hills, a range of domes, spires and balancing rock formations which have been hewn out of the solid granite plateau through millions of years of erosion and weathering. The majestic and rugged terrain of the park is a hiker's paradise and the diversity of the vegetation supports a wide range of wildlife. Matobo National Park includes an Intensive Protection Zone where a large population of black and white rhinoceros are successfully breeding.

Matobo, meaning 'bald heads,' was the name chosen for the area by the great Ndebele Founder and King, Mzilikazi and has great spiritual and cultural significance to the local people. The national park is the oldest in

Zimbabwe, established in 1926 as Rhodes Matobos National Park, a bequest from Cecil John Rhodes, who is buried at the summit of Malindidzimu – the Hill of Benevolent Spirits or also known as World’s View. His grave is carved out of the solid granite hill, is surrounded by a natural amphitheater of massive boulders and is accessible by a relaxed walk.
Matobos is home to zebra, wildebeest, giraffe, kudu, eland, sable, klipspringer, leopard, hyena, cheetah, hippo, warthog, rock dassies, waterbuck, wildcat, springhare, common duiker, crocodiles, baboons and monkeys. The Matobo area has one of the largest concentrations of black and white rhinoceros making it easy to sight one or more of the large population of this endangered species. It also has the highest density of leopards in Zimbabwe, but their camouflage and elusive behavior make it a prized sighting.

The richness of the Park can also be seen for the diverse bird life. The park is famous for its large concentration of black eagles, which can be seen perched atop the rock formations or soaring along the cliffs in search of prey. Bird species that can be found include fish eagle, martial eagle, francolin, secretary bird, weavers, pied crow and Egyptian geese.

Fine rock paintings are found within, and around the park are numerous sites which were once occupied by the San hunter-gatherers. The paintings at Nswatugi Cave are perhaps some of the finest in the country.

**Accommodation:**
Motobos Hills is a slightly more comfortable bush camp with semi-permanent tents with on-suite toilets and showers.

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**Thursday, November 12, 2015**

Drive from Matobo to Hwange National Park
(Approximately 5 hours, most on tar road)

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**SINAMATELLA, HWANGE NATIONAL PARK ZIMBABWE**

**Thursday, November 12th – Sunday, November 15th (3 nights)**

Named after a local Nhanzwa chief, Hwange National Park (HNP) is the largest Park in Zimbabwe occupying roughly 9,100 square miles. HNP became the royal hunting grounds to the Ndebele warrior-king Mzilikazi in the early 19th century and was set aside as a National Park in 1929. Hwange boasts a tremendous selection of wildlife with over 100 species of mammals and nearly 400 bird species recorded. The elephants of Hwange are world famous and the Park's elephant population is one of the largest in the world.

Sinamatella camp is set on an escarpment above a waterhole, overlooking miles of bush for as far as the eye can see. The park occupies roughly 9,300 square miles in the northwest corner of the country and can be easily accessed from Botswana, South Africa and Zambia. Game sighting is excellent with over 400 bird species; the summer months from November to May are a special treat for the avid bird watcher.
Accommodation: We will be staying at Kapula Camp, which is situated adjacent to the famous Masuma dam picnic site in the heart of Hwange National Park. During the full moon you can expect spectacular moonlit game viewing from your tent deck. Enjoy on-suite flush toilet and standard shower facilities.

Activities: From the Sinamatella area we will do game drives and guided walks in the Kalahari sands. Highlights in this area include large herds of elephant, buffalo and lions.

Sunday, November 15, 2015
Drive from Sinamatella to Elephant Camp in Victoria Falls (Approximately 2 hours)

ELEPHANT CAMP, VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE
Sunday, November 15th – Tuesday, November 17th (2 nights)
Sundowner Cruise on the Mighty Zambezi River and Tour of Victoria Falls included in your safari

While it is neither the highest nor the widest, Victoria Falls is classified as the largest waterfall in the world, based on its width of 1,708 meters (5,604 ft) and height of 108 meters (354 ft), resulting in the world's largest sheet of falling water. It is one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

David Livingstone, the Scottish missionary and explorer, is believed to have been the first European to view Victoria Falls in 1855. Livingstone named his discovery in honor of Queen Victoria, but the indigenous still call it Mosi-oa-Tunya or The Smoke That Thunders.

We will be staying at the luxurious Elephant Camp, situated only 10 minutes from Victoria Falls in a private concession within the Victoria Falls National Park between the Masuwe River and the Zambezi gorges. From the lodge you can view the Victoria Falls’ spray, and the spectacular gorges which separate Zimbabwe and Zambia.
Elephant Camp is a luxurious, intimate lodge under canvas within easy reach of Victoria Falls and all its attractions and activities, yet secluded in its own private game reserve so as to allow close-up encounters with wildlife. The main complex with a spacious deck, lounge, bar and dining area is a tented structure leading onto a sun-kissed pool offering sweeping vistas of the Batoka Gorge.

Walks and birding for guests supply boundless photographic opportunities in addition to the variety of other activities available in Victoria Falls including sunset river cruises on the mighty Zambezi River and tours of the famous Victoria Falls.

The Elephant Camp offers a unique, up-close and personal interaction with wildlife – in particular with the elephants at the Wild Horizons Wildlife Sanctuary. All guests staying at The Elephant Camp will have an opportunity to meet the Wild Horizons elephants, which are orphans from historical population culls or from other reasons. During their tenure at Wild Horizons Sanctuary, the elephants are involved in educating, enlightening and interacting with guests, schoolchildren and other visitors.

During your visit, you’ll learn more about release programs underway, one of which includes the original matriarch Miz Ellie and a group of 3 orphaned juveniles that are on a “soft” release program in preparation for the day when they will be released into one of Zimbabwe’s National Park areas. It is a primary goal that all of the elephants are ultimately re-habituated back into a wild environment.

Truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience, an elephant-back excursion is available at Elephant Camp (for an extra cost). Elephant-back safaris offer a unique and exciting way to explore the wilderness around Victoria Falls. You'll get a chance to connect with these magnificent animals as they carry you through grasslands and forests in the area, viewing wildlife in a very different way than from a vehicle.

The Wild Horizon elephants are trained completely with positive, operant conditioning. Whether schooling for excursions, training for rehabilitation or interacting with guests and visitors, these elephants are handled for a maximum of two – three hours a day, split between an early morning and late afternoon activity. The rest of the day is devoted to ‘elephant time’ where the animals are free to roam in the wild on the reserve, doing what comes natural to the elephant.
At an extra cost the following can be arranged:

- Helicopter and micro light flight
- Abseil/Gorge Swing/High Wire
- Bungee jumping
- Village visit
- Elephant Back excursion

**Tuesday, November 17, 2015**

Drive to the Kasane-Vic Falls border where we will clear Zimbabwe and Botswana Immigration/ Customs

Private Air Charter to Kanana Camp in the Okavango Delta

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**Kanana Camp, Okavango Delta**

**Tuesday November 17 –**

**Thursday, November 19th (2 nights)**

On to Kanana Camp in the Okavango Delta. Have your camera at the ready as you circle over this incredible labyrinth of lagoons, lakes and hidden channels covering an area of over 17,000 square km and the largest inland delta in the world.

Kanana means “paradise” in Setswana and with its remote location in the inner reaches of the Delta, its name can hardly describe the natural treasures found here. A hidden jewel, Kanana encompasses a necklace of islands dotted with palms, figs, ebony and knob-thorn, and is home to a myriad of birds, plants and animals. The nature of the habitat means it is the perfect place to experience the diversity of species found within the Okavango Delta.

Guests are accommodated in 8 spacious safari tents each with en-suite bathrooms with shower, hot and cold running water and flush toilet. The tents are well spaced, affording privacy whilst remaining within comfortable distance from the main camp area.

The common facilities of the camps are also built up on stilts overlooking these floodplains. Kanana Camp is built among spectacular shade trees of ebony, knob-thorn acacia and the sausage tree. The dining and sitting areas are raised on decking encircling a massive ancient fig tree.
The focus of activities at Kanana varies with the rising and falling levels of the Okavango Delta. While game viewing in 4x4 vehicles is available and very popular, one can best experience this region by viewing game on foot or by gliding silently through the crystal blue waterways of the delta by Mokoro. It is a moving and incredible experience which draws you intimately into nature in its purest form. Besides the elephant, a wide variety of other game frequent the life giving force of the delta, including impala, lechwe, hippo, crocodile and lion. Guided bush walks are highly recommended as is fishing for tilapia, African pike and sharptooth catfish.

Kanana camp is one of the few lucky camps in the Okavango Delta to have an exclusive heronry where many migratory water birds come to have their young from July onwards. The birds you are likely to see roosting here are the yellow bill stork, marabou, open bill stork, darters, cormorants and slate egrets.

**Thursday, November 19, 2015**
Charter from Kanana Camp to Maun to meet your commercial flight to JHB on your way home.

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Depart November 19, 2015 JHB Back to New York Evening Flight

**Excluded in Safari Costs:** Own Arrangement – suggest South African Airways; Ker and Downey can book for you.

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For more information, please contact Tracey Butcher: Tracey@wildlandsnetwork.org, (321) 631-7254.

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**Safari Cost of $10,840 includes:**
- All Accommodation
- All Regional Commercial Flights
- All Activities as Described in Itinerary
- Local Beverages (Alcohol and Non-alcohol)
- All Meals at Safari Camps
- All Ground and Air Charter Transportation (once in Africa)

**Safari Cost Does Not Include:**
- US Domestic or International, Trans-Atlantic Flights to/from Africa
- Meals or Beverages in Johannesburg
- Extra Activities as Described in this Itinerary
- Tips or Gratuities
Wildlands Network’s Mission
Reconnecting Nature throughout and Beyond North America
Building Networks of People Protecting Networks of Land

As Michael Soulé notes, the worldwide conservation community has accepted Wildlands Network’s call for recognition of the core habitats, connectivity and carnivores as fundamental elements of healthy landscape-scale ecosystems. Today, leading climatologists also recognize healthy landscape-scale ecosystems as the single most effective adaptive response to climate change. Simply put, the Wildlands Network approach is the only way to reconcile human needs with the needs of the rest of the species with whom we share this earth for future generations.

We inspire conservation worldwide: Wildlands Network has helped launch and inspire wildlands-focused conservation organizations worldwide, including:

1. Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Western U.S. & Canada)
2. Two Countries – One Forest (Northeastern U.S. & Canada)
3. Wild Country led by The Wilderness Society Australia
4. Sky Island Alliance (Arizona – Mexico Borderlands)
5. Grand Canyon Wildlands Council (Grand Canyon, U.S.)
7. Cascadia Wildlands (Pacific Northwest – British Columbia – Alaska)
8. Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project (now Rocky Mountain Wild)
   (Colorado, U.S.)
9. Wild South (Southeast U.S.)
10. Wildlands Conservation (Florida, U.S.)
11. Florida Wildlife Corridor Project (Florida, U.S.)
12. The Wildland Network (U.K.)
13. Naturalia (Mexico)
14. Pantera’s Jaguar Corridor Initiative (Mexico, Central & South America)
15. Ocala to Osceola (Florida, U.S.)
16. Freedom to Roam (Patagonia Inc. initiative now housed at World Wildlife Fund, focused on Eastern Himalayas (Nepal, Bhutan, northeast India, southeast Tibet and northern Myanmar) and Great Plains (U.S.)
17. Nyanganje Corridor in Tanzania (Africa)
18. South Coast Wildlands (California, U.S.)
19. Rewilding Europe
20. The Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition
21. Northeast Wilderness Trust
22. Foundation for Deep Ecology
23. Eddy Foundation
24. Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative
25. Cougar Rewilding Foundation
26. Northeast Wolf Coalition
27. Biohabitats