



## The HEREandNOW Trail OKAVANGO DELTA, BOTSWANA

7 nights / 8 days

Personally guided by Alan McSmith

2024 Departures:

11th to 18th AND 18th to 25th September



Our most basic aspiration, one that unites us all, is to discover peace and purpose in our lives. To be original and significant. To be seen. To be known.

But in a world of turbulence and fast pace, this is a massive challenge. How do we achieve it?

This is what the HEREandNOW Trail is about; to rediscover solace in nature. To slow down, to listen. To re-learn how to do nothing. And in this process to touch the inter-being of it all. To spend redemptive time in the present moment.

The Trail invites you to take our lead from the wild for a few days. Be here, be now. Perspective to cherish simple pleasures, in all things.

Join us in the majestic Okavango Delta in Botswana exploring the luxury of time, space and belonging. On foot and by vehicle, in a vast wild concession as a slice of our heaven. Rising with the sun and walking wild. Tracking and stalking big game, all based from a secluded mobile tented fly-camp.



## Day 1: Arrive in Maun, Botswana

### DRIVE TO OUR TENTED BASE CAMP

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Our trail together begins on arrival in Maun. A sprawling dusty frontier town on the edge of the Okavango Delta, with bags of character. Some refer to it as the safari-capital of the universe!

On arrival the explorer attitude is palpable. A crossroads between old and the new. The Maun vibe is at once confusing and enticing; an eclectic blend of dust, donkeys, fully kitted 4 x 4's and well attired, wide eyed safari goers.

There is an alluring air of bygone days and wildness. It is a place that says, "be bold, be yourself"!

By way of introduction and to steady your boots, we have an iced refreshment at "The Duck", a popular open-air café at the edge of the airport.

We load up in an open Toyota landcruiser game and head north-west through the villages of Maun. The roads get wilder and wilder the further away we go, with signs of game. Once we leave the community areas, the magic sets in.

Our unique secluded location is set within a large sandveld tongue, in a region we refer to as "dry-land delta". Depending on local flood levels, dugout canoe activities are available, but our activities are conducted principally on foot and by An open 4x4 game viewer.

Along our lifetime's safari-journey, we have seen the industry grow. Camps, infrastructure and delivery have all developed exponentially with time. Wild spaces are fewer now, and have become more precious than ever before.

A step back into the classic years of exploration and discovery.

This is our Okavango.



## Our tented trails base camp

THIS THING CALLED LESS

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It could be said that the present moment is the address of life. What Buddhist Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh amusingly refers to as “hereandnow.com”. For us, its where the luxury of time, of space and of belonging come together.

Simplicity. No frills. Strategic comforts.

Ensuite, walk-in tents. Only 4. Flush loos, open-air bucket showers. Tented lounge and seminal campfire. Silence and solitude. Catering is sincere, scrumptious and sufficient.

Total connection. With the rhythms of the wild and the people around us. Simple pleasures, care, friendship and environmental awareness. Plugging in to the grand operating system of the universe: that of consciousness.

Our deeply personal search for the ultimate wilderness & wildlife encounter has led us through the wild-lands of 7 African countries. For us, this has always been under canvas, at a remote bush camp, preferably at the end of a distant dirt track, and always around an isolated campfire. Often under only the stars themselves.

Just perhaps we have found it. For home happens when we realise that we belong to the land, and that the land does not belong to us.

This says it all.

## Days 2 to 7: Unlimited activities on foot or by vehicle WITH ACCOMMODATION AT OUR TENTED BASE CAMP

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Connected simplicity, integrity and harmony with the environment. One that realigns our values.

We purposefully work at enhancing our faculties, by allowing attention to each footfall the smells, sounds, colours, sights, and intuitions intensify naturally. This is a conscious tuning in to our possible awareness, to be alert to our surroundings and our feelings.

If a game drive is like seeing a movie, then a walk is like reading the book.

Plug-in deeper on foot. This is where the pulse beats wildest.

The Okavango is a uniquely majestic place. A vast oasis within the Kalahari Desert, with its lifeblood being a mysterious flood from the north. A flood that determines the dramatic ebb and flow of life; of animals, birds and plants. Holistic ecology. Let's explore and discover this delicate balance.

For in the here and now, we go with the great flow.

Hearty, healthy and consciously indulgent is the trail rule and when it comes to meals, there is no better way to honour the simple pleasure of sharing food than to be around the fire, under the stars. We focus on local, fresh, seasonal and to suit your needs, be it plant based, omnivore or a well thought out balance.

Its about sharing this.

## Content keystones

### WHAT MAKES THIS TRAIL UNIQUE?

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Change is constant in the wild. Nature's patterns are of renewal and regeneration. The principles of growth, loss and change are all connected. Productivity and sustainability are the purpose. This is innovation from the wild. But in modern society, system change is a fearful space so how do we navigate through this shift with inspired purpose and dignity.

Surely no better way than re-discovering ourselves in nature.

Natural patterns are around us all at all times. To make ourselves available however, we need to slow down and focus inwardly. And be alert to each step we take.

To honour the relationships between micro-organisms in the soil and the diversity of life that grows from them.

How often do we take this fundamental interaction for granted?

Perhaps if trees provide us with wifi we may take more notice of the forest, but they don't.

They only provide us with oxygen.

Nature doing its thing right under our noses. Perhaps once we slow, and listen, we can notice this incredible vibrancy for what it is.

A wonder.

For once this occurs we reconnect ourselves with it, and recognise our fundamental dependence on these very patterns.



Spending quality time in the here and now challenges and disrupts what is at the heart of modern leadership

So what does the concept of LEADERSHIP mean to you?

Perhaps its the ability to influence others. An outward EGO-centric process, striving to attain goals and conquer obstacles.

Nature suggests that the process is entirely in the opposite direction. An internal ECO-centric discovery embracing ecological humility.

So join us, leave your comfort zone and stride inwardly.

From this space your trail will emerge naturally.  
Meaningful conversations emerge.  
While knowledge speaks, wisdom listens.  
What develops can transcend our personal and professional lives, regardless of commerce or industry.

This is innovation from the wild.

We are always on the move in the West.  
On the way to something else. A different place,  
a different goal, a better job, a better trip.  
The goal is never the here and now.  
Even though that is often the destination.



WILDERNESS has never been a place for us, but a way of life and we continue to explore this relationship with the wild.

One that declares that nature is not a thing apart and that the human soul depends on her ways.

And then there are elephants.

To walk the same ancient pathways, to drink the same water and to breathe the same air as the largest walking mammal on the blue planet is both humbling and inspiring. For no-one walks down this pathway twice.

After all this time, after all our adventures and travels, we are often asked: "what is your most memorable wilderness experience and wildlife encounter?"

And the answer?

The next one.



## Day 8: Road transfer back to Maun TO CONNECT WITH ONGOING TRAVEL PLANS

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After breakfast in camp we depart back to Maun. Here our trail comes to an end. So sadly, it means “tsamaya sentle” (bon voyage) to friends both old and new!

There are daily flights to Johannesburg or Cape Town that conveniently arrive in the late afternoon. Options include connecting with a charter flight to another Botswana camp, or even an overland safari. Travel logistics are easy and seamless.

It is a sincere privilege to share our flagship trail concepts with you, as well as a 35 year old wilderness and wildlife philosophy. Our intentions along the way have never been to push the boundaries of wilderness, but only to nudge those of our own and our clients. Our journey has now magnified itself to do more of the same, and with even more respect, humility and curiosity than before.

A voice for wilderness and her conversation.

We continue to take our lead from the wild.

Onwards ...

*Alan & Sarah McSmith*



Scenic photography: Alice Greenfield  
Wildlife photography: Matthias Kern

