

## Tour Report Botswana Photo Safari 22 June – 2 July 2025

Leopard



Pied kingfisher



Wild dog pups



Lion



Compiled by Emma Healey

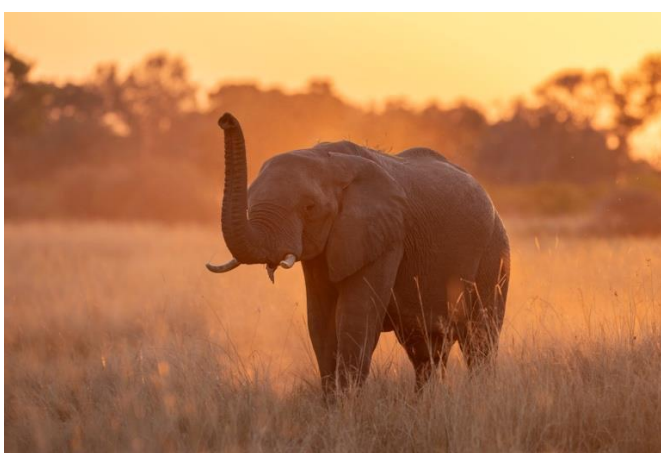
**Sunday 22 / Monday 23 June 2025**

**Day 1:**

UK to Moremi Game Reserve, via Maun and a charter flight.

We all met at the airport and gathered, ready for the flight. We left Heathrow a little late but made up time thanks to the pilot and some fast flying. We arrived at around 07:30 in Johannesburg and made our way through transfers, boarding the next plane to Maun. On arrival, we were met and shepherded through to our final flight – a Cessna Grand Caravan plane with 11 people. We were met at the airstrip by Alex, our guide for the next week and got into our vehicle with our bags on the roof. We had a game drive to camp, so everyone got their cameras out, ready for whatever we may find.

On our way towards camp, we passed through our first park gate into Moremi National Park and came upon a giraffe eating some bushes close to the edge of the open strip. As we passed the gate, we came across an open grassy area where a couple of elephants were standing, beautifully backlit, giving us our first good photo opportunities.



A few minutes later, we arrived at our camp to a lovely welcome from our team: KB, William and PK. We were all shown to our tents before being served a lovely dinner and then it was time for bed, so we snuggled up with our hot water bottles.

**Tuesday 24 June 2025**

**Day 3:**

Moremi Game Reserve

We left camp this morning, deciding to head south, with the sun only just starting to give its first rays of light. We drove round a corner, and almost ran into a male lion! Soon after, as we were watching the lion walk through the grass, another was walking towards us down the road. We followed the coalition of two through the bush as the light improved, but then, frustratingly, they split up with one lying in the bush as the other continued walking, so we decided to follow him, attempting to leapfrog him, anticipating his direction to try and get in front of him as he walked towards us.

He continued walking into the thick bush, where we were unable to follow, so we spent time watching blacksmith lapwings playing in some shallow water with some lovely reflections and we had our first brief sighting of an African hoopoe. As ever, the Burchell's starlings were putting on a lovely show with their stunning colours showing in the morning sun.

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We could hear a troop of baboons calling, so we drove towards them and sat underneath the male for a while, who was making the most noise, but despite scanning, we could not see why. There must have been something hiding in the tall grass, but it didn't want to show itself so we continued on, passing a common reedbuck in the grass and soon we came upon two yellow-billed oxpeckers nesting inside a tree hole. They were coming and going, but guarding the entrance to the nest, so we assume there were some little oxpeckers safely stowed away.



As we drove past a large tree, we saw a Hamerkop flying to and from a nest with sticks and other nesting materials. We stopped to watch and photograph it, first backlit then flying into the light. It was a lovely few minutes, sitting listening to Meyer's parrots and starlings calling.



Once we'd had our fill, it was time for a coffee stop so we made our way to a hippo pool, where we stretched our legs and while we were there, we watched pied kingfishers hunting and an African darter who was stretching and warming its wings in the morning sunshine.

As we continued after coffee, we came upon a troop of banded mongooses circling a termite mound. We saw

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more and more of them scurrying in the grass and around the mound and managed to capture a couple of images of them, despite their speedy running!



Close by, a chin spot Batis was playing peekaboo in a bush and there was an African hawk eagle high in the tree but light was already quite harsh so we decided it was time to head back to camp.

We saw our first green wood hoopoe on the way back, alone in a tree, and passed by three large bull elephants eating in a small forest. We stopped briefly and watched them scratching themselves on the trees and then one by one they walked straight past the vehicle and off into the bush so we headed back to camp for brunch.

Camp was surrounded by a number of trees, which were attractive to squirrels and hornbills, so we were visited during our break by various subjects providing entertainment for those who didn't have a rest.



We were ready to leave again at 15:30 and soon after leaving camp, we passed a Goliath heron standing by the water as we made our way towards Paradise Pools. This is a stunning area where water-dwelling ungulates enjoy the relative peace and quiet, as we passed female kudu eating a bush with some impala and then a large herd of red lechwe.

We moved around the corner in an attempt to achieve some better light and suddenly a leopard edged out of the bush, with its sights on the red lechwe. Fortunately for the lechwe, a red-billed spurfowl alerted everyone to its presence, and it slunk off into the tall grass, never to be seen again, despite our best efforts.

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We moved towards the pools, past a reed cormorant enjoying the water, and came across some vervet monkeys playing, so we stopped for some backlit young ones playing and an elephant came by, so we managed to capture some lovely backlit images of him ripping down some leaves.



Continuing on to the pools, there were a number of red lechwe resting and one was lying on an island in the middle, giving some lovely reflections and as we were taking those, we saw a sitatunga hiding in the reeds. These are very shy antelopes, not often seen, so although it wasn't the best sighting, it was a real treat.

We stayed for a while, photographing some waders' reflections, spoonbills and pied kingfishers hunting - including one that caught and ate a frog!

We enjoyed the beautiful sunset (you can see why they call it Paradise Pools!) and then we made our way back to camp (after a couple of silhouettes of the kingfishers on our way out).

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**Wednesday 24 June 2025**

**Day 4:**

Moremi Game Reserve

We had a long, busy night with disturbed sleep due to some elephants eating from trees around camp and when they finally left, the lions started calling and continued until morning. Despite the disturbance, this was an amazing bush experience, with everyone feeling at one with the surrounding wildlife.

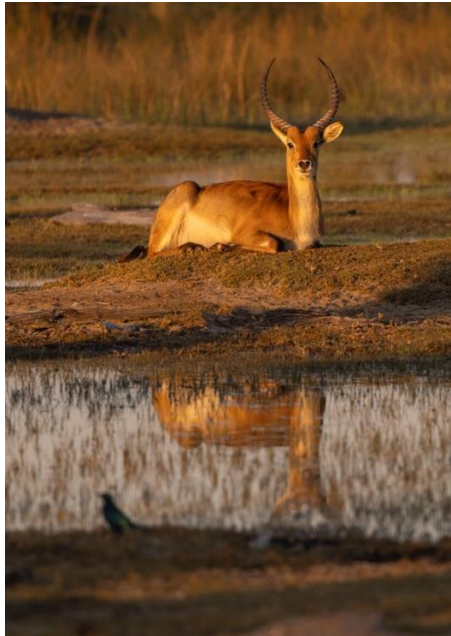
From the calls, we could tell that one male lion was over towards Paradise Pools, so we went in that direction, passing the flooded road with some geese providing a lovely silhouette and then there he was, lying in the road waiting for us as we arrived. We followed him into the pools and got some shots of him walking towards us, then he lay down and didn't move.



We drove around the Pools, with sightings of a bearded woodpecker briefly, and took some time to take some images of reflections of water and trees, an African hoopoe in the road, a hamerkop in a puddle, elephants feeding on small mopani trees and coffee by the pools.

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As we were on our way back towards camp, we heard on the radio that the wild dogs had been seen further west. They were a big target for the group, but we decided to head that way this afternoon as it was a bit too far to drive, and made our way back towards the gate to go to camp. Shortly afterwards, we received a radio call from the camp to say that the dogs had just run past at speed and were clearly out trying to hunt, which at around 11:15 in the heat was very unusual. After a bit of searching, we came upon the small pack of four dogs who initially were lying in the shade but then started to run through the bush. We followed them and after a while, they clearly realised it was too hot to be running around and they lay down in the shade and rested. We decided that they weren't going to be moving any time soon, so we went back to camp for brunch and a rest.



As it was our last full day in Moremi, we spent some time packing after lunch and then went out for our afternoon drive. We went straight back to where we'd left the dogs, but they had moved a little further round. Luckily, not too far, but they were still sleeping so we drove around to see what else we could find as the sun was still strong so they were unlikely to move any time soon.

We came across a young male kudu, purple roller, and marsh harrier while driving around the bush. We heard from another vehicle that the dogs were waking up, so we started to make our way back towards

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them. As we were driving up the road, we saw a couple of vehicles stopped ahead of us so we slowed down and there was a leopard. She was lying under a tree initially, but then started to walk through the tall grass, so we drove around to attempt to get in front of her. Luckily, we succeeded and had some lovely moments with her walking straight towards us, even though the light was still quite harsh.



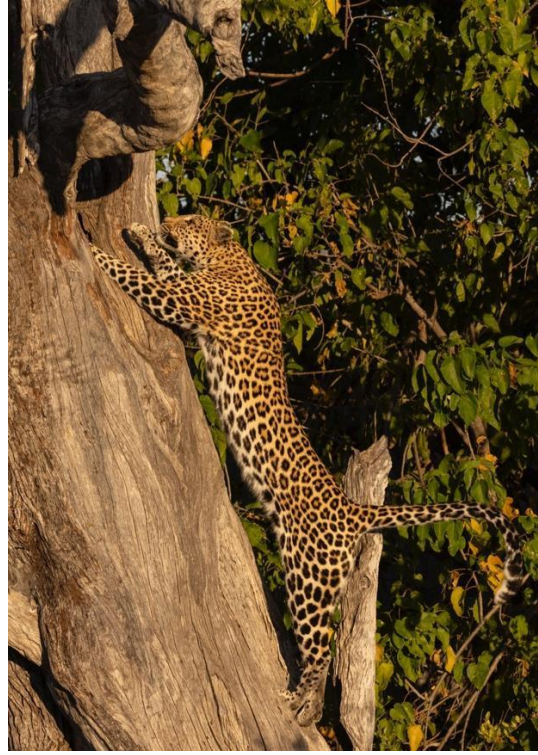
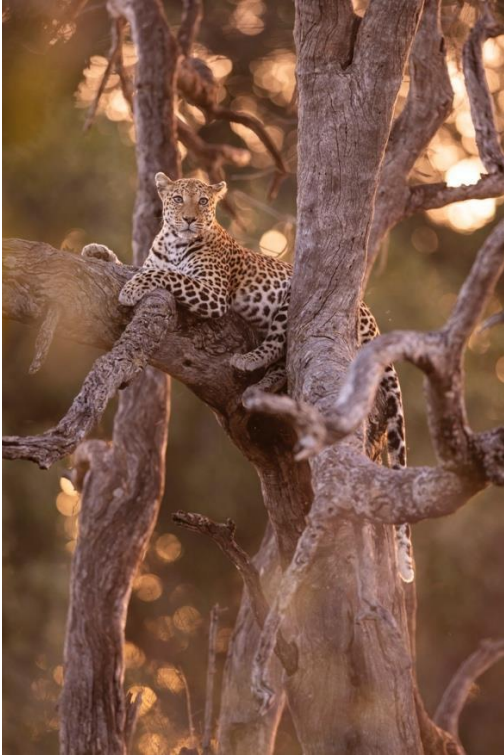
She walked through the bush until she found a tree that she was happy with and then she climbed up and lay down. She stayed in the tree for a couple of hours until sunset, moving to a couple of different branches, giving us some lovely photo opportunities.



As the sun set, we were lucky as it was very close to our camp so we were able to stay longer than any of the other vehicles. The light challenged us and our cameras' abilities, but reducing the shutter speed was a great help, with some achieving success handheld at 1/2 second! Frustrating with the lack of light but beautiful, particularly as the warm light hit the trees behind her.

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She came down once it was dark and wandered towards the water nearby. It was then that we realised we were only around 350m from camp! We made our way back for dinner, wondering what she might get up to under the cover of darkness.

**Thursday 26 June 2025**

**Day 5:**

Moremi Game Reserve / Mababe Game Reserve

Many of us heard more lions calling overnight and some baboons had been alarming, so it was likely a (our?) leopard had passed close to camp, which is always an exciting thought. We packed up our belongings and got our bags out early so that the camp team could start to dismantle everything and after breakfast, we left them to it to see if we could find the lion that we'd heard calling. We came across some lioness and lion tracks and decided to head back to Paradise Pools to see if we could locate them, but the tracks disappeared off the road, so we focused more on the reflections in the beautiful, still waters and some lechwe running through the shallow pools.



We came across a flock of Meyers parrots on the floor and a small herd of zebra and impala in lovely morning light. After a while, we made our way to the north gate along the main road. We passed some lion and leopard tracks as we went, but there was no sign of the cats. On our drive to Mababe, we passed some

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steenbok, elephants, giraffes grazing, wattled cranes and female kudus.

We left Moremi Game Reserve at around 10:00 and crossed the bridge over the river Khwai and into Khwai village. It was our first exposure to civilisation for a few days and people were busily going about their days.

We arrived at a mokoro station by a hippo pool at 10:30. After a quick coffee break, we went out on mokoros - 2 to each boat - to enjoy the scenery at a slower pace. Initially, we went into the hippo pool to see the elephant that we'd spotted drinking as we got in the boats, and we found a crocodile sitting on a grass mound in the water. It was so still that we didn't believe it was real. We told the polers we thought it was fake and that they'd put it there to trick us, but as we were trying to get into a better position to photograph it, it slid off into the water! We did check for a remote control but it was definitely real. Went along the river towards Matsebe Lodge and then along a little, enjoying the water lilies, African jacanas, shiny buttercups and reed frogs. There was a chorus of Frankolin's so we weren't sure what they could see but it was clearly something we couldn't. We were on the river for around an hour or so then we made our way back to Alex to continue towards Mababe.



We stopped in Khwai by some water, where an elephant was drinking at the start, but then left. We had a couple of visits from a pied kingfisher and a little bee-eater was flying around hunting, providing some subjects for those who didn't want to sit down.

A passing vehicle told Alex about a pride of lions with cubs who had a kill nearby, so we decided to take a detour further into Khwai to look for them... and we found them! A group of four adult females and seven cubs of varying ages with a zebra kill.



It was clear they had all had their fill, with some very full tummies on show! A couple of times, some of the younger ones went in for seconds, as long as they were allowed, but most of the adults were fast asleep or too full to move, so the young ones were able to move around and explore a little.

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We were able to stay for a fabulous 45 mins or so, watching them sleep, suckle, nuzzle and interact with each other. In the end, Alex said, unfortunately, we had to go to make it in time to Mababe as we still had quite a way to travel.



We stopped for a comfort break and Alex heard a pearl spotted owlet, which we were able to get relatively close to, although it kept flying further away! Having heard one before, it was great to be able to get some good views of one.



On the main road to Maun, the light was starting to get really beautiful so we enjoyed magpie shrikes flying around as well as a pin-tailed wydah bird that flew past us. We stopped for some wildebeest that had just crossed the road, and as we sat there, we heard a group of hornbills and starlings alarming so we went to

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look. We couldn't see anything initially and then Alex spotted a puff adder in the grass. We tried to position the vehicle but it kept coming towards us so we ended up getting out and photographing it on foot (from a safe distance) as it moved through the grass.



Friday 27 June 2025

**Day 6:**  
Mababe Game Reserve

Many of us had heard the strong wind during the night and it was very cold this morning so everyone was wrapped in lots of layers. We had breakfast in our new camp - Tshaaa (pronounced Tsaaa – meaning water) and it's next to the river, but we couldn't see the extent of that yet. We drove around spotting some wild dog tracks and stopped to photograph some black backed jackals in the lovely light and then moved on to a beautiful lagoon.



As a couple of the group were getting out to get a different view of the reflections in the water, Alex suddenly said "wild dogs!" just as two raced right past us. We all jumped back into the vehicle and as we did, an impala came tearing towards us over the hill and towards the water, just managing to escape its hunters across a small channel, leaving the dogs and hyena stranded. We turned and followed where we thought they might go and found the pack walking along to an open area, where they lay down for a rest.

We watched for a while as the rest of the pack joined them, leading to some lovely sounds and greetings, and as they all curled up for a nap, we nipped off to photograph two hyena who were waiting nearby in the hope that they would soon make a kill.

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We went back but the dogs were still sleeping. They were obviously feeling the cold too as they were huddled together to keep warm with about seven dogs in one pile. We watched some immature Bateleur eagles flying above us, as well as a tawny eagle passing overhead, and enjoyed the lovely fresh smell of the purple pinweed plant all around us.

It was still quite cold and windy so we went for coffee as the dogs were unlikely to be up for a while. We enjoyed a break and leg stretch by the lagoon, where we watched a huge flock of white faced whistling ducks and knob billed flying around, attempting to land but being swept up in the wind.

We went back towards the dogs and saw the hyenas moving so we checked, but as we suspected, the dogs had left. We found them hunting a herd of impala, racing across the plains, trying to split the herd. Very difficult to photograph, but incredible to witness so we were all trying to figure out where to look! We managed to see some attempted hunts, but none were successful and we lost them in the tall grasses, so we attempted to follow but when it got too difficult, we went further along the road.



There were some questioning looks from the back of the vehicle, but not for long! We had a secret... Alex knew the pack of dogs that we were following and that they had a den with some pups that had recently started coming out – they were only around six weeks old. We made our way there and didn't need to wait very long – about five minutes after we arrived, two of the dogs we had lost earlier on returned and started regurgitating some food for the pups who all came out of the den. There were ten in total and we had a fantastic morning watching them playing, exploring and generally being pups.

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After some time playing and enjoying the company of the adults, the pups went back into the den and we made our way back to camp. It was lovely to see the camp and Mababe River in the sunlight and we explored a little, with visits from a couple of elephants walking through camp and crossing the river, a bateleur eagle dropping in for a drink and an open-billed stork catching snails. It was still quite cold in the shade, so we tried to be in the sun to keep warm as much as we could and spent some time downloading images and resting.



This afternoon, we drove along the river, stopping to look at a couple of huge crocodiles resting on the edge of the water, and made our way back to the wild dog den, which was about 20 minutes from camp.

The puppies came out almost as soon as we arrived and spent some time suckling from mum before greeting the adults and playing.

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After a while, though, the whole pack started to move away from the den, which seemed quite strange with the pups being so young. We followed them through the bush as they walked further away. Alex was surprised, as generally they wouldn't move the pups this early so it seemed a little odd, but in the end, the adults went off to hunt and mum took the babies back to the den.



As we were leaving, one of the adult dogs was acting a little strangely, lying in the road and not moving out of the way for the passing vehicles. It seemed out of character, as usually they move aside quickly and reposition so we wondered if perhaps it was unwell.

We drove around to the water to find a sundowner spot and came upon a couple of elephants drinking with some nice reflections, so we stopped for a few minutes to watch them and the hippo, as well as a red-billed spurfowl playing in the dust.

We stopped by the lagoon and were taking some landscapes, particularly some lovely reflections of a dead tree in the water, when suddenly two dogs ran past us! It was becoming a habit every time we got out of the vehicle.

We drove back to camp with the spotlight and spotted a wild cat but it disappeared before we got to it. Otherwise, it was quiet, so we made our way back for dinner.

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Saturday 28 June 2025

**Day 7:**

Mababe Game Reserve

It was very cold when we got up this morning – we estimated around 2 degrees Celsius – and we could see our breath as we had breakfast, so we all layered up and made our way north to a part of the reserve we hadn't explored yet. It was a much more open area, with herds of wildebeest and zebra enjoying the grasses. We spotted some lion and hyena tracks, but despite trying to follow them, we didn't have any luck other than a quick glimpse of a hyena as it crossed the road.

We came across a couple of lilac-breasted rollers mating, and we sat for a while to attempt the roller in flight shot and luckily it obliged as it took off.

We stopped for coffee by a lovely lagoon with numerous pods of hippos and a huge variety of birds. We enjoyed photographing some lesser striped swallows flying around the muddy flats as well as open-billed storks, a hamerkop making a nest in a tree stump and lots of waders.



Eventually, we tore ourselves away from the endless photographic opportunities and went back to camp. During the lunch break, the camp team kindly agreed to give the group a tour of the 'kitchen' and cooking area, which everyone enjoyed, particularly when GK described how he made bread and cakes in a tin in only 15-20 minutes. It's unbelievable to see what they can achieve.

We left again at 15:30, deciding to visit the dogs again to see if we could have just one more session with them. When we arrived at the den, it felt a little strange. There was one dog in the undergrowth and one out in the sun on the road. Unfortunately, it was the one who had looked unwell last night and it had succumbed to what Alex suspected was a snake bite. The other dog was staying with it, potentially unaware at this stage that he was dead.

We heard over the radio that another vehicle had found the rest of the pack and the pups, in the direction they were all heading yesterday so they were obviously practising the move to see how the pups dealt with it. As we arrived, the pups were playing around the edge of the den, so we were able to sit across from them and capture some lovely images of them exploring their new territory.

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The pups were all there, so we had a lovely time watching them playing with the adults before they went off hunting and even then the pups came out to play some more, so we felt very lucky. One of the best things about watching the dogs is the interactions and their behaviour, so everyone was very happy to sit and enjoy what we were seeing.



We tried to play with the light a little taking the puppies from various angles and also looking at some dogs in shafts of light coming through the trees. As the pups got tired and disappeared into the den, we went on to find somewhere by the water for sundowners.



We drove back to camp with the spotlight, but it was still very cold so very little was out and about. We did see some eyes which were probably a spring hare, but it was clearly still too cold and it was just coming out of its burrow and decided to go back in so we made our way back to camp.

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**Sunday 29 June 2025**

**Day 8:**

Mababe Game Reserve

This morning, it was time to say our final goodbyes to the camp team, as we packed up our luggage and headed towards the airstrip. We went back to the main road, where we had a lovely sighting of a steenbok, elephants feeding happily on mopani leaves and saw at least three jackals crossing the road in front of us. All too soon, though, we were at the airstrip and it was time to say goodbye to Alex and board our flight. Luckily, there was only one stop, so we flew directly to Kasane, which only took around 50 minutes.

On arrival, we were met by a driver from Pangolin lodge, who collected us and drove us the short distance to the hotel. After checking in and having a lovely brunch, we had a bit of time to relax before heading out for our first boat trip on the Chobe River this afternoon.

We met Kim, our guide, at tea and then made our way to the river to explore our new terrain. It was a lovely introduction with some gorgeous warm light, buffalo reflections, elephants, kudus and water monitor lizards posing on a tree stump. As we sat watching with the engine off, we noticed a number of water boatmen enjoying the shade of the boat, so we were able to get some images of something a bit different!



We passed a number of hippos, elephants and other mammals enjoying the cooling water. Elephants were cooling off in the river, hippos were yawning and preparing to head out onto dry land.



**Monday 30 June 2025**

**Day 9:**

Chobe National Park

This morning we went out for our first sunrise boat trip, leaving at 06:15. It was very windy, so we realised we wouldn't be lucky with reflections but thought that some birds in flight may be quite a good idea as they

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would be slowed by the wind.

We passed some jacana in the lilies and a flock of Pygmy geese flew past, just before the sun came up just before 07:00.

We saw a huge flock of collared pratincoles that were sitting on the beach and flying with skimmers. They took off as we approached, giving us some lovely opportunities for in-flight shots. The pratincoles flew away to the next beach, but the skimmers were slower and spent some time fighting (or flirting?!) in the air.



There were also some small flocks of white-faced whistling ducks, both on the beach and flying around the river. Once we'd moved through the channel, we came upon some hippos eating and it was like watching a game of 'Hungry Hippos' in person!

After passing a fish eagle posing, we stopped for coffee by the river, where an elephant and a giraffe passed by and a zebra came rushing down to the water.

We spent time watching a yellow-billed stork hunting for frogs and a group of marabou storks, spoonbills and Egyptian geese.



Close to the boat, a crocodile suddenly floated up and watched us in the water. We photographed it from as low as we could get and also enjoyed the wire-tailed swallows, which flew low and landed on the side of the boat.

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On our way back, we passed a high riverbank, with pied kingfishers nesting and perching on the grass so we watched them as we passed but the light was very bright so it was tough to get any good shots.

This afternoon, we were staying on land, with a game drive in Chobe National Park. The lodge is very close to the gate, so it was only ten minutes to get into the park. With 11,700 square km, there is a lot of land to cover, but we were staying close to the gate and exploring the area along the river. It was warm this afternoon and the elephants were making their way to the water for a drink, a bathe and/or a swim.

We came across a herd of elephants fairly close to us, so we switched off the vehicle and watched them. One of the younger ones came much closer to us, walking over and starting to kick and suck the minerals from the ground next to us. More were along the beach and some of the herd came to join the young one. There were times you realised you weren't breathing as they were so close, but they were very relaxed by our presence and it enabled us to get some lovely, more creative close-up shots.



There were more elephants along the beach, with a baby rolling in the water and a fish eagle posing on a branch.

Driving back up the bank away from the river, we found a huge troop of baboons in lovely light and we were

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hoping we could play with some backlighting, but they were not playing ball, unfortunately, so we settled for a few portraits as they photo bombed each other.

We continued to Elephant Bay and had some lovely elephants coming down to the water and we were treated to a beautiful sunset before heading to the gate before 18:30.



**Tuesday 1 July 2025**

**Day 10:**

Chobe National Park

It was a very early start this morning as we aimed to get further along the main road to the park gate at opening time. We drove around 30 minutes or so to Sedudu gate on the main road and then into the park on a bumpy dirt road. Other vehicles had seen a leopard and a cheetah the afternoon before, the leopard with a kill, so we were going to investigate if they were still around. We found the leopard's kill (an impala) under a bush, but there was no sign of her. Continuing on, we came across a lioness and her three cubs, but by this point, a number of vehicles were there, so we decided to move on and leave them to it. We went down to the river, where the wind was picking up.



We watched a huge herd of buffalo coming towards the river on the other side, kicking up dust around them, which wasn't perfect but allowed us to get a little creative with the light and dust.

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Further along the bank, we found some Bradfield's hornbills eating the insects in the dirt and disturbed a group of Crested spurfowl eating in the bushes so spent some time watching them before heading for coffee by a baobab on the river above Elephant Bay. As we arrived, a lone elephant was crossing the river towards us through the green grasses, which provided a lovely backdrop.



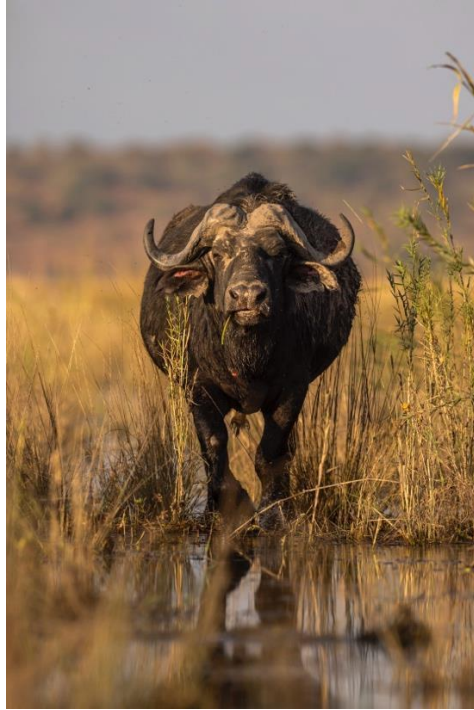
As we were having coffee, some starlings came and kept us company, trying to grab any crumbs that escaped from the biscuits. Cheeky!

Driving back along the edge of the river, we passed a couple of water monitor lizards walking along the river, looking for an escape from the wind, which had definitely intensified and was quite strong. We checked briefly for any sign of the lion and leopard again, but it was quiet so we went back towards the hotel, seeing our first warthog and some feeding giraffes en route.

This afternoon, we were back on the river for a windy boat cruise and we were treated to an incredible elephant crossing. We saw a group standing by the bank with a range of ages and more gradually joined them. Three of the males began to cross so we positioned ourselves close to where they would be coming out of the water. One went straight across, but the two behind decided to make the most of the cool water and started to play and jump on each other, providing some fantastic photo opportunities and just a wonderful interaction to watch. After they'd had their fill and got out, some of the others looked like they might cross, but more boats were approaching, so we continued to make the most of the light, which was getting better by the minute.

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We came across a lone male buffalo, who was quite nervous at first, but who then became more relaxed with our presence and let us move in front of him. While we were stopped, it was a great time for capturing the birdlife, from the waders such as the black winged stilt and squacco herons, to grey-headed gulls flying over.



A small pod of hippos also decided to get into the water, with a couple putting on a good show with some impressive splashes.

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We were keen to find something for our final sunset in silhouette and had been keeping an eye on a couple of elephants grazing on the islands. We decided to focus on one quite close to where we were in the hope that we'd be able to get some good angles as the sun lowered. We had a number of attempts going back and forth and although he stayed relatively still, it wasn't an easy task. There were varying levels of success! Once the sun had gone down, it was time to make our way back for our last dinner.



**Wednesday 2 July 2025**

**Day 10:**  
Chobe National Park

This morning, thankfully, the wind had abated for our last river cruise to leave calm, still waters for our last boat trip. We were making our way to a white fronted bee eater colony that Kim knew about, but there was obviously lots to see on the way.

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We passed a hippo and a buffalo in lovely light, so we stopped briefly to take some images of them, as well as a couple of waterbuck by the water with a nice reflection, before the wind picked up. We then moved further east on the river and found the bee eaters as they were basking in the sun on the bank outside their nests and starting to become more active. It was important to get to them before the sun got too strong, as then they start to hunt and don't spend time around the burrows.



We spent time photographing the bee-eaters, but as they became more active, we moved along the river a little, where we saw malachite kingfishers (briefly!), little bee-eaters, pied kingfishers, pied wagtails and prinias.



It was a lovely stretch of river away from the other boats, which was a treat and every time Kim started to speed up, we spotted something else, including some Meyers parrots quite close to the bank.

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In the end, we had to tear ourselves away and make our way back, stopping for coffee at Elephant Bay. As we arrived, there were a couple of pied kingfishers interacting on a log, and we could see that they were nesting in the nearby bank, flying in and out of a hole. As we poured the coffee, a couple of impala came to drink at the water's edge, followed by a herd of elephants. The elephants continued to multiply and walk down towards the water until there were almost 20 of varying ages. We watched them drink and interact with each other before they retreated into the bush. Kim gave us a 7-minute warning as we had to get back to the lodge, and almost immediately, one of the pied kingfishers hovered close to the boat, dived into the water and emerged with a catfish! We watched her struggle with it onto the beach and then to the log, where the male then came to try and get some of her prize (but she was having none of it!). After she had hit it repeatedly on the log until it was ready to eat, she swallowed it whole and went to her nest. It was time for us to make our way back along the river and back to the hotel, where we had our final brunch and then those of us who were going home went to the airport, leaving the others to continue their adventures at other lodges.



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