



Two Iconic Rivers • Botswana Chobe & Khwai River • 19-25 June 2018

Join Wildlife Photographer **Hannes Lochner** for an unforgettable **7 days** Photographic Safari Experience spending 3 nights at the **Pangolin Voyager Houseboat** and 3 nights at the **Pangolin Khwai Camp**.

This unique photographic safari visits two of the most iconic and abundant rivers in the region – The Chobe and The Khwai in The Okavango Delta. You will spend the first half of the safari onboard the luxurious Pangolin Voyager houseboat followed by staying in a private tented camp in the Khwai Private Reserve in the Okavango Delta.

The Chobe is a photographer's paradise as it supports a high concentration of varied wildlife unlike anywhere else in the region. During the dry season it is very common to see hundreds of elephants making their way down to the river to drink, bathe and play. The river offers a fantastic avenue for game viewing. Being on the river aboard a boat allows for a different vantage point. You will get the chance to see crocodile, hippo and other aquatic animals up close. There is also a large array of aquatic birds to be found.

The Khwai Private Reserve is 200,000 ha in size is arguably in one of the most productive and photographically rewarding areas of Botswana. There is a healthy mixture of bushveld, river systems and wooded areas. We are able to off-road at key sightings and do night drives, which are not allowed in most of the other reserves. This affords us plenty of opportunities to photograph predator action. Khwai is excellent for sightings of Wild Dogs, Leopards, Lions and several other species not seen as often by The Chobe River.



General Information



About the Photographic Safari:

- A maximum of 8 photographers per safari.
- Practical workshops for all skill levels.
- 3 nights on the Pangolin Voyager Houseboat - Alongside the houseboat there is an 8-seater photo boat with custom built chairs equipped with gimbal mounts.
- 3 nights at the Pangolin Khwai Camp - All the game drives in Khwai are in the customised game viewers with a maximum of 4 clients per vehicle. Each seat is equipped with a movable, height adjusting, swivelling and padded mount.
- Next to morning and afternoon photographic activities we also concentrate on **night photography**.

Basic course content:

- Knowing your subject and your equipment
- Focussing on the eyes
- Knowing what you want the image to say. Telling a story. Does the photo have *Feeling*?
- Composition: Rule of thirds
- Night Photography, Star-Timelapse
- Using flash: during the day and night!
- Watching the light. What time is good for photography?
- *The little things!* - There's more to wildlife photography than lions
- Patience and perseverance
- Getting the perfect shot in the field (without Photoshop)!
- Mastering birds in flight
- Shooting in manual mode
- And many more tips and tricks!

What is included:

- Airport meet and greet in Kasane • Transfer to The Pangolin Voyager Houseboat • 3 nights on the houseboat on a full board basis • Use of the Pangolin photo boats and all other activities
- Transfer to Kasane International • 3 nights Pangolin Khwai Camp • Twice daily game drives (4 per vehicle) • Night Drives • Mokoro cruise • All meals and drinks • **Charter flights from Kasane – Khwai (Banoka Airstrip) – Maun** • Expert photographic advice and tuition from Hannes Lochner • All park and conservancy fees • Tourism levies

What is not included:

- Gratuities, laundry and items of a personal nature • International flights • Visa Fees if applicable



Itinerary

Day 1 - 4

There is no better way to explore the Chobe River than on board of the The Pangolin Voyager. This spectacular houseboat travels along the meandering rivers of the Zambezi and Chobe Rivers in northern Botswana and the Namibian Caprivi strip.

You will spend the first three nights on one of the beautifully decorated, air conditioned, en-suite cabins and spend the days exploring the river in the custom built photo boats. Hannes and Noa will be on hand to assist you as we navigate up and down the river looking for photo opportunities. The Chobe is famous for its water based photography and you will have plenty of opportunity to photograph large herds of elephants (sometimes crossing the river) as well as hippos and crocodiles. There also are numerous bird species. Of particular interest are the African Skimmers which arrive in the Chobe around the time you will be with us.

All the meals are lovingly prepared by the chefs and served on the middle deck in the lounge area which also doubles as the media centre for post-production sessions.

Day 4 - 7

On the fourth day you will disembark the houseboat after breakfast and head to Kasane airport where you will board your charter flight to the Khwai Private Reserve. This flight takes approximately an hour and when you land you will be met by our team from the Pangolin Khwai Camp.

The twice daily game drives in the Khwai are in the customised game viewers with a maximum of 4 clients per vehicle. This allows everyone to photograph down the same side of the vehicle and have plenty of room to store camera bags with extra lenses and bodies within easy reach if required.

During your time in Khwai you will be able to experience a trip down the river on a Mokoro – a traditional dug-out canoe. Your “poler” will push you through the reeds and water lilies in near silence which is a great way to experience the ecosystem but also get very close to the plains game that inhabit the river’s edge. This experience is the quintessential Okavango Delta activity.

At the end of the photographic safari you will fly back to Maun from the Banoka airstrip.



Accommodation



The Pangolin Voyager Houseboat

This unique Houseboat journeys along the Chobe and Zambezi Rivers hosting guests in absolute luxury and comfort as you drift gently through one of the most game rich environments in Africa. Accommodation is located on the bottom deck comprising five spacious en-suite air-conditioned cabins, (shower, basin, and toilet).

Middle deck consists of a private lounge with a small reference library, communal dining area, open galley (kitchen), Captains Bridge and viewing deck.

Top deck or the viewing deck has seating area to leisurely sip sundowners, catch up on some supreme birding, or stretch out in the sun on one of the sun loungers. In the evenings this top viewing deck becomes prime position to familiarize ones self with the African stars.

The new Photographic boats we will be using are by far the most rewarding in terms of easy of use and maneuverability. The swivel chairs rotate a full 360 degrees and paired with a custom gimbal head makes light work of your heavy cameras and lenses.



The Pangolin Khwai Camp

This private camp comprises a maximum of 7 large double tents all with ensuite bathrooms and showers. The beds are made up with top class linen and blankets on proper beds to assure you of a great nights sleep listening to the sounds of nature all around you.

The central area of the camp consists of a dining area, lounge and a sunken lounge which leads out to the fire.



As a photo centric camp there is a dedicated area set aside for the purposes of editing. This comprises of a large table around which all guests can sit, as well as plenty of plug points for charging laptops and batteries, and a large screen on which to do presentations and workshops.

Please note that the Pangolin Khwai Camp is undergoing an extensive refurbishment at the moment. The images shown here is an artist impression of the camp as it will be upon opening.



About Hannes Lochner

Hannes Lochner is an internationally awarded photographer who has been photographing wildlife professionally since 2007. He has always been fascinated by the arid regions of southern Africa, and the Kalahari was on top of his list. Hannes has produced four magnificent photographic books, three of which were dedicated entirely to the Kalahari. To achieve this, he lived in the Kalahari for five years, where he spent hundreds of hours capturing inspiring images of this captivating landscape and its enigmatic inhabitants. Wherever he goes he is accompanied by wildlife film maker and life partner **Noa Köfler**.

He now brings his dedicated approach and creative talents to Botswana's Okavango Delta in Planet Okavango, having lived there for two and a half years and committing his every waking moment to his photography. Hannes has been recognised internationally, receiving several awards over the years - from the prestigious BBC's Veolia Wildlife Photographer of the Year, to the Nature's Best Awards competitions. Also, a great number of his photos and articles have been published in both national South African press and in well-known international publications as for example National Geographics Magazine.

Hannes has an extraordinary talent for composition and his wizardry with light allows him to create photographs that communicate the essence of the animals and landscapes telling their story. It is his passion for the art that enables him to stand out as a master in an era where photography has become everyman's game. It is his mastery of the art that enables him to continually create photographic volumes that one simply can't overlook.

