



BELMOND
SAFARIS
BOTSWANA

BELMOND SAFARIS INTRODUCES: ‘STARS, SAPIENS AND SAND,’ A NEW EXPERT-LED PHILOSOPHICAL VOYAGE

JULY 2023 - Eagle Island Lodge in the heart of the Okavango Delta and Savute Elephant Lodge in a remote corner of the Chobe Desert, both Belmond Safaris, launch inaugural experiences by specialist safari guide and anthropological researcher Paul Sheller for an enlightening rediscovery of the night sky and humanity's connection to it. In the pristine wilderness of the Botswana bushveld, guests are invited to reconnect with the natural world on this exclusive four-night luxury safari and delve into the lost language of the stars.

Under the vast dark skies of Botswana's wild landscapes, Belmond's two perfectly positioned safari lodges provide the setting for Paul Sheller to share his passion for archaeology, geology and astronomy, as well as knowledge gained from his rare and intimate relationship with Kalahari bushman communities. Sheller will shed light on the significance of local sites of special interest: pristine rock paintings which chart a world before us; the sacred UNESCO World Heritage site of Tsodilo Hills; and the dry plains of the Kalahari teeming with wildlife - which are appreciated from the air during a breathtaking helicopter journey that soars low over the Okavango Delta.

"Reflecting on the experiences I had during my time with traditional bushmen, and underscoring our differences in world perspectives, I'll be weaving in some of the history, geology, anthropology and mythology of Botswana that was shared with me about the stars. I hope guests will take this carefully tailored Belmond Safari experience and the harmonised relationship that the bushmen have with the wild and find their own connection with the beauty of the natural world," says Sheller.

FROM SUPERNOVAS TO SAPIENS

Unbelievably, most elements in our bodies have travelled through at least one supernova. This staggering revelation is just one of the astonishing truths that Sheller will delve into, creating further connections between humans and the universe. Tracing the journey from stars to soil, then to animals and man – all within the context of Botswana's majestic landscapes and wildlife, Sheller will lead guests on a thought-provoking exploration of the cosmos.

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MOUNT NELSON

A BELMOND HOTEL
CAPE TOWN

Paul will venture back millions of years and establish how tectonic activity paved the creation of the Kalahari Basin, Lake Makgadikgadi and, much later, the Okavango Delta. Thanks to the concentration of essential nutrients, the Delta has one of the highest wildlife concentrations in Southern Africa. These nutrients are part of a harmonious life cycle that secures biodiversity.

HARMONIOUS HUMANITY, AN ANCIENT APPROACH

Unearthing age-old ways of living, a one-hour private helicopter ride from Eagle Island Lodge gives guests the opportunity to admire the rocky Tsodilo Hills, rising dramatically out of the flat Kalahari plains. Home to one of the largest concentrations of Bushman rock art in the world, mapping out life as it was 20,000 years ago. Pivotal to this journey is the company of both Sheller and an indigenous guide from either the Ju/'hoansi or Hambukushu tribe, both of whom will add rare and authentic insight into how early man arrived in this part of the world and how plants and animals have adapted to life on the Delta through time.

Fuelled by a delicious brunch, guests will depart for Savute Elephant Lodge, in the Chobe Desert. Here, Sheller shares a deeply rooted philosophy of the Kalahari bushmen, who have adapted their own existence to be in harmony with nature's law, rather than changing or removing natural surroundings for human life. Intimately in tune with nature, the bushmen's approach underpins conservation and probes the sustainability of humanity's existence.

As Chobe is endowed with some of the darkest skies in the southern hemisphere, guests will be drawn closer than ever into the cosmos. Using his state-of-the-art telescopes, Sheller will shine a light on Jupiter, the four Galilean moons, and the Andromeda Galaxy, some 2.5 million light years away.

With boat trips along the Delta, sumptuous island lunches, mesmerising sundowners beneath ancient baobab trees and captivating star shows, this illuminating experience is totally unique to Belmond guests, who are invited to find a deeper connection through the abundant wildlife of Botswana, its ancient past and to the universe at large.

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MOUNT NELSON

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Images of Belmond Safaris, Northern Botswana can be [downloaded here](#)

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PRICE

1st April-31st May 2023, from \$7860 per person sharing

1st June-30th September 2023, from \$8930 per person sharing

Minimum 2 people, maximum of 12 people. Children from 6 years and older, 3rd person rate sharing and child rate applies. Includes all flights to/from Maun, accommodation, meals.

RATE INCLUDES

Four nights' safari at Eagle Island Lodge and Savute Elephant Lodge, fully inclusive of meals, local beverages and all activities included in the package. Light aircraft flights from/to Maun and between the lodges, departure taxes and national park fees in Botswana, VAT and taxes.

ABOUT PAUL SELLER

Paul was born in America, raised in Europe and has spent the majority of his life in Africa. He says he's an American by birth, a European by culture and an African by choice. He came to Botswana in the 1970s and worked as a Bushman Survey Officer in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. He co-owned a safari camp in Maun, led expeditions across Africa and became Director of Ngami Data Services, a geographic information services company that produced maps of Botswana's national parks. He currently owns Red Roan Ltd, a Maun-based company providing local businesses with electronic information solutions. As an experienced tour guide, he specialises in Kalahari trips, Bushman culture and astronomy presentations.

ABOUT EAGLE ISLAND LODGE, A BELMOND SAFARI

Eagle Island Lodge is the ultimate Okavango Delta water-experience-focused safari lodge. It is one of Botswana's original safari lodges, perched on a private island encircled by some of the deepest stretches of the Okavango Delta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The lodge is decorated to reflect an explorer's base. Design highlights in the twelve spacious deluxe tented rooms include oversized beds with views of the delta, large outdoor decks with a vista, private plunge pools, luxurious bathrooms with large tubs, outdoor showers, a relaxation and reading nook, and walk-in wardrobes. Public areas include a stylish dining area with a pizza oven, a lounge area with an artisan-style bar, a library, a separate campfire area and the Fish Eagle Bar which is located directly on the water.

ABOUT SAVUTE ELEPHANT LODGE, A BELMOND SAFARI

Belmond Savute Elephant Lodge has been designed to immerse guests in the untamed natural surroundings of the Savute region of the Chobe Desert, made famous by explorers such as David Livingstone. It's here that the mysterious Savute Channel ebbs and flows in front of the lodge, seemingly at whim, however whether wet or dry, there's always a rich drama of animal antics to enjoy from the elevated vantage point of the lodge. Boasting 12 luxurious tented rooms with spacious terraces and canopied daybeds, the lodge is perfectly positioned to watch majestic beasts saunter by. The airy lounge is a convivial space for reading, playing board games or absorbing the views. The serene swimming pool and viewing hide overlook the Savute Channel and watering hole, offering front-row seats to view the action as elephants, hyenas and leopards gather for their daily drink. The spa tent offers African-inspired therapies with al fresco views. At night gather around the campfire under the magical star-studded skies.

ABOUT BELMOND

Belmond has been a pioneer of luxury travel for over 45 years, building a passion for authentic escapes into a portfolio of one-of-a-kind experiences in some of the world's most inspiring destinations.

Since the acquisition of the iconic Hotel Cipriani in Venice in 1976, Belmond has continued to perpetuate the legendary art of travel, taking discerning global travellers on breathtaking journeys. Its portfolio extends across 24 countries with 50 remarkable properties that include the illustrious Venice Simplon-Orient-Express train, remote beach retreats like Cap Juluca in Anguilla, Italian hideaways such as Splendido in Portofino, or unrivalled gateways to world natural wonders such as Hotel das Cataratas inside Brazil's Iguazu National Park. From trains to river barges, safari lodges to hotels, each unique property offers an incomparable experience with its own story to tell. The essence of the Belmond brand is built upon its heritage, craftsmanship and genuine, authentic service. Belmond sees its role as custodians of timeless heritage, dedicated to preserving its assets through sensitive ongoing restoration plans. Belmond is part of the world's leading luxury group LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton.

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