

## Be Guided by the Best

We Believe That an Exceptional Safari Requires an Exceptional Guide.

We were founded in 2006 by professional local Zimbabwean guide, Beks Ndlovu. As we grew from the ground up, Beks prioritized the inherent value of our guides who continue to remain the driving force behind African Bush Camps (ABC) today. Our guides are trained, knowledgeable locals who love to share their passion and wisdom about the bush with guests.

At ABC, you will be guided by the very best and experience Africa through local eyes - making us the home of the authentic safari. To consistently cultivate this knowledge and enthusiasm, we host an annual Guide Training Program. Here, our guides are united by the same passion:



*“To Share and Conserve Africa, Together.”*

## Our Guide Training Program

Every year since 2016, we host ten days of intensive guide training in Zimbabwe’s Hwange National Park and Botswana’s Linyanti Reserve. Our Guide Training Program (which usually takes place in January or February) is a huge undertaking, as all our camps are closed to guests for its duration.

Upon arrival, guides are split into groups of six or seven, led by one of our head guides or senior professional guides. The training includes both practical and theory modules, an advanced first aid refresher course, and an advanced shooting course.

Our guides practice how to safely approach elephants and other wildlife on foot, assessing viability of approach by using wind direction and natural structures. Guides lead walks to demonstrate their knowledge, while their team members contribute and elaborate, facilitating rapid learning through shared information.

**During practical training, emphasis is placed on:**

- Track identification
- Aging techniques
- Tracking
- Safely approaching wildlife on foot
- Shooting
- Astronomy
- Tree identification
- Birding



### **First Aid**

The Zimbabwe Guides Association and Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife require that all guides undergo advanced first aid training every two years. At ABC, we ensure guides attend a yearly practical first aid course. Within the Program, mock scenarios are conducted unexpectedly to test their emergency response skills and ability to administer aid.

### **Shooting**

By law, professional guides in Zimbabwe must carry their own rifles on walks, so it is imperative that our guides are fully competent with their rifles. Rifle care, handling, and safety are strongly reiterated throughout the Program.

During rifle shooting practice, each guide shoots multiple rounds (supplied by ABC). They will also be placed in 'real life' scenarios, where time and accuracy are recorded. For example, an electric machine pulls a moving target at speed towards the guide, who is expected to make the perfect shot placement.



**Theoretical modules are presented by expert external lecturers. These include:**

- Ornithology
- Conservation
- History and Culture
- Geology
- Biology

### **Mentorship Program**

Within our mentorship program, every guide is paired with a senior guide, who provides mentorship, inspiration, and motivation throughout the year to maintain the momentum and learnings from the annual Guide Training Program.

Although intensive, our Guide Training Program is fun and uplifting. Over the years, we have seen significant improvements in our guides' knowledge, confidence, expertise, and professionalism. We are proud of their achievements and ongoing enthusiasm to learn, which ultimately benefits our guests. This is why at ABC, we can confidently say that you will

*Be Guided by the Best.*

## ABCF Female Guide Program

In 2021, we launched the Female Guides Program through our African Bush Camps Foundation (ABCF) with the aim of spearheading change in the safari industry by empowering women and championing gender equality.

ABCF's vision is to have female guides in all three countries in which we operate and to develop more varied talent in our business and the safari industry at large. Women from local communities have the opportunity to be trained in the travel, tourism, and hospitality sectors: no previous experience is required.

This program comprises a two-year curriculum that is based on theory, practical work, and on-the-job learning.



### Aspiring guides learn critical skills such as:

- Tracking
- Conservation
- Safe guiding practices
- Photography
- Natural history
- Communication studies
- Mokoro

Our ABCF Female Guides Program creates viable, close-to-home employment prospects while diversifying the largely male-dominated safari industry. In July 2022, we launched our second cohort of female guides in Botswana with a new intake of three female guides. By 2030, we aspire for 25% of our guides to be women. Supporting equal opportunity ensures that we are promoting excellence, and our guests will continue to Be Guided by the Best.



# Meet Some of Our Guides:



**CALVET NKOMO**  
'MABHOTSHA'

Head Guide  
(Qualified: 2004)  
Hwange National Park



**MARIET MASHONGANYIKA**  
'MASH'

Head Guide  
(Qualified: 2001)  
Mana Pools National Park



**BIHELANG KASALE**  
'DUTCH'

Head Guide  
(Qualified: 2008)  
Botswana



**POWER MUPUNGA**  
'PAPA MIKE'

Head Guide  
(Qualified: 2008)  
Bumi Hills



**PHILLIP MASULE**  
'COOL PHILL'

Head Guide  
(Qualified: 2002)  
Zambia



**BAEMULE SEITUKA**  
'BAE'

ABCF Female Guide  
(Qualified: 2023)  
Atzaró Okavango Camp

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