

Wildtrack Safaris

ECO LODGE

 CHOBE | BOTSWANA

About Wildtrack Safaris Eco Lodge

“Wildtrack Safaris offers you ecological friendly accommodation and many exciting tours in Chobe National Park, Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe – and the timeless, majestic scenery of the Victoria Falls”

Wildtrack Safaris Eco Lodge - a family dream ten years in the making came to fruition in 2015. After some time of research and looking at global trends, it became evident that the need existed for more self-sustaining eco lodges in Botswana. This need stems from the fact that the country has few precious resources – which thus need to be conserved and used wisely. It, furthermore, became clear that global tourists are showing an increased interest in supporting such establishments. In fact, a recent survey conducted by ‘Tourism Concern’ in the United Kingdom, indicated that 96% of travelers stated they would rather stay in an environmentally responsible resort – than a five star property (*Reference – Botswana Ecotourism Best Practices Manual*). With these factors in mind, a decision was made to go “Green”.

Wildtrack Safaris Eco Lodge is situated in Botswana, located near the village of Pandamatenga, in the beautiful Chobe region, with the lodge bordering Zimbabwe’s Hwange National Park. Botswana has diverse areas of wildlife habitat – In addition to the delta and desert areas; there are grasslands and savannas, where Lion, large concentrations of Zebra, Eland, Blue Wildebeest, antelopes, other mammals and birds are found. Northern Botswana also has one of the few remaining large populations of the endangered Wild Dog, as well as being famous for having the world’s largest concentration of Elephants.

The lodge comprises of eleven luxury, thatched suites – along with a bar, lounge, and dining area. The swimming pool and boma overlook a lit waterhole often frequented by Elephant, Lion and numerous other mammals. The lush tree-filled lawns alongside, lend themselves to lying back, relaxing and star-gazing at night. Guest activities on offer include two daily game drives, guided bush walks, tours to Chobe and Hwange National Parks, as well as interactive tours within the community of Pandamatenga, allowing guests the opportunity to contribute towards ongoing community enrichment programs.

Minimising impact to the environment

BUILDING

During construction, no heavy machinery was brought to the site; thus limiting impact not only through transportation, but also limiting the need to use fossil fuels.

The entire lodge was designed to replicate traditional Motswana style buildings. Natural elements were used in the design of the lodge, such as rock, wood, grass and stone. This combined with using traditional building methods, ensured minimal impact to the environment. All the rooms were built to allow as much natural lighting in – minimizing the need for artificial lighting. The design of the rooms allowed for trees to be left un-spoilt, with outdoor showers built incorporating them – furthermore enhancing guests experience, through ‘Bringing nature indoors’.



"Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect man." - Stewart Udall

POWER

- The entire lodge is off the National grid and is electrified using only solar power, connected to an inverter and batteries. A back-up generator is used only in extreme situations.
- All our globes are low wattage, ranging from 1.3 Watt to a maximum of 20 Watt, being the spotlight at the waterhole. In fact, each rooms lighting (including bedside lamps and outside lighting) amounts to only 18.5 Watts. This means that if all eleven units are lit simultaneously, the total Wattage would amount to 203.5 Watts – This equates to using two 100w old style bulbs.
- All rooms are equipped with low wattage fans, avoiding the need for air conditioning.
- All our fridges and freezers are ENERGY A++, using 112kWh/annum
- All our geysers are completely solar powered. Each unit has two geysers, connected in series – thus allowing for hot water to be available at all times.
- Kitchen appliances were sourced to ensure low power consumption at all times (Kettles and microwaves are not used)
- Stoves, ovens, and fryers operate on gas



"The greenest power, is the power you don't have to produce" – Unknown

WATER

- As water is our most precious resource, being on the fringe of the Kalahari Desert, much focus has been given to conserving it. All our water is pumped from a borehole at the Lodge – which is safe for human consumption.
- 'Eco Smart' Taps have been used throughout the lodge. These mixers use up to 60% less water, amounting to approximately 5 liters per minute, which way exceeds the Eco Standard requirements of a maximum 10 liters per minute.

"Thousands have lived without love, but not one without water" - W.H. Auden

WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT

- All effluent and grey water generated by the lodge passes through a four chamber purification system "The Gem"; a unique mini-biological plant, which uses anaerobic, ozonation and aeration processes to return safe water to the environment. This system does not require any chemicals, and consumes minimal power to operate.
- All chemicals, soaps and detergents used within the lodge are biodegradable, and where possible, packaged in recycled materials.

WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING

- All wet waste generated in the kitchens, is composted at the lodge, and used to fertilize our herb and vegetable gardens – as well as a community garden, based in the village.
- Other refuse, such as glass, paper, tin and plastic is sorted into different bins – for collection and recycling purposes.



"I don't want to protect the environment; I want to create a world where the environment doesn't need protecting" – Unknown

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Wildtrack Safaris Eco Lodge aims to employ and train members from the local community, thus empowering and enabling employees to grow within their specific fields, furthermore imparting the knowledge gained with others within the community.
- The curio shop will have a variety of locally crafted produced arts and crafts.
- The youth within the community will interact with guests through traditional dancing and music at the lodge.
- A community garden in the village has been acquired, and community members are encouraged to participate in growing produce and maintaining the garden. Produce harvested is then bought by the lodges in the area – the profits of which are returned to other ongoing projects within the community.
- Other projects envisaged are assisting with the building of a new school in the village, as well as creating sustainable gardens – providing food for those in need.
- Wildtrack Safaris Eco Lodge will be working in close collaboration with AAS (Anglo-American School) Ambassadors, Moscow, Russia – as well as with Project Humanity, United States - actively participating in their fundraising and community outreach programs in Pandamatenga.



"A fundamental concern for others in our individual and community lives would go a long way in making the world the better place we so passionately dreamt of." – Nelson Mandela