

Safari to Mana Pools, Zimbabwe

This was our 22nd safari. We had a great time at Little Vundu. We were greeted by the famous elephant "Boswell". We approached Boswell safely on foot with our professional guide Nic Polenakis. It's really thrill to see Boswell stand up on his back legs and pull down tree branches.

We were very fortunate to see the Vundu pack of Painted Wolves on two occasions. This was primarily due to the exceptional efforts of the Vundu guides. Our visit was at the den sight. We sat at a distance and watch the 10 adults begin to become active as the sun was setting. We were able to watch their greeting behavior and then began to get ready to hunt. We saw the tip of one pups head but the pups appeared to be seating very close to the den...

We returned in the late afternoon to sleeping dogs. We settled in on the ground and watched as the temperatures cooled and the adults became active. We observed some amazing greeting behavior. A scrum of 10 dogs flying in the air and rolling over each other. Speechless! Finally the pups came out from under the tree and our small group was able to take the first photos of the newest Dynasty of these amazing Painted Wolves.

We then saw the adult dogs take off after an impala. The chase ended quickly. The guides consensus was that they did not want to chase too far off from the unprotected pups. Lucky Impala. The dogs all returned and greeted the pups and then turned around and took off after another impala. Same result - the hunt was quickly aborted.

The camp and the food were fine. The camp crew and chef were a pleasure to be with. We did a couple of barbeques. It was great fun.

Vundu Main Camp is more upscale than Little Vundu. We really didn't care. We were just happy to be guest on this stunning concession.

Nick and Des Murray are doing a great job protecting this fragile environment. We enjoyed an enlightening dinner in their company. We received the first hand story of the BBC production and all the updates to the 5 new pups. Their passion for Mana Pools is contagious.

Mike and Wendy Maloon, Sep 2019