

## 12-DAY ZIMBABWE – “EYES ON ELEPHANT”

Exclusive Group Safari to Hwange and Mana Pools National Parks

**DEPARTURE: JULY 2, 2020**

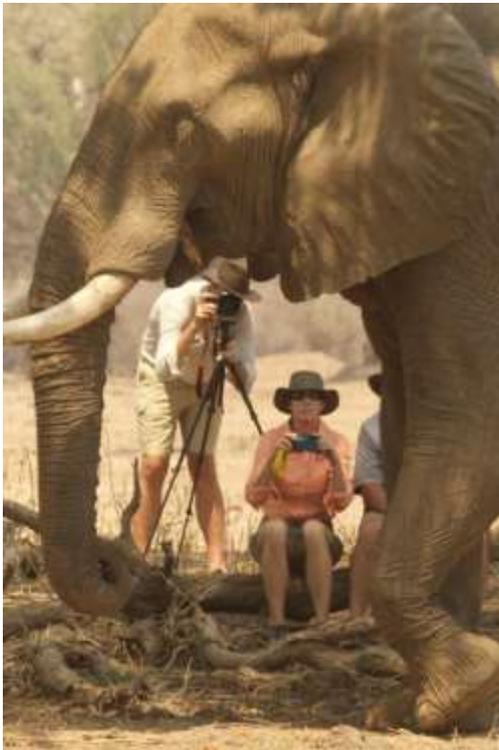
**Program highlights:**

- ❑ This is a Signature safari highlighting the extraordinary guides in Zimbabwe.
- ❑ Operates as an exclusive group with up to 6 people per departure.
- ❑ We have combined the top wildlife areas of Hwange and Mana Pools.
- ❑ Take game drives in open vehicle, and enjoy active walking and canoeing in Mana Pools.
- ❑ Accommodations are in two permanent tented camps.
- ❑ **This trip is fully escorted by AAC’s President – Mark Nolting.**
- ❑ **Donation to Hwange Conservation and Wildlife Trust and Mana Bushlife Conservancy included.**

**12-Day Zimbabwe - 'Eyes on Elephant' - 2020 Departure**



JULY 2020	Destination	Accommodation
2	Fly USA – Johannesburg	Travel
3	Johannesburg	InterContinental Johannesburg O.R. Tambo Airport Hotel
4	Fly Johannesburg – Victoria Falls Scheduled charter to Hwange	Camp Hwange
5	Hwange	Camp Hwange
6	Hwange	Camp Hwange
7	Hwange	Camp Hwange
8	Schedule charter Mana Pools Afternoon activity	Vundu Camp
9	Mana Pools	Vundu Camp
10	Mana Pools	Vundu Camp
11	Mana Pools	Vundu Camp
12	Fly Mana Pools – Harare – JNB - USA	Travel
13	USA	



## **PRIVATE GUIDES ON YOUR SAFARI**

### **Professional Guide – Dave Carson**

Born and raised in Zimbabwe, David Carson was lucky to find his chosen profession by chance and embarked on becoming a Professional Guide. Zimbabwe has the most rigorous wilderness guide training on the continent. Licensed guides are well-versed in botany, zoology, ornithology, entomology, current world affairs, tracking, and the ability to come up with a plan for almost any problem encountered in the bush. If you ask him he will tell you that it was the greatest four years, as there were many adventures and a life time of stories.

David now spends almost all of his time guiding safaris into remote areas that he considers his back yard. In Southern Africa this encompasses, Hwange National Park, Matusadona and Mana Pools in Zimbabwe, and Moremi, Savuti, and Chobe in Botswana. Dave's great love of his country is infectious and his wonderful sense of humor for even the most harrowing experiences will have you hanging on every word. His passion for getting out on foot is insatiable, with his favorite tracking black rhinos!

### **Professional Guide - Nick Murray**

Nick attended high school in Zimbabwe and university in South Africa where he graduated with a degree in Zoology. He has guided throughout Zimbabwe and has toured in Mozambique, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Tanzania. He is experienced in wildlife management, Game Ranching and Game Capture. From 1995-1998 he was a freelance guide in various lodges and camps in the Kariba, Hwange, and Mana Pools areas. He also served as an examiner/observer on the board for the Professional Guides proficiency test. Nick will personally guide you on a journey down the Zambezi River in Mana Pools National Park. Mana Pools is a world heritage site and one of the most beautiful parks in Africa. Walking and canoeing amongst the elephants is an experience like no other.



**Dave Carson**



**Nick Murray**

## **Mark Nolting Owner and President**

Mark Nolting is the author of "Africa's Top Wildlife Countries" and "African Safari Field Guide", a testament to our level of expertise and dedication to giving you up-to-date information.

Born in Minneapolis, grew up and educated in Florida, Mark founded The Africa Adventure Company in 1986 after spending 2 years traveling through 16 countries, from Cairo to Cape Town, gathering material for his books and establishing contacts with safari companies and tour guides. Mark offers exceptional knowledge of traveling within Southern and East Africa and excels in matching clients to both luxury and adventure; and with guides he has known in the safari industry for many, many years!

Hard to find information on Africa is always at his fingertips and he serves as a top expert on panels for Travel+Leisure and Condé Nast Traveler. Mark has essentially covered the African continent in his journeys, and continues to travel often to update information and explore new areas. Mark most recently traveled to Uganda and Botswana (2019), the Virungas in the Congo (Sep 2017), Kenya and Tanzania in 2016, South Africa and Botswana (Jul 2015), Tanzania (Nov 2014) and the Private Reserves of South Africa (Kwande and Tswalu) in May 2014.

His July 2018 trip was visiting Zimbabwe with his wife, Alison, and tracking elephant and wild dog and canoeing the Zambezi in Mana Pools and exploring the Malilangwe Reserve and staying at the spectacular Singita Pamushana Lodge.

The Omo River trips in Ethiopia are still some of his favorite remote adventures. Further previous trips were in the Selous and Serengeti in Tanzania, and the Mara in Kenya, to see many of the new camp openings.

He loves to take the time to talk to people about the many adventures that can be found on the continent.



**Mark and Alison Nolting with Specialist Guide, Nick Murray**





### **Trip Reports:**

First of all, staying at Vundu Camp and having Nick Murray as our guide was the experience of a lifetime. Although the camp is more rustic than the others we stayed at, the overall experience could not be matched-from being 2 feet from an elephant, canoeing among the hippos, crocs and elephants with a birds-eye view of the shore birds along the Zambezi, to tracking lions on foot, finally finding the African wild dogs after 3 days of searching, etc. Nick is an encyclopedia of knowledge about the animals of Mana Pools. Peter, Nick's father-in-law, was delightful to spend time with; the food was delicious and the hospitality so very gracious. The light reflected off the Zambezi in the early mornings was beautiful...and the sunsets were the most gorgeous in the world.

**Tom and Carol Kerr**

The Zimbabwe portion was equally a revelation. You were one hundred percent right in recommending the trip down the river with Nick Murray. Wow. Elephants crossing in front of our canoe, hippos popping up yards away, all kinds of birds and the occasional crocodile -- which we took a nice wide berth to avoid. Once in a lifetime and not for the faint of heart. The first day of the canoe trip we also covered 30 miles, which is apparently what they usually do in two days... so we got to experience the beautiful smaller channels between islands in the Zambezi further down the river. All said though, I think crawling up to wild dogs the first night in Nick's camp was probably our favorite moment of the trip.

Thank you!

**Pepper and Marshall Binkley**

Dave's enthusiasm and exuberance are infectious. If he could take you out at 5 am and stay out till midnight everyday, he would. He does not believe in sundowners- why waste the best light?! He does not give up. He says, "It's not talent, it's stubbornness!" I think that he is the best bush guide I have ever had.

**Ann Swinford**