



Dear Friends

Welcome to the second edition of our Nature Explorer newsletter. I'm very excited to be heading back to Southern Africa for a few months in the bush. I will be leading several safaris across the region, visiting South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe. It's also a great chance to visit family and friends and spend some quality time in the bush with my wife, checking out some new places and enjoying more familiar ones.

August and October will have us visiting the world-renowned Kruger National Park and some of the adjacent private Game Reserves.

On these private safaris we get to explore the vastness and diversity of Kruger and enjoy some intimate private lodges where we can get up close and personal with some of the big cats. We will visit luxury lodges in the Sabi Sands and Thornybush Game Reserves.

In September a three-week birding safari will have us travelling through some of the best birding and wildlife spots in Southern Africa. We will explore the pristine Central Kalahari Game Reserve to look for some of the arid zone birds and other unique wildlife in this picturesque reserve.



In contrast we head for the lush floodplains of the Khwai River and Moremi Game Reserve next - a superb area for waterbirds and large mammals.

We'll explore the Okavango Delta, spending a day out on the water, poling our way quietly on Mekoros (dugout canoes) in search of some of the stunning and elusive birds of this aquatic paradise. This is a great way to try spot the colourful but tiny Malachite Kingfisher or the majestic but shy Pel's Fishing Owl (left).

One of the many highlights will be spending a few days in the western Caprivi region in Namibia, along the banks of the Kavango River before it flows into Botswana and toward the Delta. This area has a bird list of an incredible 420 species and we should be rewarded with many great sightings. Further East we visit the Chobe River area, teeming with elephants and hippos and a great diversity of water and woodland birds. Travelling by small boat we will be able to explore some of the narrow channels and islands of this great river.

## What's News

Have you checked out **Explore Nature's Facebook page?**

- Here we will post exciting news and photos from the bush



### 2013 Safaris:

- September: We're taking enquiries for a safari in the wildflower haven of Namaqualand and the pristine arid Kalahari. Starting in Cape Town this will have a strong birding and wildflower focus.
- July: Uganda – a safari visiting some of the best wildlife spots in Uganda and of course looking for gorillas and other primates
- [Email](#) or [contact](#) Martin for details

We end our safari at the Victoria Falls, where the mighty Zambezi River flows over an ancient fault creating this natural wonder. The Victoria Falls is flanked by a pocket of rainforest, providing yet another habitat for us to seek some new birds to add to our sightings.



Other areas to be visited this year will be the massive Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (straddling Botswana and South Africa) and Madikwe Game Reserve. The Kgalagadi, one of the largest conservation areas in the world, is renowned for its stunning Kalahari landscapes, desert-adapted antelope, black-maned lions and birds of prey. Can't wait to spend a week exploring some of the dry riverbeds, dunes and valleys of this vast wilderness.

From there it's off to Madikwe Game Reserve, a few hundred kilometres west of Pretoria. This great park was founded just over 20 years ago through a partnership between the government, the private sector and local communities. This malaria free reserve helps uplift the surrounding areas and offers superb gameviewing, breathtaking landscapes and intimate luxury lodges. A number of lodges are suited for families (even with young children), while others cater for couples.

There will no doubt be a lot to write about at the end of this safari season. Those on Facebook will also be able to see some of the exciting updates and pictures before then.

Cheers for now, Martin

What we offer		
<p><b>Special Interest Safaris</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Join a group of like-minded travellers on a special interest safari guided by Martin. Check website for upcoming safaris or email.</li> <li>July 2013 – Primates and other wildlife of Uganda</li> <li>Sept 2013 - The Kalahari and Namaqualand - enjoying the mammals, birds and wildflowers.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Private guided safaris</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private guided safaris are meticulously planned and personally led by Martin to ensure you have a superb safari experience.</li> <li>These are tailor made to suit your needs and expectations – anything is possible.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Booking Agent</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For those not wanting a privately guided safari we can share our expert knowledge to plan and book a trip of a lifetime.</li> <li>There are options available for a range of budgets and accommodation styles.</li> </ul>
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