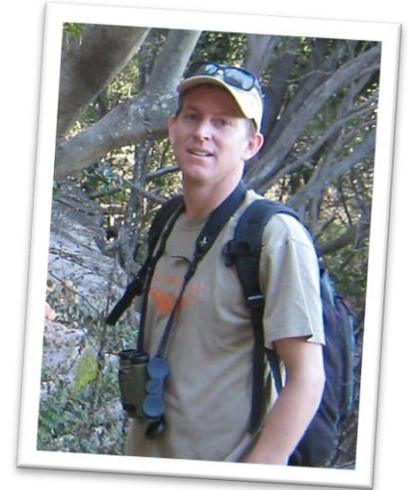


Dear Friends

Well, it's that time of year again. The winter safari season is underway and I've just returned to Africa. It's been a great and busy time guiding wildlife tours in Australia, but time now to head back into the bush in Southern Africa.

It's a privilege to be able to spend my time between the two continents and to be able to share some wonderful wildlife experiences with fellow travellers.

This year will have Explore Nature leading an expedition through the wildflower haven of Namaqualand, looking for big (and small) cats in the Kalahari and marvelling at the vast Namib desert. We'll be birding in Kruger National Park and Zululand and heading up to some great national parks in Zimbabwe.



What's News

2014 Safaris:

- **August 2014:** The wilds of Botswana and Zimbabwe, a superb safari with the comfort of lodges and luxury tents.
- **September 2014:** A small group camping safari in Southern Africa – experience awesome wildlife, scenery and culture in pristine reserves and beaches
- [Email](#) or [contact](#) Martin for details and rates of these safaris, or for any custom made travel you may be planning
- Keep up to date with exciting news and photos from the African bush by visiting **Explore Nature's Facebook page**



Namaqualand is synonymous with wild flowers and we will spend a week exploring this usually arid region which bursts with life and colour during the spring. Part of this time will be camping wild on the remote and rugged northern Cape coast.



Further inland we visit the Augrabies Falls. Apart from the beauty of this stretch of the Orange River, the National Park here is home to a host of rare mammals, like the Hartmann's Mountain Zebra. This oasis in a stark landscape attracts a great diversity of birds.

After this we travel through the vast Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park for five nights. This is one of our favourite parks and is superb for carnivores, both large and small. The avian predators are also well represented with regular sightings of owls, and various other birds of prey, like this Secretary Bird.



The 'Secretary Bird' most likely has its origin from the Arabic name *saqr-et-tair* meaning Hunter Bird. No allusions to the crest feathers resembling pens in the hair

This cheetah female and her cubs, seen last year in Kgalagadi, were using the vantage of this massive Kalahari sand dune to scan the surrounding plains. After Kgalagadi we cross into Namibia where we explore the intriguing Namib Desert. We soak up the atmosphere at a private campsite in the vast NamibRand Nature Reserve and also visit the World Heritage listed Namib Dune Sea at Sossusvlei, where the towering red dunes stretch to the horizon.



An accommodated birding safari in October will have us traveling to some of the best birding spots in the eastern parts of South Africa. The bird and mammal species lists of these regions are extensive and by exploring a great diversity of habitats over two weeks we hope to observe a reasonable number of them.

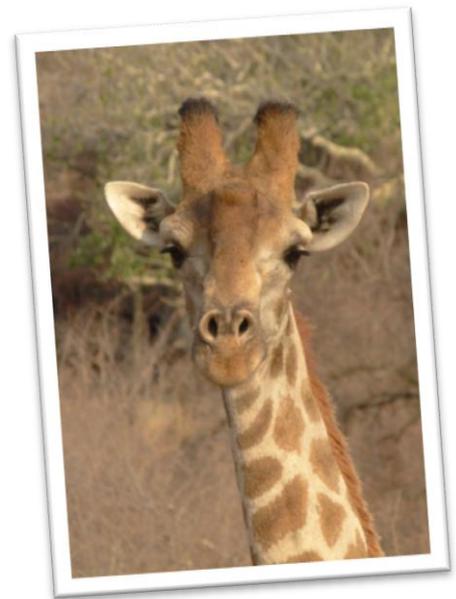
Also on the cards this season will be a family gathering in the Kruger National Park and surrounding private reserves. Immediate family of my wife and I from South Africa and Australia will be getting together for a memorable trip to the bush. We start off in one of the smaller bushveld camps in Kruger and continue on to Thornybush and Sabi Sands Game Reserves. Nothing beats spending quality time in the bush, especially with family and friends.



I will also be heading up to Matopos and Hwange National Parks in Zimbabwe to meet up with old and new friends, and have a look at a few camps we'll be using the coming years. Some of Africa's greatest reserves have become forgotten gems and it's exciting to return to them. Now is the time to visit these great parks while they are still off the radar. It won't be long before they become as popular as some of the other parts of Southern Africa. One tour incorporating these parks is already sold out for July next year, but I'll be leading another safari in August 2014 to explore these amazing and incredibly special areas. More [details here](#) or [contact me](#) now!

Apart from this two week Botswana / Zimbabwe accommodated safari in August, I will also be leading a three week camping safari in September 2014. Combining beach and bush we explore superb wildlife areas and remote beaches in Southern Africa. A truly 'off the beaten track' expedition.

That's it for this edition. There will be photos and stories from our 2013 safaris in the next newsletter later in the year. In the meantime follow us on **facebook** to keep up to date.



Cheers for now
Martin

what we offer

Small Group Safaris

- Aug 2014 – Accommodated Safari through the great parks of Botswana and Zimbabwe. Check website for [details](#) or [email us](#).
- Sep 2014 – Camping expedition to some of the wildest National Parks and beaches in Southern Africa. Contact us for details.

Private guided safaris

- We specialise in private guided safaris to the wilds of Africa
- These are tailor made to suit your needs and expectations – anything is possible!

Booking Agent

- For those not wanting a privately guided safari we can share our expert knowledge to plan and book a trip of a lifetime.
- There are options available for a range of accommodation styles and budgets.

Martin Maderthaner
Explore Nature

www.explorenature.com.au
martin@explorenature.com.au

