



**NATURE
ENCOUNTERS**
TOURS & TRAVEL LTD.

The Delta, The Zambezi and More! Safari Reports from Carol Petersen

The Best of Botswana–Sept. 2003

Botswana, Where in the world can you, in one day, watch a dust devil (sand tornado) engulf a waterhole and then cruise in your mokoro through winding waterways? Such is Botswana! Our group spent 3 weeks in this diversified land starting with Nxai Pan, giant baobabs, Oryx, zebra, migrating wildebeest and elephants



pushing lions off their kill – exactly who is the king of beasts?! Such a distraction as we were then off to the extreme opposite – the Okavango Delta – and all it has to offer. Walking on tiny islands, mokoring through the reeds and papyrus, visiting local villages and learning how to dance Setswana style were just some of our “wet activities”. Off to some of the grasslands and cats galore –



even some of the small cats made themselves available to us on night drives – Serval and African Wild Cat. The only way to top this diversity is to spend time on the Chobe River in northeastern Botswana watching elephant cross with only their trunks in view. Some carried on the train through Zimbabwe to Joberg, some visited the marvelous Garden Route in South Africa and me I’m off to Zimbabwe

Endangered Species Trail - Sept. 2003

Zimbabwe . . . some cringe at the thought of traveling to this wonderful land – of course hearing the media reports doesn’t make it too enticing. So let’s ask our intrepid group of 8 what they had to say. . Most described their time



on the Zambezi River in Mana Pools NP as one of the highlights of their entire lives – which speaks wonders, as one of our gang was a young 86 years of age! We were treated to an amazing canoe trip –



led by my pal and expert guide Garth Thompson. Our safari included about a billion (ok maybe not a billion) elephant – some big bulls close enough to touch – those little point and shoot’s got “eyeball” images – WOW! “Chocolate dipped” elephants crossing the river, elephants reaching up on their back legs snacking on scrumptious trees, young elephants testing their trumpeting skills and the best – an elephant dung birthday cake . . . when in Rome You name it – we saw and heard it and all from the comfort of our canoes and incredibly outfitted campsites. From Mana Pools we headed on to Lake Kariba for some rhino tracking, bird watching, sunset viewing and a just plain great time. Next was mighty



Victoria Falls – the smoke that thunders complete with all the shopping one could muster – exactly HOW many necklaces can one buy CB? Off to Botswana for amazing cats – cheetah, lion and leopard – even a few on kills! What an adventure! What a treat!

What an experience!