



**NATURE  
ENCOUNTERS**  
TOURS & TRAVEL LTD.

# The Delta, The Grasslands & The River

## September 2006

By Carol Petersen NETT Owner/Photographer/Tour Leader

It started with a big birthday, a best friend and  
"what do you want to do"?

This was a special trip - shared with old and new friends and fabulous surroundings. We started in the Okavango Delta - with mokoro (dug out canoe)



poler/guides whisking our way through the lily's and reed's looking for Reed Frogs and Sitatunga Antelope. We found many more amazing species - the birding was fabulous with sightings of Wattled Cranes, Malachite Kingfishers and the largest flock of Open Billed Storks I have ever seen! As they lifted off - the sky went black with these unusual creatures.

Our next stop was the grasslands of Botswana where we were treated to elephants galore - often in our camp keeping us from getting for lunch - oh well - you can eat anytime.

These giant lads were feasting on Ilala palm nuts so often the sounds of shaking trees and dropping nuts were heard - day and night!

Cats - did you say cats - oh yes there were a few - a very handsome male lion in the perfect light posed for us for some time and then there was



the illusive leopard - in a tree - with a full moon behind. Magic! Our cheetah sighting started sadly as one was injured - next day she seemed to have recovered much to the groups delight. The crowning glory had to be the wild dog sighting for the group as they were on their way for breakfast. Land Rovers were rockin' and rollin' and the gang hung on as the guides followed these endangered dogs in search of their own breakfast!

Victoria Falls is always an amazing sight and this held true for our visit. It is



hard to imagine what Livingstone must have thought as he came across "the smoke that thunders"! Time was spent white water rafting, flying over the falls and shopping till you dropped - we greatly increased the economy of Zimbabwe.

One of my very favorite places in the world was next - Mana Pools National Park in Zimbabwe. We were treated to the perfect

campsite full of bull elephants checking out our tea table, we walked within yards of a pride of lions with cubs, canoed gently down the Zambezi River marveling at the Carmine Bee Eaters - where does one stop! A truly wonderful way to spend time with a great group of safari-ites - who could ask for more.....

