

Day 6 - Thurs 24th July

We sadly said goodbye to Faulty Towers ready for our next adventure - off to Botswana! Everything seemed to be running smoothly until 'no-man's land' between the two countries - unusually a river crossing across the Zambezi. We jumped off the ferry to discover that Jamie L hadn't had his passport stamped by the border authorities! We quickly jumped back on the ferry to remedy the situation before the passport control discovered the illegal immigrant now in our midst...

The group safely back together, we made tracks across Botswana to our camp at lhaha in Chobe national park, and off for our first game drive! Everything seemed to be going without a hitch... Until one of our safari trucks got a flat tire... And the spare was also flat! With some lateral thinking and help from Joe, we were soon back on the road. Within two hours we had seen giraffes, buffalo, zebra, warthogs, elephants, impalas, jackals, crocodiles and wildebeest, as well as a variety of beautiful birds. Just before heading home, we turned a corner



to find a pack of young lions within metres of our vehicle! We couldn't believe our eyes as we watched them play and attempt to chase a herd of impalas... Jack even managed to take a 'selfie' with one of the lions!



We all had an amazing day and there were many great examples of JOLters helping each other out. The Star of the day was awarded to Jamie L and Chantelle for their consistent helpfulness and positivity throughout the safari and settling up for our first night's camping.

Day 7 - Friday 25th July

Although now getting used to our 0530 wake-ups, we still weren't quite sharp enough to save our sugar bowl from being stolen from under our noses by another cheeky baboon who visited us at breakfast time! Christine established a solid friendship with a toad she found as we packed up... Soon we were back on the road heading for Savuti Plains National Park. Even on the drive over, we were treated to many more zebra, elephant and buffalo sightings to keep us entertained.

After lunch we hoped to head off on our game drive promptly - but a rogue elephant having his own lunch in our camp had other plans! We eventually managed to find a safe route out and set off on our next safari adventure!



The two highlights of our game drive today were a brief sighting of a leopard, and a very exciting scene where a group of rare wild dogs hunted a Kudu which found refuge buried up to the neck in some flooded ground. We felt like we were watching a wildlife documentary!

In the evening we had 'JOLT time' - chance to reflect on our first week together and what we had learned. After such an intense start it was great to take a few minutes to reflect and share our thoughts.

Day 8 - Saturday 26th July

Breakfast this morning was made more interesting by a number of visiting yellow-beaked hornbills - or 'flying banana' as it is known to the locals, by virtue of its curved yellow beak. Jamie E stepped up to protect our food, but the birds were unbothered, continuing their attack and even using his head as a resting perch!

This morning we were off to Moremi, a little further South in Botswana. Our camp was a little more basic than the ones we had previously used, and we had our first experiences with the long-drop or 'bush toilet' - and everyone survived!!

Another amazing day's Safari was rounded off watching the sun set over the Chobe river, with hippos providing entertainment in the foreground... Molly is certainly having plenty of practice at improving her fear of hippos! We had a lovely evening around the campfire, singing songs and eating toasted marshmallows... Bliss!



Day 9 - Sunday 27th July

This was our last morning with the guides who had masterfully negotiated the remote savannah, provided us with some wonderful fireside food and kept us safe checking the surrounding area before we ventured to the loo's at night! Thank you gifts were given by Harvey, Jamie and Rich, introduced by Iain with his chanter!



Back in the safari vehicles we were glad for our JOLT fleeces with a windy and somewhat nippy drive to Audi camp, our next stop. With three meals over the course of the afternoon, posh stilted tents with REAL BEDS and a lovely pool to relax by, it was quite the treat! Yasar especially enjoyed being able to have Halal meat for the first time on the trip. After-dinner entertainment was provided by Jess entertained with her turkey impressions, and Rich with his bandy knee'd giraffe impersonation! For the hefty bet of a dollar, Jack completed a spaghetti challenge - enough to feed a small elephant! We're hoping that if we give him ten dollars he might organise the rest of the trip for us!

After lovely outdoor showers we packed for the next day - off to the Okavango Delta!