

## 2010 Victoria Falls & Botswana

**Tuesday, June 1, 2010**

**Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**



We stayed in the Victoria Falls Hotel, one of the World's Leading Hotels, upon the recommendation of our friend, Brad. It was truly a splendid and opulent accommodation.



Though it was mid-afternoon before we started out, you can imagine that the first thing on our mind was to see the World's Largest Curtain of Water, Victoria Falls is not the tallest nor the widest, but the water falls from the upper plateau to the gorge below over a very wide area. It is listed as one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.



On our way we saw some young warthogs playing their fight mode. There are also plenty of monkeys and baboons.



This is a view of the gorge after the waterfall. The center plateau is Zambia. The Zambezi River forms the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia. You will note a bridge in the upper left that goes from Zimbabwe to Zambia.



Upon arrival at the falls, one of the first sights is this statue of Dr. Livingstone, who was the first European to discover the falls. He named them after the queen, Victoria Falls. Then as you walk upstream, one sees the Zambezi River just before it enters the falls. One may see baboons walking on the sidewalk near

the falls. But a camera cannot do justice to the magnificence of this waterway.







That evening we took the sunset cruise upstream of the falls, on the Zambezi.



Hippos are also dining on snacks as we are.

Now there is no question about what hippos eat.



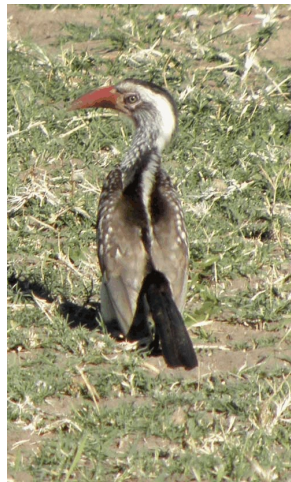
Sunset on  
the river is  
what we  
came for and  
we were not  
disappointed  
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**Wednesday, June 2, 2010**  
**Chobe, Botswana**



The Chobe River in northeast  
Botswana, just beyond our  
accommodations at Mechenje.













**Thursday, June 3, 2010**  
**Chobe, Botswana**



We fly to Moreimi Crossing in the Okavango  
Delta of Botswana.





The countryside below is mostly water though Botswana is 83% desert. Surely our pilot is older than 15.



A good airport needs quality fire protection equipment and appropriate baggage handling facilities. Our transfer vehicle was waiting.



This is the main lodge where we gathered for drinks and food with our fellow guests. One of the most common animal colonies was the fungus cultivating termite, easily recognized from its large mound.





**Friday, June 4, 2010**  
**Okavango Delta, Botswana**



Wally, the warthog lived next to our camp



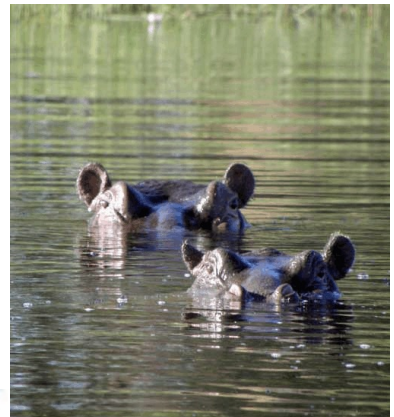
We went in search of the elusive leopard. This is as close as we came.



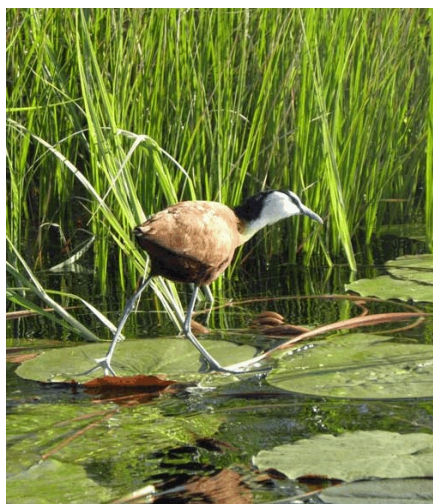
The makoro is readily able to cut through the grass and reeds.



We watched as he made a burrow under the tree next to the tent next to ours.



Hippos are quite common here.



These birds easily walk on the lily pads



With the termite and hippo, the elephant are the three keystone species to keep everything in balance in the delta.





The African Fish  
Eagle advertises his  
territory.



His wife awaits in the nest.



In the jungle, the mighty jungle, the lion sleeps tonight.

**Saturday, June 5, 2010**  
**Okavango Delta, Botswana**



A herd of female impala, the boys stay by themselves until mating.



We had crocodile for lunch



Here's the real thing



Water lilies are abundant

Seriously, we enjoyed our visit to the delta, our accommodations were splendid, the staff did anything we asked and with only a few guests, there were few limitations. Nevertheless, Chobe has much more game and by viewing from a jeep, you can get closer to the animals. Further, they do not fear the jeep and do not move away as they do when visited on foot. We saw the most when we viewed from the mokoro near the river bank. For the best wildlife in Southern Africa, go to Krueger National Park in South Africa.