



Join big cat biologist
and conservationist,
Dr. Quinton Martins,
on a stunning
African Safari.

Emerald Season Safari

7 - 18 December 2026



Itinerary Overview

Join Quinton Martins for a fascinating journey through the African Bush. With over 30yrs of safari, big cat research and conservation experience, Quinton will help unveil the secrets of this extraordinary environment. Absorb the beauty and exciting wilderness, and learn how to interpret animal behavior. One of the privileges of visiting these vast protected areas is that animals are relaxed around game-drive vehicles. This allows one the wonderful opportunity to observe even the most elusive cats at close quarters.

December is the beginning of the summer rainy season where the parched land flushes with green, flowers appear, animals have their babies and migratory birds arrive. The weather is dramatic, with gorgeous cloudscapes and breathtaking sunsets. Rain comes in short bursts adding to the excitement. All the safari camps are luxurious, with excellent service, and exclusive use of huge conserved areas so your sightings are not shared with large crowds of people.

Matetsi Victoria Falls, 3 nights: You will be met at Victoria Falls Airport, in Zimbabwe, and driven to the magical Matetsi Private Game Reserve. Matetsi is perfectly positioned on the great Zambezi River, with over 9 miles of river frontage and 136,000 acres of adjacent lands. Enjoy a combination of game drives, river cruises and, of course, a visit to the magnificent Victoria Falls themselves. Each of the air-conditioned private, riverfront suites is beautifully appointed, with a plunge pool on the deck to cool off in. This is truly the place to recover from international travel and ease into your safari.

Mma Dinare, 4 nights: After a road transfer across the border into Botswana at Kasane town, you will take a scenic flight to Mma Dinare, an intimate Kwando camp. This classic Camp is situated on the edge of the Gomoti River channel, in an area rich with wildlife and great game viewing. Activities consist mostly of game drives, including night drives. This area is particularly good for leopards (Quinton's favorites) and lions. Cheetah may also be a highlight, with a coalition of 4 brothers who are often seen hunting together. There has been a big pack of wild dogs which you may be fortunate to see.

Kwara, 4 nights: Overlooking a secluded lagoon in the northern Okavango Delta, Kwara Camp offers the ultimate Okavango Delta experience. Its location allows access to the permanent waterways of the Delta as well as expansive dry land areas, admired for their quality game viewing. This luxurious camp offers various activities including drives, boating, and mokoro (a dugout canoe that is poled through the shallow water). Boat trips are on a double-decker boat that visits the Godikwe Lagoon, known for the productive heronry and abundant varieties of birdlife. Kwara is known for its consistent sightings of predators, including lion, cheetah and leopard. Elephants also frequent the area, as well water-adapted antelope like lechwe, waterbuck and the shy sitatunga. The area is particularly good for sightings of the elusive serval and you may be lucky enough to see African wild dogs here as well. This should be an action packed climax for your safari.

On your final morning you will say goodbye to the Okavango Delta and get a bush plane back to Maun from where you will catch your flight home.

Bookings

Group size: 4 - 6 people. Price is all inclusive (accommodation, food, drinks, activities, transfers between camps, group leader) but excludes international travel (to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, and from Maun, Botswana), insurance and gratuities. .

Group Leader: Dr. Quinton Martins

Dr. Quinton Martins is the Director of the non-profit True Wild Conservation and Principal Investigator of the San Francisco North Bay's Living with Lions Project. He is studying the mountain lions of the North Bay to identify priority habitats and key wildlife corridors and to promote coexistence with wildlife throughout the region. He is the founder and former CEO of the Cape Leopard Trust, a successful predator conservation NGO based in South Africa and having done his PhD on the Cape leopard, his is considered a leading expert on these enigmatic cats. Prior to his research work, Quinton spent 10 years as a specialist safari guide and safari camp manager and led wild-camping safari experiences throughout East and Southern Africa. Since 2019, Quinton has been arranging and leading safaris through his company, True Wild LLC. This brings all his experience together and incorporates his love of the wild with his conservation goals, sharing both with guests.

The Role of a True Wild Group Leader is to ensure that the trip is stress free and runs smoothly; to draw a thread through the entire safari experience and build on guests' experiences so that the trip is well orchestrated and has flow; to contextualize the experience in a global setting; to liaise with the camp managers and camp guides to ensure that they know what guests are looking for and have already experienced so that they don't give guests duplicate information and to facilitate guests moving beyond checklists - from initial animal sightings to more subtle observations of behavior, ecological understanding, insights into species role in the ecosystem and conservation challenges. On top of this, they share their specific expertise.

True Wild LLC is a conservation and safari company based in San Francisco's North Bay. Our mission is to connect people strongly to nature through experiences and encourage individual action to conserve our planet. We design personalized safaris, specializing in authentic journeys to Africa. Through our non-profit, **True Wild Conservation**, we conduct mountain lion research and conservation, and work with communities on how to co-exist with wildlife.

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