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RAW
REAL AFRICAN
WILDERNESS

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

PERSONALISED, UNIQUE SAFARI ADVENTURES ACROSS SOUTHERN AFRICA

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Welcome to the RAW Newsletter – February 2026

Rare rains, revived landscapes and new wilderness adventures across Southern Africa

At Real African Wilderness (RAW), we create personalised, small-group safaris that take you beyond the crowds and deep into the wild places of Southern Africa. Our journeys combine exceptional wildlife, striking landscapes and meaningful cultural encounters — designed for travellers seeking authentic, immersive adventure.

This season is something special. After years of drought, Namibia has received exceptional rainfall, transforming vast desert landscapes into lush, green ecosystems alive with wildlife and wildflowers. These conditions are rare — and they're creating some of the most rewarding safari experiences seen in years.

In this newsletter, we explore what this transformation means for travellers, introduce our new western Zambia safari for 2027, and share our newly released Southern Africa safari dates.

Namibia's Rains Bring the Desert to Life

Namibia has experienced a rare and welcome transformation. After significant rainfall in early 2025 and continued above-average rains into the 2025/2026 wet season, large parts of the country have been revitalised following years of drought. According to the Namibia Meteorological Service, normal to above-normal rainfall has fallen across much of the country, including Etosha National Park, the Zambezi region and Windhoek. The effect on the landscape has been dramatic. Typically arid desert terrain has turned green, with fresh grasses, wildflowers and temporary water pans appearing across the plains. In Etosha, wildlife has dispersed more naturally across the park, with grazing animals thriving on new growth and predators close behind — creating excellent and varied game-viewing opportunities.

For travellers, this is a rare opportunity to experience Namibia at its most vibrant. The contrast of lush landscapes against ancient desert backdrops is something few people ever see. While some park roads have been temporarily affected by wet conditions, these have had minimal impact on travel, with only minor detours required.

Beyond the visual spectacle, the rains are supporting ecosystems, agriculture and community-based conservation efforts that rely on tourism. For those considering a safari, this period offers a unique window to experience a greener, rejuvenated Namibia before drier conditions return.



RAW is expanding its Safari offering!

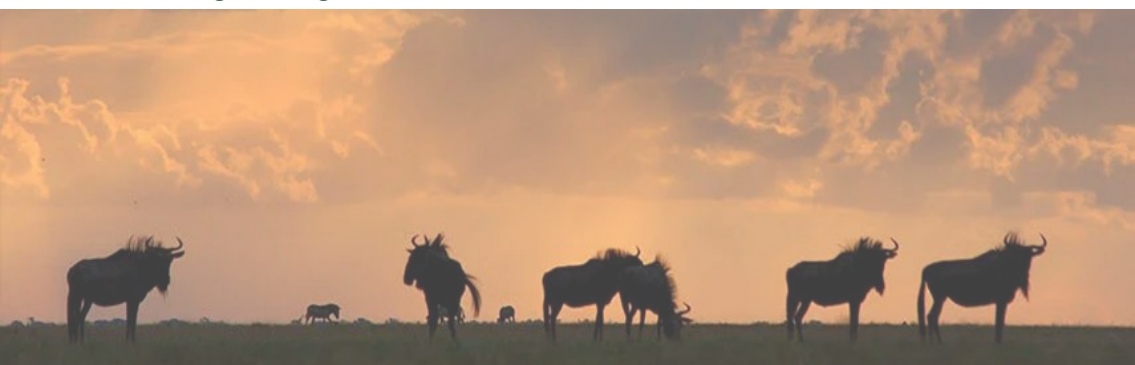
From 2027, RAW is expanding its safari offerings into **remote western Zambia**, a relatively unexplored wilderness. Tours will start in Kasane, Botswana and then into Zambia to visit **Liuwa Plain NP, Kafue NP** and the surrounding areas such as Itezhi tezhi. This western Zambia safari will be 14-days in duration and can be easily added to a RAW Botswana adventure!

Liuwa Plain National Park in western Zambia stands out as one of Africa's most pristine and least-visited wilderness areas — a vast, flat floodplain that delivers an authentic, crowd-free safari experience you simply can't replicate in more popular parks like the Serengeti or Kruger. Managed by African Parks in partnership with local communities and Zambia's wildlife authorities, the park has a remarkable conservation history dating back over 150 years to when the Lozi king designated it a protected area.

Today it remains genuinely remote and wild, with endless golden grasslands stretching to the horizon, dotted by seasonal pans, raffia palms, and wooded islands. This sense of untouched space — where you can drive for hours without seeing another vehicle — gives visitors the rare feeling of having an entire ecosystem almost to yourself.

The park's star attraction is **Africa's second-largest wildebeest migration**, where tens of thousands (around 40,000–60,000) of blue wildebeest, accompanied by Burchell's zebra, Tsessebe, and other antelope, move onto the plains after the first rains (typically November) to graze on the fresh green flush and calve. Predators follow closely — expect to see lion, cheetah, packs of spotted hyena (some of the largest clans in Africa), and even endangered African wild dog.

Beyond the migration spectacle, Liuwa offers superb general game viewing across its huge area, plus exceptional birdwatching with over 330 recorded species, including wattled and grey crowned cranes, pelicans, storks, and many migratory visitors during the wet season. The dramatic seasonal transformation — from dry, open plains to lush, water-filled landscapes with wildflowers — adds visual magic, while the cultural connection to the Lozi people adds depth. If you're after raw, authentic African wilderness, outstanding predator-prey action, and the privilege of solitude in nature, Liuwa Plain is one of the continent's most rewarding hidden gems.





SOME 2025 HIGHLIGHTS OF RAW NAMIBIAN TOURS

RAW announces 2027 travel dates for their Southern Africa safaris

If you are considering an African adventure, then these options may be for you. We have a lot of interest for **2027** but as always, the first in, best dressed gets the seat! Our safaris are limited to 12 people per safari, designed to keep it personal but also manageable, so register your interest early to avoid disappointment. Furthermore, the dates are selected to avoid the hot and wet seasons in southern Africa. Safari prices are **indicative** (subject to review and exchange rate variations). Price includes your accommodation, land-based transport, most meals and park fees.

1 & 2 Namibia Safari ~ A\$7,800/p sharing

23 May to 12 June 2027 (21-day Safari)

20 June to 10 July 2027 (21-day Safari designed to suit Australian school holidays)

Our very popular self-drive guided camping safari blending wildlife, cultures and landscapes into a memorable experience. All safaris start and finish in **Windhoek, Namibia**.

Highlights

- Etosha NP for an exceptional wildlife experience
- Damaraland for beautiful landscapes
- Spitzkoppe for geological marvels
- Swakopmund for adventure activities
- Sossusvlei for an amazing desert experience
- Khomarib Slucht for RAW camping

3 Namibia/Botswana Combo Safari ~ A\$8,800/p sharing

18 July to 7 August 2027 (21-day)

This safari involves a shortened Namibian Safari (13 days) and action-packed wildlife experience in Botswana involving the Okavango Delta, Moremi NP and Chobe NP (8 days). This safari starts in **Windhoek, Namibia** and finishes in **Kasane, Botswana**. The Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe is only 90km east of Kasane and can be a great addition to this safari combo (not part of tour).

Highlights

- Etosha NP for an exceptional wildlife experience
- Damaraland for beautiful landscapes
- Spitzkoppe for geological marvels
- Swakopmund for adventure activities
- Sossusvlei for an amazing desert experience
- Moremi and Chobe NP for RAW Okavango Delta experience

4 Zambia Safari ~A\$6,900/p sharing

9 August to 22 August 2027 (14-day Safari)

Enjoy a 14-day wildlife adventure in remote western Zambia and experience some of the wildest scenes still available on this planet. This safari starts and finishes in **Kasane, Botswana** and can be added to the Namibia/Botswana combo where you can join in either Windhoek after the Namibian leg or join in Maun on the Botswana leg. There will be a two-day layover in Kasane if added to the combo safari which is a great time to visit Victoria Falls, do a Chobe River cruise or simply relax at the lodge.

Highlights

- Liuwa Plains NP for the wildebeest migration
- Kafue NP for great bird and wildlife
- Zambezi River
- Lake Itzhi tezhi

5 Botswana Safari ~A\$6,600/p sharing

24 August to 5 September 2027 (13-day Safari)

A 13-day safari starting and finishing in **Kasane** and doing a clockwise loop around the northern wildlife areas. This is a great adventure as it tours lesser visited areas and off the beaten track. A RAW adventure indeed with more rugged driving and camping.

Highlights

- Baines Boababs for ancient trees in an amazing setting
- South Camp for wild camping with the elephants
- Okavango Delta and Moremi
- Chobe NP camping on the Chobe River surrounded by wildlife

6 South Africa Glamping Safari ~ A\$9,200/p sharing

13 September to 3 October 2027 (21-day Safari)

A 21-day extravaganza exploring South Africa. This is a glamping safari with accommodation mostly in lodges/hotels but still some good old-fashioned cooking thrown in. This safari is a unique blend of cultures, mountains, wildlife and where first and developing worlds meet. This safari starts and finishes in **Johannesburg** and takes in the countries South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini as well as the famous Kruger NP, Kwazulu, the Drakensburg mountains and the Blyde River Canyon.

Highlights

- Golden Gate Highlands NP for spectacular and scenery walks
- Drakensburg Mountains
- Tugela Falls and Sani Pass
- The Indian Ocean coastline of Kwazulu Natal
- Kruger NP for a smorgasbord of wildlife
- Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park for rhinos
- Lesheba Wilderness Reserve for tranquility
- Blyde River Canyon

Expression of Interest – 2027 Safaris

If you're considering joining one of our 2027 Southern Africa safaris, we invite you to register your interest below. Places are limited to **12 guests per safari** and early expressions of interest receive priority access as dates fill.

Guest Details

Full Name:

Number of Guests:

Safari of Interest

Safari Name:

Preferred Travel Dates:

Contact Details

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Additional Notes / Questions (optional):

Please email your completed expression of interest to:

contact@realafricanwilderness.com

We will be in touch to discuss availability, suitability and next steps.

