



## Capt. Daley's Sea Stories

### Sandibe Safari, 2 of 2 Botswana, Africa

27 March 2010



We spent three experience filled days at the &Beyond Camp called Sandibe. The game rides were filled with sightings of animals and birds in their natural habitats. The guides were completely knowledgeable about nature. The guides undergo years of study and testing. One of their final exams is to walk with a senior guide and drop a charging animal, one of the big five – lion, elephant, leopard, rhino, or buffalo. That is quite the pass-fail final exam! I befriended and learned so much from our guides while we were there. I don't use the words meaninglessly when I say it was a life changing event. Few people understand how complex nature is and how much nature provides for humans. I developed a curiosity for birds which I never thought I would have. It is without a doubt the most relaxing and educational vacation I have ever taken.



These Helmeted Guineafowl were running around wild. They say they are as tasty as they are beautiful.



Here is another nice 0800 snack after our 0600 breakfast. You feel so pampered.



You would expect to see a yellow billed stork in a zoo, not in the wild like this.



Bats slept during the day in the roof of the main lodge at Sandibe. They didn't move unless the monkeys came and stirred them up.



Yet another beautiful sunset in Africa



These are palm nuts, not coconuts. They have a hard white interior. I have seen carvings made from these in Coral Gables, Florida. I bought a frog for the Young's from one of these nuts in Florida.



This very distinctive nest is made by the Weaver. They are small dark yellow birds which are voracious eaters of insects. Thankfully plenty of them come to roost on the boats in Douala, Cameroon eating many insects.



The red-billed hornbill is another very distinctive bird indigenous to this area.



Josh and Katie are a young very handsome couple, he from Durbin area and she from England. They are moving from England to South Africa. He managed night clubs, but is changing business and she is in HR. A very pleasant couple!



They call this high tea, one of our seven meals a day. This one was at 1600 before we departed on our game ride.



Sandibe had a series of canals emptying into a good sized lake. We went boating one day with Josh and Katie who were good friends with the managers of the camp, Mark and Nicola.



We would catch and release African Brim. I was very lucky and caught the first one.



This is the first fish Diane caught in her life. The managers decided she should eat it. They saved it and cooked it for us for dinner. They were such great folks! She looks very happy about her first fish.



Nicola has more personality in one finger, than most people ever thought about having. She was quite memorable.



Mark, her fiancé, was quite hospitable as well. You couldn't ask for two nicer managers.



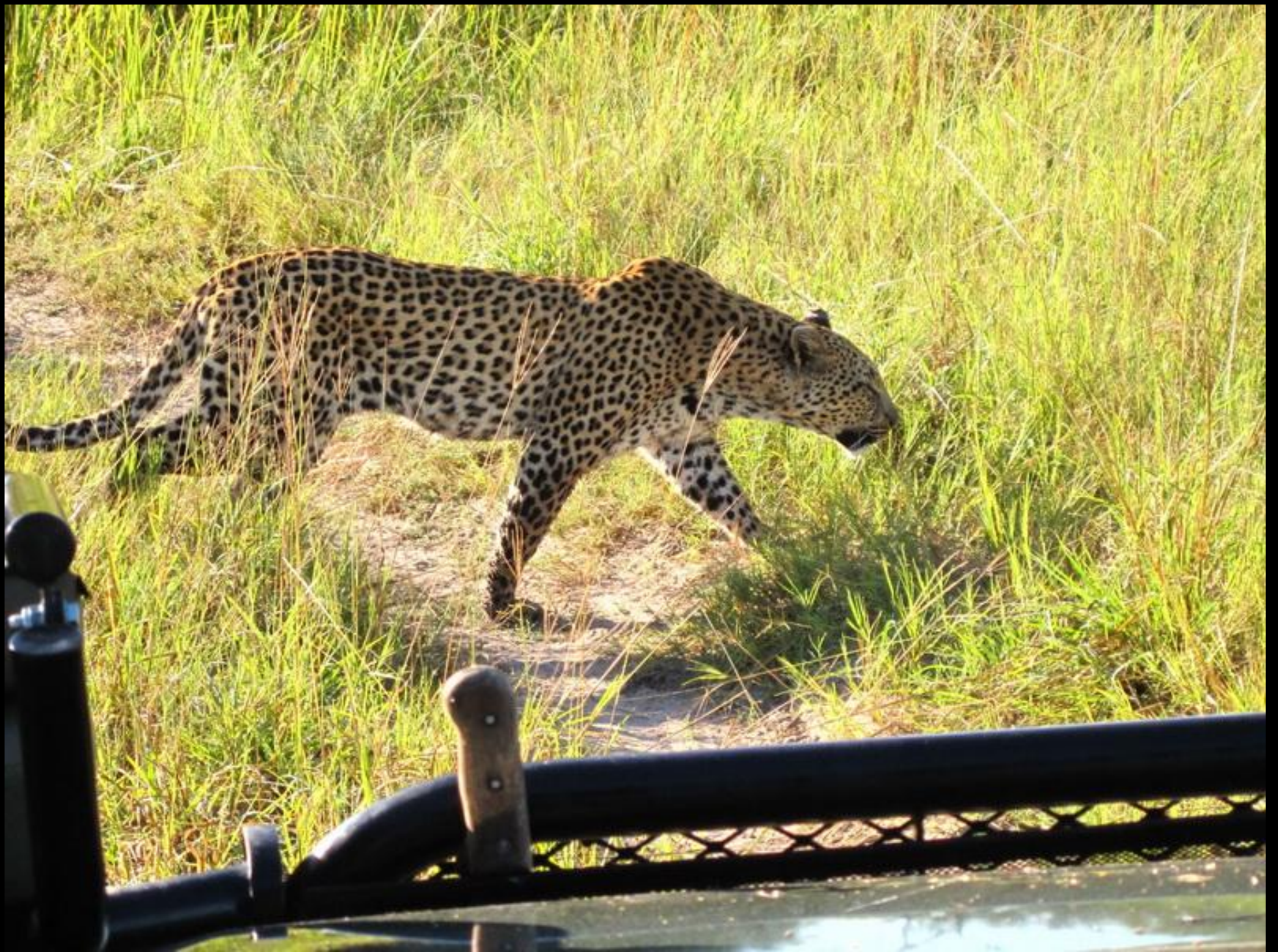
Here is another beautiful sunset this time while we were out boating. We ran a little late and raced the sun home. We didn't want to be caught out in the water at night with the hippos.



These plants are papyrus, the same plants from which the Egyptians made paper.



They not only prepared Diane's fish for her, but they put us back on the water in this very special boat they were renovating. They made everything so special for us. I am so ready to return!



The next morning we cut our game ride short and left a little later for the journey to the airport. Wouldn't you know it; we saw a leopard which we followed for a good 20 minutes. We had incredible luck with our sightings.



The guides would bring us so close to the animals. It was quite an adventurous experience.