

MACATOO PERSONALITIES

There is no better way to savour the Okavango Delta and experience its unparalleled wildlife population than on horseback. The annual flooding of the area leaves vast swathes of the Delta inaccessible to vehicles, making horses the most natural and exciting means to explore.

Our experienced guides are full of fascinating stories about the ever-changing landscape, its trees and plants, and have an incredible ability to spot even the best-camouflaged wildlife. Our horses also have finely-tuned senses - keep an eye on their ears to see where animals are hiding. Once comfortable, our horses calmly drop their heads to graze, sending a signal to other animals in the area to relax and go about their normal daily routines.



John Sobey – Owner & Managing Director

John has a farming background, growing up near Liskaerd in Cornwall, he came to Africa and has never looked back. He worked with Sarah-Jane Gullick, who founded African Horseback Safaris in 1995, as Head Guide at the first camp Macateer and then moved with the company to our present camp Macatoo. In 2004 he moved on to broaden his guiding experiences, leading riding safaris in Kenya and Tanzania. John's love of the Delta bought him back to Macatoo in 2007, taking over the company as Managing Director. He now divides his time between camp, our office in Maun and the UK.

Bongwe Makate – Head Guide & Director

Bongwe joined African Horseback Safaris in 1999 as a back-up guide with John, progressing to Head Guide in 2004. He was born in Gweta on the edge of the Makgadikgadi Pans in north-eastern Botswana and moved to Maun as a child. He has always had a passion for wildlife and was even an active member of the wildlife club whilst at school. Bongwe's unrivalled knowledge of the Okavango Delta, particularly the birdlife, and his keen sense of humour guarantee that riding, driving, boating or walking with him is not only an education but a great deal of fun!



Riana Fourie – Marketing Manager & Director

Riana joined African Horseback Safaris in 2010, having grown up in South Africa, she graduated from the University of Pretoria in 2000. Riana, her husband and two children moved to Maun, Botswana, in 2006 to get closer to the bush. Horses have always been part of her life and she still owns a few horses on her parents' farm in South Africa. She is able to combine her loves of Africa, horses and travel working for us and though her opportunities to ride are limited now, both of her children are also keen riders and we do let them come to camp!

Modley Manyema – Barn Manager & Director

Mod is one of African Horseback Safari's most experienced members of staff; he joined in 1998 and helped build the camp at Macatoo. He now runs our entire barn of over 50 horses. His naturally calm and quiet nature sets the tone for the barn. Mod takes a great deal of care and time to match riders and horses to give you the best possible experience of riding in the Delta.





Thabo Mothanke – Lead Guide

Thabo grew up in Etsha on the pan handle in north-western Botswana, he joined African Horseback in 2015 as a lead guide. Thabo quickly fitted into the team, he loves to gallop through the flood waters, but is equally happy painstakingly tracking to find that elusive leopard. He seems to have an affinity with the cheetah in the Delta, which are hard to find even in dry season. Thabo will ensure that you have unforgettable rides through the Delta, just follow the dreadlocks!

Bernard Ngundera – Lead Guide

Bernard began his career as a groom with African Horseback Safaris in 2005, he started backing up on horseback in 2007, and became a full lead guide in 2018. Bernard is an expert tracker, if anyone can find a lion in thick bush it's Bernard! His boat safaris are always a highlight, in flood season you have to experience one of "Bernie's Boat Rides" With his ready grin he will do his utmost to find everything, and more, than your wish list.



Kelebogile "Chief" Mosepele – Lead Guide

Chief joined African Horseback Safaris in June 2020. He started his riding career as a boy at the cattle post on donkeys as is the norm in Botswana. Chief grew up in Tubu which is about 70km west of Macatoo, so he really is a local! He began guiding in 2018 having previously worked as a horse manager. He really enjoys showing his guests the variety in the Delta, and he loves to find the Wild Dogs. Chief is looking forward to taking you on your adventure into the Okavango Delta.

Katie Hodges – Macatoo Manager

Katie grew up in the Hampshire countryside, and has ridden all her life, she first came to Macatoo as a guest in July 2005 and after a number of return visits started working for African Horseback Safaris in May 2013. Her background is a little unconventional for tourism, with an engineering degree and 13 years working in investment banking, however she fell in love with the bush on her first visit to Botswana, thoroughly enjoys meeting all of our guests. When time allows Katie still loves to join the rides.

