

TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

USA AND CANADA CONTENT DELIVERY SITE

 Search for

 Welcome, photo2@stevehaggerty.com

Company registration code: TMS_USA_and_Canada_Site_Editors

[Home](#) | [My Sources](#) | [My Account](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Logout](#)

Advisories

One Shot Advisories
TMS Advisories

My Sources

Advice

Ask Amy: Advice for the Real World UPDATED
Tales from the Front

Astrology

El Horoscopo de Linda C. Black
Linda Black Horoscopes
Omar's Astrological Forecast
Omar's Weekly Astrological Forecast

Business

Auto Letters
Banks vs Money Funds
Global Economic Viewpoint
Global Economic Viewpoint - Spanish
Interpersonal Edge
Joyce Lain Kennedy - Careers Now
Kathy Kristof
Kids & Money
Kiplinger Money Power
MIT Sloan Management Review - Pagination
Money Fund
Money Fund - Short
Retire Smart
Successful Investing
Tax Free Fund
Tax Free Fund - Short
Test Drive
The Credit Card Chart
The Savings Game

Entertainment & Pop Culture

Film Clips
Hot Press
Inside The Video Games
Liz Smith UPDATED
Pop Culture Package
Rush & Molloy UPDATED
Scopin' The Soaps

Food

Foodstyles
Wolfgang Puck's Kitchen UPDATED

ON SAFARI AT CHOBE CHILWERO: A FEAST OF ELEPHANTS, IN NORTHERN BOTSWANA

By Anne Z. Cooke, Tribune Media Services, [World's Fare](#)

KASANE, Botswana -- Chobe Chilwero safari camp, in northeast Botswana, does everything right. Part of Abercrombie & Kent's luxury safari portfolio, Chilwero is small and intimate, hosting no more than 30 guests at a time. The lodge and thatched bungalows are modest outside but sleek and elegant inside. An expert staff, from the guides to the waiters, is proud to work there. Delicious meals, served on a covered veranda, are exceptional.

A winner, indeed. But for first-time guests, a puzzle awaits. Chobe Chilwero, perched on a gently sloping hill next to Chobe National Park, is just 10 minutes by car from the airport at Kasane, and a quarter-mile off the paved highway between Kasane and the Zimbabwe border. Most of Chobe Chilwero's guests have spent the previous week flying into wilderness camps on puddle-jumpers that don't land until they've buzzed the field to scare off the warthogs. A wilderness camp near an airport? It doesn't compute.

But when you get your mind around the geography, it all comes right. The mighty Chobe River not only marks Chobe National Park's northern border, but the boundary between Botswana and Namibia. The river is a natural destination and a crossing, not just for game animals but also for local fishermen, tourist vans and commercial trucks, thus the highway.

Chobe Chilwero is in the wilderness, because the national park, 2.5 million acres of rocky hills, riverine marshes and shady woodlands, is next door. Road or no road, this is prime game-drive country, especially during the dry season. From May through November, as waterholes inland dry up, vast herds of antelope, African buffalo and an estimated 65,000 elephants trek to the river's sandy banks, followed by prides of lions and 4-by-4 expedition vehicles.

As we sat on the Lodge's open-air veranda, sipping tea and eating cookies, the views, both near and far, were breathtaking. Thoughts of the highway faded. In the distance, the river glistened, tour boats moved slowly along the shore and herds of waterbuck and buffalo grazed on the flood plains. In front of us, baboons and vervet monkeys scampered through the trees and warthogs combed the grass, looking for tidbits.

- **WORD COUNT:** 764
- **POSTED** 02/01/2008 at 10:23 am EST
- **FOR RELEASE** 03/01/2008
- [E-MAIL THIS](#)
- [PRINT THIS ARTICLE](#)
- [SEND TO EDITORIAL SYSTEM](#)
- [DOWNLOAD FILE](#)

SUPPORTING

This content accompanied by:



FEATURED PROVIDERS

Click on an image below for the feature description and archive.



Variety Entertainment News Service



Amy Dickinson



Kakuro

CREATOR HEADSHOTS

[Download headshot images](#)

TMS SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

Name-brand content for purchase a la carte or by subscription for use by newspapers, magazines, retailers, corporate websites, newsletters, nonprofit organizations and others seeking targeted content. We also offer custom orders, high-quality design and localization of stories. Go to [TMS Specialty Products](#).

MCT DIRECT

Comprehensive news, photo, graphics and OnePage services featuring U.S., international, college campus, regional or industry-specific content from McClatchy-Tribune Information Services. Go to [MCT Direct](#).

TMS LICENSING



TMS Licensing delivers some of the biggest, brightest and most beloved comics characters and content anywhere to provide value to advertising, promotional

Wolfgang Puck's
Kitchen - metric
UPDATED

Health & Fitness

Harvard Health Letter

Harvard Heart Letter

Harvard Men's Health
Watch

Harvard Mental Health
Letter

Harvard Women's
Health Watch

Medical Edge from
Mayo Clinic UPDATED

Premium Health News
Service

The Medicine Cabinet
UPDATED

Humor

Andy Rooney

Dave Barry Classics

Mark Bazer

Mark Russell UPDATED

Today's Chuckle

Lifestyle & Family

Ana Veciana-Suarez

Daily Bridge Club

Goren Bridge

My Pet World

Poker with Steve

Rosenbloom UPDATED

Tuesdays with Mitch

WomanNews

Political Commentary

Alvin and Heidi Toffler's
Beyond Future Shock

Arianna Huffington

Bill Press

Cal Thomas

Carl Hiaasen

Clarence Page

Foreign Affairs

Garrison Keillor

Global Viewpoint

Global Viewpoint -
Spanish

Henry Kissinger

Ian Bremmer

Jesse Jackson

Joe Galloway

Jonah Goldberg
UPDATED

Jules Witcover UPDATED

Leonard Pitts

Mary Sanchez UPDATED

Nobel Laureates Plus

Paul Samuelson

Paul A. Samuelson -
Spanish

Paul Greenberg

Paul Kennedy

Robert Koehler

Chobe Chilwero's twice-daily game drives are scheduled in daylight hours when most animals come down to the river. Chobe has so many elephants -- too many, say the experts -- that close-up sightings are virtually guaranteed. But we also saw antelopes, hyenas, baboons, birds and lions. The "water" trips, on small riverboats, steer into inlets and close to the shore to let passengers snap photos of crocodiles, water birds, buffalo and hippos. As at other A&K camps, our guides were knowledgeable and friendly, and the vehicle, limited to six guests, was comfortable and roomy. Most of the other tour vehicles we passed as we jolted over the uneven sand were nightmarishly full, with three tourists per seat and as many as 12 visitors to a van.

By late afternoon, we were back in the main Lodge, gathering for a sundowner. A rambling, one-story stucco structure, it had a thatched cathedral ceiling and a small library corner. In the living room, leather sofas and wing chairs flanked coffee tables and a large fireplace, while polished side tables and chairs provided retro-colonial comfort. Inset shelves and museum lighting displayed the Lodge's collection of rare art and collectibles (some for sale), including pottery, central and West African carvings, beaded Masai milk gourds, Zulu shields and spears, masks and intricately woven Zulu baskets.

Our thatched bungalow, one of 15 large cottages overlooking the river, was also dressed with African art. Painted in warm cream tones, it had a four-poster bed with mosquito netting, beautifully upholstered chairs, tables and benches and huge tiled bathroom with double sinks, a sunken tub, separate shower, a dressing table, large closets and drawers. Amenities included an electronic safe, hairdryer, bottled water and lotions. We had a private rear yard, and a patio and outdoor shower, with a rear gate that led to the swimming pool. We used just once, I'm sorry to say. With so much else to see, we never had time.

INCIDENTAL INTELLIGENCE:

RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION: Learn more about Chobe Chilwero and Abercrombie & Kent Tours, at www.abercrombiekent.com, or through A&K's Sanctuary group of luxury lodges, at www.sanctuarylodges.com. Book online or directly.

RECOMMENDED GUIDEBOOKS: The best, most informative and detailed guide to Botswana is "Botswana: The Bradt Travel Guide," by Chris McIntyre (\$24.95).

Anne Z. Cooke and Steve Haggerty explore the world from Venice, Calif. They can be reached at TravelsWithAnne@cs.com.

(c) 2008, Anne Z. Cooke Distributed by Tribune Media Services, INC.

ACTIONS

[Download File](#) | [Send to Editorial System](#) | [Email this](#) | [Print This Article](#)

PREVIOUS DOWNLOADS OF THIS CONTENT ITEM

USER	DATE/TIME	METHOD
This item has not been downloaded.		

and business partners worldwide. Go to [TMS Licensing](#).

TMS BLENDER

A daily buffet of the best in TMS content. Download any of more than 150 features in the TMS catalog for immediate use in any publication -- print or online. Go to [TMS Blender](#).

TMS REPRINTS

Order TMS articles, images, comics and puzzles in marketing and corporate communications materials, newsletters and textbooks. [Go to TMS Reprints](#).