

Day 10 - Monday 28th July

After a tasty breakfast of pancakes, eggs, fresh coffee and other treats, we were off to the Okavango Delta. On a bumpy journey, we learned that the local drivers preferred to drive on the bumpy ground at the side of the road rather than on the road itself, and had remarkable skills at driving over rolling logs masquerading as bridges!



After several river crossings we were greeted by our expert 'polers' and paired off ready for our journey on Mokoros - old-fashioned boats carved out of trees. Nigel's 'larger than life' character meant that a quick boat change was necessary in order to stop his original Mokoro from sinking... There was an air of excitement as we were selected for our Mokoro transport, and as intrepid explorers we tentatively stepped aboard our boats that were just wide enough for one person, and hollowed out of the Okavango sausage tree! With water lapping up the sides of our canoes, often to within a few centimetres of coming over the top we set off in a flotilla of meandering boats.

After a relaxing journey under the African sun, many found it hard not to drift off to sleep, soothed by the lapping waters of the delta. We navigated the 12 foot reed maze, dotted with floating lilies, with the sound track of hippos and the famous birdlife, and arrived to our camp. We busily set up our tents again - including more long drop toilets, with stunning views over the bush! A superb buffet lunch set us up for a safari walk in the afternoon - and some amazing sightings of giraffes, zebras and elephants whilst the sun set. We were also educated about many types of animal dung... It turned out that Katie was already quite an expert!



After an awesome stir-fry dinner, we were treated to a traditional Botswana performance around the fire; Toby found the singing, dancing and storytelling were "inspiring"; Richy, Jamie E and Hannah had great fun joining in with the traditional dancing! We picked up our guitar to reciprocate with some of our own music - but 'she'll be coming round the mountain' wasn't quite up to their high standards...

The star of the day was awarded to Richy for his consistent help setting up camps the past few days.

Day 11 - Tuesday 29th July



After another 6am start and quick breakfast, we headed off for another safari walk. Yasar impressed us with his skills at knocking palm nuts down from 50 feet in the air, Livvy provided amusement falling down a hole mid-trek, and Jamie E found a recently-shed snake skin to entertain us all with - the zebra and giraffe looking on must have thought we were an odd bunch!

Refreshed and exercised we arrived back to a delicious brunch

- cooked breakfast as well as potato salad, ham and cheese! After breaking camp, we boarded our Mokoro canoes and set off across the delta again for another bumpy journey with the promise of showers when we arrived back at camp... But very disappointed when they turned out to be icy cold! A few team members were surprised to find various 'gifts' from Christine, Lizzie and Jess in their bags and hoods when we got back - I'm sure they'll be taking their dung presents home as souvenirs...

Burgers and chips were well received in the evening, but this didn't stop the camp bar being well used as a waffle house for pre-bedtime treats!

Hannah's dancing skills around the fire the previous night won her the star of the day award. We're hoping she'll provide us with after-dinner entertainment every night from now on...

We settled into our solid beds again for a comfy night's sleep ready to head off to the rhino sanctuary in get he morning!

