



Ngoma Safari Lodge – a brand new addition to the Machaba family

The Machaba Family Tree is Blooming

It all started with a shared dream between three long-time friends. Alistair Rankin, Murray Collins and Chris Hatshe had a vision of building authentic safari camps in the Okavango that would be both affordable, family-friendly and eco-conscious. Machaba is named after the sycamore fig and means “Tree of life” in Setswana - and it has certainly proved apt as they have certainly seen their family tree grow and flourish in abundance over the past 6 years!

The eco-friendly operator opened its flagship [Machaba Camp](#) (10 tents) in Botswana’s iconic Okavango Delta back in 2013 – a 1950’s style tented camp located right on the banks of the Khwai River. Once established, the team then launched [Little Machaba](#) (4 tents) in 2016 and [Gomoti Plains Camp](#) (10 tents) a year later in 2017.

Recent years have seen a shift in focus to expanding their footprint into Zimbabwe, with the aim of boosting the local economy, providing employment opportunities and increasing destination exposure to help the country revive its eco-tourism industry.

Machaba started by investing heavily into Hwange National Park, teaming up with long-time friend Blessing Munyenyiwa. [Verney’s Camp](#) (10 tents) was the first to open in 2017 and which has already been voted as one of Tatler’s Top 101 places to stay in 2019. Over the past few months, Machaba has also opened [Deteema Springs Camp](#) (8 tents) and [Deka Camp](#) (6 tents) which is in remote private concession area within Hwange.

But 2019 has not ALL been about Zimbabwe. Back in Botswana, Machaba also launched [Gomoti Private](#) - a small camp (comprising just 2 tents for exclusive use) which is attached to Gomoti Plains Camp and in August they announced that [Ngoma Safari Lodge](#) on the doorstep of Chobe National Park has joined the Machaba family. Ngoma comprises just 8 thatched river-facing suites with private plunge pools overlooking the Chobe River and floodplain.

Next on the cards is the brand-new [Ingwe Pan Camp](#) which will be open in 2020 in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Mana Pools National Park in northern Zimbabwe - one of Africa’s most renowned game-viewing regions.

But why Machaba?

The success and growing popularity of the Machaba brand on the safari circuit is largely due to the team staying true to their original vision. You will be hard-pressed to find better value for money in the area - especially for families. The camps remain intimate, authentic, and ecologically green and sustainable in some of Africa’s last great wilderness areas. The staff are the best in the business from reservations through to the expert guides and trackers – and the game viewing locations are second to none. For more details visit www.machabasafaris.com