

BIOGRAPHY

ALASTAIR GAVIN FORD

Gavin Ford is a well-known and respected professional guide who has been leading safaris across and through Africa for the last 28 years. He has been awarded international awards for consistent guiding excellence, including Conde Nast 2002 Best Guide in Africa and 'HIGHLY COMMENDED' from Paul Morrison Guiding Awards 2005. In addition, he is regularly recommended as one of the Top Five Guides in several international travel magazines.

Gavin grew up as a native Zimbabwean, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe, and spent his early years in the quiet rural town of Mutare, surrounded by mountains and bush country. His family resided there for many years and it remains his home "where the heart is," as Gavin says.

After Independence in 1980, he was directly associated with the development of the guiding and hunting fraternity in the 'new' country and was instrumental in creating the standards and examining processes for young professional hunters and guides in Zimbabwe. This standard is still a benchmark in southern and east Africa to this day. An interesting legacy.

Guiding Experience

Gavin has been actively involved in all aspects of safaris for over twenty six years. He has personally lead in excess of 2000 trips which include extended hiking trails, walking safaris, customised camping and lodge combinations, fly-in safaris as well as boat trips.

He regularly conducts safaris in the following countries:

- Namibia
- Botswana
- Zimbabwe
- Zambia
- Kenya
- Tanzania

He also has lead trips into Uganda, Gabon, and Madagascar.

Personal Interests

Photography, natural history, military history, and travel to out-of-the-way places take up his spare time!

Considered a highly competent nature-photographer, birder, and naturalist, his enthusiastic and sincere manner allow his guests to appreciate the fine balance of natural systems.

Work Experience

Gavin had his own business in Zimbabwe training guides before moving to Botswana where he assisted in establishing Abercrombie and Kent, Botswana – in particular, the mobile tented operation for A&K. He quickly became known for his skills as a guide within the company and remained with them for 11 years, initially as general manager of the mobiles, and then for the last five years as their Senior Private Label Guide. He left A&K in October 2009 to join [AFRICA INSCRIBED](#).

“Personal Perspective”

I try and show people the real world through my eyes, without “dressing it up,” so it’s a real experience. Patience is a great asset, as some guests arrive with all sorts of preconceived apprehensions and you have to get through to them without making them feel foolish. Taking guests on their first safari is a huge privilege.

Gavin is based in Johannesburg, South Africa.