



Stefan Brewer: The Barefoot Bushman



Once you get over the novelty of seeing a distinguished, well-presented man sans shoes, you can start connecting with the person behind the image. And we say image loosely as nothing about Stefan's bare feet is a gimmick... a bit eccentric perhaps, but then someone who realises a childhood dream to build a lodge in Africa needs a measure of eccentricity!

The dream became a reality with the support of his family and a fantastic backup team. Each decision was vital to Stefan, from where the sun fell on the lodge at dusk, to the open views from each culturally inspired room, to the connecting wooden walkways that tie the lodge together - Stefan's long dreamt vision became the "Endless View" that today is [Makumu](#).

So why The Barefoot Bushman you may ask? And is it just in Africa that Stefan kicks off his moccasins? As to the first question - Africa does that to you, bringing out your authenticity, and when you embrace her caress as Stefan has done over many years of visiting, being free is no longer a conscious choice, it is what Stefan has become. Early rising, tracking big game at dawn, hot sand underfoot at noon and a crackling bushfire at sunset. And yes Stefan does indeed not wear shoes in Cape Town nor in Switzerland - or even on the dance floor - he is 100% comfortable in his own SHOES. As an adventurer and breaker of moulds, Stefan realised another dream almost 11 years ago to the day. On the 4th September 2006, Stefan and well-known German photographer Michael Poliza embarked on a 7 week trip from Hamburg to Cape Town in Stefan's bright red helicopter. [can you add hyperlink here to the video clip?](#) The two teamed up after Stefan broached Michael and said: "How would you like to fly to Africa in a helicopter and take pictures along the way?" Michael jumped at the idea and three years later the adventure began. It ended with a library of 25 000 photographs and a never-been-done-before coffee table book of spectacular images of landscapes, people and wildlife. 'Eyes over Africa' is a photographic journal of this unbelievable trip. Further testament to Stefan's "Carpe Diem" philosophy, he really does seize every day with a gusto of enthusiasm and yes, he was indeed barefoot! Having spent the past 15 years creating Makumu the Lodge, Stefan feels that his journey has only just begun. Perhaps this is another effect of one's immersion in the bushveld - that somehow it always feels like the journey has just begun. Another chapter begins each season and with Stefan's vision, Makumu will continue to grow from strength to strength. So perhaps taking off your shoes and feeling the sand beneath your toes may answer the question... Why the Barefoot Bushman?



Elephant's Conservation

We are very fortunate to have Alan McSmith as our Head Ranger. With 30 years of professional guiding experience, Alan is a highly sought-after wilderness ranger, tracker and TEDx speaker. His personal philosophy is that the wilderness is not just a place but a way of life and that the conservation of the wild is not only about the conservation of animals, plants, air and water, but the preservation of a sacred attitude. Visit Alan's blog <https://alanmcsmith.weebly.com/>

Nakuru Cares

Santa Shoebox



The joy of giving once again proved to be better than the joy of receiving when we recently participated in Eco Children's Santa Shoebox

Project here in Hoedspruit. This very worthy cause collects and distributes gifts to less privileged children over the festive season. In spite of one of the main sponsors from last year not being able to participate this year, the project celebrated one of their record years and had the privilege of handing out 1 730 Santa Shoeboxes in Hoedspruit and surrounds due to generous donors, not only locals but from across the country!

Fly and Help



The Fly and Help Gala Event at The Kameha Grand Hotel in Bonn was a great success! Due to a number of generous sponsorships, they are now able

to build two new schools in Haiti and Tanzania. They were also presented with the possibility of sponsors for another 4 schools. Makumu Private Game Lodge was proud to be a sponsor at this amazing event and it was wonderful to have been chosen to support Mr Meutsch in his passion. The Fly and Help Foundation was very grateful for the sponsorship and sent us this image to say a big Thank You!



Safari for a Cause

Makumu supports numerous charity projects. It was a privilege to have hosted our recent guests Carina Holtz and Maxi Lehrer, who were the winners of a golf fundraising auction in Grassau, Germany. The tournament and auction were held in support of a children's rheumatism foundation under the patronage of Christian Neureuther and Rosi Mittermaier. Needless to say, Carina and Maxi had some excellent game viewing sightings and we hope to be able to welcome them back in the not too distant future!

Sssssomething to Do



A must-do while at Makumu is a reptile orientation by Kinyonga Reptile Centre based in Hoedspruit, who for a nominal fee, come to the lodge to share their knowledge and expertise. A truly fascinating experience in support of a worthy cause, owner Donald Strydom's vision is to conserve through education and research, with the aim of saving and relocating vulnerable reptiles. The orientation involves an interactive learning session involving the use of live reptiles, museum items of interest and a PowerPoint presentation. The experience is both useful and a lot of fun... an experience never to be forgotten!

[Click here for our Rate & Fact sheet](#)



AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

SAFARI & SEA – STAY FOR 6, PAY FOR 4

Discover the best of both worlds travelling from Makumu Private Game Lodge in the Kruger Private Reserves to Sea Five Boutique Hotel in Cape Town.

For more information view the Special Offer and [Itinerary here](#).



reservations@makumu.com

+27 87 095 2019