



Episode 2: Grant Reed - Safari guide, snake wrangler and hippo magnet

This podcast is brought to you by [African Family Safaris](#). Richard Field has been a safari guide for 20 years, and in the Life on Safari podcast he talks with safari guides and conservationists about their life in the bush. The hope is that through these remarkable conversations, wild Africa will creep under your skin.



Grant Reed is something of a legend in northern Botswana. He and his brother Brent have established Letaka Safaris as one of Botswana's premier mobile safari operations. They are also great with snakes. In this interview Grant shares his love of snakes, including the good times, and the times when they've made him squeal like a small girl. He also shares a couple of unusual encounters he has had with hippos – let's just say he hasn't been nicknamed 'The Hippo Whisperer'. But he is an excellent guide, and incredibly passionate about Africa's wild places and wild animals. He lives live to the full, which can occasionally get him into trouble...Enjoy!



Selected Links from the Episode

- Learn more about [Letaka Safaris](#)
- Books Grant recommends: [Whatever You Do, Don't Run: True Tales of a Botswana Safari Guide](#) by Peter Allison, [Kalahari](#) and [Zambezi](#) by Michael Main

Show Notes

- The last time Grant almost accidentally got himself killed
- A close encounter with both a spitting cobra and a rampaging hippo
- Grant's love affair (not literally) with snakes
- The times when things haven't gone quite right
- How he and his brother used black mambas to keep their valuables secure
- Grant shares his first experiences of the wilderness and his first time to Botswana
- Grant talks about a mobile safari experience, and his average day whilst on safari and how that might differ from his guests
- Grant gives examples of the depth and intricacy of viewing wildlife and how this can open up a whole new world on safari
- Grant's guiding philosophy and how safaris can connect people to these wild places
- Story #1 – Animals bashing into Grant's car (impala out of nowhere)
- Story #2 – Animals bashing into Grant's car (confrontation with a hippo)
- Do guides need to push the envelope with guests?
- Grant's three tips for safari
- Grant's most pressing conservation issue

Places and Vocabulary Mentioned in This Podcast

- Northern Okavango, Savuti, Kalahari, Khwai, Moremi,
- Selected vocabulary: *mokoro*—canoe used in the Okavango Delta that is moved by someone standing in the stern and pushing with a pole.



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