



## MELONY VAN DER MERWE SPECIALIST SAFARI GUIDE – NATURAL SELECTION



### ***Operates in Botswana & South Africa.***

Melony van der Merwe is a South African nomadic epicurean who has travelled the world in search of food for the soul and unique culinary experiences and culture.

She grew up in the Cape Winelands, holds a BSc degree from The University of Stellenbosch and has lived in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Sao Paulo, New York, Los Angeles and now spends her time between Miami Beach and Cape Town.

Melony shares DNA with the first peoples of Southern Africa which drives her dinner experiences to include the inspiration of medicinal, ceremonial, and spiritual uses of native ingredients. Food, travel, and spirituality have dominated Melony's life as she has hosted and continues to host curated dinner experiences, following a lunar calendar, throughout the world.

Every dinner is extremely detail oriented, approached as a divine ceremony embedded with ritual that is aligned with the cycles of the cosmos, all with the aim to help you find your anchor during times of change. Melony has hosted artists, top executives, television and movie stars, international athletes, and other epicureans on journeys of inner discovery. She builds community and an empathy for nature through food.

### ***Years of guiding experience***

My experience in the safari industry started in 2006.

### ***Regional knowledge and expertise***

The Kalahari Desert, Makgadikgadi Pans.

### ***Ideal for accompanying***

Holistic travel, multi-generation family travel, couples, small groups, journalists, photographers.

### ***Areas of special interest***

Wild edible and medicinal plants, indigenous culture and their spiritual practices. The connectedness of all living things. Wild food foraging and preservation; Lunar dinner communions; Medicinal, ceremonial, and spiritual uses of wild plants by traditional cultures; Personal and spiritual transformation.

### ***Qualifications & Experiences***

- Melony has been an explorer since a child when her family would drive across South Africa, camping in naturally rich areas even during a time when the country was not open to all to explore any place.
- Her nomadic spirit continued through global explorations and the highlight being a road trip driving from Dakar via Timbuktu to Cape Town.
- This led her to the United States where she wanted to promote travel to Africa which led me back to the bush.
- During this time she could fully explore the richness of wild places and the people who live amongst it.
- Melony has travelled through and hosted trips throughout South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and the Victoria Falls region.

**Languages:** English and Afrikaans.

**Currently Live:** in Miami, in the United States

**'Although one would usually choose safari for animal sightings, I am personally passionate about the wild edible and medicinal plant resources in the bush! Being in the Kalahari Desert helps one to completely cut out the clutter and to just be fully present with yourself and the magic and mystique of the Makgadikgadi, its people, animals and the land.'**- Melony Van der Merwe

***To book Melony as your specialist guide contact:***

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