



IAN MCCALLUM

“We can learn a lot about ourselves from the wild, if we are prepared to listen, to watch, to be still and to wait. The animals and the wild landscapes are in our blood and in our psyche. Who and what would we be without them.”

Guiding Experience: *Ian has been a wilderness guide, facilitator, and resource for more than 25 years.*

Regional Knowledge & Expertise: *He has travelled extensively throughout Africa and beyond.*

Ideal for Accompanying: *Those who are curious and more especially, those who can relate to an ancient sense of homecoming and belonging in wild places.*

Areas of Special Interest: *The human-animal interface; deep attention – interpreting the laws of the wild; science, poetry and nature – getting the environmental message across; astronomy – an introduction to the African night sky; ecological literacy – the metaphor and art of tracking.*

Qualifications:

- *Ian has travelled extensively throughout Africa.*
- *Has a deep understanding of how humans & nature connect.*
- *An award-winning writer, wildlife photographer and poet.*
- *Many years' experience of conservation and the wilderness.*

Languages: *English*

Currently Lives: *South Africa*

OPERATES ANYWHERE IN AFRICA

To summarise Ian McCallum's achievements inevitably does this gentleman a disservice, but in essence he's a psychiatrist, analytical psychologist, writer and specialist wilderness guide. Ian qualified as a medical doctor in 1973 before going on to become a specialist psychiatrist. In addition to his work as a consultant at Lentegeur Psychiatric Hospital, he also served as an adjunct professor at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University Graduate School of Business, and an honorary lecturer at the University of Cape Town.

Away from his medical work, Ian has always had a deep synergy with the natural world and has published two anthologies of wilderness poems: *Wild Gifts* and *Untamed* – in 2022 he was named The Wilderness Poet of Honour. Additionally, he wrote the award winning book *Ecological Intelligence – Rediscovering Ourselves in Nature*. It was Ian who contributed the written word for sculptor Dylan Lewis' *Untamed* exhibition in Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, and in 2012 he and journalist Ian Michler travelled 5000km by foot, bike and kayak across six Southern African countries, co-authoring a book on the experience.

So far so impressive, but this private guide is also a former rugby Springbok, an award winning wildlife photographer and co-founder of the safari company *Invent Africa*. Ian has been deeply entrenched in the world of conservation for many years, he's a long-time associate of the *Wilderness Leadership School* and a trustee of the *Cape Leopard Trust*. In 2016 he was awarded the *Wildlife and Environmental Association of South Africa Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award*.