

## ACE GABANAKITSO

Ace has always called Maun home, growing up with the freedom and curiosity that village life inspires. His fascination with the wilderness just beyond Maun's doorstep began with an uncle who worked deep in the Okavango. This uncle would vanish for months at a time and return with vivid stories of close encounters, adventure, and the vastness of the Delta—stories that captured Ace's imagination and set the early spark for his own path.

At just 17, Ace embarked on his first adventure, travelling to remote northern villages of the Okavango with his school club to conduct an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign. Immersed for the first time in the raw, unfiltered wilderness—and surrounded by the people and wildlife that depend on it—Ace felt something shift. The Delta had claimed him.

A year later, after finishing high school, he boarded his first light aircraft and flew deep into the Okavango to try his hand at safari life. It didn't take long for him to realise that the truest way to experience the bush was to become a guide. He began as a tracker, learning patience, presence, and the language of the land—skills that became the foundation of his guiding career.

Nearly **20 years on**, Ace is regarded as one of Botswana's finest guides. His mastery of tracking is extraordinary; he seems to read the bush the way others read a book—interpreting signs, predicting behaviour, and finding wildlife with uncanny accuracy. He is equally at home on foot, behind the wheel of a game drive vehicle, or gliding silently through the reeds on a mokoro.

But what sets Ace apart is more than technical skill. He has a **deep passion for wild places** and an intuitive ability to **read people**—sensing their energy, comfort levels, interests, and fears, and adapting the experience effortlessly. Guests often remark on how seen and understood they feel in his presence.

In moments that demand absolute composure—close encounters, unexpected turns, or tense wildlife situations—Ace is the definition of calm. His confidence and quiet steadiness immediately put guests at ease, allowing them to experience the thrill of true wilderness while feeling completely safe.

Ace is a guide who carries immense experience, yet leads with humility, warmth, and a genuine love for sharing the Okavango. Time in the bush with him is not just informative—it is deeply personal, intuitive, and unforgettable.

