



SIMON BYRON

FOUNDER & LEAD GUIDE, BEAGLE EXPEDITIONS

Growing up on a farm in central Botswana, Simon's childhood unfolded in wide-open spaces where nature was not a place to visit, but the backdrop of daily life. As the son of an avid exploration geologist, he was raised with a natural curiosity for how landscapes are formed and how the wilderness works. He spent countless hours outdoors—travelling with his family to the remotest corners of Southern Africa and on frequent holidays into the Okavango Delta. Those formative experiences instilled in him a deep fascination with wild and remote places, and the stories held within them.

Simon first met his wife Marleen when they were both studying Zoology and Ecology at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. Together Marleen and Simon founded Beagle Expeditions, a shared vision shaped by their desire to create authentic, low-impact safaris that return to what matters: space, simplicity, connection and true immersion in the wild. They are also the proud parents of three children—Dalia, Esme, and Loki—who share their parents' love for the bush and all things natural. For the Byron family, wilderness is not just a workplace; it is a way of life.

Over the past 20 years, Simon has become regarded as one of Africa's most respected professional guides. He began his career in the Linyanti and Okavango before moving into mobile safaris, spending several years guiding journeys across Botswana, including the legendary Selinda Canoe Trails. His path expanded into private guiding throughout the continent, giving him a rare breadth of understanding of the connectedness between Africa's ecology and geology—and how these forces have shaped the cultural and historical movements of her people.

Simon's guiding style is calm, observant, and deeply intuitive—built on decades of fieldcraft and an innate ability to read the landscape as if it were a living map. Guests often remark on the clarity with which he explains complex ecological processes, the ease with which he links geology to the shape of a river channel or wildlife behaviour, to evolutionary history. He is a natural interpreter of the wilderness, offering insight in a way that sparks curiosity rather than lectures.

What truly distinguishes Simon, however, is his sense of presence. He brings a quiet steadiness and thoughtful attentiveness that sets the tone for every safari. He guides with humility rather than showmanship, allowing the wilderness to lead the narrative while he supports the experience with depth, context, and an infectious passion for wild places. Guests feel neither managed nor instructed—they feel accompanied, understood, and invited into the heart of the wild in a way that is both intimate and unforced.

When not guiding, Simon spends his time travelling, reading, walking, and working on conservation and Okavango Gin projects. But his greatest joy is being in nature with Marleen and their three children—teaching them to watch birds, catch frogs, read tracks, listen to the wind, and feel at home in the wild spaces that have shaped his life.

