

For centuries, the continent of Africa has enticed explorers with an unquenchable supply of endurance and imagination. The traversing of the Rufiji River of Tanzania, flowing from the Great Selous Interior is one such exploit.

Ever since my march to Ujiji in search of Dr. Livingstone I have entertained a desire that I might be permitted to explore that most promising of all East African rivers — the Rufiji. Burton, my heroic predecessor in Africa, had, with his usual industry, collected much valuable information respecting this river.

Burnin

ruko

What I may discover along this lengthy march I cannot at present imagine. I shall be equally pleased to corroborate either Speke's or Livingstone's hypothesis by actual personal observation and diligent exploration. I confess to you I have no bias either way, and I am quite ready to corroborate Baker's dream...

-SIR HENRY MORTON STANLEY, 1874



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Selous, the Hidden
Gem of East Africa

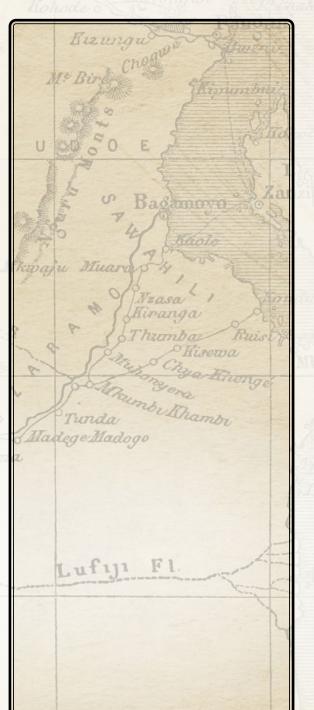
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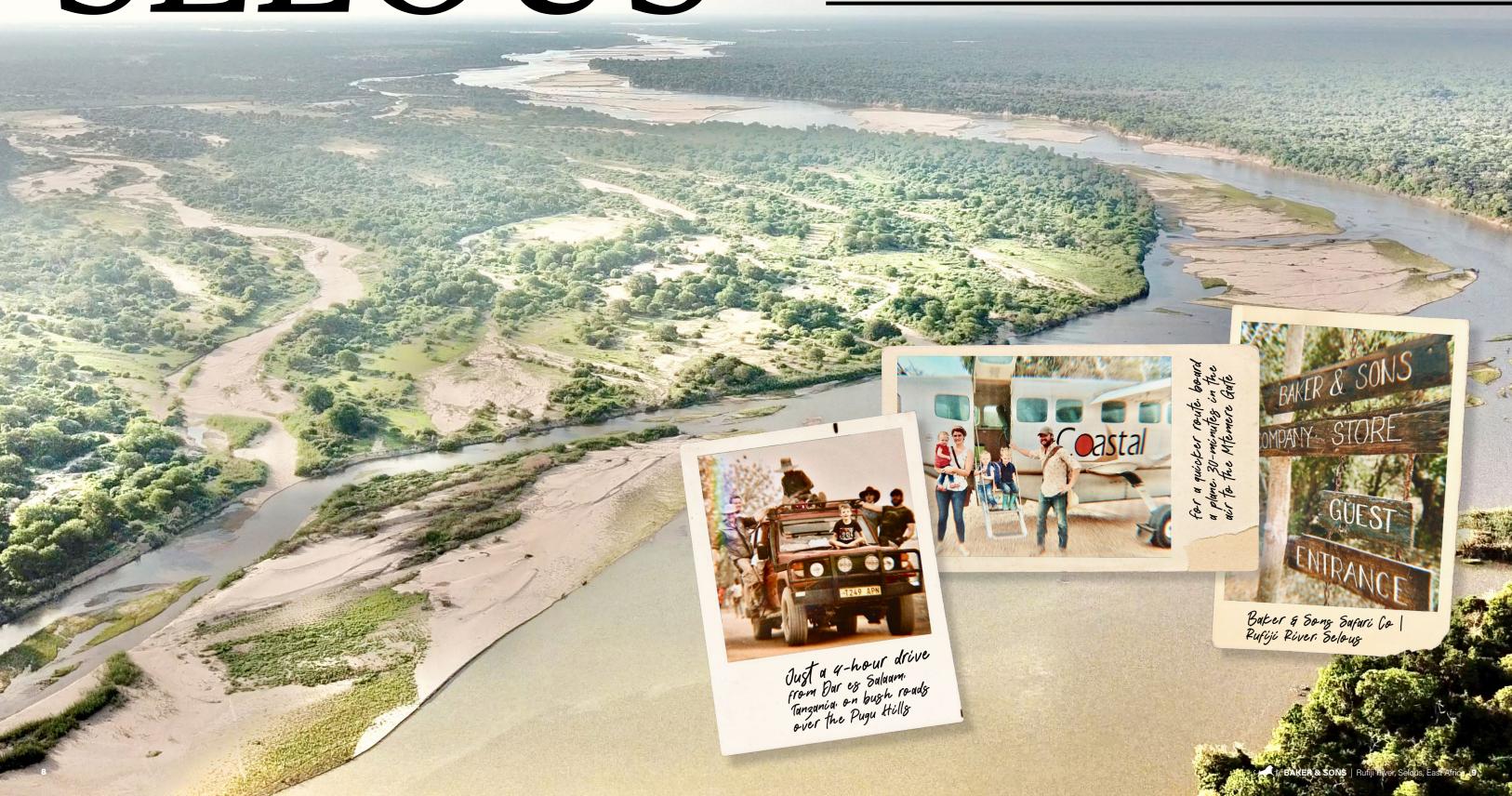
On the Cover: This big girl wandered onto Baker & Sons property following well-worn elephant trails. The photo was not taken with a zoom lens. It was taken by Mr. Baker, standing 10-feet from the beast, using the corner of a building for protection. She's showing signs of distress, visible from the moist gland behind her eye | bakersafari.co/2025cover

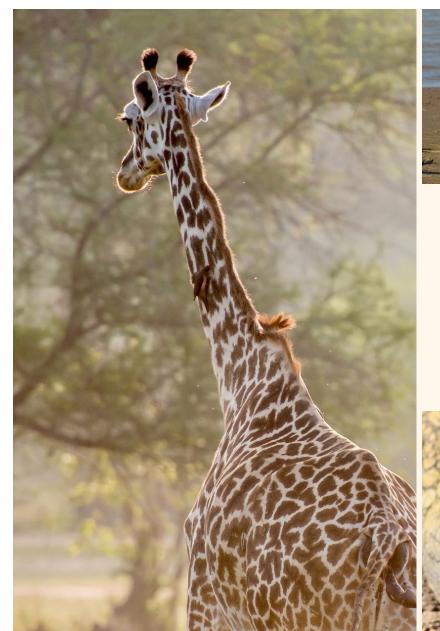
Rufiji River, Selous, Tanzania, East Africa Magazine Design: eyetoeyedesign.ca © 2025 | Baker & Sons Safari Company



SELOUS

THE HIDDEN GEM OF EAST AFRICA









BAKER SAFARI GAME DRIVE



The *largest* and *oldest*



protected animal reserve







MAASAI GIRAFFE







on the whole continent.













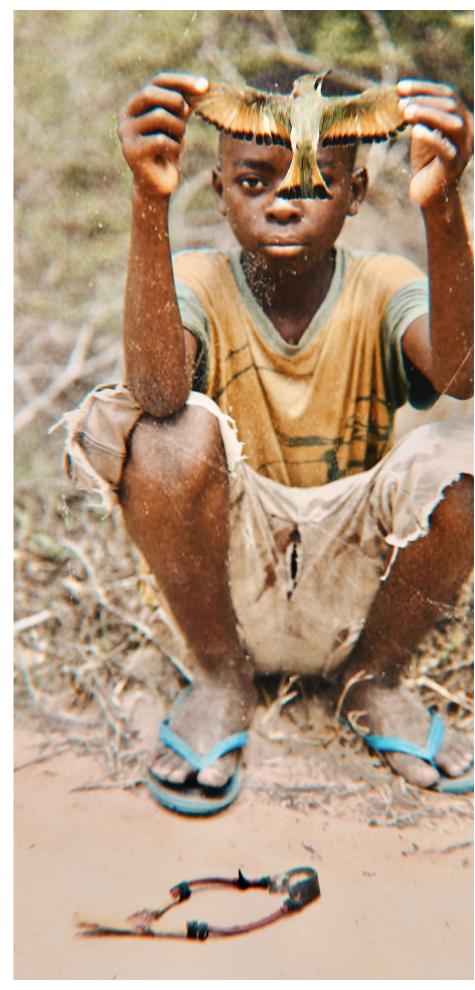


Introducing Baker & Sons Wild African Shorts, a new series produced to highlight the wild and wonderful Creation on the back steps of Baker Safari Co on the Rufiji River, Tanzania. The series is aptly named, both for the video length and also for the authentic safari short-pants worn by the presenter. BakerSafari.co/wildshorts

Watch the video 'SAFARI', produced by Baker & Sons, featuring all of the African wildlife highlighted in this magazine. The entire feature video was shot in one day, on a single safari outing through the Selous in Tanzania, using one camera, a Canon 5D Mark III. This was a game drive led by Baker Safari Co, using our guides, the best in the bush. YouTube.com/@bakersafari

Calling all Birders! The Selous is a cornucopia of avian fellowship, boasting over 440 bird species recorded, and counting. The banks of the Rufiji River are bustling with a variety of plumage, from Kingfishers to Herons, Bee-Eaters and Weavers. Baker & Sons is asking for skilled or passionate photographers to come, catalogue our birds - the White-Faced Whistling Ducks, the Yellow-Billed Storks, Pink-Backed Pelican and so many more. Come. We would like to feature your contribution as a safari company. Booking@BakerSafari.co











Perfect Sunsets Almost Every Evening...

















Book a Safari Stay with Us!

BakerSafari.co/#lodging or Booking@BakerSafari.co











Baker & Sons gets all of its meat from the South African Butcher in Dar es Salaam, the finest cuts in East Africa!









Their service is outstanding!!! The food was divine. The safaris were absolutely life changing. And the level of rest, relaxation and rejuvenation that we were blessed with in this gorgeous environment provided a truly remarkable experience for our family. I can't recommend them enough and will be sending all of our overseas visitors to Baker & Sons." — BARBARA, USA







THE LEGEND OF

Big Sean Henry

You've heard of 'John Henry', from the American ballad of the steeldriving man? But have you heard of SEAN HENRY, the largest elephant to grace the grounds of Baker & Sons Safari Lodge...

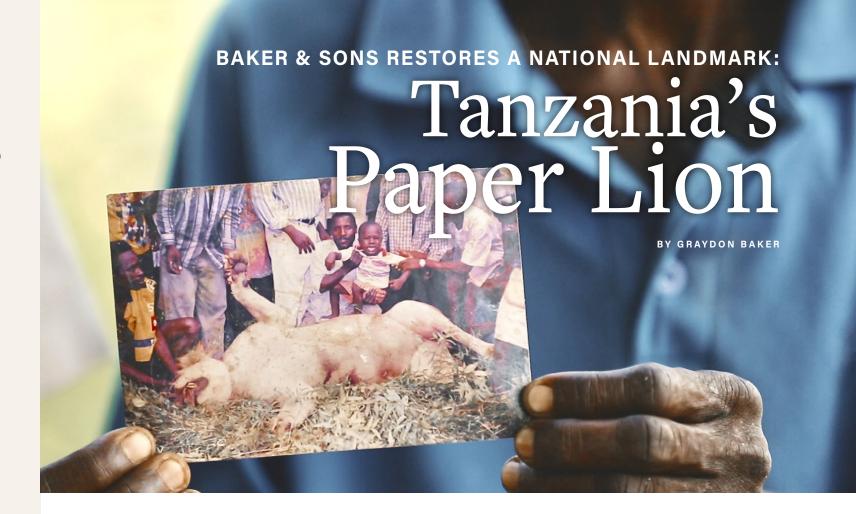


t's true. In the early days of Baker & Sons, along the Rufiji River, a larger-than-life African Bush Elephant would visit the lodge. Almost daily he would come, at times with a friend in tow and always with a big appetite. We planted gardens at the lodge in anticipation of all the safari guests we'd receive. Henry, that massive beast, would rip the small trees and flowers from the ground and grind them in his Loxodonta molars. He made full-sized hardtop landcruiser vehicles look like soapbox derby karts.

Tragically, he left his final footprint in our neighbouring village in 2017, but his legend lives on.



BIG SEAN HENRY, the Rufiji River Giant, was buried at Baker & Sons, in the same ground he loved. In the summer of 2024, a team of very amateur paleontologists dug him up. His bones are on display at the lodge for all guests to see and touch—take a photo with an elephant who had no equal.



On December 16th, 2009, the Smithsonian magazine published an article, entitled, "The Most Ferocious Man-Eating Lions". In it the author wrote about six cases, spanning across three centuries of African history. The Tsavo lions, famously depicted in the Hollywood Blockbuster, 'The Ghost and the Darkness', were listed in the article. The most recent of these infamous man-eaters, however, was from a story in Tanzania, between 2002-2004 along the Rufiji River.



IS NAME WAS THE PAPER LION. Like a single sheet of paper, tossed and blown in the breeze, his movements were erratic and attacks on local villages unpredictable. He was also called Osama. At the time, it was a popular name for notorious figures. He hunted over 50 people in the span of two years. Forty of these victims were killed – men, women and children. There were seven survivors with injuries who lived to tell the tale.

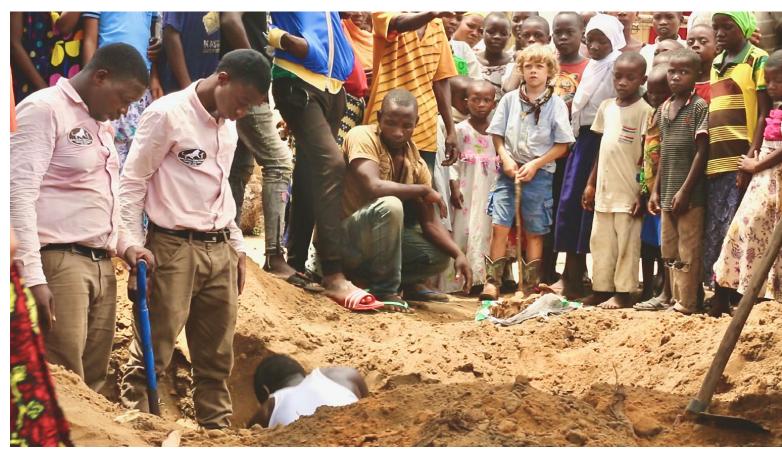
This story from Tanzania was highlighted in the Smithsonian article, which included a photo of the memorial atop his final resting place.

It was a photo of a solitary metal sign on the dirt shoulder of a bush road, with a Tingatinga painting on either side depicting the way in which the Paper Lion of the Rufiji would hunt his victims, visiting shambas, and how he was killed, an ambush of armed rangers. Tingatinga is a cartoon-like painting technique common across East Africa used to share a serious matter in a satirical way.

Sometime after 2013, the sign was lost. It was taken down and removed for a planned widening of the bush road. It was never returned. With its loss, the memory of those precious people who satisfied the hunger of the Paper Lion slowly faded from the collective mind of the village.

In 2021, Baker & Sons Safari Company rebuilt the monument of the Paper Lion, in a little village called Ngorongo downriver from the safari lodge. In doing so, the company restored a National Landmark to the country of Tanzania.

It should be noted that lions don't typically attack people. It's not in their nature. In the Bible, in the book of Genesis chapter 9, verse 2, to Noah and his sons it reads, "The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth; they are given into your hands." Lions are generally cautious of people and prefer to live where people





are not. But, just like men, there are certain lions who break God's order.

The Paper Lion broke the order. After his death, the British government in Tanzania led an investigation into the cause of his peculiar habit, eating men. They shipped his head to England for further research into his brain and teeth as recorded in the BBC news at the time.

Had Sir Henry Morton Stanley travelled inland from the Rufiji River 150 years prior, he



would have witnessed a tribe of people living in much the same way as they do today, with a few modern differences of course. Baker & Sons Safari Company was established in 2013, and we started building our lodge in 2014. We made a concerted effort to connect with and support the isolated villages downriver from the lodge.

We don't know exactly when the Paper Lion sign was removed, or if the country or the international communityat-large were aware that a piece of history was at risk of being lost forever. We believe it was forgotten for many years. In early 2021, when we became aware of its absence, we conducted our own investigation as a company. From our local connections, we tracked down the original metal sign in the back room of an old dusty government office. The paint was faded and scratched almost beyond recognition.

Our company delivered a formal letter to the local village council, with an offer to restore the sign to new. The village accepted the offer and work began immediately.

We took the sign 40kms up the bush road to the lodge. We commissioned an artist from Kigamboni, outside Dar es Salaam. The artist worked in one of our lodge roof terraces in view of the river, painstakingly restoring the original Tingatinga painting using old pictures in internet archives for reference.

Back in Ngorongo Village, we broke ground on construction of a new sign location. This time the sign would have a beautiful stone foundation with a gardenlined path leading from the bush road. During building we met with many elders and members of villages along the river who had encountered the Paper Lion of the Rufiji, some of whom are no longer with us today. We recorded their stories on digital film for posterity.

Alas, the lion himself was still lost! That is to say his bones were missing. This had to be remedied. Local knowledge was the key to recovering the lion's

remains. The original sign location marked the spot where the Paper Lion was buried. Though the grave was now unmarked and the exact spot unclear, we narrowed in on a general area. With a small army of shovelers and a supply of pickaxes, we started digging.

At my request, when my staff hit the first bone, they stopped digging and sent a messenger to find me. At the time, I was off in another part of the village interviewing an elder. I came quickly to the dig site. What an exhilarating moment it was. The whole village was gathered around that hole. It was in this moment that I, the author of this article, first held the bones of a once terrifying creature. One by one the Paper Lion's bones were unearthed,

carefully cleaned and inventoried on a worn cement sack.

We had three significant reasons to believe that these exhumed remains belonged to our lion. First, it had no skull. We've previously established that the Brits took that. Second, it was a lion, but without claws. Local authorities had confiscated these. Third, there was a relatively undecomposed plastic salt bag found among the bones. No one will openly admit to it, but as a final farewell to the man-eater, the eater became something to eat. The salt made him palatable.

If you visit Baker & Sons Safari Lodge today, and take one of our tours down the bush road to Ngorongo Village, you'll find the final final resting place of the Infamous Paper Lion, with its distinguished stone monument, bougainvillea gardens and an 'x' marking the spot of the most ferocious man-eater in recent history. The original metal sign has been affixed to the monument and restored on both sides. The lion himself was put to rest for good on the 28th of February, 2021. All the villagers, young and old, each dropped a shovel-load of dirt on top of him before we set a lid of wet concrete six inches thick to seal his fate. He will never be disturbed, nor can he disturb anyone ever again.

Baker & Sons, as a family operation has a company motto, "We Are What We Leave Behind." A National Landmark, commemorating the Paper Lion of Tanzania, is restored, and with it, assurity that the memory will be passed down to future generations in the Rufiji.

Schedule a guided tour + stay at our lodge!

See the original interviews from villagers and a documentary produced by Baker & Sons. BakerSafari.co/PaperLion







BAKERSAFARI.CO/THECOMPANYSTORE





HANDCRAFTED

BY BAKER & SONS
FROM AUTHENTIC
AFRICAN FABRIC AND
PATTERNS.

*** * ***

GUESTS OF OUR
SAFARI LODGE AT
THE SELOUS, RUFIJI
RIVER WILL ENJOY
WATCHING THE
TAILOR APPLY OLDSTYLE TECHNIQUES
AND CARE, INVESTED
IN EACH ARTICLE.
TAKE A MEMORY HOME
WITH YOU AND USE IT
FOR A LIFETIME.



VISIT OUR STORE AT THE SLIPWAY,
INDIAN OCEAN
OVERLOOKING
THE MSASANI BAY
IN DAR ES SALAAM.





Stanley in the Rufiji

t half-past three on the afternoon of September 30th, 1874, Sir Henry Morton Stanley set off from the Island of Zanzibar in the Yarmouth Wave, a large sailing ship designed for exploration of the East African coast on the Indian Ocean. He had a crew of 29 other passengers, two Englishmen, twenty-four freed slaves, two cabin boys and a thoroughbred bull terrier named Jack.

Stanley was an African explorer, already made famous by his discovery of the lost Dr. David Livingstone and subsequent book, 'HOW I FOUND LIVINGSTONE', published 1872.

In the fall of 1874, his sights were set on the navigation of the Rufiji River in modern day Tanzania. From Zanzibar, he traveled south along the coast until he found the delta of the famous river. From there, he and his crew sailed inland, upriver, in a boat designed for deeper waters.

Nevertheless, Henry Morton Stanley successfully explored and chronicled the Rufiji River. By his accounts, dispatched 150 years ago to the NEW YORK HERALD, on the same spot where Baker & Sons Safari Lodges are built at the river's banks, Stanley anchored his ship.

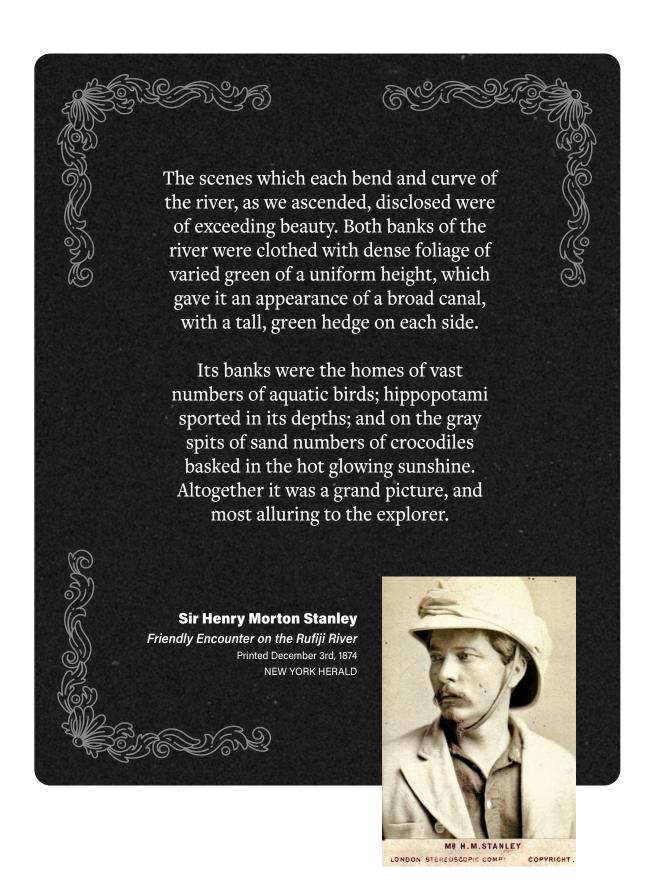
Of his descriptions detailing the beauty of the wild river, not much has changed.

Read the full dispatches at BakerSafari.co/Stanley

As I sit down to the table and take up the writing implements to record my experiences of the last few weeks a wish darts to my mind that the art of writing was never invented. It is true. Writing to me is such a labor at this moment. I have but the day before yesterday returned from the exploration of the Rufiji River and its delta.

The following letter will show what my impressions of the navigable utility of the Rufiji are, with which I venture to say that nine-tenths of American river steamboat captains would at once agree if they were called upon to examine and report upon the river.

-Excerpts from Sir Henry Morton Stanley's journals dispatched to the NEW YORK HERALD, October 1874



E. J. HOLEHOUSE, THE TRADE SUPPLIED. IMPORTER DIRECT FROM PRODUCERS, CHESTERFIELD, ECKINGTON, AND CLAY CROSS MARKETS. Shop:- St. Mary's Gate, CHESTERFIELD, Warehouses:- Dixon's Road, Spa Lane, & St. Mary's Gate.

Stanley's Outpost BY

BY BAKER & SONS

HE SELOUS HAS EARNED A REPUTATION FOR BEING **AN EXCLUSIVE SAFARI** DESTINATION.

Its remote access, by bush routes or charter flights, and its pristine quality have traditionally attracted a clientele, who, like the park, wish to be undisturbed. The Serengeti is for the rabble; to jockey for prime position at a pride of lions encircled by safari vehicles. The Selous is for the discerning; to be an audience of one before the King of the Beasts.

May this never change.











However, God's wild creation is not just for the rich, it's for the rich of heart as well. On that note, Baker & Sons Safari Co proudly announces its newest lodging, Stanley's Outpost, a luxury hostel.

Complete with a fully-equipped kitchen, large common room with satellite tv, an outdoor BBQ kept stocked with wood, four bathrooms, three showers, safari-themed artwork and bamboo walls with spacious adjoining accommodations designed for all, from solo guests up to large family gatherings.

Named after the Explorer who first visited the area, it's built in the bush, set back a short distance from the Rufiji River on Baker & Sons property. Founded on an old elephant trail, still visited by the occasional elephant at daytime and at night by hippos coming in to graze from the river. This outpost, Stanley's Outpost, will be host to many a traveler who will add their names to the list of those who've come before them.

Book a room at BakerSafari.co/Outpost

WE BUILT A POOL in the Bush Bush

Baker & Sons have stone cottages and cabins decorated in safari themes, dining areas and nooks for reading, African artifacts, skulls of the native fauna scattered throughout, gardens... and now, a POOL!



t the lodge we've built a pool.
But not just any pool. That
wouldn't do for an operation
like ours. No. It faces the
river, with a long narrow
section and submerged stone
bench for many guests to
cool off, relax with a cold
drink and watch the perfect
sunsets over the Rufiji. The floor is an Italian
tile with underwater lights for nighttime dips.
There's a stone bridge to cross over the pool and
a waterfall for the young and young-at-heart to
swim underneath. Large cathedral-like steps pave
the way into the waters, with a deep end below

A campfire is lit every evening, burning African woods under the southern hemisphere moon. Enjoy the fire with family, sitting next to the big dhow windows and sundowner bar under the palm tree. We serve beverages until the last guest turns in.

Why just describe it? WATCH the building of it, videoed in the bush at the safari lodge with the river hippopotamus and monkeys in the canopy looking on. OPENED JUNE 2025

BakerSafari.co/we-built-a-pool

and charming lanterns above.







Climbing Lions of the Selous

In the Selous Reserve, Tanzania, East Africa (aka Nyerere National Park), our lions are tree dwellers. At Baker & Sons we send safari go'ers into the great untamed to find these big cat climbers.

BY GRAYDON BAKER

ree Climbing Lions... naturally! It's programed in them by their Maker. Poachers beware, you can't climb high enough to escape them.

Prowling the largest and oldest animal sanctuary on the whole continent of AFRICA, the Selous, there's a pride of lions that have taken to the trees. Though all lions can climb, not all tend to relax on limbs and branches.

But the **Climbing Lions of the Selous** have demonstrated an affinity for the heights and breeze the lower canopy affords.

It's becoming more common, especially if you find this particular pride, while on a safari game drive to come upon our lions in the gnarly flora of the old Selous. Look up! Or else you might miss the big cat right above you.

Our guides are trained to spot the tree climbing lions. At Baker & Sons you get a genuine safari experience. The Selous is an unknown commodity; a vast and free land in Africa. It's not over-commercialized and the vehicles have no prescribed paths or roads within her boundaries. To find animals, you need to track the lion paw prints along the dirt path, or search out a spot of shade at one of many interior lakes, or, look up in the trees. It's an authentic destination for those who won't compromise on quality.

Welcome to the Selous, and to Baker & Sons. Just maybe, you too will enjoy an audience with the climbing lion pride inside of the famous reserve | Booking@BakerSafari.co



FACTOR SONS | Rufiji River, Selous, East Africa 37



Gimeless Zanzibar and Forgotten Bagamoyo

BY SARAH BAKER



The words Bagamoyo and Zanzibar loom large in the humid, salty mists of East Africa's history. Today Zanzibar thrives as a destination for travellers who long for the enigmatic blend of sea and spice, colour and culture, adventure and antique. But there was a time when Zanzibar was the gateway to East Africa, everyone who sought to set foot on the mainland first docked in Zanzibar. It is believed to have been a home-away-from-home for eastern merchants from the 1st century AD. Its legacy as an Omani Sultanate are obvious in the architecture of the palaces turned boutique hotels all throughout the ancient city. It is a tropical paradise that provides everything from the winding streets of Stone Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site to crystal clear beaches with world class snorkeling.

ocated a three-hour ferry ride from Dar es Salaam or a short flight directly from the Mtemere Gate of the Selous Game Reserve, the Island of Zanzibar is a must-do for those with extra time on their safari itinerary.

For those whose schedule is a little tighter, Bagamoyo provides the same historical richness only an hour's drive from Dar es Salaam. What was once the entry point onto the mainland of Africa from the East is now essentially a time capsule. After the abolition of the eastern slave trade and the rise of Dar es Salaam as the main port city, Bagamoyo was abandoned by foreign merchants and left to be reclaimed by nature and fisherman. There you can visit the oldest post office in East Africa and the oldest church which adds to its distinction by having hosted the body of Dr. David Livingstone in state on its way back to England.









There are a great pair of resorts, one in Bagamoyo and the other on the Island of Zanzibar called Firefly. Baker & Sons recommends you complement your stay at our lodge with a beach getaway.





FireflyCollection.co.tz | Contact Firefly, tell them Mr. Baker sent you.



Baker & Sons is an old soul, still holding on to that romantic 'Africa' feeling.

We're a family-run, family friendly business. We warmly welcome all ages to take pleasure in a place where the lion and elephant still roam.

Book With Us! Booking@BakerSafari.co

The guide replied mildly that we had come to "see, that's all" — Tember ton. "To see? See what?" "To see the river?" "What for?" "To see. Why? Good knows! The white wen do such strange things. They put it down in a book, and that is all I know that ever comes of it." "Hah! How far do they intend to go?" "As far as there is plenty of water for the boat in the Kufiji." "Inside?" "Yes, inside." "Huh! The Kufiji extends far — many days journey — and there is always water in the Kufiji.



Friendly Encounter on the Rufiji River (Stanley's Jo





A real jungle experience that exceeded all expectations. From the moment we were picked up, navigating the bumpy African roads, the adventure had already begun. The journey only added to the charm, setting the tone for what was to come.

The riverboat cruise was breathtaking, with serene views, wildlife teening at the water's edge and the unforgettable sunset reflecting across the river. The game drive was equally incredible — seeing wildlife in their natural habitat was exhibitating and humbling.

The lodge itself is the perfect blend of comfort and authenticity. Meals were abundant, enjoyed with the enchanting sounds of a vintage record player softly spinning old, classic albums, adding a quaint and nostalgic atmosphere to our evenings. The orchestra of the wild at night, the warm hospitality, and the sense of wonder created by every detail make this lodge an absolute gem in the heart of Selous."

-ROSE, SOUTH AFRICA

