





# abu camp

## architecture & interiors

The overall intention at Abu Camp is to create a luxurious experience in an exotic, rustic environment. The camp's structures are thus a mixture of cultural experiences, with each room being thematically unique.

The comfort and style of one's home will be replicated amazingly in each of the six stylish "tents" – rustic and basic in design, but luxurious and comfortable in effect. Furniture from Europe, Asia and Africa has been added to complete the six individual areas.

A facility preceding the main area of the tent has been added to create a space to accommodate a desk and chair, an ideal area for writing or typing.

Each room has a different style of bed, using a variety of woods: A four-poster, a sleigh and upholstered leather beds are used in an uncrowded way to give the feeling of space – an unusual aspect to the commonly thought-of concept of 'tent.' The overall style is comfortable, classical, colonial style without clutter that enhances the space provided by the generous tents.

A cluster of lights is suspended above the seating area to create ambiance and draw attention to the corner of the tent – also to provide illumination for a potential reading area. Photographic art and African-specific objet are selected and placed in each individual room.

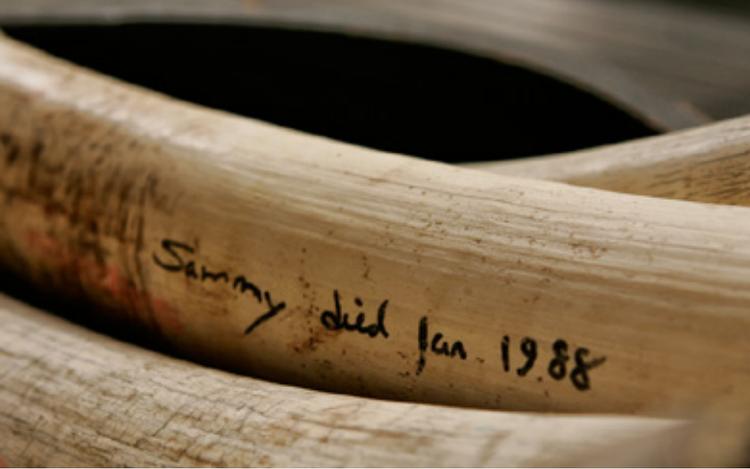
The use of natural "mill-washed" linen on the base of upholstered furniture provides the canvas of the colour palette. Appliqué fabrics are used on accessories to add colour to the rooms, while the accent fabrics on pillows have been sourced from throughout the world.

The en-suite bathroom areas are functional and generic, extending onto the decks to highlight the open-to-the-sky African experience. The copper bath is positioned outside as a unique exotic feature.

The white wooden floors of the tented rooms are replicated in the living areas as well as in the mess tent. The decks, in darker colours, are furnished with all-weather furniture including a chaise-longue and dining furniture.

### INTERIOR CONCEPT PHILOSOPHY

At Abu, the elegant comfort of a bygone colonial era has been created by South African-based interior design company Artichoke owned by Caline Williams-Wynn. Abu offers a unique experience in harmony with nature where its interiors complement the architectural design by Paul Munnik. This is achieved with luxurious hand-crafted furniture and objet d'art sourced throughout the world. A variety of cultural influences are evident in every area of this exotic, rustic camp.



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### TEXTURES, TONES AND COLOUR

In keeping with the unique Delta environment and its pachyderm inhabitants, the emphasis is on 'non-colour'. The natural hues create living spaces with seamless compatibility with nature. Although the influence of modern living is evident throughout, the contemporary influence is limited to functionality rather than design.

Textures and natural colours are prolific – natural wood, linen, cotton, skins, cane, raffia, crystals, petrified tree trunks and even fish bones all add to the variety of tactile experiences at the camp.

### HARMONY

Although the furnishings provide more than adequate comfort and aesthetic stimulation, the space-planning and appointment offer generous areas in harmony with the wide-open African landscape. Scale, size and the use of sumptuous natural fabrics used on the furnishings create a concept of ultimate luxury. All that makes up the interior spaces enhances a homely sensation in a unique rustic environment.

### THE SITTING ROOM

This camp is protected by a covering of weather proof rip-stop canvas in a bespoke elephant grey colour that is unique to Abu. The sitting room is divided into three spacious areas.

One seating area overlooks the swimming pool and out onto the Delta, where one frequently observes aquatic life including impressive pods of hippo.

This area boasts impressive framed Graham Springer photography, a cluster of ceramic 'mud lights', an oversized comfortable sofa covered in luxurious mill-washed Belgian linen, raffia-covered ottoman, a wrought-iron and recycled parquet wooden-topped coffee table with candle cloches, wooden-beaded embroidered cushions and several other functional and aesthetically impressive objet d'art.

Another area is furnished with comfortable seats around a large round oak table where one can enjoy board games, cards or relaxed conversation with friends and family.

The third area overlooks the deck and riverbank beach on which a 'fire bowl' has been constructed for catering in an unfettered outdoor environment. The fire bowl – or boma – is lit by a multitude of colonialesque paraffin lanterns at night.

An impressive element in the construction and location of the camp is a termite mound constructed over decades by generations of termites. This termite mound is situated in a focal area of the camp and is visible from the sitting room and towers over the deck.



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### THE DINING ROOM

To experience the gastronomic creations of the well-appointed kitchen, guests may be seated in comfortable wooden carvers around one of two solidly constructed roughly-hewn natural reclaimed wood dining tables. The tables are surrounded by a plethora of interesting and unique objet from around the world.

African drums, carved from tree trunks, house a variety of walking sticks. The granite topped Indian wrought-iron server is illuminated by two standing lamps crafted from vintage Indian balustrade and backed by a large mirror that reflects the African landscape. Four large, impressive wood and iron candelabras flank the wooden-paddled ceiling fan above the two dining tables. Again, colour is limited to natural charcoals, greys and a variety of earth tones evident in the variety of natural woods.

### THE GYM

The gym, adjacent to the pool deck, is equipped with an ergo machine, treadmill, yoga mats and free weights. Sun loungers are available to be placed in the sun or under the parasols on the deck in order to provide a place to rest after a workout in the gym or simply after a sumptuous meal.

### THE LIBRARY

Aged-oak, custom-made cabinets filled with new and old books flank a long library table that is illuminated by a row of 'planetarium lights'. The library includes an area that has been specifically appointed to provide the latest in computer technology.

### TENTED VILLAS

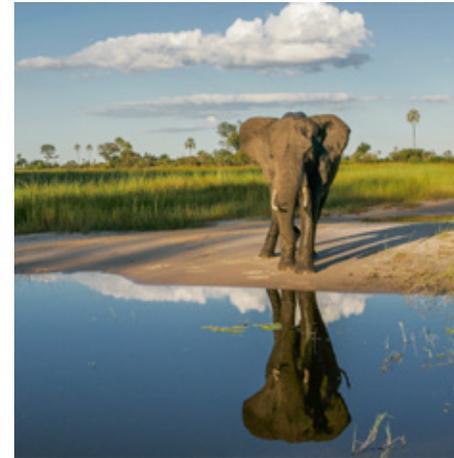
The accommodation areas are rustic in style, but grand and luxurious in nature. Each tented room includes an en-suite bathroom facility, an outdoor bath and an interior seating area. Each area has its own deck appointed with sun loungers and a dining table with two chairs.

Guests sleep between fine combed-cotton percale bed sheets and duvets, with embroidered linen throws used in every unit. Artwork, objet floor-rugs and lighting provide ultimate comfort.

The outdoor bathroom, while private and secure, boasts a large copper-skirted bath set under the open African skies, where guests can absorb the sounds of nature whilst relaxing in warm aqueous luxury.



**ABU CAMP**  
Okavango Delta - Botswana



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