

AZURA

SELOUS GAME RESERVE, TANZANIA

We have an experienced, welcoming and fun group of guides who with dedication and passion show our guests the best of the Selous Game Reserve and its varied wildlife, game, birds, flora and fauna. They have all worked for the camp for many years and know the Selous and the animal movements and habits incredibly well.

The below is the insight into their backgrounds and specialist areas.



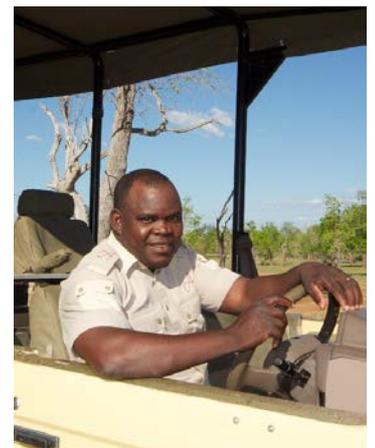
Phillip Guvheya –Head guide



Phillip was born in Zimbabwe and joined the tourism industry after he left school in the 1990's, working for Zimbabwe Sun Hotels and getting a good grounding in the service industry. In 1996 he set out to become a professional hunter, achieving his full license in 1997 and serving with the Zimbabwe Parks board, assisting in the control of problem animals. In 1998 he moved on to Safari Sun Lodges to begin his guiding career, starting with an extensive two-year training course that culminated in his achieving his Guide's Proficiency certification, a well-respected qualification in the industry. Because of the economic situation in Zimbabwe from 2000, Phillip sought work elsewhere and gained new experience and qualifications in Zambia, Botswana and Namibia. He spends a lot of time now furthering his knowledge in the fields of habits and habitats of the smaller fauna. Phillip joined Azura in 2010.

Joseph Kayoka

Joseph is from southern Tanzanian, where his family are farmers. After leaving school he joined a safari company where he worked as a mechanic and this exposure to the safari industry led him to explore an interest in fauna and flora. He joined a hunting organisation and during his three years with them received extensive guide training which allowed him to work as a guide throughout Tanzania and also in Zambia. He decided to train as a Professional Hunter before he real love for wildlife brought him back to guiding. He joined Azura Selous in 2012 and hopes to broaden his extensive knowledge whilst specialising in Leopard and Buffalo.





Joseph Nenga

Joseph is from the Mara region in the north east of Tanzania and is of the Kurya tribe. His father was a local hunter and so imparted this knowledge on to him as they searched for birds and animals to supplement their diet. In 2000 he joined the Tanzania Youth Organisation and in their Pathfinder scheme achieved a Master Guide qualification. In 2010 he completed his Tour-guiding qualification and then worked with the local authorities in the Selous Game Reserve honing his bush skills and then working in the Mikumi National Park as a fully-fledged guide. He then joined Azura Selous where he hopes to further his interests in plants and in tracking the smaller mammals.



Vitus Alberto Sintala

Vitus is from the Katavi region in the south west of Tanzania. His interests in wildlife brought him to work with an ethology researcher in the world famous Katavi National Park in 2000. He started his guide training in 2005 in the Katavi National Park with Nomad camps. He completed an academic course in Tour-guiding in 2007 whilst continuing to further his guiding in Katavi. His work experience with Nomad took him to the Mahale Mountains National Park where he stayed until 2012 when he moved to the Selous Game Reserve and Azura Selous. His main interests are birding and tracking big game.

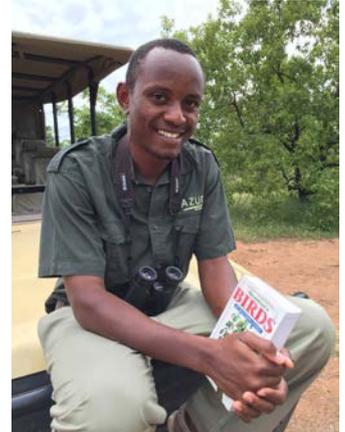


Rajabu Marwa

Rajabu Marwa hails from the Bunda district of the Mara region in northern Tanzania. After studying a diploma in Hotel Management at the Moshi YMCA College in the Kilimanjaro province, he went on to do a 6 month management trainee internship at the Serena hotel in Arusha. After the 6 months was up, he was employed full time for a further 2 years. Seeking out more of a bush experience he joined an overland truck company, based in the Maswa game reserve, as Camp Supervisor where he remained for 3 years. From there, to consolidate his bush knowledge and experience, he found his way to the very remote Selous where he joined the Azura team as Camp Manager, a role he has held for the last 5 years. His knowledge of camp operations is invaluable and with his great personality he can entertain guests with great stories of life in the bush!

Albert Mutalemwa

Although born in the Bukoba region in the Northwest of Tanzania, he grew up in Arusha, the hub for the Serengeti. His interest in guiding started when he was young as his brother was a guide and would come home to tell Albert the most amazing stories about the wildlife and experiences with guests. So in 2009, after he had completed high school he decided to join the Mount Meru college in Arusha, to follow in his brothers footsteps, and study Game Ranging. From there he went to the Mdonya Old River camp based in the Ruaha National Park where he completed his field training. Once fully qualified, he became a guide for them at their Tandara Tented camp and stayed for 2 years. Wanting to gain more experience in a different environment, he moved to the Selous Reserve where he was employed for 2 years at a neighbouring lodge before recently joining the team at Azura Retreats Selous. He is passionate about all wildlife, but has a keen eye and great interest in birds.



Jason and Karen du Plessis - General Manager

Jason was born in South Africa but grew up in Botswana until the age of 12. The wall of his back garden led straight into the African bush. This is was his playground after school every day! He has travelled extensively throughout Botswana with his family, camping in the bush for up to six weeks at a time, and this is where his love for the bush and outdoors developed. After attending high school in South Africa, he completed a Diploma in Game Ranging and Lodge management and went on to work as a guide in South Africa at a five star lodge in a big five area. During this time he also completed his Trails Guide qualifications so that he was able to conduct walking safaris. After a couple years he caught the travel bug, so he obtained a PADI scuba diving instructor rating and has since travelled/worked in many destinations as a result. He met his wife Karen at the beginning of these travels 11 years ago. After four years working as PADI Instructors, they were offered the opportunity to become the general managers for a private island in the Caribbean. They have since co-managed three separate private islands, as well as a lodge in the Serengeti. Jason's passions are anything and everything outdoors, from fauna to flora, big and small. He also has a keen interest in wildlife photography.

Karen was born and grew up in Hong Kong, until she was 16 years old, to very adventurous parents. As a result, by a young age she had already travelled to many places in Australasia. After attending senior school and Business College in the UK she went on to work in the corporate world of London. After 10 years she decided there had to be more to life! She sold her property and all her belongings and went travelling through Thailand for 6 months. There she learned how to scuba dive and after a further year of travelling through Australia, decided to become a PADI Scuba instructor. She decided on South Africa for this next adventure! Once qualified, she was sent to work in Mozambique where she met Jason. They have travelled and worked together since then, always in extremely remote locations with challenging logistics, which is where their combined strengths lie. As with Jason, Karen is passionate about the great outdoors, with a love of all creatures and critters, above and below the water! Africa has now truly stolen her heart and their adventure continues with Azura Selous!