

10/21/2003

Hello to all,

Just a short note to update you on our travels.

We rode into Botswana yesterday. As our guides told us, as soon as you cross the border, you will be in your vision of what Africa would be like. How true! Less than three miles from the border we saw crushed trees and droppings indicating the passage of elephants.

We rode about 100 miles on what would have been hard packed dirt roads. Fortunately for the locals, the two year drought is now over, we rode through rain for four and half days, and what would have been an easy run down hard packed dirt was a very interesting ride two up on a heavily loaded bike with 80/20 street oriented tires. The mud was the viscosity of grease on glass, so I had a challenging ride. We only went down once, in the first big mud hole we came across. It was the usual equation: my speed exceeded my ability. Fortunately, no damage to us or the bike and we soldiered on. We were, however, very glad to see the pavement.

Spending the night tonight in the Chobe Safari Lodge. We're flying out tomorrow morning into the Okavango Delta, the heart of what remains of wild Africa south of the Sahara. We'll be there for four days, and hope to have some excellent adventures sleeping in tents with wild game wandering through our camp.

I've attached a picture of what we came across while riding into our hotel. We came across this herd of elephants a few miles from here. There were at least 50, with lots and lots of babies.

I have reloaded the file for the e-postcard from KwaZulu-Natal. Please check it out, as it has some good pictures.

Also, please, please, please let me know ASAP if there are any problems with the files I'm posting on the web site. I have NO ability to check the files from where I am on the end of a 16.8kbs connection.

Be well,
Doug



Female African elephant defends a calf from our presence on the bike. We were about 100 feet away from them.

Photo by Stephanie Hackney, Nikon 5700