



## WATERWAYS & WILDLIFE AFRICAN SAFARI

This well planned, expertly guided safari offers you a memorable African adventure. Explore the contrasting regions of the dry Kalahari Desert, Okavango's idyllic Delta Panhandle, Namibia's lush Caprivi Strip, the banks of the wide Chobe River, and conclude with the mighty Victoria Falls. You will experience the waterways and wildlife of three fascinating African countries whilst staying in a mixture of lodges and tented camps that complement the uniqueness of each area. From returning to nature at a remote tented camp in the Kalahari to relaxing in a watery paradise at Nxamaseri Island Lodge in the Delta, this safari offers diverse and interesting experiences. Your professional and personable guide will enhance your journey of discovery

with their excellent local knowledge, allowing you to fully unwind and enjoy your safari holiday.

### Day 1 - Flight to Namibia

A scheduled overnight flight from London, via Johannesburg, to Windhoek in Namibia with *South African Airways* begins your Waterways & Wildlife African Safari.

Includes dinner on the flight.

### Day 2 – Windhoek

You are welcomed upon your arrival into Windhoek International Airport and transferred into the capital city for an overnight stay at a comfortable guesthouse. The guesthouse is an ideal place to recuperate from your flight and enjoy a relaxing afternoon, or you may like to head into the city centre for some shopping and sightseeing. Meals in Windhoek are not included for today, so that you have the option of dining out in town or to order in at the guesthouse as suits.



Includes breakfast during the flight.

### Day 3 – Kanana Wilderness, Kalahari

Begin with breakfast at the guesthouse and then depart Windhoek at around 09.00 with your Namibia safari guide. You drive through freehold cattle farmland, heading east to reach the Buitepos border where you will cross into Botswana. Proceed deeper into the Kalahari Desert to the Kanana Wilderness Area where you stay two nights in en-suite tented accommodation at Motswiri Lodge.

This afternoon there's time to take a nature drive into the Kanana Wilderness Area to enjoy the diversity of vegetation and desert habitats: from soft sand-veld to firm calcrete pans. This private reserve is home to a variety of antelope such as eland, duiker, kudu and oryx, as well as rhino, giraffe, zebra and much more. Predators that may be seen include leopard, cheetah, hyena, jackal and occasionally wild dog.

Windhoek to Motswiri Lodge: approx. 5.5 hours (460km)

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### Day 4 – Kanana Wilderness, Kalahari



Spend a full day here on activities which explore the Kanana Wilderness Reserve. You begin by accompanying a San Bushman guide on an informative bush walk. Your local guide will demonstrate their clicking language and introduce you to the wonders of the Kalahari through their eyes, giving you a fascinating look at how they have successfully lived in harmony with the desert for thousands of years. Discover their remarkable tracking skills which have been passed down over generations and learn the medicinal and nutritional values of an assortment of roots, insects and plants. A tasty lunch and

leisure time follows, before you are treated to another afternoon nature drive.

Safari drive and walk.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

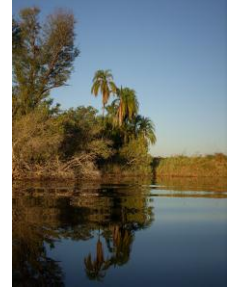
## Day 5 – Okavango Delta Panhandle



Head north today and experience the contrasting landscapes of Botswana as the desert makes way to the verdant floodplains, permanent lagoons and channels of the Okavango Delta. In the early afternoon you reach Nxamaseri Island Lodge, situated along the Delta Panhandle and a short boat ride from the main road. The remote and tranquil setting allows you to fully escape civilisation and immerse yourself in this wilderness area. This charming lodge is sheltered by towering trees, beside a labyrinth of lagoons and channels fed by the

main Okavango River. Each en-suite chalet is secluded amongst indigenous forest with a private deck overlooking the water. Raised wooden walkways link the chalets to the main area of the lodge.

This afternoon you head out on a boat trip along the papyrus and waterlily lined waterways, soaking up the sunset before returning for dinner and an evening by the campfire. The permanent lagoons and channels of the Delta Panhandle harbour an astounding array of colourful birdlife and fish as well as hippos and crocodiles. The waterways and floating peat islands are too unstable for large game; however you may be lucky enough to glimpse the shy aquatic sitatunga antelope, playful otters and vervet monkeys that cavort amongst the island vegetation.



Motswiri Lodge to Nxamaseri Island Lodge: approx. 5.5 hours (450km)  
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

## Day 6 – Okavango Delta Panhandle

Wake to a dawn chorus of birds and grunts of hippos. Spend your day cruising the waterways partly by motorboat and partly in a traditional dugout canoe, known as a mokoro to the indigenous Bayei and Banoka people. Your local guide will pole you through picturesque channels of the Delta. This is a tranquil and unobtrusive way to get close in to the surrounding papyrus and phragmite reeds which teem with resident birdlife such as weavers, bee-eaters, king fishers, jacana, African fish eagle, darter and a variety of herons. The mokoro plays a vital role in everyday life in the Delta where it is used for transport, fishing and collecting food.

Typically you'll enjoy a morning activity before returning to the lodge for lunch and a siesta. You can then choose another activity from a selection including an afternoon boat excursion, guided island walk, visit to a local village or a fishing excursion (catch and release policy is encouraged).

Delta cruises.  
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



## Day 7 – Mahango Game Reserve

Your journey today begins with a visit to the sacred Tsodilo Hills to discover the legends and myths surrounding these imposing quartzite outcrops. Revered by the San Hambukushu and Ju/hoansi people for thousands of years, the Tsodilo Hills are home to a vast gallery of bushman rock paintings and archaeological sites.

Return to the main road and proceed northwards to cross the Moembo border into Namibia. You enter Mahango Game Reserve, a small park renowned for its high concentration of wildlife including the rare roan and sable antelope, herds of buffalo and elephant, giraffe, lion, hippo, and leopard. A short drive on from Mahango, you arrive at Nunda River Lodge in the late afternoon. Here you'll stay in comfortable en-suite chalets overlooking the Okavango River. The Lodge boasts a large wooden deck over the river - a perfect spot to relax for sundowners.

Nxamaseri Island Lodge to Nunda River Lodge: approx. 4 hours (200km)  
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



## Day 8 – Caprivi



Depart and head east into the Caprivi Strip to reach Camp Kwando. Stop off to view Popa Falls and then drive through rural villages and Bwabwata National Park to Kongola. From here you head south towards Mudumu National Park, to arrive at Camp Kwando in time for lunch. This delightfully rustic camp is located on the Kwando River, a short distance north of Mudumu. The en-suite tented and thatch chalets, as well as the lounge and dining areas, are slightly raised on stilts beside the river's edge, immersing you in the river sights and sounds. You can bird watch or even fish off your chalet balcony.

Once settled in, you head out on a sundowner boat cruise along the Kwando River – a great way to discover this pretty waterway and spot birdlife plus any animals coming down to the river's edge to drink.

Nunda River Lodge to Camp Kwando: approx. 3.5 hours (240km)  
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



### Day 9 – Caprivi

Rise with the dawn and optimise your wildlife viewing opportunities by taking a game drive into Mudumu National Park. The combined woodland, riverside and floodplain habitats here attract a multitude of game and birdlife to this remote and relatively under-utilised wildlife area. The surrounding rivers form the parks natural boundaries so animals are free to cross between reserves in this region, meaning that sightings can be varied. Return to the camp to relax during the heat of the day for lunch and a siesta before enjoying another afternoon boat excursion along the Kwando River.

Safari drive and boat cruise.  
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### Day 10 – Chobe National Park



The route today is via the Caprivi's administrative capital of Katima Mulilo and across Ngoma border into Botswana. Shortly after the border you drive through the game-rich Chobe National Park to reach the small but bustling town of Kasane, overlooking the Chobe River and its floodplains. Here you stay two nights at Chobe Safari Lodge, a comfortable base from which to explore the eastern side of Chobe National Park on game drives and boat cruises.

You arrive in time to join an afternoon game drive within the park or boat cruise along the Chobe River. Chobe is renowned for its abundant game, including the fairly rare puku antelope, red lechwe, reedbuck, hippo, crocodile, buffalo and lion to name a few. Birdlife is equally prolific, with a multitude of herons, storks, geese, ducks, raptors and much more. The haunting calls of African fish eagles regularly echo along the riverfront. An unforgettable sight, particularly in the dry season, are the herds of elephant that converge on the riverfront to drink and bathe, sometimes swimming across the river to the northern banks and Namibia.

Camp Kwando to Chobe Safari Lodge: approx. 4 hours (250km)  
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### Day 11 – Chobe National Park

After breakfast you are taken on a morning game drive into Chobe National Park in an open game viewing vehicle which allows you to make the most of wildlife encounters. The game drive takes you along the lush riverfront and into the bush interior. An afternoon boat cruise along the Chobe River concludes your action packed day of game viewing. This mode of travel often reveals excellent wildlife sightings along the riverfront, its islands and its floodplains.

Safari drive and boat cruise.  
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



### Day 12 – Victoria Falls & departure flight

Bid your safari guide farewell before you are transferred by road to Victoria Falls, either on the Zambia or Zimbabwe side depending on where you will fly out from. You are taken on a brief guided tour of the mighty Victoria Falls, where the Zambezi River drops over 100m to form the world's largest curtain of water. Then proceed to either Livingstone or Victoria Falls airport in time to catch your afternoon departure flight home, via Johannesburg.

Should you wish to enjoy more time sightseeing in the Victoria Falls area we can easily arrange additional nights' accommodation and activities in Victoria Falls or Livingstone; please speak to us for more details and prices.

Chobe Safari Lodge to Victoria Falls: approx. 1.5 to 2 hours (about 75km)  
Includes breakfast.



### Day 13 - Arrive in London

## SAFARI INFORMATION

The Waterways & Wildlife African Safari encompasses a range of experiences and landscapes as you travel through eastern Namibia and Botswana to reach Victoria Falls. Cross the arid Kalahari Desert before exploring the lush Okavango Delta Panhandle and Caprivi Strip; search out wildlife in Chobe National Park and view one of the world's seven wonders – its largest waterfall. You will stay in a mix of quality lodges and tented camps, chosen for their style, location and experiences offered.

### Guide

A professional and knowledgeable safari guide will accompany you on the Waterways & Wildlife African Safari. Great importance is placed on selecting enthusiastic and personable guides as they are an integral part of your overall safari experience. The guides are usually Namibian and all have national guiding qualifications as well as extensive in-house training. They speak excellent English, in addition to their local languages, and will provide you with valuable insights to each of the areas you visit, flora and fauna you see, and cultures you meet. They are also adept at seeking out wildlife to ensure you get the most enjoyment out of your safari.

### Accommodation

You'll stay in a range of quality guesthouses, tented camps and lodges during the Waterways & Wildlife African Safari. Each establishment offers its own unique style of accommodation and charm, from a remote tented bush camp in the Kalahari to a tranquil riverfront chalet on the Okavango. Each is chosen for its combination of location, hospitality and experience offered. All guest rooms and chalets are en-suite and are furnished with twin or double beds.

### Vehicles

Your main safari vehicle will be a 4WD specifically designed for African safaris and driven by your guide. These are typically equipped with air-conditioning, fridge, large windows, seatbelts, pop-up roof and power points for charging batteries. A trailer may be used for transporting luggage, depending on the group size. Some excursions are run by individual lodges and conducted in their own open game viewing vehicles driven by their own guide/driver. Your safari guide will usually accompany you on these excursions. A minibus or similar style of vehicle may be used for airport transfers.

### Language

The Waterways & Wildlife African Safari is guided in English.

### Costs

The following is included in this African safari: *South African Airways* scheduled flights from London to Windhoek and from Victoria Falls to London; the services of a professional safari guide who will transport you in a specially modified safari vehicle; airport transfers as noted; mineral water whilst travelling in the safari vehicle; accommodation in a mixture of guesthouses, tented camps and lodges; activities as described and relevant park entrance fees; plus three meals on most days as noted in the itinerary.

### Meals

Lunch and dinner in Windhoek on Day 2, and lunch on Day 12 are not included. All other meals are included in the Waterways & Wildlife African Safari.

### Drinks

Mineral water is included whilst you are travelling in the safari vehicle. All other beverages are not included and are for your own account, payable directly at lodges and restaurants. You are welcome to buy and refrigerate any soft drinks or juice in the vehicle fridge during the journey.

### Single travellers

This group safari to Namibia, Botswana and Victoria Falls is a great way for single guests to meet other travellers and share experiences on an African adventure. A single supplement is charged for single room accommodation. If you are happy to share a twin room with a fellow traveller of the same gender please let us know and we will try to find you a suitable match, in which case the single supplement can be waived.

### Age of travellers

The Waterways & Wildlife African Safari accommodates children aged 12 and over. A private departure can be quoted for and provided on request for families with younger children.

### **Laundry**

The safari price does not include laundry; however a laundry service is often available at the lodges for an extra cost payable locally. To allow adequate time, we suggest making use of laundry services at lodges where you are staying two nights.

### **Luggage**

We request that you limit your luggage to around 20kg per person, plus camera gear. More importantly than weight, please pack your luggage into soft squashable bags without any hard sides or ridges to allow for easy storage in the vehicle.

### **Visa & passport requirements**

The Waterways & Wildlife African Safari does not include visa entry fees to the countries visited; visa fees and fulfilling visa requirements are **your own responsibility**. Travellers with British, New Zealand, Australian, Canadian or American passports are currently not required to apply in advance for a tourist visa to visit Namibia, Botswana or Zambia / Zimbabwe (with the exception of a multiple entry visa for Zambia). A tourist visa is automatically issued on arrival into each country, at no cost for Namibia or Botswana and for a fee into Zambia or Zimbabwe (payable in US\$ upon entry for either a single or double entry – Canadian passport holders must arrange double entry visas in advance of travel). Visa requirements can change without notice so we strongly recommend that you research the latest regulations a few months and then weeks before you travel, ensuring you meet stipulations. We are happy to give advice, and suggest you also contact the relevant embassy or high commission near you.

All travellers must ensure their passport is valid for a **minimum of 6 months** after conclusion of your African safari and that you have at least **6 clear visa pages** remaining to accommodate new immigration stamps (a minimum of 2 clear pages is required for entry into each country). Entry may be denied to travellers who don't fulfill the above requirements.

### **Health requirements**

From the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011 South Africa has included Zambia in their list of Yellow Fever risk countries. This means that travellers who visit Zambia pre or post passing through South Africa are required to be vaccinated against Yellow Fever and show proof of this when entering South Africa (regardless of whether in transit or if staying over). If you are concluding this safari in Livingstone, Zambia, and you are travelling via South Africa, please ensure that you visit your local GP or Travel Clinic to receive a vaccination at least 10 days before your trip and that you travel with your Yellow Fever Certificate. Anyone unable to be vaccinated for medical reasons must be in possession of an official waiver certificate.