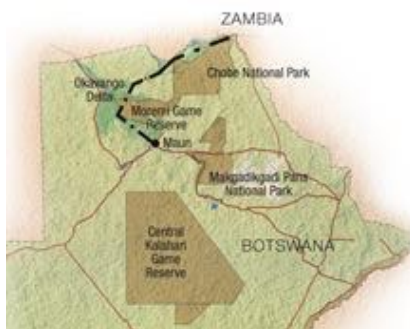


## BOTSWANA WILDERNESS SAFARI



By staying in a combination of lodges and custom-designed en-suite safari tents at exclusive semi-permanent mobile camps, this luxurious safari allows you to explore Botswana's best-known wildlife areas in comfort and style. It offers luxury camping in three prime wilderness areas, fantastic guiding, and detailed insights into habitats and game movements. You can explore the country's game-rich plains, and the clear waters and wooded islands of the flooded inner Okavango Delta, in several ways: by air; on a variety of walks; through boat, canoe and mokoro excursions; and on day and night game drives. The spectacular finale to your trip is a visit to the majestic Victoria Falls in Zambia.

### Day 1 - Flight to Botswana

Your Botswana Wilderness Safari begins with an overnight flight from London, via Johannesburg in South Africa, to Maun: the gateway to the Okavango Delta.

Includes dinner on the flight.



### Days 2 to 4 – Okavango Delta

On arrival in Botswana you meet your safari guide and fellow travellers before embarking on your wilderness safari proper. Board a light aircraft for the flight deep into Botswana's Okavango Delta. Your destination is a wilderness camp situated in a permanently flooded region of this watery landscape. Spend the next three nights in relative luxury at a true water camp: Jacana or Xigera safari camp. The setting represents the essence of the Okavango Delta as abundant water; sunlight and soil combine to form a paradise bursting with life.

Activities from the safari camp include year-round mokoro (traditional dug-out canoes used by tribes in Botswana) excursions as well as island bush walks and, water level permitting, motorboat cruises. Safaris by 4WD are also possible when water levels are low, typically from September to May.

The luxury safari camp is set in one of the Okavango Delta wetland areas most densely populated with the elusive sitatunga antelope and more common red lechwe. Wildlife concentrations depend on the water flow and volume, so change from season to season, but all the large animals can be found in this exclusive wilderness area including elephant, lion, leopard and buffalo. Birds such as Pel's fishing owl can be seen here as well as the greater and lesser jacanas and a variety of kingfishers.



Accommodation will be in a spacious en suite room linked by pathways through the vegetation. Each is on a wooden deck overlooking the floodplains or surrounding waterways. The safari camp has a plunge pool for cooling off from the midday sun, a dining area and a lounge with a view. It's a lovely small camp offering relaxed comfort with a touch of luxury during your safari in Botswana.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### Days 5 to 7 – Khwai Reserve

Fly by light aircraft to the northern banks for the Khwai River, north of Moremi Game Reserve. Khwai overlaps the north-eastern reaches of the Okavango Delta and is one of the most diverse regions northern Botswana with regular exciting wildlife sightings. Riverine woodland and open floodplains flank the Khwai River. Herds of plains game are attracted by this water source followed by the predators that hunt them. Away from the river, mopane woodland dotted with open grasslands stretch for miles and provides cover for large buffalo herds and large numbers of elephant.

Spend your time exploring the game drive trails alongside lily-filled pools and through woodland, open plains and forests here. Your guide will lead you on nature walks, mokoro excursions (seasonal and dependent on water levels), spot-lit

night drives and the more traditional game drives - the first three activities are not permitted in Botswana's national parks but are possible in Khwai which is a private community reserve.

Your base will be the Khwai Discoverer Camp where you'll sleep in large walk-in canvas tents each with its own en-suite bathroom. The furniture is made from teak and the beds are covered with luxurious and comfortable linens.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



### Days 8 to 10 – Linyanti Reserve

After a light breakfast, you fly northeastwards to the Linyanti Reserve. From the airstrip it's a short game drive to the exclusive Linyanti Tented Camp. Set up under African ebony and knobthorn acacia trees, the safari camp overlooks the Linyanti Marshes which attract a variety of animals as they come down to slake their thirst.

The landscape of the Linyanti includes open floodplains beside the water, an adjacent band of riverine forest, and dense (mostly mopane tree) forests stretching away to the south. This variety of habitats creates a wilderness paradise for a high diversity of wildlife and bird species. Activities include day and night safari drives in the northern sector, where this private reserve borders Botswana's Chobe National Park, exploring a range of habitats from riverbanks to scrub and forest.

Also on offer is an all-day game drive to the usually dry Savuti Channel. This experience gives you an excellent view of the wildlife found in what's sometimes known as the 'stolen river'. Your guide will discuss the options with you: if s/he believes the wildlife viewing to be better in Linyanti's northern sector, due to seasons and animal movements, you will probably concentrate your safari drives in that area.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



### Day 11 – Chobe River & Zambia

After a final short morning drive and breakfast, you will be transferred by light aircraft to the town of Kasane, on the northern edge of Chobe National Park. Experience tells us that the game-viewing is often better from the Chobe River than from a vehicle, as animals come down to the water to drink during the heat of the day. So a light lunch is arranged aboard a shaded boat whilst you enjoy a stunning cruise. Large herds of elephants and buffalo come to drink, and occasionally swim across the river to feed on the islands. There's also the chance to spot the relatively rare puku antelope and shy Chobe bushbuck. Bird lovers will be awed by the amazing array of bird species to be seen, from goliath herons to small bitterns.

Later in the afternoon, you cross from Botswana into Zambia at the Kazungula border, traversing the Chobe River by boat before travelling the remaining 70km or so by road. Your accommodation in Zambia is a lodge situated about 12km upstream from the Victoria Falls and hidden away from the hustle and bustle of Livingstone town. Each of the tented rooms has an en suite bathroom and a view across the mighty Zambezi River.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



### Day 12 – Victoria Falls / Flight to London

At 1,708 metres wide in full flood, the Victoria Falls is the largest curtain of water in the world and drops more than 100 metres into the sheer Batoka Gorge. After breakfast you have time for a guided tour of this spectacular natural feature, deservedly one of the world's natural wonders, before transferring to the airport for your scheduled flight to the UK and the end of your wilderness safari.

Includes breakfast. Dinner is on the flight.

### Day 13 - Arrive in London

## **SAFARI INFORMATION**

By staying in a combination of luxury and exclusive, semi-permanent mobile camps in custom-designed en-suite safari tents, this safari allows you to explore Botswana's best-known wildlife areas in comfort and style.

### **Guide**

The Botswana Wilderness Safari is led by an experienced and fully trained professional guide. S/he is very knowledgeable and will be able to name all the animals and birds you see as well as most of the plants, offering detailed insights into habitats and game movements.

### **Accommodation**

Whilst in Zambia on Day 12 of your safari, you will overnight at the lovely Toka Leya lodge overlooking the Zambezi River. This will be your base from which you visit the Victoria Falls.

Whilst in Botswana, you will stay in safari camps with specially designed walk-in Meru tents. Each tent is sited so as to make the most of the spectacular panoramic views offered by the camp's location. Full-size beds with pure cotton linen and soft down duvets raise the comfort of a camping safari to a new level of luxury.

Each tent has an en suite bathroom with a flush toilet, bucket or standard shower, hand basins, mirror, towels, soaps and other toiletries. Bedside lanterns and finishes create style and comfort rivalling those in some of Botswana's most elegant lodges.

At each safari camp, the central area comprises of at least a generously sized 7x5 metre marquee tent, with dark teak camp chairs, a full bar table and basic library, providing a cool, shady and relaxing area where you can rest during the heat of the day.

Delicious three-course meals are prepared by the camp chef and served on a beautifully laid dining table, often situated for you to enjoy dinner under Africa's stars. When night falls, paraffin hurricane lanterns and a crackling campfire set the evening ambience.

### **Vehicles**

The Botswana Wilderness Safari is conducted in a custom-built 4WD safari vehicle with open sides designed for all-round visibility. Each of the eight passenger seats is a 'window seat'. The sides and top of the vehicle are canvas, which can be rolled back to give excellent all-round visibility during game drives. Each vehicle contains a fridge and a small field-guide library, as well as a supply of blankets during the winter months (June-August).

### **Safari routing**

On some dates, the Botswana Wilderness Safari may run in reverse: beginning in Livingstone, Zambia and ending in Maun, Botswana. Talk to us at *Wild about Africa* for more details.

### **Language**

The Botswana Wilderness Safari is conducted in English.

### **Costs**

The Botswana Wilderness Safari includes scheduled, overnight international flights between London and Africa; transport in a safari vehicle or a light aircraft; transfers; accommodation in safari camps offering relative luxury and situated in private reserves and usually three meals a day as specified in the itinerary.

### **Meals**

This wilderness safari includes three meals on most days. The exception to this is lunch on Day 12 – although a small sandwich or roll is usually served on the flight between Livingstone and Johannesburg.

### **Drinks**

A good selection of drinks is included during your Botswana safari. Premium brands such as French champagne or single malt whiskies are not included in the safari price but may be available to buy at an additional cost.

### **Age of Travellers**

Children from the age of 12 are welcome on all scheduled departures. For parties with children under 12, a private tailor-made safari will be quoted for on request.

## Single Travellers

If you are willing to share a room whilst on this luxury safari and we are able to match you with another guest of the same gender who is also willing to share, we will be happy to waive the single supplement. However, if there is no suitable match, the single supplement surcharge will apply.

## Luggage

The Botswana Wilderness Safari includes some transfers by light aircraft. Because of this, there is a luggage limit of 20kg (44lbs) per person including reasonable camera equipment. Luggage must be packed in soft squashable bags - no hard suitcases or bags with wheels can be transported as they physically cannot fit into the aircraft.

The maximum dimensions of the soft bags which can be accommodated are as follows: 25cm wide x 30cm high and 62cm long (10 x 12 x 24 inches). Please keep in mind that the baggage compartments on the light aircraft are only 25cm high, so the pilots must have the ability to manipulate the bag into the compartment. A collapsible wheeled luggage frame/trolley (separate to the bag) is allowed, as long as basic dimensions are similar to that of the bag. Incorrectly sized/weighted baggage will not be allowed, and you may be made to purchase/borrow a soft bag and re-pack your bags at the point of entry. Any costs of storing/repatriating your original bags will be at your cost.

This is seldom a problem as light, casual clothing along with at least one warm jumper or fleece is needed. Warmer clothing is recommended during the winter months (June to August). Speak to us if the luggage restrictions are concerning you because for an additional cost we may be able to book an extra 'seat' to allow for extra luggage allowance.

Weight distribution is important in light aircraft for safety reasons. Because of this, passengers weighing over 100kg (220lbs) must inform us prior to travel. It may be necessary to purchase an extra seat for anyone over the noted weight.

## Laundry

A basic laundry service is available all safari camps when spending more than one night. For cultural reasons, the camp staff will not wash any underwear or smalls. Should you wish to hand wash these yourselves, feel free to request a bucket and washing soap whilst at the safari camp.

## Tipping

Tipping whilst on your safari to Botswana is not compulsory. However, if you want to tip because you have received good service this is always appreciated. We recommend a discretionary US Dollars \$10 per day for your safari guide, US Dollars \$5 per day for mokoro polers or boatmen and US Dollars \$5 per day for the safari camp staff. The latter should be placed in the camp's communal tipping box to be distributed equally amongst all the staff.

## Passport and Visa requirements

It is our current understanding that travellers on British, American, Canadian, New Zealand and Australian passports do not need visas for South Africa or Botswana. You will require a visa for Zambia. Visa fees for entering Zambia are currently US\$50 per person for a single entry and US\$80 for a multiple entry. The visa fee is payable in US Dollars cash on arrival at Zambian Immigration. That said, it remains **your responsibility** to double check these details with the nearest relevant embassy to you.

It is a requirement that you check that your passport will have **at least six months left to run** when you travel, we recommend a validity of nine months to prevent any problems. You should also ensure that you will **have at least 3 clean pages** for each time that you pass through customs (these must be visa pages, not pages for amendments and endorsements which are usually at the back of a passport). Most countries require this, and we have had recent reports of South Africa actively enforcing this restriction – and refusing entry to those who don't comply. (If you will be passing through customs in more than one country, you need to make sure that you have sufficient blank pages for entry and exit stamps at each destination.)

## Health Matters

All travellers entering South Africa on their way to or from Zambia will be asked to produce a Yellow Fever Certificate (unless in possession of a valid waiver certificate). This includes in-transit passengers as well as those staying overnight in South Africa. If you are visiting Zambia and passing through South Africa please make sure that you have been vaccinated against Yellow Fever and that you travel with all your documentation. Please contact your GP or nearest Travel Clinic for more information.