



## Botswana & Victoria Falls Adventure

This comfortable camping safari allows you to explore the ever-changing areas of the Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park, where game is constantly on the move and the water levels and channels vary with the seasons. Sleep on camp beds in large dome-shaped tents, each with its own en-suite 'bush' toilet. Watch herds of elephant come to drink at the Linyanti River; spot herons fish the Khwai River, and enjoy a trip by mokoro (dug-out canoe) along the tranquil channels and across lily-covered pools in Moremi Game Reserve. A tour of the Victoria Falls in Zambia is the perfect introduction to this spectacular safari.

### Day 1 - Flight to Zambia

Begin your adventure to Africa with an overnight flight from London Heathrow to Johannesburg and on to Livingstone in Zambia.

Includes dinner on the flight.

### Day 2 – Victoria Falls, Zambia

On arrival at Livingstone Airport in Zambia you are met and embark straight onto a tour of the spectacular Victoria Falls. At 1,708 metres wide in full flood, the Victoria Falls is the largest curtain of water in the world, and one of its seven natural wonders. After you've had your fill of the Falls you drive west, to spend a very comfortable night at the lovely River Club. Set along the Zambezi's riverbank, each of the split-level chalets here has a large bedroom with spectacular views and a small toilet upstairs, and a large bathroom downstairs. The main areas are decorated in an Edwardian style and contain some fascinating artefacts and there is a well positioned swimming pool with views over the Zambezi River. The only variance from this itinerary is during the safari departing on the 20<sup>th</sup> July which overnights at another very good lodge on the Zambezi River's banks – Toka Leya.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



### Day 3 – Chobe River and Linyanti Reserve

After breakfast you leave Zambia and the Victoria Falls behind to enter Botswana at Kazungula: the point where Botswana, Zambia, Namibia and Zimbabwe meet.

Along the riverfront area of Chobe National Park the game viewing is often better from the river than from a safari vehicle, as the animals come down to the water during the heat of the day. Therefore we settle you aboard a shaded boat for a stunning adventure cruising along the Chobe River – watching the area's vast herds of elephant and buffalo come to drink, as well as a host of antelope. Sable antelope are often found here and you'll have your first opportunity to see puku –

an antelope only found in a select few areas of Africa. There are also good chances of spotting the shy Chobe bushbuck.

Once back at the boat station you will board your safari vehicle and begin the drive to the private Linyanti Reserve and your comfortable mobile safari camp there. This is an interesting drive that begins by passing small rural villages dotted along the border of Botswana and Namibia's Caprivi Strip, before turning southwest through the Chobe Forest Reserve and into Chobe National Park, before finally reaching the Linyanti Reserve. If local conditions make it better to fly rather than drive this route you might take a light aircraft flight from Kasane Airport to the Linyanti Reserve.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### Days 4 & 5 – Linyanti Reserve

During your stay here you explore each corner of Botswana's private Linyanti Reserve; searching for wildlife around its mopane woodlands, lush riverine forests and open floodplains. This incredibly diverse region plays host to an array of animals, most notably to nursery herds of female elephants and their young during the dry season (August to October) who slake their thirst in waters of the Linyanti River.



You might spend one whole adventurous day away from camp, beginning with a morning drive before enjoying a picnic lunch with sweeping views of the Linyanti waterways then, after a siesta in a hammock and a picnic lunch, you explore the Savuti channel area before returning to camp at dusk. On another day you can make shorter sorties to track a leopard's footprints or on a quest to follow the dawn call of a lion.



Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



### **Days 6, 7 & 8 – Khwai**

The safari group will board a light aircraft and fly south to Khwai and the north eastern reaches of Botswana's Okavango Delta. Your comfortable camp here is located in a wildlife area north of the Khwai River, the border between Khwai Community Reserve and the Moremi Game Reserve. This region of the Okavango Delta is one of the most diverse in northern Botswana with safari and wildlife experiences that rarely disappoint. Riverine woodland and open floodplains flank the Khwai River and attract herds of plains game and

the predators that hunt them – look out for leopard resting in tall acacia and leadwood trees! Away from the river the fauna changes to mopane woodland dotted with open grasslands which, together with the abundance of water, attracts herds of elephant and buffalo and the lion that stalk them.

At either wildlife destination you will spend your time exploring the game trails alongside lily-filled pools and through woodland, open plains and forests near the camp. Being in a private part of the reserve allows you to make the most of this fantastic wildlife viewing area, and you can enjoy game drives, night drives, seasonal mokoro (dug-out canoes) excursions or canoe trips and nature walks - the latter three activities are not permitted in Botswana's national parks.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### **Days 9 & 10 – Moremi Game Reserve, Okavango Delta**

Fly by light aircraft deep into Botswana's Moremi Game Reserve. Seeing the Okavango Delta from the air is a real experience, allowing you a fascinating view of the Delta as a whole, and insights into how its magical landscapes were formed.

Your destination is Xigera (pronounced 'keejera'): a private area within Moremi Game Reserve. This is a permanently flooded area where you'll find a profusion of plant and animal life, all within a paradise of remote islands ringed by clear-water channels.



Although there is game around, including red lechwe, sitatunga and elephant, this isn't your focus. You travel to Xigera to experience one of the Okavango Delta's lushest and most tropical areas, and to seek the particularly spectacular birdlife. Expect endless herons, egrets, cranes and smaller water-birds – and usually sightings of rarities like the Pel's fishing owls.

Spend your time here on a watery adventure, travelling by mokoro (the traditional Botswana dug-out canoe) or motorboat, and camping on a small vegetated island. Usually a longer boat excursion is included allowing you to explore areas of the Okavango Delta not reached by most other visitors to this area.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### **Day 11 – Flight to London**

From Xigera you transfer by light aircraft to Maun. It's the end of your Botswana & Victoria Falls Adventure and you bid farewell your camping safari guide and the rest of your group before taking your scheduled flight home.

Includes breakfast. Dinner is on the flight.

### **Day 12 – Arrive in London**

## ACCOMMODATION DETAILS

The Botswana & Victoria Falls Adventure is a comfortable camping safari that allows you to explore the ever-changing areas of the Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park, where game is constantly on the move and water levels and channels vary with the seasons. Whilst on this African safari adventure you will sleep on camp beds in large dome-shaped tents, each with its own en-suite 'bush' toilet.

### Guide

This 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, often adding tidbits of information that you'd never expected to discover.

### Camp team

Each of the camps in Botswana is managed by a camp team of two to three people. They will welcome you when you arrive and ensure you are comfortable during your stay.

### Accommodation

Whilst stopping in Zambia to visit the Victoria Falls on the first day of your safari adventure, you will overnight at a comfortable lodge overlooking the Zambezi River.

Whilst in Botswana, you will stay in comfortable mobile safari camps which utilise spacious 3 x 3 metre dome tents, each with a small veranda. The simply styled interior is made up of twin stretcher-beds with canvas bedrolls, cotton bed linen and duvets, a small bedside table and a 12V lamp.

Through a zip door at the rear of the tent is an en suite open-air 'bush' bathroom. These are fitted with a tin bucket shower, filled with warm water whenever it is required, a short-drop toilet covered with a toilet seat, and a table with a hand basin. Towels are supplied. A separate, communal toilet will also be available near the camp's main area.

Due to the remote location on a Delta island of the Xigera mobile camp, chemical toilets instead of short-drops are used in the en-suite, open-air bathroom enclosures here.

At each mobile camp a 5 x 5 metre tent with metal and canvas camp chairs is set up to provide shade and sheltered dining in the unlikely event of rain. Tasty, fresh meals are prepared over the camp fire by the chef and enjoyed at a table set with stainless-steel tableware under a shady tree or the open night sky.

### Private wildlife reserves

The renowned Chobe National Park and Moremi Game Reserve form the core of northern Botswana's protected safari areas. Around these is a patchwork of private wildlife reserves, sometimes called concessions. These range from 800-2,500km<sup>2</sup> and contain just one or two small safari camps which utilise part of the game drive areas exclusively for their guests. The campsites used on this comfortable mobile safari are also situated within these private reserves, but away from any safari camps in a wilderness area of their own. This means that apart from very occasionally crossing paths with another vehicle, travellers on the Botswana & Victoria Falls Adventure are afforded an almost exclusive safari experience in some top wildlife areas.

### Vehicles

The Botswana & Victoria Falls Adventure is conducted in a custom-built 4WD safari vehicle. These are usually Land Rovers or Land Cruisers that seat eight passengers in comfort. Each will be open-sided and have a canvas roof that can be rolled back for all-round visibility whilst on game drives. The roof and back covers may be closed on longer journeys to prevent too much dust, block out direct midday sun or during the odd rain shower. Each vehicle has a small fridge and carries a basic library of field guides on animal and bird life.

### Battery charging facilities

Charging facilities are limited when on safari so we recommend you carry with you batteries to last you at least three days. It is possible to use the vehicles cigarette lighter socket to charge batteries whilst on longer drives. Please bring your own attachments and adaptor to connect your batteries to the cigarette lighter.

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

### Language

The Botswana and Victoria Falls Adventure is conducted in English.

## Costs

This comfortable camping safari to Botswana includes transport in a custom-built safari vehicle or in a light aircraft; accommodation at a lodge in Zambia and comfortable mobile safari camps in Botswana; national park fees and usually three meals a day as specified in the itinerary.

## Drinks

Whilst on safari in Botswana, a complimentary bar offering a good variety of drinks is included. Bottled mineral water is always available to you throughout the safari adventure. Whilst in Zambia to visit Victoria Falls on Day 2 of the adventure, drinks will be for your own account. These can be paid for in US Dollars and we recommend you travel with notes split into small denominations as the lodge may not have a lot of change available.

## Luggage

The Botswana & Victoria Falls Adventure includes at least three light aircraft transfers between safari camps. The maximum luggage limit on these flights, and therefore the camping safari, is 20kg (44lbs) per person including reasonable camera equipment. All 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 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 about 25cm high, so the pilots must have the ability to manipulate the bag into the compartment.

This is seldom a problem as light, casual clothing is all that is needed along with at least one warm jumper or fleece. Much 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 send any excess baggage ahead for you to collect at the end of the safari.

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

Laundry is not possible on this Botswana safari. However, water and washing powder can be made available to you should you wish to do any hand washing.

## Single Travellers

The single supplement is charged from the third single traveller to book on the Botswana & Victoria Falls Adventure. No single supplement will be charged to the first two single travellers booked on this camping safari. Speak to us when you make a booking to find out if we are able to waive the single supplement for you.

As there is a limit on the number of tents available on each Botswana safari, you may be asked to share with another traveller of the same gender.

## Torches

As all the campsites in Botswana are unfenced and animals do pass through camp during the night, we recommend you bring a good torch with you. A torch is also useful to have near to hand should you need a light quickly whilst in your tent at night.

## Visa and passport requirements

It's important that you take responsibility for checking that you satisfy any visa and immigration requirements for the countries to which you travel on this trip. Only you know your own circumstances, and visa regulations do change periodically, often without any warning or announcement.

Having said that, and even though it remains your responsibility, we'll always do best to advise and help where we can. Firstly, we recommend most strongly 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. Secondly, 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 both Namibia and 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.)

It is our current understanding that travellers on British, American, 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 double entry (multiple entry visas can only be arranged in advance). 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.

The above is given for guidance, but is not definitive. Always bear in mind that this situation can change.

### **Health Matters**

We ask that you check with your own doctor to find out the latest medical guidance, well before you travel. We're not medically qualified, and so can't offer this. Having said that, we do recommend that all travellers to Botswana take anti malaria pills whilst they travel. In addition, all travellers entering South Africa on their way to or from Zambia (Livingstone by Victoria Falls), will be asked to produce a Yellow Fever Certificate. This includes in-transit passengers as well as those staying overnight in the country. If you are 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 on all the immunisations needed for your holiday.