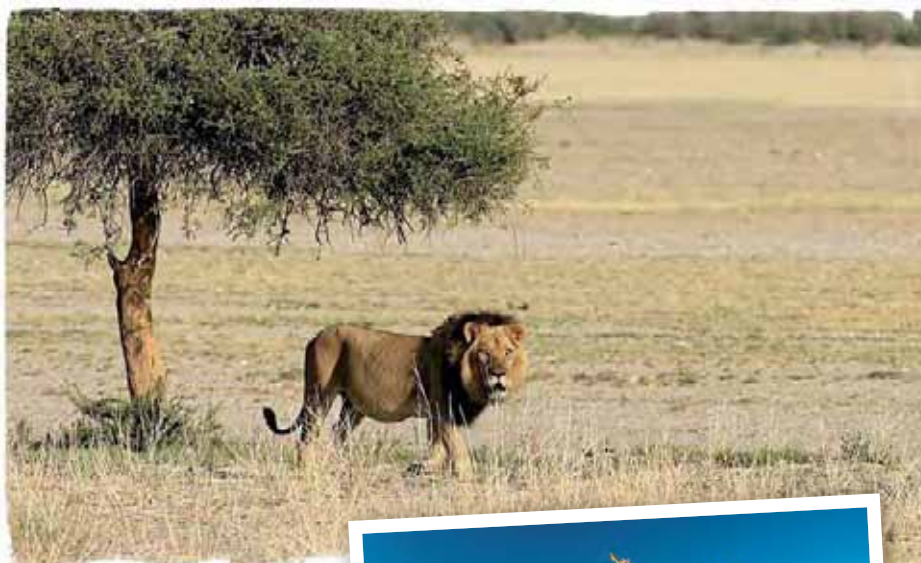




Okavango & Central Kalahari Safari

Min 2 passengers / Max 8 passengers | 4 nights' comfortable camping / 4 nights' accommodation



Day 1 Flight to Botswana

Begin your safari with a scheduled overnight flight from London, via Johannesburg in South Africa.

Day 2 Maun

On arrival you are met and driven to the delightful Thamalakane River Lodge. Overnight in comfortable stone and thatch en suite chalets overlooking the river from which the lodge gets its name.

Day 3 Kalahari

After an early breakfast, you set out past villages and cattle posts to the borders of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. Your destination is the relatively luxurious Deception Valley Lodge situated on a private game farm bordering the Kalahari Reserve. There is a substantial amount of wildlife on this well established desert game farm and in the late afternoon there might be time to experience one of the activities offered here.

Days 4 - 7 Central Kalahari Game Reserve

This morning, after following the reserve fence line for a while, you'll enter the game reserve and game drive to your comfortable camp. The Central Kalahari Game Reserve is the ultimate in remote destinations. It covers over 50,000km², most of which is inaccessible with only a few game drive tracks making the northern sector reachable to safari goers. Despite what is generally said the Kalahari isn't a

desert but rather a vast sand-sheet, a fossil desert, now largely covered in bushes, trees and grasses. Fortunately man hasn't yet found a use for all this sand, so most of the Kalahari remains untouched, as it has been for about 65 million years.

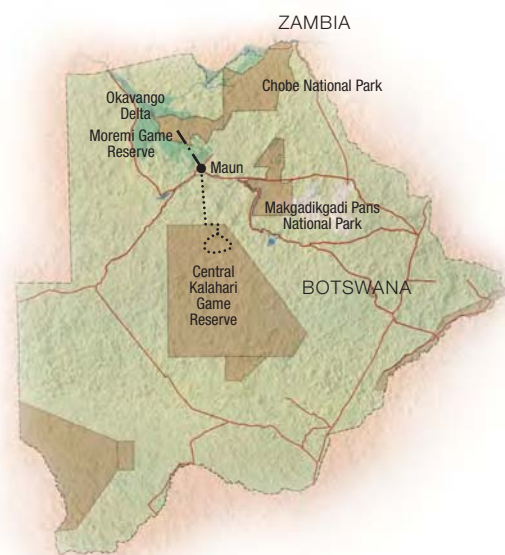
Within the Kalahari, Deception Valley is a fossil riverbed of fine clay, flanked by petrified dunes. When the rains arrive in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, they herald a short period when ancient river valleys like this one break out in new growth of nutritious grasses. This attracts huge herds of springbok, oryx and zebra from all over the park, creating a short yet incredibly prolific period of wildlife viewing. During this time you may also see large congregations of ostrich, giraffe and wildebeest, as well as cheetah and the Kalahari's famous black-maned lions. All of this combines to create some really outstanding game viewing – and it's witnessed by remarkably few people! On at least one of the days spent here your safari guide takes you on a full-day safari drive, with a picnic lunch, to

explore areas further afield such as Piper's Pan and the Letiahau Valley.

Days 8 & 9 Moremi Reserve

From the Central Kalahari it is around a six-hour drive back to Maun, where you transfer to light aircraft for a short flight (about 25 minutes) into Botswana's Okavango Delta. Your destination is Xigera, a private and permanently flooded area inside Moremi Game Reserve. In stark contrast to the Kalahari Desert, you'll find a profusion of plant and animal life here, within a paradise of remote islands ringed by clear-water channels. Although there is wildlife in the area, including red lechwe, the rare sitatunga antelope and elephant, it isn't the main focus of your visit. You come to Xigera to experience one of the Okavango Delta's lushest and most tropical areas, and to seek out the spectacular birdlife. Spend your time exploring the waterways by mokoro (dug-out canoe) or motorboat. Expect to see numerous herons, egrets, cranes and smaller water-birds – and sometimes the occasional rarity like the Pel's fishing owl.

This safari to Botswana is designed so that you can enjoy the Central Kalahari Game Reserve at its most productive. During the 'rainy' season, great black clouds can gather and roll over the undulating valleys of ancient sand dunes. Following the rains, large numbers of plains game and their young migrate into these fertile river valleys, which in turn attracts predators to the area. In stark contrast to comfortable camping in the Kalahari's wide open spaces, you spend two nights at a top lodge in Moremi Game Reserve from where you can explore the Okavango Delta waterways surrounded by an abundance of flora and fauna.



Day 10 Flight to London

After a final morning activity and a relaxed breakfast you will fly back to Maun by light aircraft in time to catch your scheduled flight home.

Day 11 Arrive in London

Price guide 2010

Prices

Departures designed around the Kalahari Desert's best season for viewing wildlife
Prices are per person, departing and returning UK and start from
£2,936 in March
£2,954 in April
£3,033 in December
No single supplement

Includes

Scheduled overnight flights; airport taxes; transfers; accommodation; camping equipment; park fees; most drinks and meals; transport in a safari vehicle or light aircraft; and services of an expert guide and camp staff.