



Okavango & Chobe Wildlife Adventure

Begin your trip with a visit to the magnificent Victoria Falls, viewing the thundering cascade from the renowned Zimbabwean side. Then comfortable mobile camps in Botswana's exclusive wilderness areas provide your bases for exploring the unique Okavango Delta and the extraordinary wildlife spectacles of the Chobe, Savuti and Moremi reserves. Stay in spacious safari tents with en-suite facilities by night and spend the days drifting down crystal-clear papyrus channels in traditional mekoros (dug-out canoes); watching Savuti's prolific seasonal game from your safari vehicle; and giving elephants the right of way as you cruise along the Chobe River.

Day 1 – Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

On arrival at Victoria Falls Airport you are met and transferred to the elegant Victoria Falls Hotel. Originally built in 1904 to house engineers and associates working on the construction of the railway, the hotel is decorated in a style reminiscent of Edwardian times. You are left to your own devices this afternoon and we recommend you take the time to visit the Victoria Falls, approximately 10 minutes walk away (entrance fee is US\$30, payable locally). Alternatively, relax by the pool, pamper yourself in the spa, book a sunset cruise or take high tea on Stanley's Terrace.

No meals included.

Days 2 & 3 – Chobe National Park

A road transfer, possibly shared with other travellers and lasting about 90 minutes, takes you from Zimbabwe into Botswana to Kasane Airport where you'll meet your safari guide and the rest of your group. From here you travel in your private safari vehicle to Chobe. Chobe National Park encompasses 11,700km² of wilderness, bordered in the north by the Chobe River, and buffered on all sides by private concessions and forest reserves allowing for the free movement of game. You will spend two nights at a private mobile camp in the Serondela area of Chobe National Park, near the Chobe River.

As well as being renowned for its large variety of bird and animal life, beautiful scenery and magnificent sunsets, northern Chobe is the heart of elephant and buffalo country. On safari drives you may spend time watching the huge herds as they make their way to drink at Chobe River's edge. Two species of region-specific antelope occur here, the puku and the Chobe bushbuck, which cannot be seen in other parts of Botswana. There is also time to enjoy the adventure of a stunning boat cruise on the Chobe River: enjoy the coolness of being on the water while spotting the colourful water birds; from fish eagles to a multitude of herons and waders.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Days 4 & 5 - Savuti

A five-hour game drive takes you from the Chobe River to Savuti, where you will spend two nights in a private mobile camp in the vicinity of the Savuti Channel. Well-known for its density of predators, at certain times of the year huge animal concentrations are also attracted to this area by its particularly nutritious grasses. Note: during the month of February and April you will stay in Savute Under Canvas Camp, which has larger walk-in on suite tents than the usual mobile tents used.

Savuti, within Chobe National Park, is one of Africa's most famous wildlife areas, with an atmosphere all of its own. It is especially renowned for the large prides of lion that hunt elephant during the dry season. Central to this area is the Savuti Channel, which occasionally flows from the Linyanti's waterways, flooding the Savuti Marsh. This channel's flow is unpredictable; it has appeared and then dried up again several times over the past few centuries. It's also one of the few areas where Botswana's usually flat landscape is broken by volcanic outcrops, and you might pause to view the Bushman paintings found here.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Days 6 & 7 – Moremi Game Reserve

A game drive of about five hours takes you to the game rich Khwai Community Reserve, and your mobile camp located on a private concession overlooking Moremi Game Reserve. Set aside for protection in 1962 by the BaTswana tribe, Moremi Reserve is considered to be Africa's most beautiful wildlife sanctuary.

The Okavango Delta is a fascinating ecosystem, an inland delta situated in the middle of the largest stretch of continuous sand in the world – the Kalahari basin. Moremi Game Reserve encompasses a large area of the Okavango Delta's eastern wetlands. Near its northeastern edge, the waterways gradually narrow and are spanned by a wooden pole-bridge into the Khwai Reserve. The game-drive routes that run beside the river and around the floodplains are often stunning in their beauty and prolific in their wildlife.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Days 8 & 9 – Okavango Delta

Swap your vehicle for a light aircraft and fly deeper into the Okavango Delta. This experience is an adventure in itself; from the air, you'll begin to get an idea of the vastness of this unique and beautiful ecosystem, characterised by small palm islands that began as termite mounds, pools filled with basking hippos and the criss-crossing wildlife pathways.

Spend two nights at a mobile safari camp located within Nxabega, an exclusive 70km² private wildlife reserve. Spend your time here exploring on safari drives, or by gliding through the papyrus-edged waterways of the Okavango Delta by mokoro (dug-out canoe), and on foot taking short walking safaris to investigate the small, vegetated islands.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 10 – Flight home

A short flight lasting about 30 minutes takes you to Maun Airport, where you bid farewell to your guide and meet your scheduled flight home.

Includes breakfast.

SAFARI INFORMATION

Comfortable mobile camps, utilising spacious safari tents with en-suite facilities, in Botswana's exclusive wilderness areas provide your bases for this adventure exploring the unique Okavango Delta and the extraordinary wildlife experiences of the Chobe, Savuti and Khwai reserves.

Costs

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

Guides

An experienced and fully trained professional guide leads this safari through Botswana. 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 on your wildlife adventure.

Families

A discounted rate is offered for children aged between 12 and 16 years. The minimum age limit on this safari is 12 years. Please note that the tents used on the safari can accommodate up to 2 people only – there are no family sized tents available. Therefore, families travelling with children under the age of 16 years must divide themselves up so that there is always one adult sleeping in the same tent as each child. Please note that a family of two adults and one child will require a twin and a single tent, and so a single supplement surcharge will be incurred for the single tent.

Accommodation

Whilst on safari in Botswana, you will stay in 4 x 4 metre walk-in dome tents with 3 x 3 metre en-suite bathrooms. Each tent will be furnished with full-size beds covered with pure cotton linen, soft down duvets and pillows. Bedside lamps, canvas wardrobes, dressing gowns and grooming amenities will create style and comfort to rival those in some of

Botswana's most elegant lodges. Each tent will have an en suite bathroom with flush toilet, hand basins, water jugs, mirror, towels, soaps and other toiletries. A romantic al fresco bucket shower is filled at your request with water heated over the campfire.

In the central area, a much larger marquee tent with metal and canvas camp chairs is set up to provide shade and sheltered dining in the unlikely event of rain. Delicious three-course meals are prepared by the camp chef and served on a beautifully laid dining table in the open, allowing you to enjoy dinner under the stars. When night falls, paraffin hurricane lanterns and a crackling campfire set the evening ambience.

Whilst in Zimbabwe on Day 1 of this safari adventure, you will overnight at the elegant Victoria Falls Hotel situated a short stroll from the Falls themselves.

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 Victoria Falls on Day 1 of the adventure, drinks will be for your own account. These can be paid for in US Dollars and we recommend you travel with small denominations, as the lodge may not have a lot of change available.

Vehicles

The Okavango & Chobe Wildlife Adventure is conducted in a custom-built open 4WD safari vehicle that takes a maximum of 6 passengers.

For most of the safari, the vehicle used has roll-up canvas sides for optimal game viewing and is fitted with individual bucket seats, each situated by a 'window'. These vehicles are fitted with charge points for digital cameras and equipment. These will be suitable for using the standard two-pin charger that is usually supplied when you buy electrical equipment. If you do not have a two-pin charger, we recommend you purchase an adaptor. An adaptor to a South Africa plug will work in Botswana and an adaptor to a UK plug will work in Zimbabwe. The plugs on the vehicles are there to be used to recharge necessary items such as camera batteries.

Whilst on the Nxabega Reserve, on Days 8 & 9, the 4WD vehicle used will be open-topped, covered by a canvas sunshade. This type of vehicle also takes a maximum of 6 passengers, allowing everyone a 'window' seat. These vehicles do not have charge points.

Luggage

The Okavango & Chobe Wildlife Adventure includes two light aircraft transfers between safari camps. The maximum luggage limit on these flights, and therefore the 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 that can be accommodated are as follows: 25cm wide x 30cm high and 62cm long (10 x 12 x 25 inches).

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.

Passengers weighing 100kg (220lbs) or more must advise us in advance please as an extra seat for the additional weight will have to be costed in to the package for safety purposes.

Torches

Paraffin or oil lamps will light the mobile camps on this safari to Botswana each evening. An LED rechargeable lantern will be supplied in each tent. We strongly recommend that you also take with you a good head torch that will let you read a book or catch up with your safari journal at night. We suggest you spend a little money on this essential safari item to avoid a lot of potential frustration in the bush.

Laundry

A basic laundry service is only available whilst on the mobile safari in Botswana. Please note that clothes can only be washed on days where you are spending two nights in one location in order to give them time to dry.

Visa & passport requirements

It is our current understanding that travellers on British, Canadian, American and Australian passports do not need to apply for a visa in advance to visit South Africa, Botswana or Zimbabwe. However, rules and laws in Africa can change without notice and so it remains **your responsibility** to research latest visa requirements and double check you fulfil these before you travel. For the above nationalities, a tourist visa is currently issued automatically on arrival into South Africa and Botswana at no charge (to verify you are a tourist you may be asked to show proof of your itinerary and departure arrangements). For Zimbabwe, you are required to purchase your entry visa on arrival – this currently costs

US\$55 for British passport holders, US\$75 for Canadian passport holders, and US\$30 per person for most other nationalities. This price is for a single entry visa and must be paid in US dollars cash.

To be granted entry into any of these countries it is essential that your passport does not expire for **at least six months** after conclusion of your time in Africa (we recommend a validity of at least 9 months afterwards to be on the safe side). In addition, each time you pass through immigration into any of these countries you must have **a minimum of three blank pages** available for immigration stamps. Failure to meet these requirements may result in entry being refused.

Health

On arrival in Zimbabwe you might be asked to produce a Yellow Fever Certificate. Any visitor who has been to a country where yellow fever exists must present a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate on arrival, or face vaccination at a cost. 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 this and any other inoculations they might recommend.