

AFRICAN ADVENTURE SAFARIS

ITINERARY



BOTSWANA WITH VICTORIA FALLS

FACTS

From – To: Johannesburg to Victoria Falls

Price: EUR 2,490 pp sharing

Accommodation type: 5 x B & B, 10 x Camping

HIGHLIGHTS

- Khama Rhino Sanctuary
- Central Kalahari Game Reserve
- Okavango Delta - dug-out canoe trips & game walks
- Moremi Game Reserve
- Savuti Wilderness
- Chobe National Park
- Victoria Falls

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OVERVIEW

With its vast unfenced wilderness, spectacular wildlife and infinite horizons, **Botswana** is undoubtedly one of Africa's most authentic and inspirational safari destinations. Boasting one of the largest game populations in Southern Africa as well as the highest concentration of elephants in the world, the country offers unprecedented game viewing opportunities.

Not for the faint-hearted, this tour includes many regions which are off the beaten track. Central Kalahari Game Reserve has, until relatively recently, even been totally off-limits to the general public. This pristine semi-desert is famous for its black-maned Kalahari Lions and its large population of Brown Hyenas - arguably the largest remaining in Africa - as well as wild dog, cheetah, leopard, springbok, gemsbok and ostrich. Now the world's second largest protected area, it has been inhabited by the San for thousands of years since they roamed the lands as nomadic hunters. Pioneer researchers Mark and Delia Owens made the Reserve world-renowned with their book *Cry of the Kalahari* in the 1970s.

The Okavango Delta is an oasis in the Kalahari Basin - and the world's largest inland delta. We will do as the locals do and board dug-out canoes - Mokoros - to be poled silently along a maze of narrow waterways and deeper into the delta, where we will camp. The bird life is spectacular, and we get the chance to spot elephants, lechwe antelopes or zebras on foot. Named after the famed Batawana Chief, Moremi Game Reserve is the jewel of the Botswanan parks. This reserve includes the Okavango Delta and is inundated with islands and waterways and an array of striking wildlife and waterfowl. We will explore the northern part of the park, including the Khwai River section, extensively. Please note that sometimes part or all of the reserve closes due to flooding in which case we will spend two more nights in Savuti & Chobe.

Savuti needs very little introduction and is known for its large population of lions, in particular several prides which specialize in hunting elephant. The Savuti channel is flowing and once again flooding the marsh after having been dry for 28 years, a spectacle which has once again attracted animals in their thousands.

Heading north through the Chobe National Park, we explore the Chobe River banks extensively on land and from the water. It is well known for its enormous herds of elephant and its breathtaking landscape, especially in the magical light of sunset.

Victoria Falls, being one of the seven natural wonders of the world, is an impressive sight of its own. Called *Mosi-oa-Tunya* by the locals (the smoke that thunders), this phrase describes the impressive waterfall - the largest in the world - aptly. The small town of Victoria Falls is at the same time the adventure capital of the region, with the spectacular white water rafting on the Zambezi being only one of many possibilities to get on eye-level with nature's forces. We will spend two full days here, allowing us ample time to explore the attractions as well as to relax by the pool.

Notes

It is possible to transfer back to Johannesburg with the returning vehicle, arriving in the evening of the following day.

Moremi Game Reserve has, in previous years, occasionally been closed due to excessive flooding. Although highly unlikely, in this event we will bypass Moremi and spend two more nights in Chobe National Park instead.

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B,L,D = Breakfast, Lunch, and/or Dinner included.

Day 1: Khama Rhino Sanctuary.

Departing Johannesburg early, we travel north to cross the Limpopo River into Botswana at Martin's drift. Tonight we will enjoy our first camp fire under the Southern Cross at the beautiful Khama Rhino Sanctuary with its bizarre Mokongwa trees. This is Botswana's premier rhino viewing reserve. **D.**

Day 2, 3 & 4: Central Kalahari Game Reserve.

After a morning game drive in Khama Rhino Sanctuary looking out for rhinos, we are headed for the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. After an extensive game drive, we will camp in one of the many wild sites in the southern region of the park. There are no facilities in the campsite, and, after a hearty meal around the fire, we fall asleep to the sounds of the wild. Deception Valley and nearby Piper's Pan were made famous by the Owens' *Cry of the Kalahari*. During our stay here, we will visit this area and some of the pans in the region on early morning and afternoon game drives. **3 x B,L,D.**

Day 5: Nxai Pan National Park

After an early morning game drive we exit Central Kalahari and travel the short distance to Nxai Pan National Park. In the late afternoon we will explore the pan and surrounding wilderness before arriving in our campsite. **B,L,D.**

Day 6: Nxai Pan to Maun

Departing early in the morning, we will conduct a game drive before arriving in the frontier town of Maun, which is the gateway to the Okavango Delta, for lunch. This afternoon will be spent relaxing and preparing for the journey into the northern regions of Botswana. Tonight we will have an own expense meal

under the stars. **B,L.**

Day 7 & 8: Southern Okavango Delta.

The Okavango Delta, with its myriad of islands and waterways, is a wildlife paradise, and no visit to Botswana would be complete without it. During these two days, we will traverse some of the delta's channels using traditional Mokoros - dugout canoes - and conduct some game walks in this beautiful area. Here, we have a chance to interact with some of the Bayei people who have been living in this area of waterways and islands for centuries. After a morning game walk in the Delta and a hearty brunch, we will be poled back through the waterways with their rich bird life and beautiful water lilies to arrive back in Maun in the afternoon. **2 x B,L, 1xD.**

Day 9 and 10: Moremi Game Reserve.

After resupplying in the bustling frontier town of Maun, we will enter the world renowned Moremi Game Reserve. The following two days will be spent exploring the more remote areas of the park including Third Bridge and the Khwai River. **2 x B,L,D.**

Day 11: Savuti.

This morning we will follow the course of the the Khwai River into Chobe National Park. The Savuti channel is flowing again for the first time in many years and we will explore the river and surrounding marsh in search of the large elephant bulls which roam this area as well as a variety of plains game. **B,L,D.**

Day 12: Chobe River.

Leaving Savuti early today, we will arrive in the late morning in our campsite along the Chobe River. With its ancient baobab trees and beautiful scenery the river drive is the jewel in the crown of the park and we will spend the afternoon game viewing after relaxing in the heat of the day. **B,L,D.**

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Day 13, 14 and 15: Victoria Falls.

After an extensive game drive along the river we will arrive in Kasane for lunch after which we will cross the border into Zimbabwe and arrive in Victoria Falls in the afternoon.

The following 3 nights will be spent in relative luxury and will give us a chance to wash off some of the Kalahari dust. During this time we will visit the spectacle that is Victoria Falls and, for the adrenalin seekers, there is the option of many activities offered in and around the town including white water rafting on the Zambezi River. Also, there are great dining options in the very likeable town of Vic Falls. Lunch and dinners in Victoria falls will be at own expense. **B.**

Day 16:

Today, you will be transferred to Victoria Falls Airport and fly back to Johannesburg. **B.**

