

Botswana Highlights - Botswana

Dec 09 - Oct 2010 | ARRIVE Set Dates | 9 NIGHTS

highlights

- Moremi Game Reserve
- Okavango Delta
- Chobe National Park - spectacular Savuti and Chobe River Front
- Atmospheric night game drives
- Guided walks in the parks
- Okavango boat cruise
- Authentic camping in the Khwai community area near Moremi Game Reserve

Itinerary starts at Kasane Airport Botswana and ends at Maun.

Day 01 - Kasane to Savuti

Arrive at Chobe Safair at 09h00 in time for an early morning boat cruise. After your cruise you will be met by your guide for a drive along the Chobe River to Savuti. You will travel from Chobe through the wonderful Zambezi teak woodlands of the Chobe Forest Reserve, across the sand-ridge and into the stunted mopane scrub of the Goha Clay basin. Passing through local tribal settlements and out into wild country where the wildlife roams freely un-inhibited by fences or man. Home to antelope and occasionally seen leopard, the Goha region has natural waterholes that herds of buffalo, Burchell's zebra, kudu and elephant are often seen at, so keep your eyes open, not to mention the vast array of birdlife. Your guide, with their in-depth knowledge will help with identification and will prove to be a vast source of knowledge during your travels.

Overnight **Mobile tented camp**

Approximate distance to cover

170kms

Day 02 & 03 – Savuti, Chobe National Park Exploration

The next two days offer ample opportunity to explore the Savuti landscape. Unlike the majority of Botswana, Savuti is not flat and large outcrops of volcanic rock reach up out of the Kalahari sands, towering over the endless savannah. As you travel, hoping to see one of the many prides of lion and hyena clans, you may also see cheetah in the Savuti Marsh. And during the wet season wild dog regularly hunt this region. You will experience game driving at its best, in addition to taking a guided walk to view the fascinating and ancient bushman paintings, surviving centuries on the large rock formations in this region.

Overnight **Mobile tented camp**

Day 04 - Savuti to Khwai

Today you will leave the parched landscape as you continue south to the Khwai Community area. Today is a fascinating day of travel as you see evidence of the Paleo-Lake Makgadikgadi that dried up 10 thousand years ago. A fun, yet challenging part of this trip is crossing the sand ridge that formed the shoreline for this massive inland sea. Feel a true sense of adventure as you take the winding track through the deep sand made harder in the early Summer months! The old lake bed is now the Mababe Depression and the dense clay floor offers a high protein feed for wildlife and after the rains the area literally teems with game. You will pass through excellent Lion country and some of the best cheetah areas that your trip will cover.

Overnight **Mobile tented camp**

Approximate distance to cover

100kms

Day 05 & 06 – Khwai Exploration

Over the next two days you will spend your time between the dry-land habitats of the lead-wood and camel-thorn woodlands and savannahs and the riverside and marshy back-waters of the Khwai. Time permitting we may visit the lagoons and the waterways of the Xakanaxa where the largest heronry in southern Africa exists. In this region you will hope to see one of the many bull elephants as well as the breeding herds. Lion, leopard, serval and African wildcats are common predators that call this area home and live next to wild dog and cheetah, although less common to spot. Other game include tsesebe, blue wildebeest, giraffe, kudu, sable antelope, roan antelope and impala. Let's not forget that this area is a huge hit with bird enthusiasts. Bat-hawk, long-crested eagle and tawny eagle to name but a few of the magnificent creatures of the sky.

Overnight **Mobile tented camp**

Day 07 - Khwai to Xakanaxa

Travel today following the Khwai River at its eastern most extremity. Your journey weaves from the riverside and floodplains into the mopane veld and the woodlands that make this one of the most scenic areas of the Okavango. Pass magnificent Dombo Hippo Pools in the morning stopping to enjoy the scenery and the antics of the resident hippo. More game viewing as you progress through landscapes where lion and serval are common predators, also some huge crocodiles!

Overnight at **Mobile Tented camp**

Approximate distance to cover

60kms

Day 08 & 09 – Xakanaxa Exploration, Moremi Game Reserve

In the East of the Okavango Delta, Moremi ranges from wide-open floodplains, marshes, lagoons, papyrus fringed channels to woodland and savannah. The habitat is diverse and both wildlife and birdlife are excellent. Your guide will escort you for the next two days exploring the region in full by both game drive and boat.

Overnight at **Mobile Tented camp**

Day 10 – Xakanaxa to Maun.

After an early breakfast, you will be taken to the airstrip for your charter flight back to Maun at around 13h00. An experience in itself. A last chance to view this magnificent country from the air, and from the birds-eye view of the many species of birdlife you have seen this week.

End of Arrangements

Travel Days (distances are approximate and highlighted on these days in the itinerary above)

On travel days, as a guide, you will leave camp early and stop on route to have breakfast in a scenic area. Game drives will lead towards your next camp with stops for tea/coffee and cookies and later for a relaxing lunch under a shady grove of trees. A shorter drive on and you will arrive at your new camp where the crew will have already set up the tents and established the camp ahead of you. Time for a shower, followed by afternoon tea before you set out as a group to explore the area.

Exploration Days

Exploration days will be slightly different. Game viewing is best first thing in the morning, so each day begins at the hint of dawn with coffee and light breakfast around the fire. Game drives, walking safari or boat trip and several hours game viewing will be followed by a comfort break and tea, coffee and cookies. Return to camp around 10 or 11am where there is time for you to freshen up with warm water in your standing basins before enjoying a sumptuous brunch of fresh-baked camp bread, baked dishes and cold salads. After brunch take time to relax, perhaps have a siesta or read a book after a soothing refreshing shower. Late afternoon head out for a game-drive or boat trip. In areas outside the National Parks you may return to camp by spotlight whilst spotting nocturnal game.

2010 Rates March - November 2010	Price per person sharing Fully Inclusive	Single tent supplement (no supplement if One of first 2 singles on tour - please ask)
9 Seat departure (guaranteed window in vehicle)	£2,715	£675
12 Seat departure	£2,265	£565

Departure Dates 2010 12 Seat Tour	Departure Dates 2010 9 Seat Tour (all passengers window seat)
16 March, 16 April, 23 April 15 May, 21 May 13 June, 15 June 2 July, 23 July, 18 Aug, 22 Aug 2 Sept, 18 Sept or 24 Sept 01 Oct, 13 Oct, 20 Oct, 22 Oct or 23 Oct 24 Nov	26 March 30 April, 13 May, 28 May 16 July 27 Aug, 12 Sept, 21 Sept 15 Oct, 29 Oct 21 Nov

Notes:

- Take your own binoculars and a hat !
- Take a spirit of adventure with you
- Be prepared to be amazed by the wildlife
- Go in the green season (December - March) for excellent bird watching and baby animals
- Not for children aged under 12 years of age on scheduled departures. 2 families of between 6 and 8 travellers upon request as a private group

Includes:

- All meals and local drinks (mineral water, soft drinks, beer, wine and G&T)
- Mobile tented accommodation with beds and linen and private bathroom en-suite
- All entrance and park fees within the national parks and reserves
- Game drives and all transport in customised safari vehicles
- Light aircraft transfer Xakanaxa to Maun outlined on the itinerary
- Daily game activities morning and afternoon (game drives or boating excursions)
- Services of professional guide, safari chef and camp assistants

Excludes:

- International and domestic flights (do ask us if you need flights - we have some excellent fares).
- Gratuities, Porter charges and all items of a personal nature including premium branded drinks.
- Optional safari extensions
- Medical, cancellation and baggage insurance (emergency evacuation is essential on all safari bookings)
- Visa requirements
- Any drinks at lodges of accommodation other than Letaka Tented Camps
- Toiletries

Other Important Information:

- Holders of UK & Ireland passports do not require a visa for Botswana or Namibia, but if you transit through South Africa, ensure you have 2 full clean pages in your passport to avoid being denied entry.
- Zambian visa is required for British passport holders.
- Get up to date on general travel vaccinations, tetanus, typhoid, polio, hepatitis and this itinerary does enter malaria areas so get your GP to prescribe some prophylactics.
- Travel Insurance is compulsory - Wild Encounters does not offer this. Please ensure that you know what your insurance cover applies to, particularly with regards to activities you may undertake, and medical evacuation.
- Luggage is restricted to a soft hold all bag with a maximum of 20kgs including carry on luggage.
- Passengers weighing more than 100kg must inform us prior to travel as there may be additional cost on the light aircraft due to weight limits on these smaller planes.

Wild encounters trading terms apply - available on request

**To book please call 01403 28 2000 or e-mail yesplease@wildencounters.com
Website: www.wildencounters.com**