



Off Road Elegance

Botswana is famous both for abundant wildlife, and also for her high-end lodges.

These lodges are always in stunning locations, and you can expect to see and hear a panoply of animals from the elevated deck as you sit and dine under the stars. And the dining will be first rate. The lodges will have a highly trained chef and a wine list that would shame many a restaurant in Gaborone.

This circuit of Northern Botswana takes you to some of the best wildlife spots in Africa, stopping at 6 luxurious lodges along the way, each for 2 nights. Each lodge has resident professional guides to help you experience the wildlife of the surrounding area, and a schedule of activities is included in your stay at each.



The activities in the lodge schedule will depend on the location. They may be a boat or dugout canoe excursion; a game drive in an open vehicle; a walking safari; a visit to a local village; or a horseback ride amongst the wildlife. But whatever they are, the daily rhythm of life at a lodge typically follows a standard pattern.

- Up at or before dawn for a light breakfast and the early morning activity
- Brunch at about 10:30
- Free time until mid afternoon
- High tea about 3 p.m. followed by the late afternoon activity
- Dinner at 7 p.m.
- Sometimes an evening activity

Checkout is after brunch, and check in is in time for high tea. It follows that you have about 4 hours to drive between the lodges if you are to take full advantage of the activities on offer.

You will need a capable 4x4 to reach some of these lodges, as they are quite remote. The package includes a Toyota Hilux GD6, equipped with all the gear you will need for desert travel.

The tour begins when you arrive at Maun Airport (MUB), where you will collect your rental car, and ends at the same location. The car will give you the freedom to explore a little as you travel. It would be possible to begin and end at Kasane if this is best for you, with only a small change to the price.



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Day 1 – arrive in Maun

Collect your rental car and make your way to Thamo Telele Lodge. It is a 20 minute drive from the airport. Thamo Telele Lodge is set in a 250 ha private wildlife reserve on the banks of the Thamalakane River, and is famed for its herd of giraffe. You'll be staying in either a thatched chalet or a platform tent with a lovely ensuite washroom. Activities included here are access to the reserve walking trails; an afternoon visit with the giraffes; and a 2 hour guided walk or a 1 hour guided horseback ride around the reserve in the morning to see the other resident wildlife.

Days 2 & 3: Deception Valley Lodge

Mark and Delia Owens were American zoologists. They spent some years in the Kalahari Desert studying the elusive brown hyaena. Their memoir 'Cry of the Kalahari' became a bestseller, and Deception Valley has been a tourist mecca ever since. The Owens lived in a very primitive field camp, but modern visitors can enjoy the same breathtaking encounters with the desert wildlife from the comfort of Deception Valley Lodge. Most of the desert species are nocturnal, and the big attractions here are the evening and night game drives. During the day you can take game drives or walking excursions guided by Kalahari Bushmen from the Naro tribe, the original inhabitants of the area. The must see animals here are the black maned Kalahari lion, gemsbok, cheetah and, of course, the elusive brown hyaena.

Days 4 & 5: Leroo-la-Tau

The Boteti River is the boundary of the 5000 km² Makgadikgadi Pans National Park. During the drier months of the year the river is the only reliable source of water for all the wildlife. Leroo la Tau Lodge is perched on a high terrace above the river, providing a panoramic view of the animal action on the river flat. The lodge offers a full schedule of activities, but it is tempting to skip some and simply concentrate on watching all the animals from your private deck. If you want to get even closer to the action there is a game viewing hide built into the riverbank. A wonderful place to kick back and relax. Accommodation is in luxurious, glass fronted suites.

Days 6 & 7: Camp Kalahari

The Makgadikgadi Pans are the largest salt oans in the world. When dry they are an endless vista of glistening salt crust – glaring white endless plains – and most of the interest is the desert wildlife around the margins. The meerkats, aardwolves, bat eared fox and others are here all year round. During the rainy season they transform into one of the most important wetland areas in Botswana, surrounded by waving grass plains grazed by huge herds of zebra and wildebeest. And after the rains the pan edges will be alive with wildflowers.

Camp Kalahari is a relaxed camp on the edge of the Pans. One very special activity here is visiting a troop of semi-habituated meerkats.

From USD 25,770 per couple

15 DAYS, 14 NIGHTS

Based on two people sharing a double or twin room. This is very much a 'from' price based on the cheapest season of travel. Accommodation and hire car rates in Botswana are usually cheapest from mid January to March; and most expensive in the peak months of July and August. We can give you an accurate price only when we know when you are planning to travel. But this sample price is useful for comparison between other styles of travel advertised in this brochure.

Dates- This fly-drive holiday can be arranged throughout the year, but some camps and lodges close for maintenance for a few weeks each year, typically in the period from mid January to March. Closing dates are usually staggered and there will be alternative lodges available in the same area

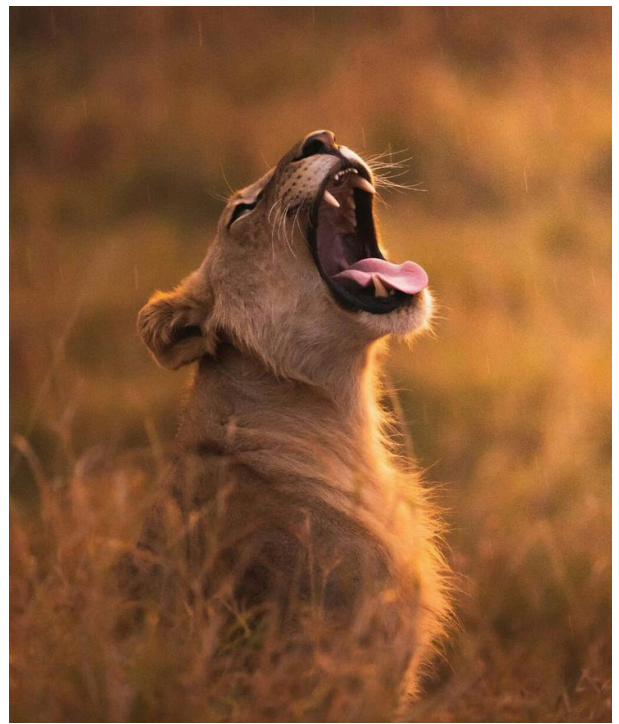
WHATS INCLUDED

- A personal meet and greet service on arrival at Maun International Airport
- Hire of a Toyota Hilux GD6 4x4 for the duration of your stay
- All meals excepting lunches on the days travelling between lodges.
- 2 nights at Thamo Telele Lodge in Maun
- 2 nights at Deception Valley Lodge on the edge of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve
- 2 nights at Leroo-la-Tau Lodge beside the Boteti River
- 2 nights at Camp Kalahari in the Makgadikgadi Pans
- 1 night at Chobe River Lodge
- 2 nights at Ghoha Hills Safari Lodge in the Savuti plains
- 2 nights at Machaba Camp on the edge of Moremi Game Reserve
- Maps of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, Makgadikgadi Pans, Chobe National Park and the Moremi Game Reserve
- A unique Self Drive Tours Botswana guidebook to the route travelled, tailored to your interests. This will help you to make the most of your journeys between the lodges, and provide some unique insights into the areas you are visiting.

WHATS EXCLUDED

- Alcoholic drinks
- Lunches on the days you travel between accommodations
- Personal vacation insurance. This is essential and copver should be in place from when you book the vacation
- National Park entrance fees – you pay these at the gate as you enter
- Tips, gratuities and items of a personal nature
- Vehicle pickup/drop off surcharges on public holidays, weekends or after hours





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They are so used to our company that their sentinel will perch on a sitting human for a better view of the surrounding environment. Game drives, quad bike excursions and bushman walks are also on offer.

Day 8: Chobe River Lodge

This is a four star boutique hotel with an African theme inside the town of Kasane. A great place for a stopover before you head back into the wilds. The only activity planned here is a sunset cruise on the Chobe River in a private boat.

Days 9 & 10: Ghoha Hills Safari Lodge

Today your route takes you through the riverfront section of the famous Chobe National Park on your very own game drive. By mid afternoon you'll arrive at the rocky Ghoha Hills. The Safari Lodge is perched on a rocky ledge with sweeping views over the Savuti Plains below.

Accommodation here is in luxurious ensuite tents. Activities include game drives to the nearby Savuti Marsh, home to big herds of buffalo and elephant; and exploring the ancient rock art sites. The lodge also features a small gym and a spa. Animals you are unlikely to see elsewhere are the klipspringer, an antelope adapted to life in high, rocky habitats, and hyrax.

Days 11 & 12: Machaba Camp, Okavango Delta

The Okavango Delta is a network of river channels, seasonal floodplains and islands, packed with wildlife. Species you are unlikely to have seen elsewhere like red lechwe, sitatunga, reedbuck, African civet, clawless otter, water mongoose, serval and side striped jackal. The abundance and diversity of wildlife is simply amazing, and the whole vast area has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Machaba Camp is built beside one of the permanent river channels, and the focus here is on guided wildlife walks and dugout canoe excursions. The camp is built in classic 1950's style, with luxury safari tents, en suite bathrooms and living areas, and romantic outdoor showers. All the tents are situated at ground level and the pathways to the tents meander between the large riverine trees.

Day 13: Thamo Telele, Maun

Today the circuit is complete. But you can't leave the country without getting a birdseye view of the Okavango Delta. The Delta terrain is flat, and the scale can be appreciated only from the air. An early morning scenic flight is included before you hand over the vehicle at the airport in preparation for your international flight.

