

Delta, Chobe and Falls



Overview

Botswana remains an untouched wilderness: the amount of development for tourism has been deliberately limited to preserve the environment and wildlife, and the Government has developed a 'low volume-high cost' tourism model. The relatively higher price means that clients experience a privileged safari - probably never seeing another vehicle on a game drive, and benefiting from small camps and guide-to-client ratio.

This suggested itinerary uses small charter flights to access the Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park in Botswana, and finishes up in Livingstone, Zambia at the amazing Victoria Falls. Activities on offer game drives to spot wildlife, including lion, leopard elephant, cheetah and buffalo, and guided bush walks. We tailor-make itineraries to Botswana to fit with duration, date of travel and individual requirements. Call us on 01342 834700 for a quote.

We know Botswana well, the camps and lodges we use are situated within prime game viewing locations and the expert rangers and trackers go to great lengths to maximise sightings. In the summer months the vegetation is a sea of green, wild flowers can be seen everywhere and all mammals and birds have their young, so there are lots of cute babies around, whilst in the dry season, wildlife congregates around the waterholes. A typical day would involve an early morning safari activity of your choice (game drives, boat trips, a trip in a dugout canoe, walking safaris are sample activities), followed by brunch, siesta, afternoon tea, another safari activity which usually involves sundowners as dusk falls and return to camp for dinner, after which drinks round a fire are the norm.

Trip Highlights

- Gliding through the watery mazes of the Okavango Delta in a traditional mokoro
- Waking up to the sounds of the African bush in luxury lodges typically situated on the edge of waterways.
- Visiting the awesome Victoria Falls: and perhaps taking part in one of the many activities on offer.
- Seeing the full expanse of the Delta by light aircraft
- Getting up close to the Big Five or tracking a lion on the hunt.

Day 1

Overnight flight to Johannesburg

Days 2-5:

Arrive Johannesburg and transfer to your Air Botswana flight to Maun. On arrival in Maun, you will transfer by air to the Okavango Delta. You will fly over the Delta - a maze of lagoons, channels and islands that make up a massive freshwater oasis in the Kalahari Desert which is home to an array of wildlife including buffaloes, elephants, giraffe, antelope, hippos, crocodiles, zebras, wildebeest and birdlife. You arrive at your camps' airstrip and will be transferred to your camp for 3 nights in a twin tent with en suite facilities on a full board basis including local brand drinks and activities. We use different camps according to budget and location for best game viewing.

Delta camps are usually positioned overlooking the water and include private viewing decks and en-suite open air bathrooms. Meals are usually taken with other guests around one table; with pre and post-meal drinks around the fire. Expect to fall asleep to the sounds of hippos moving around; this is a truly exciting wilderness experience!

In the Delta, guests can enjoy a diverse wildlife experience all year-round, but the focus is usually on the water. Whether gliding along in the special silence of a mokoro dug out canoe through crystal-clear waters or visiting the famous Godikwe lagoon, where you can stand on a boat literally eye to eye with thousands of herons, storks and other nesting birds. Spinner fishing,



walking with a guide on one of the many palm-fringed islands and spectacular night drives in addition to morning and afternoon drives in the company of a guide and tracker are possible.

Days 5-8

This morning, you transfer by air to your next camp close to Chobe National Park, where you will be met and transferred to your Camp for 3 nights in a twin tent with en suite facilities on a fully inclusive basis. This area supports a huge concentration of wildlife particularly lions and elephants, but also vast herds of buffaloes, zebras, impalas, wildebeest and antelopes as well as cheetah, wild dogs and hyenas.

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Morning and night game drives in this area are conducted by specialist guides and trackers in open safari vehicles. This area is home to huge herds of elephants and buffalo and the big herds attract big predators: the lions here are famous for their elephant, hippo and buffalo kills. Other predators are also well represented by hyena, leopard, cheetah and wild dog. Seasonally, large herds of elephant drink almost daily at the river bank in front of the camp, in full view of guests.

Activities include morning and night game drives, boat cruises, fishing and walks with an armed guide. Night drives are a highlight: guests leave the camp late afternoon, stopping for sunset drinks before carrying on into the night using spotlights and returning to camp for dinner.

Days 8 - 10

Today you transfer by light aircraft to Kasane Airport (Flying time is approximately 55 minutes), and from there you transfer by road and boat to your accommodation in Livingstone for a 2 night stay. There is a range of accommodation available in Livingstone to suit all budgets: some luxury lodges which operate on a fully inclusive basis positioned on the edge of the Zambezi, which offer a very special and exclusive experience, and some comfortable lodges or hotels which operate on a bed and breakfast basis.

At the Victoria Falls, the Zambezi River is more than two kilometres wide. When in full flood, (usually February or March) over 500 million litres of water per minute go over the falls, which are 1708m wide, and drop 99m at Rainbow Falls in Zambia. At low water in November the flow can be reduced to around 10 million litres/minute, and the river is divided into a series of braided channels that descend in many separate falls. Activities you may wish to consider include canoeing, bungy jumping, white water rafting, scenic helicopter rides and micro-lighting amongst others.

Day 10

Today you transfer to Livingstone Airport, where you connect with your return flight to London via Johannesburg.

We have travelled extensively in Botswana, and have a good level of knowledge of the camps and activities offered at different time of the year. Our ground handlers provide an excellent service on the ground in the event of emergency. Because we purchase accommodation through ground handlers who sell to agents such as ourselves around the world, we have access to excellent rates which are not available for direct bookings. We are ATOL bonded, and your money is therefore protected when you book with us.

Consider extending your trip to Cape Town, Mozambique or Mauritius. Call us or e-mail info@nativeescapes.com for more info.

More Information: This is a sample itinerary which can be amended to suit: call 01342 834700 or email info@nativeescapes.com for your own tailor made version.

General Information

Visas

British citizens require a valid passport and a visa to visit Zambia. As of November 2008, the cost for a visa for entry to Zambia is US\$50 for single entry; US\$80 for double entry for British Nationals. Note that a day trip from Zambia to the Zimbabwean side of Victoria Falls will constitute a double entry. You can buy the visa at the port of entry: be sure to have the correct amount with you in US dollars as they are unlikely to give change. Note: Passport and visa requirements are liable to change at short notice. Travellers are advised to check their entry requirements with their embassy or consulate.

Health

The World Health Organisation (www.who.int/en/) recommends that all travellers are inoculated against diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and polio as well as for hepatitis B. Hepatitis A, rabies, malaria and typhoid are also recommended by the Centres for Disease Control & Prevention (www.cdc.gov) for travel in Botswana and Zambia. All travellers should seek advice from their local GP or travel clinic for up to date advice on vaccinations and different malarial options.

Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory for all bookings. Guests on group departures must take their policy documents with them on the trip as the guide will ask to see this at the start. The documentation must state in writing that you are the named policyholder and that the cover is valid for the period of travel. The policy document must also indicate that medical expenses and emergency repatriation cover is included and a 24 hour contact telephone number for the insurance company must be shown on the documentation in case of emergency. Guests unable to provide all this information at the start of the trip will be asked to purchase a policy prior to joining the trip.

Electricity supply

220v, 3pin South African plug. Adaptors are required to charge cameras, etc. Check www.kropla.com.

Money

Currency is the Botswana Pula and Zambian Kwacha. We suggest you take spending money in US dollars. Money can be changed up at Maun airport. ATMs are available in Livingstone.

What to bring

Binoculars, torch, walking shoes, swimming gear, plenty of high factor sunscreen, sunhat, insect repellent, camera, a day pack. Warm clothing is recommended for evenings, and a waterproof jacket. Lightweight clothing is recommended for the day. Avoid brightly coloured clothing for game viewing.