

Desert, Wildlife and Falls



Overview

What better way to see the amazing plentiful Wildlife in Africa?! 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.

The camps and lodges 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 lots of cute babies around! 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.

Day 1

Overnight flight to Johannesburg

Days 2-4

Arrive Johannesburg and transfer to Air Botswana flight to Maun, where you will transfer by road to Leroo La Tau for 2 nights in a twin chalet with en suite facilities on a full board basis including local brand drinks, morning and afternoon game drives, laundry and park fees. (Driving time is approximately two hours).

Leroo La Tau overlooks the dry Boteti Riverbed which forms a link between the Okavango Delta and the Makgadikgadi Pans. The lodge's name means 'Footprints of the Lion' after Predator prints were discovered in the surrounding environment.

Accommodation is in 7 spacious en suite Meru style tents comfortable and cosy whilst at the same time maintaining an 'in the bush' feel. The Boteti sustains a number of permanent waterholes, home to crocodiles and hippo year round. During the dry season, the pools around the riverbed provide the only source of water for much of Southern Africa's largest zebra and wildebeest migration. Resident and nomadic wildlife includes the big cat and small ones, impala, kudu, warthog, monkeys, jackal, and occasionally wild dog, elephant and giraffe. The bird life is excellent along the riverine woodlands of acacia, lead wood and terminalia.

Activities at the lodge revolve around game drives and walks in the early morning and late afternoon, with spot-lit night drives also available.

Residents of the neighbouring Motswana village welcome visitors who may want to learn about the residents traditional way of life: visits to the village can be arranged. Day trips into the Nxai Pan National Park and the famous Baines' Baobabs situated in the northern reaches of the Makgadikgadi Pans.

Days 4-8

This morning you transfer back by road from Leroo La Tau to Maun, and transfer by light aircraft from Maun airport to Kwara airstrip. (Flying time approximately 30 minutes). You will fly over the Okavango 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. On arrival at Kwara airstrip (flight time 1 hour), you transfer to Kwara Camp for a 4 night stay in a twin tent with en suite facilities on a fully inclusive basis.

Kwara is located in the remote northern part of the stunning Okavango Delta within the private Kwara concession. The camp fronts onto a huge floodplain, adjacent to the permanent water of the Delta and is backed by extensive bush. It is a magnificent wilderness area in excess of 1,700 square kilometres, bordering the Moremi Reserve. The eight luxury safari-style tents are built on raised decks, within a grove of huge and ancient African Ebony trees. Resident hippos will generally serenade you year round from the water on the floodplain in front of the camp. Each tent has its own viewing deck, private en-suite facilities including hot and cold running showers, flush toilets and modern amenities.

At Kwara, guests can enjoy a diverse wildlife experience all year-round, but the focus is definitely 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. Kwara is the nearest camp to this famous spectacle in Moremi Game Reserve. 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.

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Days 8-10

This morning, you transfer by light aircraft from Kwara airstrip to Kwando Lebala airstrip (flight time approx 1 hour 10 minutes) in the Linyanti area of Chobe National Park (Flying time 55 minutes), where you will be met and transferred to Kwando Lebala Camp for 2 nights in a twin tent with en suite facilities on a fully inclusive basis.

Linyanti is a superb safari area to the north of Okavango, which has a deserved reputation as one of the best dry game-viewing areas in Africa, especially for elephant, buffalo, lion and wilddog. Linyanti is divided into three private concessions which between them are only permitted to entertain around 100 guests at a time, making this a genuine wilderness experience.

The eight spacious tents are unique and were designed specifically for this camp. Each one is built on a raised teak deck, laid out with maximum comfort and privacy in mind. The tents have an entrance foyer with a reading and writing area, en-suite bathrooms with Victorian clawfoot bathtubs, "his and hers" washbasins and flush toilets. The bathrooms lead out to a reed enclosed open-air shower with hot and cold running water, powered by LP gas for hot water on demand.

Each secluded tent has its own sundeck, and is set back among the trees. The endless vistas from the large windows and decks across the vast plains, make Lebala one of the finest wilderness camps in Africa.

The wetlands and flood plains around Lebala offer a wonderful variety of wildlife with excellent sightings of elephant, hippo, lechwe, zebra, giraffe, impala, wildebeest, kudu, tsessebe, roan, sable, buffalo and the ever present predators; wild dog, lion, cheetah and hyena. After dark, spotlights are switched on and the game drives expose guests to nocturnal sightings of rare and elusive species such as, leopard, Selous Mongoose, small spotted genet, and aardwolf, to name a few. Morning, afternoon and night game drives with guide and tracker are by open safari vehicle that seat a maximum of six guests.

Day 10

This morning, take a scheduled transfer by light aircraft from Kwando Lebala airstrip to Kasane Airport. (Flying time 55 minutes). From Kasane Airport, you transfer the short distance by road to Kasane Immigration where Botswana immigration and customs are cleared. You

continue by road and boat to Tongabezi Lodge in Livingstone for a 2 night stay in a twin cottage with en suite bathroom on a fully inclusive basis (Transfer time is approximately 1 hr 30 minutes and immigration and customs must be cleared at both the Botswana and Zambian border posts).

Tongabezi is a wonderful lodge with a beautiful setting on a wide bend of the Zambezi River. Choose to simply to relax at the lodge or make the most of the wealth of activities that will keep you busy for several days. Inclusive activities are sunrise and sunset boating, a guided walking tour of the Zambian side of the Falls, fishing, a game drive in Mosi-oa-Tunya Game Park, guided museum tours, a visit to the colourful markets and to Simonga village. One option is to take a private candlelit dinner whilst floating under the stars on the Zambezi - this should be requested in advance. The houses face on to the Zambezi River and are completely open fronted.

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. Note that in January, the flow of the Falls is low: this has its benefits, as the expanse of the Falls is clearly seen without the spray, and you can swim in rock pools at the top of the Falls.

Activities you may wish to consider include canoeing, bungee jumping, white water rafting, scenic helicopter rides and micro-lighting amongst others.



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Day 12

Today, you transfer to Livingstone Airport for your flight to Johannesburg, arriving in time for your return flight to London.

Day 13

Arrive London

This is a sample itinerary. We select camps according to particular interests and availability. We can arrange this trip on a flexible basis for longer or shorter durations, to fit your individual requirements. Call us on 020 8977 7034.

At Native Escapes, we select accommodation according to particular interests, season of travel, budget and availability. We have travelled extensively in Southern Africa, and have a good level knowledge of the destinations and things to do. Our ground handlers provide an excellent service 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; you should pay no more for direct bookings than if you book through us. We are ATOL bonded, and your money is therefore protected when you book with us.

General Information

Please ensure the following:-

Your passports are valid for travel and that you are in possession of valid visas (if required see below).

You consult your doctor prior to your safari for information and advice on the use of anti-malaria medication.

You take out comprehensive travel insurance to safeguard against cancellation and curtailment, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and personal belongings.

Passports - Botswana

Please note anyone travelling to Botswana must have a passport valid for at least 6 months after their intended date of entry.

Visas / Departure Taxes

Not required for South Africa, Namibia or Botswana. Visas are not required for UK or Irish nationals for stays of up to 90 days. An onward or return ticket is required, as well as sufficient funds and documents needed for further travel. Please note that visitors to South Africa must have a MINIMUM of two blank/empty VISA pages in their passport each time entry is sought. Visitors to South Africa with foreign passports who do not comply with these requirements will either be stopped from boarding their aircraft at their point of departure or risk deportation on arrival in South Africa.

Zambia

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.

Baggage

There is a baggage limit of 20kg in a soft bag, including photographic equipment and hand luggage. Passengers who do not adhere to this baggage regulation delay take off as their pilot has to spend time making alternative arrangements to have their excess baggage or hard suitcases transferred by another aircraft.



Health

The [World Health Organisation](http://www.who.int/en/) (http://www.who.int/en/) recommends that all travellers are inoculated against diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and polio as well as for hepatitis B.

Inoculation against Hepatitis A and Typhoid is also recommended by the [Centres for Disease Control & Prevention](http://www.cdc.gov) (www.cdc.gov) for travel in South Africa. Depending on the area visited, anti-malarial drugs may also be recommended. All travellers should seek advice from their local GP or travel clinic for up-to-date advice on vaccinations and different malarial options.

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 suncream, 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.

Tipping

It is normal to tip for good service in bars and restaurants in Botswana.

Additional Information

Guests should be aware that lodges in the Okavango Delta have limited means of communication with the outside world. Whilst urgent messages can be passed onto guests by radio, general communication is not encouraged.

