

## Family Wildlife Holiday



### Overview

This trip combines the African Wilderness of Botswana's Okavango Delta with time in the Kalahari desert, expert game guides, and lessons in bushman survival tactics, to provide the ultimate family safari!

The itinerary offers the opportunity to experience two parts of Botswana: the Kalahari, offering a rich cultural experience with one of the world's oldest cultures, and the Okavango Delta, rich with wildlife. You have exclusive use of each camp, with three nights at each: days will be planned with your guide and might include collecting medicinal and edible plant life with the women from a local village, tracking rhino, learning essential bushman survival tactics as well as bush walks, canoe trips and game drives.

Accommodation whilst on safari is in small camps which are for your exclusive use and which are designed to ensure an authentic bush experience without compromising on comfort. In the Kalahari, accommodation is in spacious luxury tents under a thatched canopy with en suite bathrooms and private verandahs with views across to the waterhole. In the Okavango Delta, the camp is located on the edge of a beautiful lagoon where highly vocal hippos wallow. Both lions and wild dogs are often seen in the area and the variety of plains game includes kudu, tssebe, zebra, and impala. Each tent has its own bucket shower and bush toilet. The high standard of cuisine from the bush kitchen includes fresh fruits and vegetables, and selections of cheeses and South African wines as well as a stocked bar, soft drinks and bottled water.

### Making a difference:

Botswana's policy of preserving its wildlife and implementing sustainable tourism policies has paid off with its pristine natural environment. Whilst the country is one of Africa's more expensive safari destinations, the money paid on entering national parks contributes towards conservation strategies and the development of local communities.

This trip uses local guides who have an intense passion for nature and their country. Their ability to speak local dialects gives guests a privileged insight into the intriguing local tribal cultures, whilst their well-trained game-spotting skills and expert knowledge of botany and wildlife provide for a unique and informative experience.

The owners of the camp where you will stay in the desert sponsor an orphanage located on the reserve: fees from your stay here also help to sustain their running costs. Guests at the camp are welcome to bring books, toys, stationery or deflated footballs or other sporting equipment to donate.

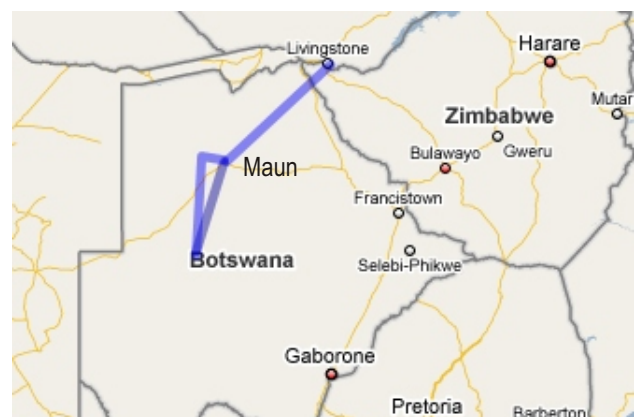
Day 1: Depart UK for your overnight flight to Maun via Johannesburg

### Day 2:

You will be met in Maun and transferred to a light aircraft for your flight to the desert. The camp is situated in a private 120,000ha game reserve with luxury tents on raised decks which look out across a large pan. The pan is host to kudu, impala, springbok amongst others unthreatened by predators, they can be watched as they come down to drink at the waterhole.

### Days 3 & 4

The next 2 days are action packed: you plan your days with the guide: one



option is to meet with one of the world's oldest cultures the San Bushmen, who live at a village on one area of the reserve. The women and children go out every morning and you are welcome to join them collecting a range of medicinal and edible plant life. One of the big adventures of your stay will be to join the guides tracking rhino. The bushmen will locate some fresh tracks and you will be off on foot through the bush following the bushmen's calls and hand signals, so as not to startle the rhino. There are also numerous birding walks and game drives to be taken in the area.

### Day 5

After farewells to the Camp staff, you transfer by light aircraft from the desert to the delta! You transfer to the camp that is for your exclusive use for the next 3 nights in time for lunch. Each family has the exclusive use of a private six-bedded camp with hot bucket showers under the stars (but in privacy), two professional guides, personal chef, waiter, housekeeper and mokoro guides.

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This afternoon there will be a lesson in bush craft and some rules regarding animal behaviour before a short walk, allowing you to become accustomed to some of the sights, sounds and smells that make up the language of the African bush. The programme is run by specialised guides experienced in working with children, who quickly have their trainees learning essential bushman survival tactics as well as leading the family on early morning bush walks, canoe trips and game drives.

### Days 6 & 7

The next 2 days will begin before sunrise with coffee around the fire and a light breakfast before heading out on foot, following the water's edge to examine tracks left by overnight visitors. Experiencing the waterways in a traditional dugout canoe (a mokoro) is an absolute must: the reeds are home to small insects, and seeing wildlife come to the water's edge provides a different perspective. There's an opportunity to try a hand at fishing perhaps to try for a catch to cook over the open fire for dinner. Game drives are part of the daily routine: wildlife which may be spotted include lion, elephant, buffalo, cheetah, wildebeest and impala.

In the afternoon, adults have a chance to siesta while the young trainee bushmen are watched over by the guides, recording observations in their Bush Journals, and learning some traditional bush skills such as how to make fire from sticks, weave traditional baskets, carve the seed of the palm nut into a necklace, the art of making a bow and arrow, which plants have medicinal properties and some bush cooking skills.

After a dinner cooked in the bush kitchen, it's time to sit round the fire to hear stories or let Mum and Dad drift off to sleep with the ever present chorus of hippos and the tinkle of reed frogs whilst the trainee bushrangers head off with a spotlight to try and identify some of the many species that wake up as the sun sets.

### Day 8

After breakfast, it's time for farewells again and your transfer to Livingstone. This afternoon, take a trip to get a first glimpse of the Victoria Falls or take a sunset boat cruise.

### Days 9 & 10:

In Livingstone. Try bungee jumping, elephant back safaris, canoe trips, scenic flights, white water rafting or guided walks. On day 10, transfer to Johannesburg.

### Day 11:

Arrive back in the UK

### 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.

### General Information

#### Visas

Visas are not required for UK or Irish nationals. All visitors require a passport valid for at least six months after the period of their intended stay, and documents for return or onward travel. Passports should have at least two unused pages for endorsements by the Immigration Service.

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/](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. Hepatitis A, rabies, malaria and typhoid

are also recommended by the Centres for Disease Control & Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://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](http://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.

