

Low Season Safari



Overview

This suggested itinerary uses small charter flights to access the Kalahari Desert, 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.

Whilst this is known as rainy season, the rainfall in these areas is typically in the form of quick thunderstorms, which usually occur in the late afternoon and last about an hour or so. 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! At the brand new Nxai Pan camp, the wet season months are a hive of activity: gemsbok, zebras and elephant migrate to the region during these months and zebra in particular number in their thousands. 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 take connecting flight to Maun, Botswana. From there, you will transfer by light aircraft from Maun airport to your lodge in the Nxai Pan National Park for a 2 night all-inclusive stay.

This brand new lodge is situated in the tree line with 8 purpose built desert rooms all with thatched roofs and insulation to make it cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. The main area consists of a dining room, lounge area and a viewing deck. Each room has the benefit of a private verandah and outdoor shower.

Nxai pan is well known for its huge springbok population and once the rains have started, gemsbok, elephant and zebras migrate to the region. At this time zebra's come in their thousands to drop their young at Nxai Pan. Extraordinarily large herds of giraffe's can be seen with up to 30 in a group. These large herds of zebras, springbok, and wildebeest attract many predators - lion, cheetah, jackal and both spotted and the elusive brown hyena, as well as the endangered wild dog and the secretive leopard. There are large numbers of bat-eared fox and raptors that prey on the rodents and reptiles. At times, Rhino's have also been sighted. Also to be seen are the eland, greater kudu and red hartebeest. Once the rains have started the bird life is excellent.

Days 4-7

This morning, transfer by light aircraft to Kwara Airstrip in the Okavango Delta for a 3 night stay at Kwara Camp in a twin tent with en suite facilities on a fully inclusive basis.

The Okavango Delta - a massive freshwater oasis in the Kalahari Desert - is



home to an array of wildlife including buffaloes, elephants, giraffe, antelope, hippos, crocodiles, zebras, wildebeest and birdlife. On safari, days tend to start very early (5am-ish) with coffee and a snack, before an activity at sunrise when the wildlife is moving around. You will usually return around 11am for a full brunch and siesta before afternoon tea and an afternoon activity at around 3.30pm, returning for pre-dinner drinks, dinner and then a nightcap around the fire.

At Kwara guests enjoy a diverse wildlife experience all year-round, but the focus is definitely on the water. Whether gliding through crystal clear waters in a mokoro 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. 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

Low Season Safari



Days 7-10

Transfer by light aircraft from Kwara airstrip Kwando Lebala Camp for a 3 night stay in a twin tent with en suite bathroom on a fully inclusive basis. The eight spacious tents at Lebala 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 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. Morning, afternoon and night game drives with guide and tracker are by open safari vehicle that seat a maximum of six guests. here offers exclusive access to one of the most remote and unexplored wildlife strongholds left in Botswana.

Lagoon Camp lies on the shady banks of the Kwando River among tall and ancient African Ebony and Marula trees, under the watchful gaze of the resident hippos. The Camp accommodates 16 guests in 8 twin bedded luxury safari-style tents. Each tent looks out over the water and has private en-suite facilities, including 24 hour hot and cold running water, open-air showers, flush toilets and modern amenities.

Days 10-12

You will be transferred to the airstrip for your flight to Livingstone and transferred to 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. Activities available to consider include canoeing, bungee jumping, white water rafting, scenic helicopter rides and micro-lighting amongst others.

Day 12

Today, you take a road to Livingstone Airport for your flight to Johannesburg, arriving in time to connect 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.



Low Season Safari

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.

What This Trip Contributes

Botswana's policy of preserving its wildlife and implementing sustainable tourism policies has paid off with its price. 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. Fine 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. Over 17% of the country's land has been set aside as national parks and game reserves; however, the number of visitors is limited in order that the area can be preserved. In particular, fees from entry to the National Parks are used to develop the country's eco-tourism strategy which invests in tourism initiatives which are owned by local communities. Sample projects include handicraft production, considered important income earners for women in the remote areas of Botswana, and development of community campsites which allow communities to develop a range of services for visitors.

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 Namibian 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/) 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

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.

