

Botswana Lodge Explorer

11 days | Maun to Victoria Falls



Starting in Maun take in the best of Botswana from the fascinating salt pans to the incredible wildlife of Moremi and Chobe National Park, before crossing the border into Zimbabwe to going wild in Hwange National Park and end your adventure in Victoria Falls.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Hwange National Park - go on safari in Zimbabwe's premier game reserve, home to all of the Big Five (lion, elephant, rhino, leopard, buffalo)
- Chobe National Park - cruise on the Chobe River in search of hippos and crocodiles, then enjoy a dazzling sunset in the wilderness
- Moremi Game Reserve - spend a full day searching for animals in one of Africa's most biodiverse national parks
- Makgadikgadi Pans - stroll through impressive baobab groves and learn about this incredible salt flat, one of the biggest in the world
- Victoria Falls - marvel at the incredible cascades, and opt for bungee jumping, helicopter rides, canoeing and more
- Khwai River - enjoy a game drive in search of a large variety of African

mammals, which inhabit this area near the Okavango Delta

What's Included

- 10 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 6 dinners
- 10 nights mid-range lodges, chalets and tented camps **Please Note:** Accommodation named, may be subject to change but will be of a similar standard
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on days 1 and 11
- Game drives in Khwai Region, Moremi NP, Chobe NP and Hwange NP
- Excursion to Nxai or Ntwetwe Pan
- Chobe River Cruise
- Visit to Hwange's Painted Dogs Conservation Centre
- Transportation in Toyota Land Cruisers, 12-seater 4x4 safari vehicles or other appropriate vehicles
- Services of an experienced local guide/driver
- All park entrance fees

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas.
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- Optional activities
- Domestic flight from Khwai Airstrip to Kasane - additional cost of approx USD \$400 - 450. We can book this flight for you and will confirm the price at time of booking.

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Maun

Welcome to Botswana. On arrival into Maun Airport, you will be met and transferred to your accommodation. The name Maun is derived from the San word "maung", which means "the place of short reeds". The afternoon is yours to spend at leisure, why not relax next to the pool at the lodge or book a sunset cruise on the Thamalakane River. This evening you will meet your guide and the rest of the group for your pre-departure meeting at 6pm.

Overnight - Maun

Day 2 : Makgadikgadi & Nxai Pan NP

Maun - Makgadikgadi Pans. This morning we depart Maun and continue onto the area of the Makgadikgadi Pans. After settling into our accommodation, we take a stroll with our guide through the surrounding baobab grove, as he explains the local ecology, geology and the unique biology of the baobabs, which are in fact not trees but the largest succulents in the world. **Overnight - Makgadikgadi & Nxai Pan NP** (B, L, D)

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 USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

updated on 24-09-2020 09:45:27

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Day 3 : Makgadikgadi & Nxai Pan NP



After breakfast, we depart for an excursion to either Nxai Pan or Ntwetwe Pan. These excursions are seasonal based on wildlife sightings and road conditions. Both pans form part of the greater Makgadikgadi system.

Covered in nutritious short grasses and small islands of acacia trees, Nxai Pan attracts vast numbers of desert herbivores such as gemsbok, springbuck, and extraordinarily large herds of giraffe. The Ntwetwe Pan is amongst the largest salt pans in the world and famous for its extraordinary lunar landscape. Ntwetwe is home to uniquely adapted desert species such as bat eared foxes, springbuck, kori bustards and some of the Kalahari's most fascinating inhabitants, the meerkats. After exploring either Nxai or Ntwetwe we return to the lodge in the afternoon with some time to relax by the pool. **Overnight - Makgadikgadi & Nxai Pan NP (B, L, D)**

Day 4 : Khwai River



Makgadikgadi Pans - Maun - Greater Moremi. This morning we travel via Maun, the gateway to the Okavango Delta, to our camp, which is situated in a private concession in the Khwai River region. This large area is renowned for its concentration of mammals and it is not unusual to see many different types of wildlife during just one game drive. Game viewing

is seasonal; depending on the time of the year you may see different species in different areas. The best time for game viewing is the end of the dry season or spring from August to November. During this season, in order for us to offer the best game viewing possible, extra driving may be required due to the animals migrating closer to the river. In the summer, birdlife can also be viewed in abundance with exceptional sightings of wildfowl and raptors. After dinner, we will explore the concession on a night game drive. **Overnight - Greater Moremi (B, L, D)**

Day 5 : Moremi Game Reserve



Today we head into the famous Moremi Game Reserve known as one of the most beautiful and varied reserves in Africa with an unprecedented concentration of wildlife. The full day is spent in the unspoiled nature of the Moremi Game Reserve.

Overnight - Greater Moremi (B, L, D)

Day 6 : Chobe National Park



Moremi Game Reserve - Chobe. This morning you will be transferred to Khwai or Maun Airstrip for your flight to Kasane (flight not included in the tour cost*). On arrival you will be met and transferred to our lodge. We enjoy a boat cruise on the Chobe River in the afternoon from where we can watch elephants, hippos, crocodiles and a variety

of birds without having to reach for our binoculars – we'll be near enough for close-up photographs, as well as having the chance to witness a spectacular African sunset.

Please Note: The flight from Khwai or Maun Airstrip to Kasane is not included in the tour cost. We can book this for you, contact us for rates. **Overnight - Chobe National Park (B)**

Days 7-8 : Hwange National Park



Chobe - Hwange. This morning we depart Chobe and make our way to our lodge in a private concession near to Hwange National Park. The next two days are spent exploring this wildlife rich area. This afternoon you can partake in an optional game drive if time allows.

On the following day, we will have plenty of time to explore this vast wilderness on a game drive. Hwange National Park is one of Africa's finest havens for wildlife and is home to vast herds of elephant, buffalo, and zebra and has a very large concentration of giraffe. It is also home to many predators and endangered species plus varied birdlife. We will also visit the Painted Dog Conservation Centre to witness the work that is done to protect these endangered species. **Overnight - Hwange National Park (B:2, L:2, D:2)**

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Days 9-10 : Victoria Falls



Hwange - Victoria Falls. The final leg of our journey takes us into Zimbabwe, home to one of the seven natural wonders of the world, the mighty Victoria Falls. This afternoon we enjoy a relaxing sunset cruise on the mighty Zambezi then have the rest of the day and the next day at leisure or to partake in one of the many optional activities which include helicopter flights, horse back safaris, canoeing, bungee jumping and more!

Overnight - Victoria Falls (B:2)

Day 11 : Victoria Falls

Our safari ends after breakfast. You will be transferred to Victoria Falls Airport in time for your departure flight.(B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

Thamalakane River Lodge

Situated on the banks of the Thamalakane River with magnificent views of the surrounding scenery, this lodge features African-inspired accommodation amidst the Botswana landscape. The spacious chalets have a unique 'skylight' wall to maximise the views. Its location on the river means that guests can watch water fowl and birds at their leisure from the public areas. The lodge's acclaimed restaurant is not too be missed with superb food and wine to match the superb surroundings.



Planet Baobab Lodge

The Planet Baobab Lodge is a unique oasis-like lodge in the heart of Botswana's baobab capital. Guests can choose between a traditional Bakalanga hut made from mud or a traditional grass hut made in the way bushmen once did. The use of natural materials indigenous to the region mean that air-conditioning is unnecessary and only the mud huts are en suite. After a day on safari, relax with a cold drink besides the pool and feast on delicious dishes from all over Africa.



Bedouin Bush Camp

Chobe Safari Lodge

Situated on the banks of the Chobe River, Chobe Safari Lodge is an excellent gateway to Chobe, Victoria Falls and the Zambezi Region. Rooms are spacious, with excellent facilities and private balconies. The restaurant serves a fantastic array of African and International cuisine. The Cocktail and Sedudu Bar is a great place to relax with a cocktail as the sun sets. The lodge is in Kasane, just 5 kilometres from Chobe National Park.



Sable Sands Lodge

Situated in the Dete Vlei just outside Hwange National Park, Sable Sands is a lodge consisting of 11 rondavel chalets.

These chalets are scattered around the lodge's central swimming pool. Rooms are en suite with private terraces. The lodge contains a waterhole which attracts large herds of elephant, buffalo, zebra and antelope. The lodge also boasts a library, lounge, bar and BBQ facilities. There are hammocks a plenty for you to relax in as well.



Ilala Lodge

Set amongst pretty landscaped gardens, the elegant Ilala Lodge is the perfect place for exploring Victoria Falls. Spread out over two floors, the guest rooms are beautifully furnished in a classic style with teak wooden furniture. The falls are much more visible from the upper floors however the ground floor offers charming proximity to the friendly warthogs who frequent the hotel grounds to graze. The hotel also benefits from a gorgeous outdoor pool and award winning restaurant. The lodge is located within walking distance of the mighty Victoria Falls.



PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed to run subject to a minimum of 4 travellers. This safari has a maximum group size of 12. Prices shown are per person travelling. Prices shown are per person when there are 2 persons sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room

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and needs to be added to the per person price.

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
18 Sep	USD 3,095	USD 3,935
05 Oct	USD 3,095	USD 3,935
07 Dec	USD 3,095	USD 3,935
17 Dec	USD 3,095	USD 3,935