



BOTSWANA 16 DAY OVERLAND CAMPING SAFARI 2015 DETAILED ITINERARY

INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS:

- Kalahari - Bushmen walk
- Okavango Delta private camp
- Okavango Boat trip and Mekoro
- Game Walks
- National Parks
- Open-vehicle Game Drives in National Parks
- Wild Remote Camping
- Makgadikgadi Salt Pans
- Chobe River Boat Cruise
- Victoria Falls National Park

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- White Water Rafting
- Bungi Jumping
- Game Flight – Okavango
- Zambezi River Sunset Cruise

The casual visitor to Botswana could be excused for seeing the country as kilometre upon kilometre of flat, desolate scrubland with little or no surface water – closer inspection however will reveal what is arguably Africa's finest wildlife destination. A country the size of France, over a quarter of Botswana's land is set aside exclusively for nature conservation.

Our tour will take us through the vast Kalahari where we will walk with the local Bushmen people, then to the north - into the magnificent Okavango Delta where we will travel by boat and in dugout canoes (mekoro) with local Bayei tribespeople to our private camp in the heart of this unique natural wonderland – home also to a multitude of Africa's Fauna and Flora. We then explore the renowned National Parks in fully equipped open 4x4 vehicles - depending on the season our route will follow the game migrations. We will spend a night under the stars in the vast Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, will enjoy a game viewing boat cruise on the mighty Chobe River, and finally, will visit "The Smoke that Thunders" - Victoria Falls. Clients may opt to then fly out from Victoria Falls or enjoy the journey back to Johannesburg traveling south overland.

These tours offer the adventure traveller, photographer, birdwatcher and naturalist the ultimate natural paradise.

DAY 1: JOHANNESBURG – KALAHARI

Departing from DRIFTERS JOHANNESBURG LODGE at 06h30, we set off to cross the Botswana border near Lobatse. On completion of Customs and Immigration formalities we pass through an area boasting significant history, then, it's out into the vast Kalahari Plains. We will cover quite some distance today before arriving at our established overnight camp near Kang. Once we have set up tents etc. we will enjoy a short walk out into the bush. Tonight we enjoy a catered meal. (Lunch and Dinner own expense)

DAY 2: KALAHARI BUSHMEN

Waking early to a spectacular Kalahari sunrise, we enjoy a sumptuous camp breakfast before continuing to the frontier town of Ghanzi. Ghanzi is home to some of the last traditional Bushmen, and it is here that we will enjoy learning about the wilderness from these fascinating people. Our experience will include a bush walk.

B L D

DAY 3 - 5: OKAVANGO DELTA

The Okavango, a massive river spilling its contents into the Kalahari sands, creating one of the world's only true inland delta's and a unique ecosystem that supports a huge variety of animal and plant life. The sight of a nervous Lechwe pounding across a flooded plain, the Jacana striding delicately amongst the flowering lilies, the Bee Eater diving to prey on an unsuspecting insect, and of course the familiar cry of the African Fish Eagle - all combine to create one of nature's masterpieces. We begin our journey into the Delta near the panhandle, gliding through Papayrus lined channels first by motorboat and then by mekoro - the traditional dugout canoe, to our exclusive wild island camp. We spend three nights here in true wilderness, exploring the area on foot and by mekoro. There will also be time to simply relax and to absorb the remoteness and serenity of the area.

B L D ; B L D ; B L D

DAY 6: OKAVANGO - MAUN

Starting early, we begin our journey back to relative civilisation, first by mekoro and then by motorboat to where we are reunited with our vehicle. This afternoon we arrive in Maun and then travel the short distance out to the DRIFTERS MAUN LODGE to freshen up before enjoying a catered meal. The Lodge is situated on the banks of the Boteti River and offers comfortable en-suite accommodation, a swimming pool, bar and restaurant. Clients will have the option to enjoy an own expense game flight over the Delta on one of our visits to Maun.

B L D

DAY 7 - 10: FLEXIBLE GAME RESERVE SCHEDULE (MOREMI / SAVUTI / CHOBE)

This morning we stop in Maun for the group and guide to stock up with supplies for the onward journey. Now we prepare for the game viewing part of the trip. Perched high on our well-equipped 4 X 4 vehicle we head into the wilderness, passing remote villages along the way. We spend five days in the National Parks following seasonal game migrations, an example of our route could be: starting with Moremi, camping the first night near the well-known 3rd Bridge. Drift off to sleep to the howl of the Hyena or the earthy roar of a Lion, and even the deep grunt of a half-submerged Hippo. We then head on north via Xakanaxa to camp near North Gate. This area is generally excellent for game viewing and we will conduct afternoon and morning drives along the wetland areas. Then on up to Savuti, the area offers a multitude of game drive options and a very active campsite (keep the fruit well hidden from the roving Elephant, and the meat from the prowling Hyenas). The vegetation is constantly changing, from open plains, palm trees and marshland, to dense Mopane woodlands and Acacia scrub. Each night we will camp in pristine, remote, private sites where there is no sign of Mans existence – we leave each site in the same condition, nothing but footprints.

B L D ; B L D ; B L D ; B L D ; B L D

DAY 11 – MAUN

Our last morning in the Parks, we slowly game drive our way back to Maun where we will spend some time before heading out to the comfort of the DRIFTERS MAUN LODGE. This afternoon we will relax at the Lodge before enjoying a catered meal and a comfortable night.

B L D

DAY 12 : MAKGADIKGADI PANS

A relaxed start today, we will spend some time enjoying the Lodge and the swimming pool before enjoying Brunch and then venturing eastward and into the spectacular Makgadikgadi Salt Pans. Besides the stark scenery, the Pans are known for their prolific birdlife and the other desert adapted animals. Without disturbing the surface, we make our way to a remote site where we set up camp and take in the isolation and serenity of this expanse. Although we set up tents, we encourage clients to enjoy a night out under the canopy of stars.

Brunch D

DAY 13: CHOBE RIVER – VICTORIA FALLS

Venturing north today, we leave the desolation of the Pans behind and make our way up to the mighty Chobe River. The Chobe area is known for the huge herds of Elephants and other animals that are attracted to drink from the River - this afternoon we will enjoy an extensive boat cruise, gliding close to the banks we hope to be able to approach these animals from the River for close up viewing. After our boat cruise we will cross the border and make our way to the DRIFTERS VICTORIA FALLS LODGE which is centrally situated and within walking distance of The Fall's and other attractions. Lunch today is own expense.

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DAY 14 : VICTORIA FALLS

Awaking in the adventure capital of Africa, it is with new excitement that we explore the amazing Victoria Falls, "Mosi o Tunya ", "The smoke that Thunders". After admiring this wonder of the world, various other attractions can be visited and activities enjoyed - the tribal village, the big tree, the curio market and the crocodile farm. An aircraft flip over the falls or a boat trip on the Zambezi River, White Water Rafting, Bungi Jumping, or an Elephant Back Safari are all worthwhile, but allowance must be made for the extra expense.

We spend two nights here, thus allowing clients some time to explore by themselves.

Tonight we will eat out in local restaurant (own expense). Relax to the sound of the African night and the distant roar of the Falls and drink the farewell toasts to your adventure.

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DAY 15: VICTORIA FALLS – FRANCISTOWN

The people flying out on the 15-day tour will do so today, the overlanders will set off to cross back into Botswana and to continue south toward Francistown. Tonight we will camp for the last time, enjoying the African night and celebrating our adventure over a catered meal (own expense). **B L**

DAY 16: FRANCISTOWN – JOHANNESBURG

Crossing the Limpopo River, we return to South Africa and make our way to the DRIFTERS JOHANNESBURG LODGE, we arrive in the early evening. Post tour accommodation and airport transfers can be booked through DRIFTERS.
(all meals own expense).

DEPARTURES

This tour departs from Johannesburg every Saturday. Please note – during peak season we may run two departures, at this time clients may opt to travel in the reverse direction if available.

The tour can be reduced to 15 Days by flying out of Victoria Falls.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

These trips require a valid passport and for certain nationalities, a visa for Zimbabwe and Botswana. A sleeping bag, towel and pillow are required for this tour. Seasonal Malaria precautions are necessary and are locally obtainable. A barrel bag or backpack is best suited for this trip (suitcases do

not fit into the space provided). An extra day bag or camera bag is advised. Spending money required will be for the restaurant meals, drinks, visas, tips, curios, airport transfers, and any other optional excursions. (Zimbabwe airport tax US\$30-00 for those flying out on day 15 - subject to change.) Remember, help us to help you by participating and by keeping an open mind and flexible mentality. Our price includes all food as specified, coffee, tea, juice at breakfast, transport, professional guides, mekoro hire, accommodation, group equipment, permits and park entrance fees. Our price does not include restaurant meals where stipulated, visas, tips, curios, optional excursions, alcohol, bottled water and soft drinks, airport tax, airport transfers and airfares. Before departure clients will be required to enter into an agreement pertaining to our booking conditions and general information as defined on our website and in our brochure. Clients are required to have their own comprehensive personal travel insurance.