

BOTSWANA SAFARI IN THE OKAVANGO DELTA



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Itinerary Overview

Botswana safaris are renowned for their abundant wildlife and isolated adventure camps. Travelers can expect the full spectrum of safari outings from tracking game on foot, mokoro, or vehicle. One of the largest inland deltas in the world, the Okavango Delta is fed annually by floodwaters from the far away central highlands of Angola. The slowly seeping water gives life to plants and quiet streams where hippos wallow and crocodiles lie in wait for zebra and antelope to drink along the banks. These plains game keep a watchful eye for hunting lions, hyena, and leopard in this enormous ecosystem spread over 6,800 square miles.

Starting in Victoria Falls, witness one of the 7 natural wonders of the world standing in the spray of the mighty Zambezi River as it cascades 355 ft below. Fly to the drier Linyanti region known for its high concentrations of elephants and roaming packs of wild dog. Your safari continues through the varied land and water landscapes of the Okavango Delta based from private concessions where the number of other travelers is few. Our luxury Botswana safari features small luxury camps hosting no more than 14 guests in 7 rooms and expert naturalist guides exceptionally familiar with the rhythms and movements of this unique wilderness environment.

DAY	OVERNIGHT	HOTEL	MEALS	HIGHLIGHTS
1	VICTORIA FALLS	Toka Leya	D	Arrival in Livingstone and transfer to lodge
2	VICTORIA FALLS	Toka Leya	BLD	Tour of Victoria Falls and the mighty Zambezi River
3	LINYANTI/SAVUTE CHANNEL	Savuti or Duma Tao	BLD	Land transfer to Botswana border, fly to Linyanti Reserve
4	LINYANTI/SAVUTE CHANNEL	Savuti or Duma Tao	BLD	Day and night game drives in the predator rich Linyanti
5	LINYANTI/SAVUTE CHANNEL	Savuti or Duma Tao	BLD	Day and night game drives in the predator rich Linyanti
6	OKAVANGO DELTA, CHITABE PRIVATE CONCESSION	Chitabe	BLD	Fly to Chitabe Camp, game drives and walks (conditions permitting)
7	OKAVANGO DELTA, CHITABE PRIVATE CONCESSION	Chitabe	BLD	Day and night game drives, walking, hides (conditions permitting)
8	OKAVANGO DELTA, VUMBURA PRIVATE CONCESSION	Little Vumbura	BLD	Game viewing by open safari vehicle, mokoro, and boat
9	OKAVANGO DELTA, VUMBURA PRIVATE CONCESSION	Little Vumbura	BLD	Game viewing by open safari vehicle, mokoro, and boat
10	OKAVANGO DELTA, VUMBURA PRIVATE CONCESSION	Little Vumbura	BLD	Game viewing by open safari vehicle, mokoro, and boat
11	DEPARTURE	-	B	Fly to Maun for international departure

Itinerary in Detail

DAY 1-2: ARRIVAL IN LIVINGSTONE

Arrive into Livingstone Airport where you will be met after passing through customs. The afternoon is free to recover from the long journey and watch the Zambezi River flow by from the comforts of Toka Leya Camp. On Day 2 choose between several included activities such as a visit to the Zambian side of the Victoria Falls, tour of Livingstone town, museum, and the local school, catch and release fishing, or a game drive in Mosi oa Tunya National Park.

For the more adventurous consider rafting on the Class V Zambezi River, jet boating, bungee jumping, or one of the many other adrenaline-inducing activities available in the area (*these activities at your own risk and not included*). Two nights at **Toka Leya**. [D on Day 1, BLD on Day 2]

Photo by Colin Bell



DAYS 3-5: LINYANTI / SAVUTE CHANNEL

Depart Victoria Falls by vehicle this morning, crossing the border into Botswana and board a light aircraft flight in Kasane to the Linyanti Wildlife Reserve. Savuti Camp has seven rooms and is situated in an isolated part of the Linyanti Concession along the Savute Channel in northern Botswana. The site of Savuti Camp is about 17 kilometers 'downstream' from the Zibadianja Lagoon - the source of the Savute Channel. The Channel stopped flowing between 1980 and 2008; during this time it was an unusual and productive ribbon of grassland that served as a corridor and feeding ground in the surrounding woodland for a wide variety of herbivores.

In 2008, the Savute Channel once more became a deep, clear waterway harboring hippo and aquatic life with myriad varieties of water birds. Wildlife, from plains game to a plethora of predators, has had to adapt to a new source of water and all the opportunities and menaces it has brought with it. It is impossible to say yet whether the waters will persist or begin to recede - but while it lasts, at Savuti Camp there are front-row seats for each drama that is played out.

With two-thirds of the Savute Channel located in the concession, you'll have private and exclusive access to the abundant game through day and night game drives, nature walks with a guide (on request), and several well-positioned hides for safe, up-close animal viewing. Savuti Camp's former 'wood-pile hide' in front of camp is now part of the flowing Savute and famous for spectacular elephant viewing in the drier winter months.

Game concentrations here are high, particularly in the winter dry season, and apart from abundant plains game, species such as roan and sable antelope, southern giraffe, lion, leopard, cheetah, spotted hyena, black-backed jackal and packs of wild dog may also be encountered. In May through September, this area can also be excellent for the sought-after aardvark and aardwolf, which are big ticks on anyone's mammal list! Overnight three nights at **Savuti or Duma Tao Camps**. [BLD]



DAYS 6-7: CHITABE CAMP / OKAVANGO DELTA

A scenic flight over the delta takes you to Chitabe Camp. Chitabe is on a large island in the Delta where prolific wildlife is seen on day and night game drives. Area wildlife includes elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard, and cheetah, as well as great opportunities to see wild dog from which Chitabe (Setswana for wild dog) takes its name.

Chitabe Camp is unique even in the Okavango Delta in that it harbors such a variety of habitats within close proximity, ranging from classic Okavango Delta scenery with Illala palms dotting floodplains to open savannah and acacia woodlands. A finger of perennial swamps inundated by water throughout the year extends into the Chitabe Concession and the area is

also dominated by seasonally flooded areas which transform 56% of the concession from dry floodplains into a lush oasis, when the annual flood waters meander through. All this gives rise to a surprising diversity of species, which allows one a wide range of luxury African safaris, game viewing and birding experiences.

The high numbers of impala in the area means that leopard are often seen near Chitabe Camp. Also encountered are buffalo, elephant, lion, and occasional sightings of wild dog, the subject of the Botswana Wild Dog Research Project that takes place in the area.

The birdlife is excellent and varies throughout the year, depending on water levels and season. Raptors are abundant here: including the African Hawk Eagle and the Hooded Vulture often nests on the island. Game drives in the palm-filled landscape of Chitabe Camp often produce families of Ground Hornbill, Greater Honeyguide, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Red-billed Hornbill, Gabar Goshawk and coveys of Red-billed Francolin. Overnight two nights at **Chitabe Camp. [BLD]**



DAYS 8-10: LITTLE VUMBURA / OKAVANGO DELTA

Fly to Little Vumbura Camp and boat over to the camp ideally situated on a papyrus fringed island with access to the extremely productive Vumbura concessions. Here the vegetation ranges from open floodplains to dense mopane bushveld - offering spectacular game viewing and birding opportunities all year round.

The permanent swamp and island habitat abounds with beautiful treed islands of every size, surrounded by permanent waterways created both by the summer rains and the annual winter floodwaters of the Okavango Delta. Game drives in this region are incredibly productive, arriving guests often sighting their first game on the trip from airstrip to camp.

The annually flooded grasslands of the Okavango Delta surrounding Little Vumbura Camp are locally referred to as 'melapo' and offer seasonal viewing of elephant, giraffe, impala, sable antelope, kudu, zebra, common waterbuck and reedbuck, tsessebe, wildebeest, red lechwe, and cape buffalo. Encounters with hippo and crocodile are common in the waterways. Predators include the wild dog, several resident prides of lion, leopard, cheetah, and the African wildcat.

The birding around Little Vumbura Camp is as varied as it is exceptional all year round. In the summer many migrant species are present. Pel's Fishing Owl is regularly seen, with other specials including Wattled Crane, Slaty Egret, Chirping Cisticola, Little Bee-eater, Fan-tailed Widowbird, and possibly Rosy-throated Longclaw.

Game drives in open Land Rovers allow you to get close to animals in the savannah areas. Walks (on request) around the islands are an opportunity to enjoy Africa from a different perspective, and mokoro canoeing is the perfect way to drift slightly through this unique wildlife habitat. Game viewing is consistently good all year round at Little Vumbura Camp with lion, leopard, elephant, sable and buffalo along with extensive plains game providing an excellent all-round wildlife experience in this remote corner of the Okavango Delta. Overnight for three nights at **Little Vumbura Camp. [BLD]**



Photo by Dana Allen

DAY 11: DEPARTURE

Depart the Okavango Delta today for your flight to Maun, arriving in time to connect to your onward international flight. **[B]**

END OF SERVICES

Actual routes and activities may vary. Local trip coordinators reserve the right to change accommodations to similar quality alternatives.

INCLUDED SERVICES

- All guided tours and excursions
- English-speaking naturalist guides
- Twice daily shared activities on safari including game drives, night drives, mokoro, boat, and walking safaris depending on location and conditions. Only 2-6 passengers per outing. Special arrangements can be made for groups of 6+ travelers.
- Airport-hotel transfers, land transportation
- 10 nights hotel accommodation as indicated
- Meals as indicated [B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner]
- Water, soft drinks, beer, wine, and cocktails (premium brands excluded)
- Laundry service

NOT INCLUDED SERVICES

- International airfare
- Tips and gratuities
- Airport departure taxes and any additional Botswana or Zambia taxes
- Personal expenses for extra services, optional activities, or changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control
- Travel insurance for trip cancellation, medical services, or evacuation
- Any other items not mentioned above

IMPORTANT DETAILS:

- Baggage in charter aircraft is restricted to 20kg (44lbs) per person in a soft bag, including camera equipment and carry-on baggage.
- Only **soft bags** such as a duffle bag will be accepted - no wheels, frames or rigid structures can be transported as they physically cannot fit into the aircraft.
- Maximum dimensions are 10in wide by 12in high and 24in long
- Laundry services are included at each lodge and camp.

[Accommodations](#)



TOKA LEYA CAMP, LIVINGSTONE

Overlooking the mighty Zambezi River and some of its islands, under a shady canopy of jackalberry and waterberry trees lays Toka Leya. The camp consists of 12 safari-style tents, each en suite with a view of the magnificent Zambezi River and some of its islands. The camp's dining and bar area is set beneath a shaded canopy of trees overlooking the River and a swimming pool. Activities include a tour of the Victoria Falls on the Zambian side, game drives within Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park, river cruises and guided nature walks.

Other activities offered in the area at an additional charge

and include sunset cruises, helicopter flights, micro-lighting, canoeing, jet boating, white water rafting, and fishing. Game drives into the Mosi-oo-Tunya Park are productive with an abundance of general game species like buffalo, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest and impala, and rich birdlife. The Zambezi River offers ample fishing opportunities and tiger fishing is an unforgettable challenge for keen fishermen, particularly during the warmer months. ([click here to see more](#))



SAVUTI CAMP, LINYANTI WILDLIFE RESERVE

In the northern Chobe region of Botswana, Savuti Camp is a private reserve with great opportunities to find Bushbabies, Spring Hare, Aardwolf, Serval, and Genet within the Linyanti Wildlife Reserve. The seven intimate tents are situated along the Savute Channel, the once hippo-filled river. Each tent has a large walk-in tented room raised off the ground on wooden decks with en suite facilities and is connected to the main lodge area by raised wooden walkways. The main camp has a thatched dining area, bar, and plunge pool. Activities include game drives in open 4x4 land rovers, night drives, and walks with an armed guard. Good concentrations of plains animals and recent activities of wild dog in the area make this camp a

spectacular location for wildlife safari in Botswana. ([click here to see more](#))



DUMATAU, LINYANTI WILDLIFE RESERVE

DumaTau was recently rebuilt on an exquisite new site on the banks of the Linyanti River's Osprey Lagoon. It is located close to the source of the Savute Channel in the western part of the Linyanti, between two elephant corridors, thus offering an exclusive combination of land and river experiences. The camps ten en-suite tented units (8 twins and two family) are raised off the ground and under thatch with canvas walls, allow guests to enjoy the night sounds of Africa from the comfort of their rooms. In addition to the en-suite bathrooms with hot and cold running water, each room has an outside shower. There is a dining room, pub, lounge, plunge pool, and a special guest bathroom with a fantastic view. This region has all the habitat diversity to make it a haven for wildlife and

offers a wide range of safari game viewing activities including time on the water, land or tracking on foot. ([click here to see more](#))



CHITABE CAMP, OKAVANGO DELTA

Chitabe is a luxurious tented camp built on one of the most beautiful islands in the Okavango Delta, in a private area that is bordered on three sides by the Moremi Game Reserve in Botswana. Surrounded by waterways and lagoons harboring a large variety of wildlife, the eight spacious East African style tents are built on elevated wooden decks, beneath the lush tree canopy. Each tented room has en-suite facilities with flush toilets, and a shower and basin with hot and cold running water. Enjoy a delicious meal in the thatched dining area, lounge, or pub on raised decks overlooking the surrounding floodplains or cool off from your exciting Botswana vacation safari in

the private pool. Activities consist of day and night game drives in open 4x4 vehicles accompanied by an experienced Botswana safari guide. Shorter nature walks can be arranged. Wildlife viewing is spectacular, and includes Buffalo, Elephant, Lion, Leopard, Reedbuck, Lechwe, Impala, Zebra and Hippo. Packs of wild dog are also sometimes spotted as they take off on the hunt for their next meal. Night drives can be very rewarding with good sightings of the rarer nocturnal animals. Two raised, uncovered, wooden platforms near the camp provide the wonderful experience of sleeping under the stars. ([click here to see more](#))



LITTLE VUMBURA, OKAVANGO DELTA

Little Vumbura is a beautiful six roomed tented camp that offers both water and land activities, as well as walks for those who are keen. The camp is situated in a private reserve bordering the Moremi Game Reserve in the northern reaches of the Okavango Delta. Access into this area is exclusively by aircraft and then, a mokoro trip and/or a boat will transfer guests to camp. The tented rooms are large and comfortably appointed, with an en-suite bathroom with hot and cold running water, a shower, and flush toilet - and an outside shower. The camp has a plunge pool too. Guests usually have the opportunity to

see Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Sable and Buffalo, along with all the plains game, providing an excellent all-around game experience in this remote corner of the Okavango. Walks (on request basis only) around the islands give guests the opportunity to enjoy Africa from a different perspective. ([click here to see more](#))

