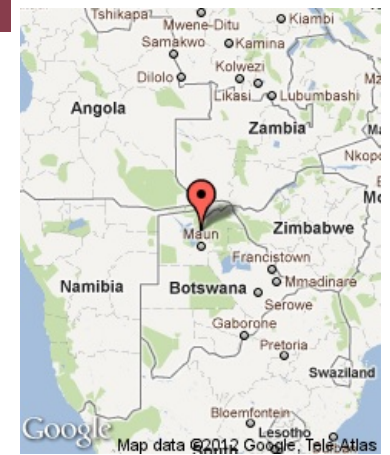


Botswana Camping Safari



Highlights

If you're looking for an authentic safari in southern Africa which doesn't cost an arm and a leg, you're in exactly the right spot. This ten day Botswana Camping Safari is a life-affirming expedition into the heart of Botswana covering its main national parks, game reserves and some of the lesser known beauty spots.

Botswana is, in effect, a giant natural game reserve and as such is a more than suitable place for wildlife watching. Amongst the species endemic here are springbok, wildebeest, zebra, rhinos, antelope, giraffe, hippos and lion. Although over two-thirds of the country is covered in desert, the remainder of Botswana is varied in its terrain with savannahs, grasslands and river flood plains providing home to a plethora of life. There are three areas in particular which are especially attractive to tourists, all of which you'll cover in this monster itinerary: Moremi Game Reserve, Chobe National Park and Victoria Falls.

Staying in a number of comfortable mobile camps dotted around the varied scenery in Botswana (and in a comfortable lodge over the border in Zambia,) you'll spend your time embarking on the best game drives available in Southern Africa and getting to know this fantastic country on an intimate level. Chobe National Park is one of the areas you'll both visit and relish: it has the largest concentration of elephants in Africa, having risen from a mere few hundred to over fifty thousand in the last twenty years. The Moremi Game Reserve located near Okavango Delta will also be a memorable experience, featuring not only an impressive biodiversity but also striking scenery. During your trip you will have the opportunity to see Victoria Falls on the Zambezi river, which is every bit as beautiful as you've heard. One peculiar feature on the Zambian side of the Falls is Devil's Pool, a small water pool with no current extending to the edge of the 100 metre drop.

Is it for me?

For a non-participation safari (i.e. one that does not require you to work during your stay in order to keep costs down) this is one of the best value for money safaris we've heard of in Botswana. The guides are passionate and keen, the itinerary superb and no corners are cut on this tour - throw in the unique delights offered by Botswana and neighbouring Zambia and what you have is a simply excellent, affordable safari.

Although the Botswana Camping Safari is available most of the year and you'll never regret a trip, we particularly recommend visiting in either October and September as the game is at its best. The only drawback to this is that Southern Africa during these months is at its hottest, which can be unbearable for some.

At the time of writing there are no mandatory vaccinations or travel requirements for tourists visiting Botswana for less than a month, but a course of anti-malaria medication is recommended before travelling. As always, we cannot provide medical advice and suggest visiting your GP before your tour.

Accommodation

For the duration of your safari you'll stay in few different campsites, all of which are good quality. You probably won't spend a great deal of time at the camps however, since your day will be filled with exhilarating game drives (usually two per day with a siesta in between.)

The dome tents are large (3x3 meters for couples with larger tents available for families) and tall enough to comfortably stand up in. The campsites have flushing toilets, hot bucket showers, mosquito-proofing, high-quality sleeping gear, furniture and separate dining facilities.

Prices from
1,701 GBP (10 days) per person

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Meals are inclusive of the tour price, and all food is prepared by your dedicated camp chef in the evening from local ingredients. Picnic food will be taken to eat when out in the field on game drives, generally with a stop for brunch (on days in which the group is up early) and lunch followed by a siesta around noon.

Itinerary

Day 1: Upon arrival in Maun, you will be met by a tour representative and fly by light aircraft to Xakanaxa. This wildlife mecca forms part of the permanent Okavango Delta, the largest river delta in the world. Xakanaxa also falls within the Moremi Game Reserve and you'll arrive in time for orienteering and an evening game drives this unique area.

Day 2: After breakfast you'll explore the crystal clear channels of the Okavango Delta by motorboat before enjoying a picnic lunch on its banks. In the afternoon you will return to the mainland in time for the evening meal and overnight camping.

Day 3: Today you'll drive to the campsite in the Khwai area of Moremi Game Reserve. This area is hailed as one of Africa's greatest wildlife sanctuaries. The day features spectacular morning and evening game drives along the rich floodplains and woodlands.

Day 4: Today will be spent on early morning and afternoon game drives in Moremi Game Reserve, with a siesta in between to avoid the hottest part of the day.

Day 5: Moving on from Moremi you'll travel via the Mababe depression to Savuti in Chobe National Park. Here you will camp along the dry Savuti channel and explore the area extensively by vehicle, which is well known for its healthy population of Bull elephants.

Day 6: Another day of spectacular game drives in Savuti, with two separate areas being covered in the morning and evening before returning to camp.

Day 7: Today the group will make its way north to the mighty Chobe River which attracts large herds of big game, such as elephant and buffalo. Other species such as hippo, giraffe and kudu also occur in large numbers.

Day 8: A day of wildlife watching around the park and optional afternoon boat cruise along the Chobe River, although please note this will be at your own expense.

Day 9: A hop across the Zambian border via Kazungula Border Post will take you to the great town of Livingstone in Zambia. The afternoon can be spent at your leisure and there are a number optional activities including water sports. Before retiring to the Waterfront Hotel, you may wish to try and make time to visit Victoria Falls during daylight, an awesome sight to behold.

Day 10: Tour concludes after breakfast in Livingstone. Nearby Lusaka International Airport is your best location for home flight return, but many travellers wish to extend their tour in the area.

Details

Getting there

Fly to Maun Airport where you will be met by a representative to transfer you to Xakanaxa

Price includes

Guide services, accommodation (camping and hotel), meals and beverages, national park entrance fees, transfer from Maun airport, guided game tours.

Price details

April-June and November-December price is \$2600 pp and July-October is \$2800 pp

Typical Duration

10 days

Comfort level

Down to earth (hostels, camping, huts)

Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed