



MATSHWANE SCHEDULED SAFARIS 2012

TRIP SUMMARY

Length: 10 Nights / 11 Days

Routing: Maun to Kasane or reverse

Accommodation: Serviced Camping On a Mobile Tented Matshwane Safari

Highlights:

- Okavango Delta
- Moremi Game Reserve
- Chobe National Park (Savuti & Chobe River Front)

Itinerary

2 Nights camping in the Xakanaxa / 3rd bridge area of Moremi Game Reserve

Activity guide: Game Drives and a Boat Cruise on Okavango Delta

3 Nights camping in the Khwai Community Area bordering Moremi Game Reserve

Activity guide: Game Drives & Night Drives

3 Nights camping in Savuti, Chobe National Park

Activity guide: Game Drives

2 Nights camping in Chobe, Chobe National Park

Activity guide: Game Drives & an Afternoon Boat Cruise on Chobe River

Safari Includes:

- Comfortable tented accommodation, including camp stretchers and bed linen/ towel in a 3m bow tent.
- En-suite Bathrooms – shower and bush loo.
- Licensed and experienced professional guide.
- Game drives and local transfers in customised safari vehicles.
- All entrance and camping fees within the National Parks & Reserves. Private campsites, wherever possible.
- All Meals & Drinks: wine, beer, G&T, cool drinks, bottled water – no other spirits.
- Cook & Camp Assistant to do camp chores (staff will travel with guests in same vehicle).
- All activities as specified in the itinerary.

Excludes: international & domestic flights, travel and medical insurance (essential on all safaris), visas, optional safari extensions, spirits (you are welcome to bring your own), items of a personal nature.

DETAILED ITINERARY (Maun – Kasane)

Day 1 & 2: Camping in the Xakanaxa/ 3rd bridge Area of the Moremi Game Reserve

Your safari guide will be there to welcome you on arrival at Maun Airport. The exact departure time from Maun Airport will be advised closer to the time, as this depends on Air Botswana's flight schedule. We expect to leave Maun and begin our journey mid-day where we head to Moremi Game Reserve, stopping for a picnic lunch en-route, and arriving at our campsite in time for sundowners. Spending our next two nights camping in the Xakanaxa / 3rd bridge region, we explore the surrounding wilderness on game drives during the day. You will also enjoy a boat cruise on the waterways of the Okavango Delta on Day 2.



Day 3 & 4 & 5: Camping in the Khwai Community Area Bordering the Moremi Game Reserve

Following an early breakfast we pack camp and continue our journey to Khwai, stopping for a picnic lunch en-route. The Khwai River forms a boundary between the reserve and the community area. We spend the next three nights camping at a campsite in the community area, exploring the Khwai floodplains on game drives both during the day and at night.

Exploring after dark with spotlights offers you an opportunity to experience some of the nocturnal animals that are rarely encountered during the day. It is important to note that night drives are not permitted within the national parks and reserves. These activities are conducted outside the boundaries of the Moremi Game Reserve in the Khwai community area.



Okavango Delta & Moremi Game Reserve

The Okavango is a unique ecosystem, an inland delta situated in the middle of the largest stretch of continuous sand in the world – the Kalahari basin. This wetland lies like an oasis in an otherwise inhospitable landscape. Where land and delta meet, a mosaic of pans, grasslands, forests and lagoons provide an extremely rich and diverse habitat where a multitude of animals and birds flourish. This wetland is one of the natural wonders of the world, and is a fragile ecosystem that remains one of the world's least spoiled and most beautiful wildernesses, and is home to various unique species e.g. sitatunga antelope and red lechwe.

Moremi Game Reserve is situated in the eastern corner of the Okavango Delta. Moremi is one of the most beautiful and varied reserves found on the African continent with huge concentrations of wildlife and incredible scenery. The reserve consists of both swamped areas e.g. Xakanaxa, and dry-land areas e.g. Khwai.

Day 6 & 7 & 8: Camping at Savuti within the Chobe National Park

We head further north en-route to Chobe National Park, where we spend the following three nights camping in a wilderness campsite in the Savuti region, exploring the desert-like landscape of game drives. Never has there been a better time to visit Savuti than 2012! The water from the Savuti Channel reached the marsh for the first time in 30 years in 2010 winding its way from the North. Savuti has for the last 30 years been an extremely dry area and lately its claim to fame has been lions killing elephants and they come for the few drops of water that remain in the waterholes. The dynamics have all changed with the arrival of the water ...who knows what will happen.

Savuti is characterised by the Savuti Marsh, the Savuti Channel and the Hills. During morning and late afternoon drives our guides will alternate between these areas. Anything can happen on the Savuti Marsh and it's best to get there early in the morning. A dominant feature of Savuti is the Hills one of which has a few perfectly preserved bushmen paintings which are easily accessible. Savuti has a very healthy population of leopard who live on the hills and the best time to see them is either first or last light and they leave their stony refuge to hunt in the surrounding bush.

Chobe National Park

The Chobe National Park is one of Africa's finest game sanctuaries. Situated in the far north of Botswana, Chobe encompasses a wide variety of diverse habitats offering extreme contrasts, and is home to a breath-taking variety of animals and birds.

Chobe River Front

The Chobe is famous for its abundance of elephants – the highest concentration of elephants to be found anywhere in the world. Chobe is also famous for its huge herds of Buffalo, for its rich birdlife, and for its exquisite sunsets – a wildlife experience not to be missed.

Savuti

In sharp contrast to the lush Chobe riverfront is the seemingly endless desolate landscape of the Savuti, famous for the dry marsh, sand ridge and volcanic hills, which are unique to this area. The marsh once contained the waters of the Makgadikgadi superlake, and the most typical feature of the landscape are the dead trees – evidence of the erratic flow of the Savuti channel over the years. The area consists of large open game-filled plains, and is home to a variety of dry-land animals, including zebra, wildebeest, kudu, giraffe, wild dog, leopard, cheetah and lion.

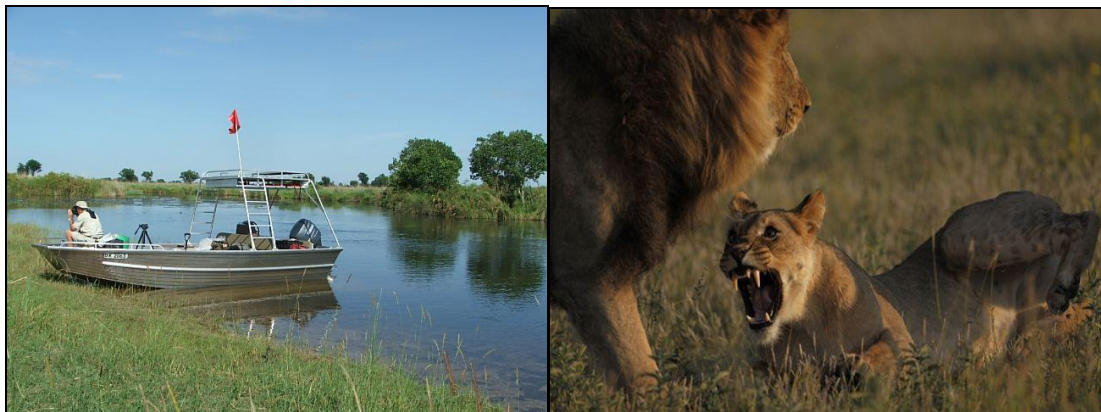
Day 9 & 10: Camping at Chobe River front within the Chobe National Park

Leaving this parched landscape, we continue our journey north to the contrasting Chobe region of the park. We spend the last two nights camping in a wilderness campsite along the Chobe River, exploring the riverbanks and surrounding flood plains on game drives. On Day 10 you will also enjoy an afternoon boat cruise on the Chobe River which departs from Kasane.

Day 11: Safari ends in Kasane

Following breakfast and a short game drive your safari will end in Kasane mid-morning at 0900am.

NOTE: Although we make every effort to adhere to schedules and itineraries; these are subject to change in light of changing local conditions (weather, roads, and animal movements) and availability. You will be notified accordingly.



A TYPICAL DAY ON SAFARI

The day starts with the rising of the sun. Your wake-up call will be between 5am and 6am - a gentle “koko” (knock knock in Setswana) at the entrance of your tent. A camp hand will be on hand to fill your wash-hand basin with steaming hot water and freshly made tea and coffee will be served around the campfire. Wake up to the warmth of the morning sun at the dawn of a new day.



A light breakfast will be served before the early morning game drive. You will enjoy tea, plunger coffee, juice, rusks, fruit, cereal, toast and jams. The best time of day to enjoy game viewing is in the early morning and late afternoon as most animals retreat to the shadows to rest during the heat of the day.

Having spent the morning exploring the surrounding wilderness in search of Botswana’s hidden treasures, you will return to camp for lunch under the shade of a Marula tree (subject to availability). Lunch consists of salads, freshly baked bread, cold meats, and pickles. Just as the animals retreat to escape the heat of mid-day, so will you. This is your time to enjoy reading, chatting, relaxing or taking a nap.



Later in the afternoon you will head out into the wilderness once more as the animals awake from their days slumber and gather at the watering holes to quench their unforgiving thirst. As the sun sets on the horizon, one can only marvel at the sheer splendour of an African sunset and with refreshments in hand, toast to the wonder of nature.



On your return to camp, you can enjoy a hot shower under the starry night sky and gather around the warmth of the campfire to relive the day's events and excitement. Enjoy a two-course dinner served with South African wines against the magical backdrop of the African night sky. For dinner you can enjoy Botswana Beef or a Lamb Potjie followed by Banana Mekoros with Chocolate or Malva Pudding with custard.



Retreating to the comfort of your tent after enjoying a nightcap around the campfire, you can fall asleep to the calls of the African wild. Good night.



On moving days, the guide and the camp hand will pack down the camp, then travel to the next camp site and prepare the camp at the next location. When travelling between locations, the route is most commonly through the parks and reserves and is therefore an extension of your daily game drives. A picnic lunch can be enjoyed en-route.

