



## **MATSHWANE SCHEDULED KALAHARI SAFARIS MARCH & DECEMBER 2012**

### **TRIP SUMMARY**

**Length:** 10 Nights / 11 Days

**Routing:** Maun to Maun

**Accommodation:** Serviced Camping On a Mobile Tented Matshwane Safari

### **Highlights:**

- Deception Valley (Central Kalahari Game Reserve)
- Khwai Community Area near Moremi Game Reserve
- Chobe National Park (Savuti area)

### **Itinerary**

4 Nights camping in Deception Valley (Central Kalahari Game Reserve)

Activity guide: Game Drives

1 Night camping in Maun en-route to Khwai

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

Activity guide: Game Drives & Night Drives

2 Nights camping in Savuti, Chobe National Park

Activity guide: Game Drives

### **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 – Maun)**

#### **Day 1, 2, 3 & 4: Camping in Deception Valley area of Central Kalahari Game Reserve**

Upon arrival into Maun Airport, they will be met and transferred to Deception Valley by your guide. The drive into CKGR will take approx 5-6 hrs in a custom built Land Rover & they will enjoy a picnic lunch en-route.

Most of the scenery en route to CKGR is cattle country and dry savannah bush. After approx 5 hours the vegetation changes and small dry pans (open areas) appear and at one stage the land falls gradually away to Deception Valley. The valleys in the Kalahari are extinct river valleys that occurred millions of years ago and are now covered in short dry grass. After a little rainfall the grass turns green offering the wildlife much needed nutrition after a harsh dry winter. Most of the antelope species

converge in the river valleys in search of this nutrition and also to give birth to their young. This is a purely natural wilderness with little human affect and has stayed in this condition for hundreds of years. The CKGR is known as a desert as 99% of the year there is an absolute lack of surface water. The animals survive by getting moisture from early morning dew and from the plants they eat. The reserve is also the ancient home of the “San” of Kalahari Bushmen.



The CKGR has enormous horizons and many kilometres of seemingly endless grass plains. As the antelope converge in the valleys so the predators follow. CKGR has good populations of the famous “Kalahari lions” is a very good place to see Cheetah and is the best place to see Suricates and Brown Hyena if you are very lucky. To get the best experience in the Kalahari it is advisable to leave the camp as early as 5.30 am as most of the fauna is active early and then retire to the shade in the midday heat to avoid excessive water loss. Early mornings and late afternoons are the best time to photograph this amazing landscape.

To get a better idea of this unique ecosystem we recommend you read “Cry of the Kalahari” by Mark and Delia Owens.



### **Day 5: Maun Accommodation**

After breakfast and a short morning game drive we pack camp and return to Maun by road where a picnic lunch will be enjoyed en-route to Maun. You will arrive in Maun in the afternoon where you can enjoy dinner and a night in Maun before continuing your adventure the following morning.

### **Day 6 & 7 & 8: 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 spoilt 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 9 & 10: Camping at Savuti within the Chobe National Park**

We head further north en-route to Chobe National Park, where we spend the following two 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.

#### **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 11: Safari ends in Maun**

Following breakfast we head back to Maun enjoying a picnic lunch en-route. You will be dropped in Maun for your onwards arrangements.

**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.

