

# The Great North Road

## Kasane to Maun

Serviced Mobile Safari

### *Details*

<b>Duration:</b>	10 Nights / 11 Days
<b>Routing:</b>	Kasane to Maun
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Serviced Camping in meru style en-suite tents on a mobile safari

### *Itinerary overview*

- 2 Nights camping in Chobe, Chobe National Park
- 3 nights camping in Savute, Chobe National Park
- 3 Nights camping in the Khwai Area of Moremi Game Reserve
- 2 Nights camping in the Xakanaxa / 3rd bridge area of Moremi Game Reserve

### *Highlights*

#### **Chobe National Park**

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

#### **Chobe National Park Riverfront**

The lush Chobe River Front is renowned for its abundance of elephant – almost certainly the highest of these magnificent creatures to be found anywhere in the world. Chobe is also noted for its huge herds of buffalo, its rich birdlife and exquisite sunsets reflected in the ripples of the river. It all adds up to an unmissable wildlife experience.

#### **Savute Chobe National Park**

The Savute is noted for the shifting shapes and transience of its most important landmarks: the Savute Marsh and the Savute Channel which supplies it. The Marsh itself is one of the most exciting wildlife destinations in Africa – anything can, and often does, happen there. Rising above the otherwise level landscape of Savute are the Ghoha and Gubatsa Hills which hide perfectly preserved San Bushmen paintings. The Savute hills have a very healthy population of leopard and the best time to see them is either at first or last light as they leave their stony refuges to hunt in the surrounding bush.

The Savute Channel is known as the 'stolen river' and its recent history includes several episodes where it has dried up for several years, only to flow again - seemingly at random, but in fact due to tectonic movements. This means that you could encounter either a river, or a ribbon of dry savannah grassland. The skeletons of numerous dead trees stand as mute witnesses to the erratic ebb and flow of this most unpredictable of rivers. Beyond the channel, this 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, cheetah and lion.

### **Okavango Delta & Moremi Game Reserve**

The Okavango is a unique ecosystem, a river delta located in the middle of the world's largest stretch of continuous sand – the Kalahari basin. An oasis in an otherwise arid and inhospitable landscape, the Okavango Delta supports an incredible diversity of animal and birdlife. Where land and water meet, a mosaic of pans, grasslands, forests and lagoons provides an extremely varied range of habitats which is home to one of Africa's greatest concentrations of wildlife. The Okavango is one of the natural wonders of the world, a still-pristine yet fragile ecosystem that richly rewards exploration.

The Moremi Game Reserve lies in the eastern corner of the Okavango Delta. One of the most beautiful and diverse of all the great game reserves of Africa, it protects both huge concentrations of wildlife and incredible scenery. The reserve consists of both seasonally-inundated areas such as Xakanaxa, and drier areas such as Khwai. On this safari, we will set out to reveal some of the secrets of this dynamic ecosystem.

### *Your safari includes*

- Comfortable walk-in tented accommodation in Meru-style tents with built-in floors and mosquito gauze at the windows and entrance. Comfortable beds include all bed linen and a towel
- En-suite bathrooms with a traditional hot water safari bucket shower and bush loo
- Experienced, licensed professional guide for the duration of your safari
- **A scenic flight charter Moremi to Maun in a fixed wing aircraft over Chiefs Island**
- Game drives and local transfers in custom-made open game drive vehicles with shade roof, game viewing seats and long-range fuel tanks
- All entrance and camping fees for National Parks and Game Reserves. Exclusive private campsites are used wherever possible
- All meals and selected drinks (wine, beer, G&T, selected soft drinks, fruit juice, bottled water, Amarula)
- Dedicated safari team including cook, camp assistant and back-up driver
- Bathroom amenities (soap, shampoo and insect repellent)
- All activities as specified in the itinerary
- Medical Evacuation Insurance with Okavango Air Rescue to Maun

## *Your safari excludes*

- International & domestic or charter flights and airport departure taxes
- Visas (these are guests own responsibility to check and organise)
- Laundry Service
- Travel, cancellation and medical insurance (compulsory on all safaris)
- Optional safari excursions
- Spirits other than gin
- Items of a personal nature
- PCR tests or costs related to PCR testing e.g overnights in Maun to wait for results
- Tips and gratuities – see our suggested guidelines on the “Useful Information” page on our website

## *Detailed itinerary – Kasane to Maun*

### *Day 1 & 2: Serviced Camping at Chobe River Front within the Chobe National Park*

Dumela / Hello! Welcome to Botswana!” We will be there to give you a warm Botswana welcome in Kasane around 12 noon. Our guide will help you feel immediately at home and brief you on what to look forward to on your safari.

We will provide you with a snack pack before you depart on an afternoon boat cruise on your first afternoon on the Chobe River which departs from Kasane.

Following the boat cruise we leave Kasane and start our journey driving at game drive pace and keeping an eye out for wildlife and birds. We spend the first two nights camping in a pristine bush campsite near the Chobe River, exploring the river banks and surrounding floodplains on game drives.

The magic of a mobile camp becomes apparent as the sun sets and you enjoy drinks around the fire before a starlit dinner and a great night’s rest after falling asleep to the sounds of the African bush.



### *Day 3 & 4 & 5: Serviced Camping at Savute within the Chobe National Park*

We head further south within Chobe National Park, where we spend the following three nights camping at a pristine bush campsite in the Savute region and exploring the dry landscape on game drives. Savute is an area that can change dramatically, with the character of the place changing completely depending on the flowing or drying up of the Savute Channel. In 2010, water from the Savute Channel reached the Marsh for the first time in three decades (after a long dry period during which resident lions learned to prey on elephants coming to drink at isolated waterholes). The presence of water can transform these dynamics and the only way to find out what will happen next, is to visit Savute with us and see for yourself!



### *Day 6 & 7 & 8: Serviced Camping in the Khwai area of Moremi Game Reserve*

Following an early breakfast, we pack up the camp and continue our journey to Khwai, stopping for a bush picnic lunch en route. The Khwai River forms the boundary between the reserve and the local Khwai Community Area. We spend the next three nights camping at a campsite in the Khwai area, exploring the Khwai floodplains on game drives. You will also experience a 2½-hour mokoro trip, discovering channels and lagoons at a relaxed pace in a traditional dug-out canoe.

### *Day 9 & 10: Serviced Camping in the Xakanaxa / 3rd Bridge area of Moremi Game Reserve / Okavango Delta*

Spending our last two nights camping in the Xakanaxa / Third Bridge area, we explore the surrounding wilderness on game drives during the day. The Moremi Game Reserve protects around a third of the entire Okavango Delta ecosystem – some 5 000km<sup>2</sup> (1 930 square miles).



*Day 11: Safari ends in Maun*

Following breakfast and a short game drive your guide will drop you at a bush airstrip to meet your pilot for your stunning light aircraft scenic flight over the Okavango Delta and Chief's Island back to Maun. This flight gives you a fish eagle's eye view of this amazing ecosystem. You will arrive in Maun around noon in time for the flights to Johannesburg.



**DISCLAIMER:** Although we make every effort to adhere to the details of this itinerary and the listed activities, these are subject to change due to changing local conditions and factors outside of our control such as the weather and the condition of the roads, as well as availability. We reserve the right to substitute a motor boat cruise for the mokoro excursion where necessary. In the event of any necessary changes, we will always keep you informed.

Safari rates are subject to National Park fees increases imposed by the Botswana Government without prior notice.



## A Typical Day on Safari

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

Before the early morning game drive, a light breakfast will be offered. This will include tea, plunger coffee, juice, rusks, fruit, cereal, toast and jams – just enough to boost your energy without using up too much of the golden hours of early morning, which is one of the best times of the day to see animals. Later on, as the temperature rises, many of them will retreat to the shade before becoming active again in the late afternoon.



Having spent the morning exploring the surrounding wilderness in search of Botswana’s hidden treasures, you will return to camp for lunch under a shady tree (if the elephants have not pushed them all over!). Lunch typically consists of salads, bread (freshly baked over the campfire), cold meats and pickles. Just as the animals retreat to escape the heat of midday, we recommend that you do too. This is your chance to catch up on your reading, write about your adventures in your journal, take a siesta – or all three!



Later in the afternoon you will head out into the wilderness once more as the animals begin to feed and drink again. As the sun dips below the horizon, marvel at the sheer splendour of an African sunset and toast the beauty of Nature. This is best done with the traditional sundowner choice: a G&T.

On your return to camp, enjoy a starlit hot shower and then gather around the warmth of the campfire to relive the day's events with your fellow adventurers. A three-course dinner accompanied by South African wines is served beneath the magical canopy of the African night sky. Listen carefully and you may hear lions roaring, hyaenas whooping – or smaller creatures rustling in the leaves nearby... We can confidently say that Botswana beef is the best in the world – and our slow-cooked potjie is just as delicious. And that's before we even mention our mouth-watering desserts.



Retreating to the comfort of your tent after enjoying a nightcap around the campfire and fall asleep to the calls of the African wild. Good night and sleep tight!



On days when we move to a new campsite, the safari team will strike the camp, then travel to the next campsite and prepare everything for us. When travelling between campsites, we choose routes through wildlife areas wherever possible which means that each transfer is really an extended game drive. A picnic lunch will be served at a suitably scenic spot en-route.



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