

The Kalahari & Okavango

Maun to Maun

Serviced Mobile & Lodge Safari

Details

Duration:	10 Nights / 11 Days
Routing:	Maun to Maun
Accommodation:	8 Nights Serviced Camping in meru style en-suite tents on a mobile safari
	1 Night Boteti River Camp www.botetirivercamp.com
	1 Night Planet Baobab www.planetbaobab.travel

Itinerary overview

- 1 Night **Boteti River Camp** a great first night in Botswana
- 3 Nights serviced camping in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve
- 2 Nights serviced camping in the Makgadikgadi National Park in search of the Makgadikgadi Pans zebra migration
- 1 Night **Planet Baobab** with a visit to a habituated meerkat colony
- 3 Nights Moremi Game Reserve including a mekoro excursion with an optional scenic flight over the Okavango Delta and Chiefs Island on final day





Highlights

The Central Kalahari Game Reserve

The CKGR was established in 1961 by the British Government to protect the traditional way of life of the nomadic San Bushman tribes. The park covers an area of 52800 square kilometres and makes up an 11th of Botswana's total land area making it the second largest game reserve in the world, the first being the Selous Game Reserve in Tanzania covering 54 000 km². The CKGR is a scrub desert with almost no surface water available.

Home to the famous "Kalahari Lions" the area has healthy populations of cheetah, brown hyena, gemsbok, springbok, giraffe, wildebeest, bat eared fox and the tenacious honey badger.

A landscape with endless horizons, the early evening air is dominated by the never ending calls of the Kalahari barking geckos.



Makgadikgadi Pans National Park

The Makgadikgadi zebra migration moves east away from the Boteti River into the huge open grasslands of the Makgadikgadi Pans after our first good rains. Our camp will be erected in the grasslands just north - west of the expansive Ntwetwe Pans or further north at Baines Baobabs or Nxai Pan.

The salt pans cover an area of over 16 000km² in the Kalahari Basin and form the bed of the ancient Lake Makgadikgadi which evaporated millions of years ago.

Although Nxai Pan was once part of the great super lake, it is quite different to the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans as it boasts broad hectares of short sweet grasslands with occasional “islands” of trees. The rich grassland provides good grazing and attracts springbok, impala, gemsbok, giraffe, kudu, hartebeest, zebra, wildebeest, all followed by lions and hyena, as well as a wide array of birdlife. The grasslands of the Makgadikgadi hide small colonies of meerkats that have become habituated to people and provide a few hours of rewarding interaction. Baines Baobabs, a cluster of seven Baobab trees are located within the park. The Baobabs were painted by Thomas Baines when he passed through travelling with John Chapman in 1862.

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 in which 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 worlds 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 a diverse selection of wildlife and incredible scenery. The reserve consists of both swamped areas like Xakanaxa and dry-land areas like Khwai.

Your safari includes

- 1 Night Boteti River Camp (DB&B)
- 1 Night Planet Baobab (LDB&B) including a visit to the meerkats
- 8 Nights Serviced Mobile Safari in Meru Style Tents with en-suite facilities
- Comfortable walk-in tented accommodation in a meru style tent with built in floors and mosquito gauze at windows and entrance. Beds are comfortable and include all bed linen and a towel
- En-suite bathrooms with a bucket shower and bush loo
- Licensed and experienced professional guide for the duration of your safari
- Game drives and local transfers in custom made open game drive vehicles
- A 2 ½ hour mekoro excursion in Khwai (or motor boat – water levels depending)
- All entrance and camping fees within the National Parks & Game Reserves
- Private wilderness campsites
- All meals & selected drinks (wine, beer, Gin & Tonic, Coke, Coke Lite, fruit juice, bottled water)
- Dedicated safari team including cook, camp assistants and back up driver
- Bathroom amenities (soap, shampoo and insect repellent)
- Medical evacuation insurance with Okavango Air Rescue to Maun
- All activities as specified in the itinerary

Your safari excludes

- International & domestic or charter flights and airport departure taxes & visas
- Drinks at the lodges (2 nights)
- Visas (these are guests own responsibility to check and organise)
- An optional scenic flight from Moremi Game Reserve over Chiefs Island to Maun
- Laundry
- Travel, cancellation and medical insurance (compulsory on all safaris)
- Optional safari extensions
- 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 – Maun to Maun

Day 1: Arrival and road transfer to Boteti River Camp (lodge)

Your guide for the duration of your safari will be there to welcome you on arrival at Maun Airport around 1 o'clock. The exact departure time from Maun Airport will be advised closer to the time, as this depends on the commercial airlines flight schedules. Once all guests have cleared immigration and collected luggage we leave Maun and begin our journey south to Boteti River Camp situated on Boteti River in the quaint rural village of Khumaga bordering on the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park. Once all checked in your guide will brief you on the fabulous next 10 nights on safari!



Day 2 & 3 & 4: Serviced Camping in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve - CKGR

After breakfast take a walk with your safari guide through the local village. This gives you an up close and personal rural village experience in Botswana and may include a visit to the school, clinic and the local "kgotla" the tribal meeting place. The "kgotla" is the center of the tribal authority headed by the chief or "kgosi" who administers tribal and government matters including that of the tribal court. This is an opportunity to mingle with the locals and experience real village life.

It's a unique insight into life of local people living with wild animals and the walk will give you an insight into how the people benefit from this and also the potential conflicts experienced by both people and wildlife.

We depart mid to late morning for the CKGR stopping under a tree for a picnic lunch and arrive in camp mid to late afternoon.

Most of the scenery en-route to CKGR is cattle country and dry savannah bush. We will spend the next three nights in the CKGR. After approx. 2 hours driving from Boteti, the vegetation changes and small dry pans (open areas) appear and at then 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. We explore areas like Deception Valley, Passarge Valley, Sundays Pans and Letiahau. To get a better idea of this unique ecosystem we recommend you read "Cry of the Kalahari" by Mark and Delia Owens. A fiercely beautiful but hostile environment - the CKGR will creep into your soul and for many months after your visit you will yearn to return.



Day 5 & 6: Serviced Camping in the Makgadikgadi National Park

We pack and move camp east to the huge expansive grasslands of the Makgadikgadi Pans in search of the huge numbers of zebra (up to 25000 animals) that leave the Boteti river system and concentrate on the open grasslands in search of nutritious grasses to give birth to their young. Despite their numbers they can be elusive and we spend the next two nights in search of the herds and exploring this vast open landscape.



Day 7: Planet Baobab (lodge)

We say goodbye to the back up crew who will pack the camp and move to the Moremi Game Reserve whilst we head off on our early morning game drive heading towards the village of Gweta and our overnight stop at Planet Baobab. The Planet Baobab turnoff is marked with a huge iconic aardvark.

Planet Baobab is a rather unique destination and accommodation tonight is provided in traditional but comfortable thatched en-suite Baklanga or Baobab huts.

On arrival at the lodge we get settled into the rooms and then head out for a picnic lunch with a visit to the Makgadikgadi Pans in search of the habituated meerkat colony. A visit to these now famous little creatures will certainly be a highlight of your safari. Dinner will be served at the lodge.



Day 8 & 9 & 10: Serviced Camping in the Moremi Game Reserve

An early morning road transfer takes us from the Makgadikgadi to Maun in time for lunch at a quaint local restaurant and then a road transfer to the mobile safari camp in the Khwai area of the Moremi Game Reserve. The Moremi Game Reserve forms part of the unique ecosystem called the Okavango Delta and Moremi covers up to one third of the Okavango. The total area of the Okavango covers up to 18 000 square kilometres of which the Moremi Game Reserve is 5000 square kilometres. We spend the next three nights camping at a campsite in the Moremi Game Reserve exploring the floodplains on game drives during the day. Experience a 2 ½ hour mekoro trip exploring the waterways of Khwai which is the most eastern reach of the Okavango River system (or motor boat subject water level dependant).

Day 11: Safari Ends in Maun

Following our customary early morning breakfast and early game drive we say goodbye to our back up team and camp staff and drive back to Maun. Alternatively take a charter plane for a scenic flight over the Okavango Delta – this is optional and at additional cost. The route takes us from a bush airstrip over Chiefs Island for an approx. 50 min flight landing at Maun airport to connect with your onward arrangements.



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 depending on water levels. In the event of any necessary changes, we will always keep you informed. Should you chose an additional flight back to Maun on the last day this flight may depart early from Moremi to give the rest of the guests time to drive back to Maun.

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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