

Wilderness Dawning Safaris



14 DAY BEST OF BOTSWANA MOBILE CAMPING SAFARI

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www.wildernessdawning.com |

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BEST OF BOTSWANA offers guests the opportunity of starting and ending off in Livingstone, near the remarkable Victoria Falls, as well as seeing Makgadikgadi and Sua - the world's largest salt pans, the unique wilderness that encompasses Nxai Pan, one of the least visited areas in Botswana and the pristine wetlands of the Okavango. This serviced camping safari entails a 14-day tour through wildlife areas...Nxai Pan, Moremi Game Reserve, Okavango and Chobe National Park, with diverse habitats ranging from semi-arid drylands to lush woodlands and riverine forests. Days are spent game-driving across vast areas, in search of the tremendous variety of animals Botswana is well known for - from Wild Dogs to huge herds of Elephant, the elusive Leopard, Prides of Lion and good variety of Antelope. A total of ten nights are spent inside game-reserves and because the number of guests are well controlled and limited - very few vehicles and other signs of civilization. Only private sites are utilized to set up our well-appointed camp.

TOUR CODE: WD

DEPARTURE POINT: Zambezi Waterfront Hotel - Livingstone

NOTE: Guests are required to be at the Waterfront Hotel reception at 07h00 on day 1

Day 1: Makgadikgadi Salt Pans

Guests depart Livingstone by road transfer (07h00) and cross the Zambezi River into Botswana at Kazungula, where the borders of Zambia, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Botswana meet. After customs and immigration formalities, you will meet your guide, who will assist with the purchase of drinks in Kasane, before driving south to the village of Nata, which is situated on the edge of the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans. These Salt Pans, the world's largest, are the remnants of a once massive inland lake. Today they offer spectacular scenery and endless horizons. In season a large variety water birds nest here. The pans offer a truly unique camping experience as well as an opportunity to witness an unforgettable sunset.

Departure: 07h00 | **Distance:** 370km, 5 hours-sightseeing

Accommodation: (L, D) Nata Sanctuary. Serviced Camping

Day 2: Nxai Pan National Park

We leave Makgadikgadi Salt Pans quite early, after a light breakfast. Our journey takes us westwards to Nxai Pan National Park. The area is known for large herds of Springbok and Gemsbok, species that are not water dependent. The artificial waterhole at the heart of the pan allows for some remarkable wildlife sightings. Nxai Pan is an ancient lakebed scattered with islands of Acacia Trees. The Pans have changed little in thousands of years and offer a place to totally lose oneself in limitless wilderness. Camping for the next two nights is in Nxai Pan National Park, with afternoon and morning game-drives.

Departure: 08h30 | **Distance:** 170km, 3 hours-sightseeing

Accommodation: (B, L, D) Nxai Pan National Park. Serviced en-Suite Camping. Private Campsite

Day 3: Nxai Pan National Park

We start with a light breakfast in the cool early hours of the morning, heading out at first light. The drive typically lasts until about 10:30 am, with a coffee break mid-way. On return to our private camp a brunch is served, after which there is an opportunity to have a siesta throughout the heat of the day. As the air starts to cool towards late afternoon, we embark on our after-noon game drive.

Departure: 06h00 | **Distance:** Game-viewing activities

Tuesday 16th November 2021

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Accommodation: (B, L, D) Nxai Pan National Park. Serviced en-suite Camping. Private Campsite

Day 4: Maun

Today we take a game drive out of Nxai Pan National Park and journey on further west into the frontier town of Maun, to our hotel which has a pleasant eating area with a welcome swimming pool. The afternoon is at leisure at the Hotel, which is situated on the banks of the Thamalakane River. Lunch and Dinner are at guests own expense.

Departure: 06h00 | **Distance:** 130km, 2 hours Game-viewing activity

Accommodation: (B) Sedia Riverside Hotel, Maun

Day 5: Xakanaxa, Okavango Delta

We travel by road to Xakanaxa (*pronounced ka-ka-ni-ka*), which is an integral part of the eastern waters of the Okavango Delta. The area is encompassed by Moremi Game Reserve and boasts some of the best game viewing in Africa. The Game-Reserve has areas of dry lands rising between vast wetlands, crystal clear water channels on the edges of Mopane and Apple-Leaf woodlands. Game viewing takes place alongside waterways and floodplains. Species such as Giraffe, Zebra and Wildebeest are but a few that occur here, along with an astonishing variety of birds

**Ten Day "Highlights of Botswana" guests join the safari on this day*

Departure: 08h30 | **Distance:** 130km, 3 hours, Game-viewing activities

Accommodation: (B, L, D) Xakanaxa, Moremi Game Reserve. Serviced en-suite Camping. Private Campsite

Day 6: Xakanaxa, Okavango Delta

We make our way to the banks of the Okavango River along game-drive routes in the early morning. Today we explore the clear channels, lagoons and rivers of the Okavango Delta by motorboat, going upstream through a myriad of crystal-clear waterways lined with African Mangosteen and Water Berry Trees, as well as swaying seas of papyrus. We follow the Okavango River through the Lagoons of Xakanaxa and Gadikwe, deep into the permanent waters of this unique inland delta. Birdlife is prolific-Kingfishers, Fish Eagles, Ducks and beautiful Pygmy Geese being regularly seen. After a picnic lunch, we make our way back downstream to the mainland for the short evening drive and dinner.

Departure: 06h00 | **Distance:** Game-viewing and River activities

Accommodation: (B, L, D) Xakanaxa, Moremi Game Reserve. Serviced en-suite Camping. Private Campsite

Day 7: Khwai River, Moremi Game Reserve

The team breaks camp and we take a leisurely drive to our private campsite in the Khwai River area of Moremi Game Reserve. This region's diversity of animals is truly astounding. Moremi was proclaimed a conservation area in 1964-the result of this foresight is that Moremi is quite rightly been rated as one of the best game-viewing areas in the world.

Departure: 06h00 | **Distance:** 130km, 3 hours, Game-viewing activities

Accommodation: (B, L, D) Khwai, Moremi Game Reserve. Serviced en-suite Camping. Private Campsite



Day 8: Khwai River, Moremi Game Reserve

Today is spent on early morning and afternoon game drives. Your guide will generally spend maximum time on game-drives, depending on what is seen, trying to cover as much area as possible. The result of this is guests are given the best chances of seeing a variety of wildlife-although there is of course, that obligatory siesta during the hottest part of the day!

Departure: 06h00 | **Distance:** Game-viewing activities

Accommodation: (B, L, D) Khwai, Moremi Game Reserve. Serviced en-suite Camping. Private Campsite

Day 9: Savuti, Chobe National Park

We leave Moremi, crossing the Khwai Bridge to the northern bank of Khwai River. There is a quick opportunity to buy more drinks in the small village, before making our way to Chobe National Park. Due to the fact that none of Botswana's wildlife areas are fenced, game can move freely between these two wilderness areas. Hippo, Elephant and sometimes Lion are often found on this route. Moving through the Mababe depression, we relocate to Savuti where we camp in the region of the dry Savuti Channel. Game viewing this afternoon takes place along the fringes of the marsh and surrounding water holes. The area is best known for large populations of Bull Elephants-and Prides of Lion that patrol the banks of this enigmatic channel.

Departure: 07h00 | **Distance:** 160km, 4.5 Hours Game-viewing activities

Accommodation: (B, L, D) Savuti, Chobe National Park. Serviced En-suite Camping. Private Campsite

Day 10: Savuti, Chobe National Park

We again we have the opportunity to spend many hours on morning and afternoon game drives, and time dependent, an opportunity to climb one of the hills to see San Bushman paintings, an indication that this area has always drawn those who have an affinity to the wilderness.

Savuti is unique and the special opportunity of exploring this area always remains with our guests for a long time afterward

Departure: 06h00 | **Distance:** Game-viewing activities

Accommodation: (B, L, D) Savuti, Chobe National Park. Serviced en-suite Camping. Private Campsite

Day 11: Serondella Area, Chobe National Park

We journey north toward the Chobe River, the second biggest river in Southern Africa (Zambezi in the largest). Chobe River is home the world's largest Elephant herds; large numbers of big game such as Buffalo, Hippo and Lion can be seen here. Our private campsite is close to this beautiful river. Game drives are taken in the afternoons and mornings to find the remarkable variety of species that are drawn to this permanent water source.

Departure: 07h00 | **Distance:** 160km, 4.5 Hours Game-viewing activities

Accommodation: (B, L, D) Serondella Area, Chobe National Park. Serviced en-suite Camping. Private Campsite



Day 12: Serondella Area, Chobe National Park

After an early start, we take a slow drive along the southern bank of the Chobe River, where we can find Chobe Bushbuck and Puku Antelope. The sheer variety of animals, in abundance, make this region a must-see for any wildlife enthusiast. In the afternoon, guests might choose to go on an optional afternoon boat cruise along the Chobe River-perhaps the last river where one has a fair chance to see Lion and Elephant, Leopard or Wild Dog from the unique viewpoint of a boat.

Departure: 06h00 | **Distance:** 160km, 4.5 Hours Game-viewing activities

Accommodation: (B, L, D) Serondella Area, Chobe National Park. Serviced en-suite Camping. Private Campsite

Day 13: Victoria Falls, Livingstone-Zambia*

We have a leisurely start this last camping morning and say fond farewells to our efficient back-up and camp crew after breakfast. We head eastwards on a last game drive to exit-gate at Sedudu Valley. From there it is a short drive to Kazungula Border Post, where your Safari Guide will ensure that your transfer back to Livingstone is seamless, before leaving to lead another safari. This afternoon can be spent exploring one of the truly magnificent sights on earth-the wonderfully beautiful Victoria Falls-300 feet high and over a mile wide! Witness the power of nature as an average of 550000 tons of Water thunders into the Zambezi Gorge every minute. Optional activities and Victoria Falls Entrance at guests own expense.

Overnight is usually at the Zambezi Waterfront. Please note that the entrance fee to Victoria Falls is not included within this safari.

Departure: 08h00 | **Distance:** 120km, 4.5 Hours Game-viewing activity

Accommodation: (B) Zambezi Waterfront, Livingstone

Day 14: Victoria Falls, Livingstone-Zambia*

After breakfast, Wilderness Dawning's safari arrangements end. Before proceeding with onward arrangements, guests might want to partake in the numerous optional activities that are available in this adventure capital! (B)

Should guests wish to start or end their Safari in a Lodge or Hotel other than **The Zambezi Waterfront (the last night which is included within the cost of the safari), this can be arranged. Alternative accommodation and transfers can be to any of the establishments in the towns of Livingstone (Zambia) or Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe). An extra cost applies*

Included:

- Use of specially modified 4x4 vehicles
- Professional Guide and Back-Up Crew
- All camping on a serviced basis in private campsites
- Camping equipment with en-Suite Facilities
- Meals as specified (B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner)
- Local Beers, Wine & Soft drinks while Camping
- Accommodation on a shared basis
- Botswana National Parks and Game Reserves entrance fees

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- Open Vehicle Game drives in all National Parks and Reserve
- Lodge accommodation Maun (Day 4) and Livingstone (Day13)

Excluded:

- All airfares
- Optional activities in Maun and Livingstone
- Any gratuities, any personal expenses, visa fees, departure taxes
- Entrance fees Victoria Falls
- Travel Insurance (compulsory)
- Pre and post tour accommodation and transfers

Your Safari Guide, Tour Leader, Driver and Cook!

At Wilderness Dawning we strongly believe that the single most important factor on any safari holiday is the quality, patience and experience of the professional guide. All our guides are passionate about Botswana and the environment in which we operate. An attitude, which is reflected in all our safaris, is the responsibility the guide has been given in showing guests the diversity of our country. We realize that for many people, a safari is a holiday of a lifetime and this is therefore a responsibility, which our guides do not take lightly.

Over the years, we have built up an enviable reputation for the recruitment, training and development of local guides, who are acknowledged to be the outstanding in their field. All our guides have deep appreciation for the wilderness and wildlife that lives there. Most importantly, our guides display a love for the region and its people. On our safaris our guests are enriched with the guide's knowledge and gain a new perspective on the country they are visiting.

Why choose Wilderness Dawning?

Botswana has a myriad of Safari Operators, all offering the opportunity of experiencing, in some manner, the wilderness, scenery, wildlife, history and culture this dynamic and richly beautiful country offers ... most have enviable reputations for delivering a holiday of unsurpassed quality.

When choosing a destination and expert to make a dream safari a reality, it is more often than not – not the price of something that differentiates one holiday from another, but what one receives in return ... Wilderness Dawning retain Guides and Safari Leaders that are unmatched in their field, Wilderness Dawning spend maximum time actually inside national parks and reserves ... not on the outskirts and most importantly, we offer the unique experience of gaining something fundamental ... an experience that endeavors to enrich our guests, guests who do not seek to be pampered and amused, but rather strive to enhance their understanding and love for Southern Africa.

A Safari Day the Wilderness Dawning Way

Guests are usually met at the airport in Maun, or Livingstone and transferred to the starting point of their safari. They are flown or driven to their first camp from where the safari commences. Typically, two game drives a day are experienced. In Game Parks, the morning game drive leaves at first light, when predator activity is expected. We return for brunch as the day starts heating up. The hottest part of the day is spent at leisure ... siesta time! Our afternoon activity departs after tea, usually around 4pm, to return in the early evening

Game drives and activities vary from one trip to the next, depending on sightings and animal activities. Generally, we drive quite far and slowly to absolutely maximize game-viewing potential. Should we be moving from one camp to another, a short drive might take in the morning and we drive through game areas to our next camp, where lunch is served.

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Safari Vehicles

Robust 4WD vehicles are essential for travel in Botswana due to the variable conditions of the tracks within protected areas. Wilderness Dawning operates specially modified Toyota Landcruiser's that accommodate either 8 or 12 guests.

All vehicles have an open roof and sides (with roll-down weatherproof canvas and thus offer the best game-viewing opportunities. They also come equipped with first aid kits, a fire extinguisher, individual bucket seats with seat belts and a cooler box for beverages. We carry out twice-yearly risk management assessment of our procedures and operations to ensure maximum client safety and due care.

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