

NATURAL SELECTION



SAFARIS OF CHARACTER

# OKAVANGO SPIRIT HOUSEBOAT

Operated by Wilderness Dawning Safaris



## 3 Nights Okavango Spirit



## EXPLORE THE PRISTINE WATERWAYS OF THE OKAVANGO DELTA BY HOUSEBOAT...

Okavango Spirit is an extraordinary houseboat experience offering eight comfy en-suite cabins, with sliding glass doors and private decks for total peace and tranquillity in one of the most remote settings in the Okavango Delta. Here you'll be thrown into a world of beauty, comfort and total serenity.

Wake up each morning on the Okavango River, African fish eagles calling, coffee in hand. Weave between islands, dotted with pods of hippo and cruising crocodile, with the ever changing riverbanks your bedrooms constant backdrop.

Think spectacular sunsets and extraordinary adventures. Game viewing on tender boats, an abundance of bird and wildlife, land activities exploring the unique surrounds, elephants drinking right in front of your window. As you can imagine, this truly is a houseboat safari experience that simply can't be missed.



## EXPLORING THE PRISTINE WATERWAYS OF THE **OKAVANGO** DELTA FROM THE **PRIVACY** OF YOUR BEDROOM, TOTALLY FLOATS OUR BOAT!

### DAY I

You will meet your safari guide at Maun Airport, at 12h30, unless you are coming off international flights, which will generally land at 13h00. From here you will fly on a small charter plane to a landing strip near Shakawe, in Northern Botswana (380km away). From the airstrip you will be transferred by road (a 15-20-minute drive) to the Okavango Spirit Houseboat, which is moored in the Panhandle area of the Okavango Delta, on the crystal-clear waters of the Okavango River.

This area is recognized as being amongst the quietest and most peaceful in the delta, due to its remoteness. There are only a handful of permanent camps and boats operating in this wilderness area, which make it ideal for our discerning guests.

The houseboat will spend its nights moored along these tranquil banks. Each cabin offering guests spectacular views of the waterways, abundant bird life and wildlife spotting along the riverbanks. The upper deck (3 meters high), has a stunning dining area where your meals will be served, a small comfy lounge for reading and relaxing, a well-stocked bar and stunning sundeck - perfect for game viewing and sipping afternoon sundowners, binos at the ready.

Once on board, we will slowly make our way upstream to your first sleep-over point, where you will spend the afternoon game viewing on our smaller tender boats, and your evening taking in the breathtaking scenery surrounding you, soaking up the peace and tranquillity from your private deck or the comfort of your bed.

**DEPARTURE:** 14h00 | Distance: 380km  
**ACCOMMODATION:** (L,D) En-Suite Houseboat Cabin, Okavango Spirit



## THERE ARE A HIVE OF EXCITING ACTIVITIES TO ENJOY FROM THE HOUSEBOAT.

### DAY 2

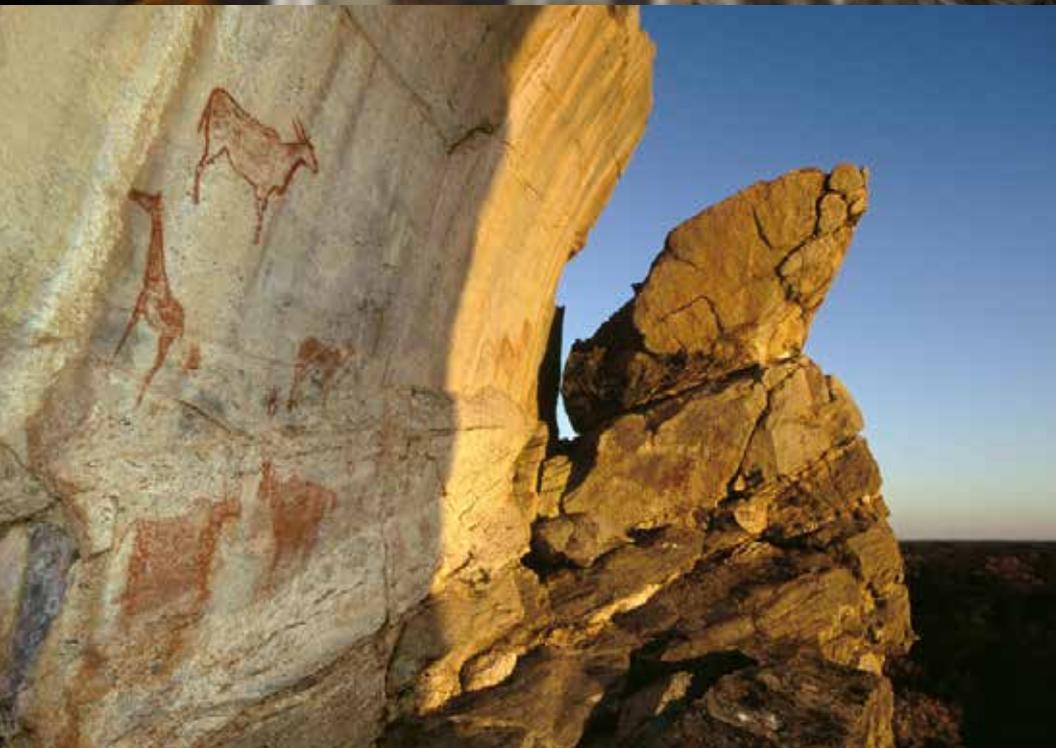
Wake up on the serene waters of the Okavango Delta. Your bedroom tucked away in an area recognized as being amongst the quietest and most peaceful in the Delta. Today gives you the exciting opportunity to get onto our smaller game viewing boats, to enjoy various activities in the area. These include bird watching, boat game viewing safaris and a visit to Tsodilo Hills – an absolute must see!

Tsodilo Hills is a World Heritage Site and is about 50km southwest of Shakawe, in a dry, bush-covered and softly undulating landscape. The site consists of four hills that rise abruptly, to about 400m, from the dry expanse of Bushveld. Having been inhabited for about 30,000 years, they're one of the world's oldest historical sites. The Hills are home to more than 4,000 San Bushman paintings - probably the most important collection of rock art in the world. Perhaps even more remarkable is the resonant atmosphere of spirituality that inhabits Tsodilo Hills. Several walking trails provide helpful routes around the painting sites. Among the interesting paintings are paintings of whales and penguins that suggest contact between the San Bushman and other people.

End your day with an evening sundowner cruise on the river. As the water ebbs and flows, keep an eye out for elephant eating papyrus shoots on the banks around you, listening to the last iconic call of a fish Eagle as night falls. Tonight we will park up on an island for dinner, next to a campfire, under a blanket of a billion stars.

**DEPARTURE:** 07h00 | Distance: 100 km, 2 hours, sight-seeing

**ACCOMMODATION:** (B,L,D) En-Suite Houseboat Cabin, Okavango Spirit



## TAKE IN THE BREATHTAKING SCENERY, WHILE SOAKING UP THE PEACE & TRANQUILLITY

### DAY 3

Today we cross the border into Namibia to do a morning game drive in Bwabwata National Park. Here, you'll find an abundance of wildlife in the park, like elephant, buffalo and several antelope species including greater kudu, roan and sable antelope.

All big cats are present and there have been many sightings of wild dog as well. Some of the species that have been re-introduced here include red lechwe and the semi-aquatic sitatunga.

You'll enjoy a flavorsome packed lunch en-route returning to the houseboat by mid-afternoon. Take a scenic boat trip on one of the smaller boats, looking out for hippo and some of the colossal crocodiles that soak up the afternoon sun on the passing banks.

Once back on board the houseboat, enjoy your evening sundowner as the sky turns a dusty pink and the harrumphing hippo's start to banter.

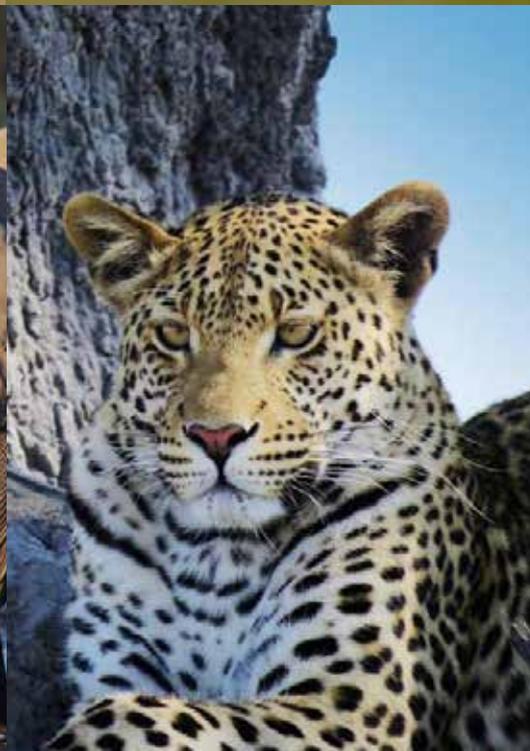
Dinner will be served on deck after which you can comfortably retire to bed, lapping up the night noises and the sounds of the surrounding waterways

**DEPARTURE:** 07h00 | Distance: 50 km, 4.5 Hours Game-viewing activities

**ACCOMMODATION:** (B,L,D) En-Suite Houseboat Cabin, Okavango Spirit

### DAY 4

Today you will enjoy an early morning boating activity before hopping off the houseboat and heading to the Shakawe airstrip to catch your small charter plane to take you onto your next destination and adventure.



ENJOY **GAME VIEWING**  
WHERE SPECIES SUCH AS  
**GIRAFFE, ZEBRA** AND  
**WILDEBEEST** ARE BUT A  
FEW THAT YOU WILL SEE,  
ALONG WITH A LARGE  
**VARIETY OF BIRD LIFE...**



# THIS TRIP OFFERS A **DIVERSITY OF INCREDIBLE** BOTSWANA EXPERIENCE *and is a houseboat safari adventure of a lifetime...*

## WHAT YOU'LL GET TO EXPERIENCE...

- ✓ Explore Tsodilo Hills home to more than 4,000 San Bushman Paintings - probably the most important collection of rock art in Africa.
- ✓ Experience the rich Okavango Delta bird life, and unrivalled views of the crystal-clear waterways from the comfort of the houseboat.
- ✓ Enjoy morning and afternoon game viewing boating trips, exploring the narrower waterways and islands nearby.
- ✓ Watch the sun go down from your private deck, listening to the calls of the African Fish Eagle, sundowner in hand.
- ✓ Lap up the night noises as you drift off to sleep!
- ✓ Ideal for families and group booking (maximum 14 guests).
- ✓ Star-gaze from the privacy and comfort of your cabin bed.
- ✓ Enjoy a game viewing day-trip to Bwa-bwata National Park in Namibia.
- ✓ Go on a cultural tour of Shakawe village.
- ✓ Spend each night moored at a different spot.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED...

- ✓ Private Professional Safari Guide.
- ✓ Meals as specified (B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner).
- ✓ Accommodation on a shared basis (single supplement)
- ✓ Botswana National Parks and Game Reserves entrance fees.
- ✓ Use of specially modified game viewing vehicles.

## WHAT'S EXCLUDED...

- ✗ All airfares.
- ✗ Covid-19 testing in Botswana.
- ✗ Optional activities.
- ✗ Any gratuities & personal expenses
- ✗ Visa fees, departure taxes.
- ✗ Travel Insurance (compulsory).
- ✗ Pre & post tour accommodation & transfers.

## *safaris of character...*

At Natural Selection we are all about remarkable experiences in wild untouched places. For the last 30 years, our founders have been pioneering unique safari experiences across Southern Africa's least explored places and spaces. From intimate encounters with the continent's iconic wildlife to meaningful interactions with the people who live here, our safaris are characterful, captivating and adventurous.

We are a conservation driven company offering a collection of owner-operated safari camps and lodges – while making a meaningful contribution to conserving and protecting Africa's last great wild places. WD Safaris, is a professional mobile safari company supporting our Natural Selection group of lodges to offer our guests the ultimate safari adventure. Our houseboat and staff form part of the Natural Selection company.