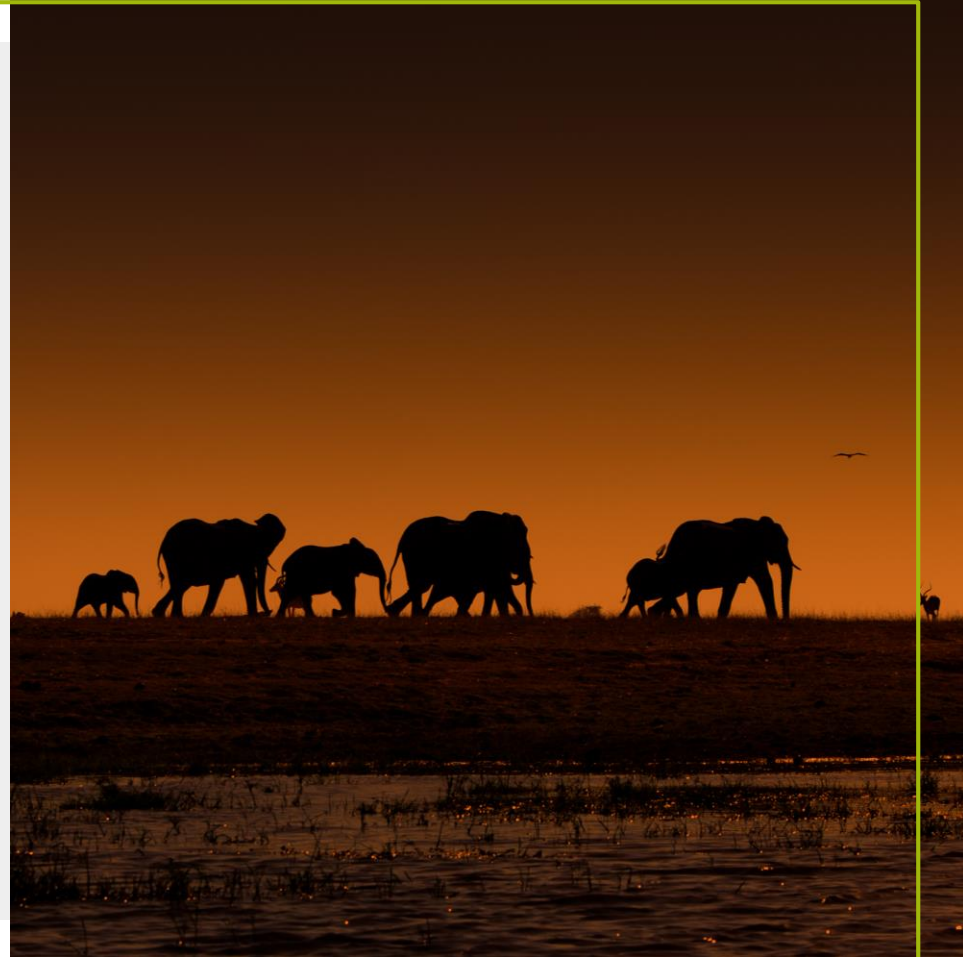


Botswana Country Guide

Africa's most exclusive (and expensive) safari destination offering beautiful scenery and prolific big game in equal measure.



BOTSWANA

One of Africa's last pristine lands



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The Nitty Gritty

*Different types of Camps, & Safari
Budget ranges for Botswana*

Botswana

Chobe • Okavango Delta • Linyanti
Savute • Mahatu
Makgadikgadi Pans • Kalahari Desert



Key Attributes

- *Perfect for 1st time safari visitor*
- *Primarily Safari Destination*
- *Exquisite landscapes – delta & desert*
- *Safari by vehicle, on foot, boat or mokoro*
- *Specialist: Horse-riding, Canoeing, Walks*

Important Tips

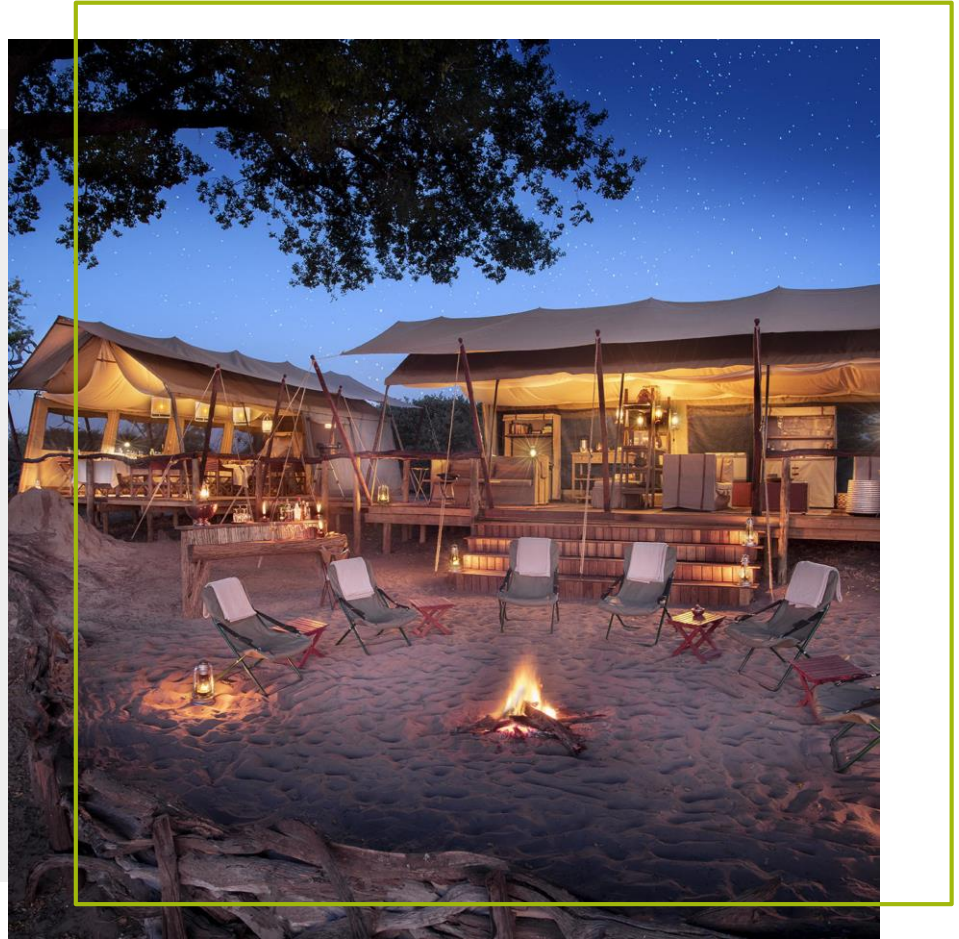
- *Peak Season: July to Oct (though Oct is hot)*
- *Cost varies strongly by season (see pg 29)*
- *Primarily Fly-in (or Mobile Safari)*
- *June is shoulder season for some camps*
- *Use camps of one safari operator for the best prices, esp within Peak Season*

The only man I envy is the one who has
not yet been to Africa

Richard Mullin

2) Botswana's USPs

- *Game-viewing by Mokoro (dug-out canoe) in the Delta*
- *Unique saltpans of Makgadikgadi & Nxai*
- *Possible interaction with the Bushmen people in the Kalahari*



Top Reasons to Visit



Watery Paradise

Okavango Delta & Moremi are some of finest wildlife reserves in Africa

Varied Safaris

Game drives, walking, mokoros, boating, fishing

Wildlife

*Amazing elephant sightings in Chobe, Linyanti & Savute
Predator sightings galore*

Wilderness

Immense sense of wilderness in Kalahari & Nxai/Makgadikgadi Pans

Private Concessions

Exclusive, allow night drives & bush walks

Mobile Safaris

Private mobile safaris for friends or family offer great way to immerse yourself in the landscape

Top Experiences



Canoeing on the Selinda Channel



Helicopter Arrivals/Game-viewing



Quad Biking on Makgadikgadi Pans



Horse-riding Safaris



Meeting the Bushmen (San) people



Adventure Safaris (Mountain biking)

3) Best Time to Visit





Best Time to Travel - Botswana

Dec-March

Rainy “Green” Season:

*Wildlife less easy to see
& less frequent
(Okavango)*

But great for birding

Lots of newborn animals

Photographers dream

Excellent pricing!

April-May, Nov

Shoulder Season:

Dry sunny conditions

*Good combination of
wildlife viewing & pricing*

*Plus: sometimes June &
Oct is shoulder season
(but Oct is hot!)*

July-Oct

Peak Season:

Best wildlife viewing

*Less vegetation & so
rivers/delta are critical water
sources for wildlife*

Pleasant daytime climate

Peak prices (esp July-Aug)

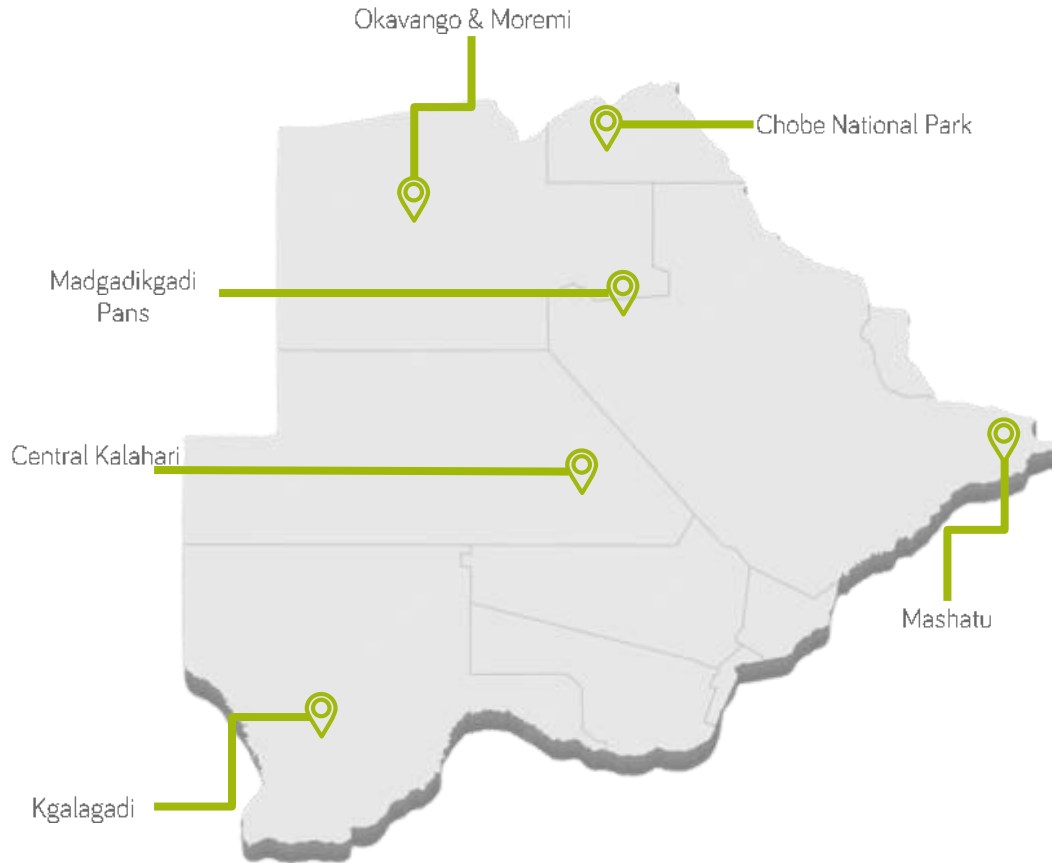
4) Destinations

Chobe • Okavango Delta • Linyanti
Savute • Mahatu
Makgadikgadi Pans • Kalahari Desert



Key Parks of Botswana

Main parks are in far-north



- *Okavango & Moremi*
- *Chobe incl Savute*
- *Makgadikgadi & Nxai Pans*
- *Central Kalahari GR includes only small portion of Kalahari*
- *Kgalagadi is accessed from SA (same as Mashatu)*
- *Mashatu*

BOTSWANA WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE YOU CAN POSSIBLY SEE

Abundant



Elephant



Hippo



Various
Birdlife



Red Lechwe



Wildebeest



Tsebebe



Eland

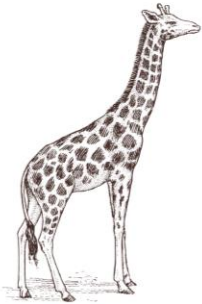


Hartebeest



Zebra

Common



Giraffe



Cape Buffalo



Oryx



Crocodile



Lion



Hyena



Warthog



Wild Dog



Fish Eagle

Occasional



Meerkat



Jackal



Aardvark



Baboon



Leopard



Mongoose



Aardwolf



Ostrich

Rare



Rhino



Vulture



Cheetah



Honey Badger

Note that
wildlife sightings
are not
guaranteed.



Okavango Delta

Must-do on any Botswana safari. Watery Oasis with maze of waterways, lagoons, game-rich plains

- Moremi is the National Park
- Private concessions in the delta
- Varied: Drives, Walking, Mokoro, Boating, even fishing
- Land-based, Water, Mixed and Seasonal
- Min 3 nights

TIP - Stay at 2 contrasting camps for range of safari activities e.g. Land-based & more watery..



Okavango Delta Camps



Chiefs Camp



Shinde Camp



Gunns Camp

- *Private concession within the Moremi Game Reserve*
- *One of the finest game lodges in Botswana*
- *High quality of rangers and guides*
- *Luxurious tents*

- *Beautiful island setting in the Okavango Delta*
- *Dine in the treehouse with its magnificent views*
- *Exclusive use Shinde Enclave is available for groups of friends or family safaris*

- *Focus on water and walking activities*
- *Rustic simplicity combined with comfort*
- *Walks on Ntswi island*
- *Excellent birding at Gunns Camp*

Uber-Deluxe

Premier-Deluxe

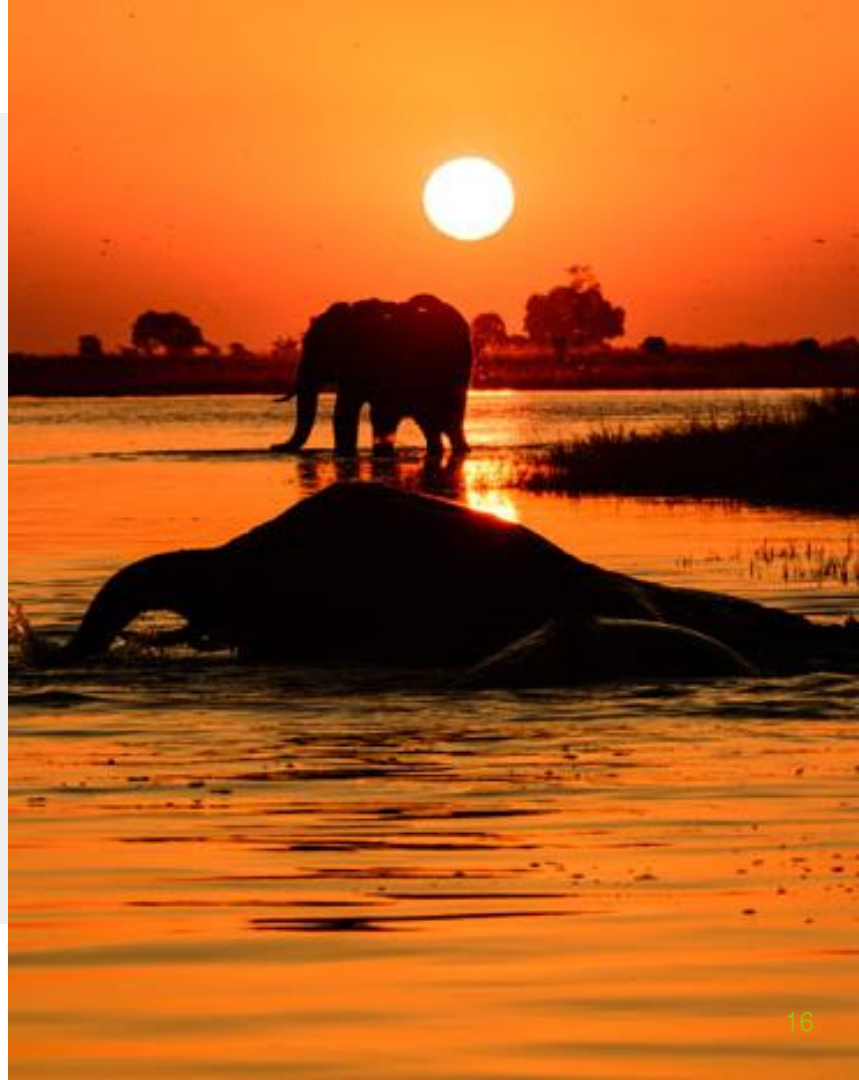
Moderate-Premier



Chobe National Park

Chobe River is northern part of Chobe NP

- *Largest concentration of elephants in Africa*
- *Easy to combine with Victoria Falls*
- *River Cruises & game drives*
- *Sunset boat cruises on Chobe River*
- *BUT... very busy (too busy for some)*



Chobe River Camps



Ngoma Safari Lodge



Chobe Game Lodge



Bakwena Lodge

- *Stunning hillside setting*
 - *Its location within the Chobe Forest Reserve means that it enjoys much quieter game-viewing.*
 - *The private concession also allows bush walks and night drives.*
 - *One-of-a-kind stay.*
- *Overlooking the banks of the Chobe River*
 - *Huge herds of elephant, especially in the dry season*
 - *Enjoy morning game drives and afternoon game-viewing boat cruises on safari*
 - *Chobe Game Lodge is a large lodge accommodating up to 100 people*
- *Overlooking the banks of the Chobe River*
 - *Bakwena Lodge comprises 10 simply furnished river view chalets and 5 treetop chalets.*
 - *Game activities include game drives or river cruises in the Chobe.*
 - *Minimum of two-night stay is required.*

Luxury

Premier

Comfortable





Savute & Linyanti

Private Concessions of Linyanti & the Savute channel in the south of Chobe NP are destinations in their own right

Linyanti

- 3 private concessions: Linyanti, Kwando & Selinda
- Walking safaris
- Leopards
- Wild Dogs

Savute

- Best in dry season
- Still good in traditional off-season
- Great contrast with the Okavango Delta
- Savute marsh = channel

Linyanti & Savute – Camp Examples



Selinda Zarafa



Savute Safari Lodge



Linyanti Ebony

- Zarafa is probably the most eco-friendly safari camp in Botswana
- Named as one of Tatler magazine's top 101 hotels and lodges
- Superb location overlooking Zibadianja Lagoon in the Linyanti Swamps
- Only 4 luxurious suites
- Game-viewing right from your private deck
- 12 contemporary suites have spacious double volume interiors
- Superb elephant and lion viewing
- Savute Safari Lodge offers a great contrast with the waters of the Okavango
- Particularly good year-round game-viewing
- Linyanti Ebony is a small tented camp with just 4 rooms including one family tent.
- All are built on elevated decking with views of the endless vistas and lagoons of the Linyanti River system.
- Offers a diverse range of water and land activities throughout the year.

Uber-Deluxe

Premier-Deluxe

Moderate-Premier



Makgadikgadi Pans

(Including Nxai & Boteti)



The vast flat shimmery white salt pans stretch for ever, mesmerising contrast to the lushness of the Okavango

- *Annual migration of zebra & wildebeest (Nov & March)*
- *So peak season is summer (Nov-Mar)*
- *Oasis in Kalahari Desert*
- *Activities vary by season e.g. eco-friendly quad bikes only in dry winter*
- *Romantic*
- *Highly recommended for contrast*

Madgadikgadi Pans



Jack's Camp



Leroo La Tau



Meno a Kwena

- Romantic and evocative safari camp
- Quad bike excursions on the pan in the winter months
- Pink flamingos in the watery pans after the summer rains
- Walks with the Bushman people & options of overnight expeditions also on offer

Uber-Deluxe

- Leroo La Tau offers bird's eye views of the zebra migrations
- Enjoy the glorious sunrise from your bedroom
- Opportunity to visit the nearby Makgadikgadi Pans

Premier-Deluxe

- Situated on the high cliffs overlooking the dry Boteti river.
- The simple yet stylish, traditional tented camp offers an authentic safari mood with traditional rural African touches.
- Wildlife viewing by safari vehicle varies depending on where the seasonal wildlife is concentrated

Moderate-Premier

Other Destinations in Botswana



Mashatu, Tuli Block

- *Wild & rugged – open plains & sandstone koppies*
- **Note:** *Accessed via South Africa*
- *Great elephant & predator sightings*
- *Photographic safaris (underground hide)*
- *Adventure Safaris – mtn biking, horse-riding, walking*

Central Kalahari

- *Immense reserve of arid Savanna*
- *Wild, mysterious beauty*
- *Green season brings zebra & their predators*
- *Peak is dry season as low grass levels*
- *Interact with San Bushmen*

Mashatu & Central Kalahari



Mashatu Main



Tau Pan Camp



Dinaka Camp

- *Choice of 4 lodges*
- *Active safari with mountain biking, walking*
- *Superb photo hide*

- *In Central Kalahari NP*
- *Summer game-viewing*
- *Bushmen interaction*

- *Exclusive private reserve*
- *Viewing deck*
- *Game-drives & Walking*

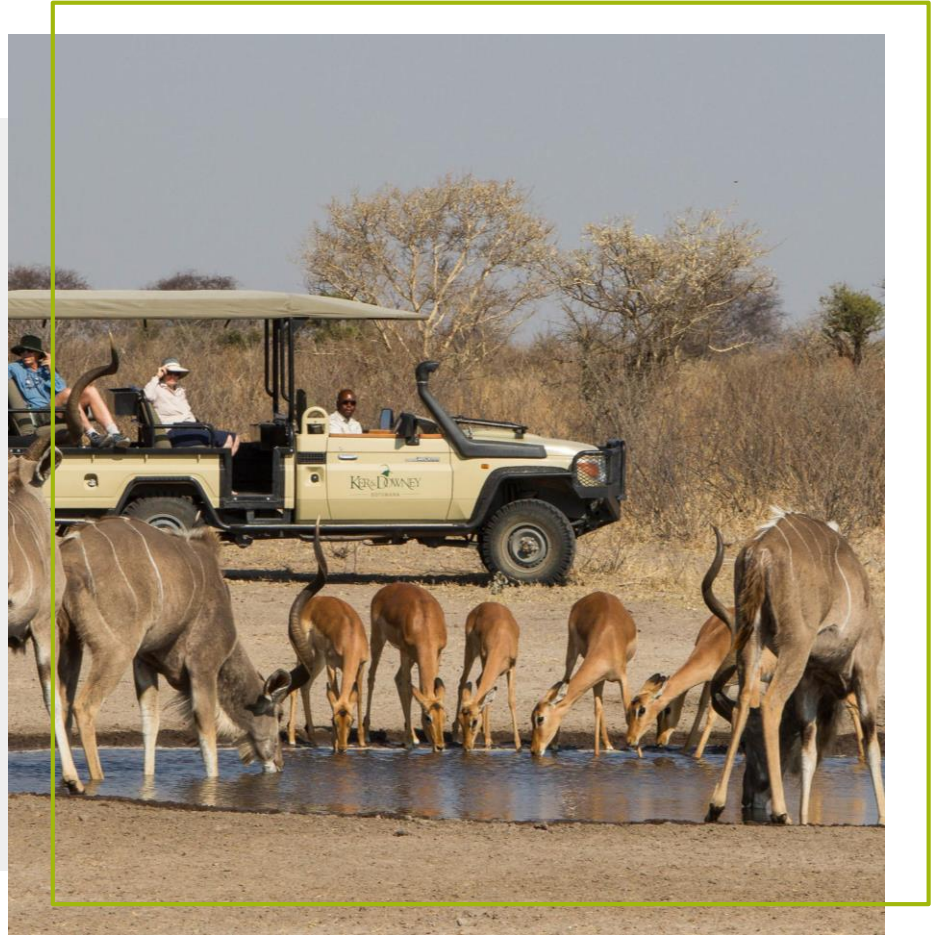
Mashatu Area

Central Kalahari

Central Kalahari

5) Sample Safaris

Ranging from 4 to 10 nights





What to Include?

As the Main Destination

- *Okavango Delta (4-5 nights at 2 camps)*
- *Linyanti or Savute for 2-3 nights*
- *Makgadikgadi/Boteti for 2-3 nights*
- *Add Victoria Falls if wish*

As a short add-on to other trips

- *Okavango Delta (min 3 nights)*
- *Chobe (2 nights added to Victoria Falls & fly out Kasane)*
- *Okavango Delta & Chobe (5 nights)*



Sample Itineraries – Botswana

We do tailor-made safaris. But here are some more sample ideas...



Cape Town, Botswana & Victoria Falls



Botswana Classic



Discover Botswana

4 nights Cape Town
6 nights Okavango Delta
2 nights Victoria Falls

12 nights

3 nights Moremi
2 nights Okavango (water camp)
3 nights Chobe or Savute
2 nights Victoria Falls

10 nights

3 nights Okavango Delta
3 nights Linyanti
3 nights Nxai Pans

9 nights

Specialist Safaris in Botswana



Footsteps Walking Safari

3 nights in Okavango Delta

3 or more nights



Young Explorers Family Safari

Specialist family safari in Okavango delta

3 nights



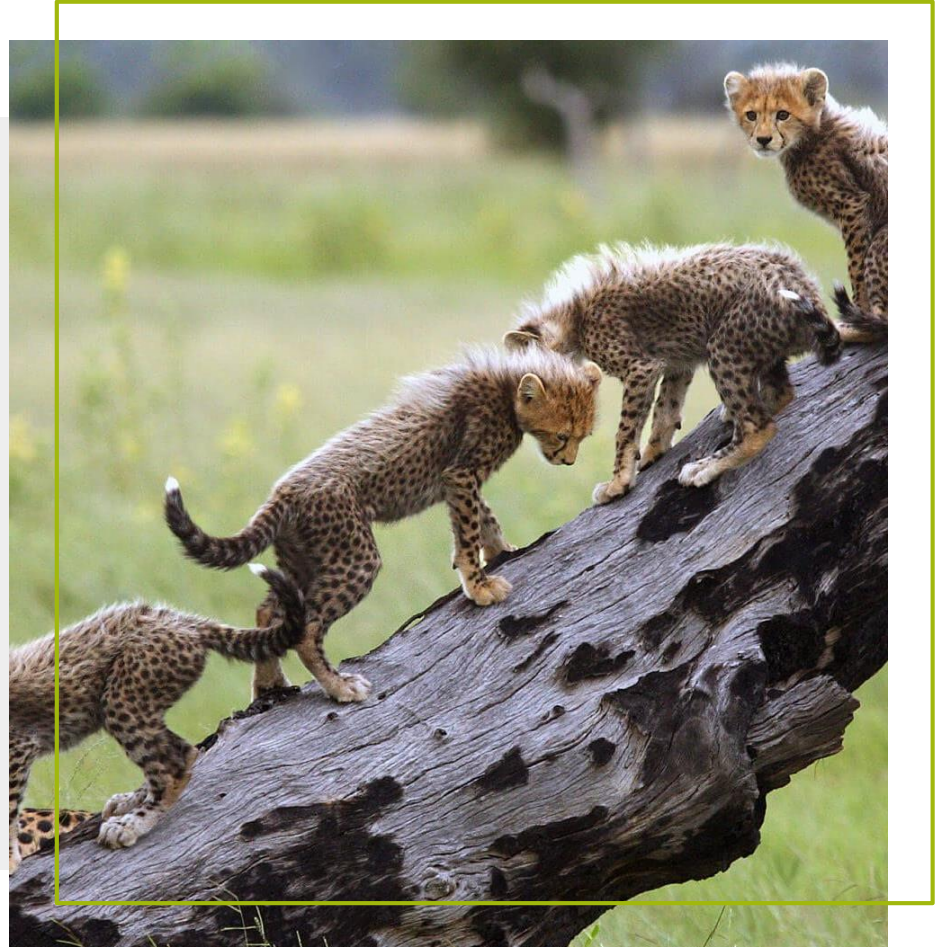
Great Northern Mobile Safari

Mix of bush camps for ultimate authentic experience

10 nights

6) Need to Know

- *Types of Accommodation*
- *Safari Costs*



Modes of Getting Around

Predominantly Tailor-made & fly-in



Fly-in Safaris

- *Seat in Charter*
- *Small Planes (4 to 12 seats)*
- *Easy to include all main destinations**
- *20kg limit on luggage*

**Except Mashatu*

Mobile Safaris

- *Usually scheduled but can be private*
- *Use 'fly-tents' assembled at campsites*
- *Range from luxurious to moderate*
- *Luxurious = Meru tents, en suite facilities*
- *Moderate = shared facilities, simple*

Note: Some safaris can use combination of lodge and mobile tents

Typical Per Night Safari Costs in Botswana (per person sharing)

	Green Season (Dec to Mar)	Shoulder (April-May/June, Nov)	Peak* (July-Oct)
Moderate	\$550 - \$600	\$700 - \$800	\$800 - \$950
Premier-Deluxe	\$650 - \$825	\$825 - \$1,200	\$975 - \$1,500
Top-End Camps	\$850 - \$1,100	\$1,250 - \$1,700	\$1,550 - \$2,400*

Notes:

*This is an all-in price including charter flights, safari activities, all meals & drinks. * Some top-end camps have a super-peak for July-Aug (See upper limits)*

See article on [What does a Botswana Safari Cost](#) for more info

General Info



Population

2.4 million

Population Density

Only 4 people per sq km (USA is 35, UK is 280)

Capital

Gaborone

Getting there

No direct flights to Botswana
Daily flights from Joberg or Cape Town into Maun & Kasane (Joberg only)

Safari Season

Year-round
July to October (Main)

Official Language

English – though Tswana is main mother tongue (with 20 other languages)

Thank you!

This guide was created by Cedarberg Africa, a travel & safari company for Southern & East Africa. To ensure a trip of a lifetime, book through a Travel Expert like us!

Have questions? Talk to us

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KEEP BUT DON'T DO ANYTHING



Game-viewing



Mokoro safaris



Canoeing or Boating



Bush Walks