



# BOTSWANA IS OUR HOME SAFARIS ARE OUR PASSION



## 8N Botswana Focus Standard

Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) - Chobe River Front - Khwai Community Area - Okavango Panhandle 9 Days / 8 Nights



## Click here to view your Digital Itinerary

## Introduction

Start	Accommodation	Destination	Basis	Duration
Day 1	Pioneers Victoria Falls	Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)	B&B	2 Nights
Day 3	Chobe Bakwena Lodge	Chobe River Front	FI	2 Nights
Day 5	Sango Safari Camp - Fully Inclusive	Khwai Community Area	FI	2 Nights
Day 7	<u>Setari Camp</u>	Okavango Panhandle	FI	2 Nights

## **Transport**

Flight Information						
Date	Flight	Details				
Day 5	Shared Charter Flight	Kasane Airport [BBK] - Khwai Airstrip				
Day 7	Shared Charter Flight	Khwai Airstrip - Jedibe Airstrip				
Day 5	Shared Charter Flight	Jedibe Airstrip - Maun International Airport [MUB]				

## **Transfers**

Date	Company	Details
Day 1	Wild Horizons	Victoria Falls International Airport [VFA] - Pioneers Victoria Falls
Day 1	Wild Horizons	Pioneers Victoria Falls - Chobe Bakwena Lodge
Day 5	Chobe Bakwena Lodge	Chobe Bakwena Lodge - Kasane Airport [BBK]

## **8N Botswana Focus Standard**

PACKAGE SEASON	PP SHARING	SINGLE SUPP
10 January - March 2025	USD 4,180	USD 440
April - May & November 2025	USD 4,950	USD 1,270
June 2025	USD 5,120	USD 1,360
July - September 2025	USD 5,820	USD 1,760
October 2025	USD 5,470	USD 1,360
December 2025	USD 4,730	USD 840

### **Special notes**

- Please note that where a booking crosses over 2 different rate periods e.g. Oct & Nov, neither rate is • applicable – please request a special quote
- The above rate is subject to change due to major currency fluctuations, fuel surcharges and increases in national park fees (see below)
- Single supplement\* is for accommodation only, applicable when travelling with more than 2 guests and excludes a flying surcharge for guests travelling solo - rate available on request
- Subject to availability at the time of booking
- Christmas Surcharge applies to Sango Safari Camp for any nights 01 04 January and 20 31 December please contact us for a tailor-made quote when travelling over this period



### Travel for Impact - Responsible Travel

By booking this itinerary, you donate USD\$2 for every night of travel per person on the booking. Your donation goes to Travel for Impact (TFI) and ensures that your safari has a meaningful impact on the people who live locally. For more information on giving back to your Travel for impact chosen destination of travel, visit www.travelforimpact.com



#### Okavango Air Rescue

Please note that we include a fee into all our packages for a local medivac in case of an emergency. Please discuss further details with your consultant and for more information, visit <u>http://www.okavangorescue.com/</u>

# Day 1-3 Pioneers Victoria Falls, Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)

## **Day Itinerary**

Upon arrival into Victoria Falls Airport proceed to Customs and Immigration (visa fees to be advised by your Consultant) and collect your luggage before you will be met outside the terminal by a representative from Wild Horizons for your road transfer to Pioneers. Here you spend two nights on a bed & breakfast basis. Please discuss options for activity pre-bookings with your consultant.



At Victoria Falls, the earth splits open and swallows one of Africa's greatest rivers, the mighty Zambezi, creating the largest sheet of falling water on earth. As the water hits the narrow depths of the Batoka Gorge beneath, it blasts a cloud of mist skywards, lending the falls their local name 'mosi-oa-tunya' (the smoke that thunders). When the Zambezi is its fullest, the mist hangs a permanent raincloud above the falls, showering visitors on even the sunniest of days and visible for miles around.

Above the falls on the upper Zambezi, boats cruise the tranquil water at sunset while the distant spray catches the fading light downstream. Below the falls, the Batoka Gorge's rocky walls funnel the lower Zambezi into a chain of world-class rapids, prime for white water rafting.

Aside from being a UNESCO world heritage site and a natural world wonder, Victoria Falls also forms a natural border between Zimbabwe and Zambia. The falls can be seen from both countries, and for the most part the same activities are offered on both sides, from helicopter scenic flights to village visits and souvenir shopping.

Whether your idea of getting away from it all is a relaxed high tea in colonial grandeur or a heart-stopping bungee jump off a bridge, Victoria Falls keeps both the faint of heart and the most insatiable of adrenalin junkies busy for days.

From Zambia, a side on view of the falls is on offer with views into the Batoka Gorge, as well as the possibility of perching yourself at the edge of the falls on the vertigo-inducing Livingstone Island.

From Zimbabwe, you'll get a full-frontal view of three quarters of the falls' 1.7km wide curtain of water from viewpoints and footpaths meandering through a rainforest kept hot and humid by the spray of the falls.

## Overnight: Pioneers Victoria Falls Includes: bed & breakfast

Pioneers Victoria Falls is situated in the quiet suburbs of Victoria Falls' residential area, 2.5 kilometres from the Falls.

**View iBrochure** 

Pioneers offers 50 elegant en-suite rooms all designed to embrace the Zimbabwean Pioneer era, with private verandas overlooking the garden and pool. All rooms at Pioneers are air conditioned and have free limited Wi-Fi. The lodge has four family rooms making it ideal for families.

At the heart of the lodge is a snug lounge, an indoor and outdoor dining area, curio shop, as well as a terrace opening onto the pool and garden area.

Activities in Victoria Falls (at an additional cost) can be arranged at the activities desk.

### Airport Transfer Time: 20 minutes



# Day 3-5 Chobe Bakwena Lodge, Chobe River Front

## Day Itinerary

Following breakfast and a morning at leisure, you will be transferred across the border into Botswana for Chobe Bakwena Lodge.

Please have your passports at hand and note that there may be delays at this border.

The following two nights you spend at Chobe Bakwena Lodge on a fully inclusive basis - activities will be planned with you upon arrival with Lodge Management.



The Chobe Riverfront is an elephant mecca; home to the largest density of African elephants in the world. Travel here during winter and you'll fast run out of fingers and toes while you count them drinking at the riverbanks and socialising out on the floodplains.

Thanks to its ease of access from Victoria Falls, the Chobe Riverfront is the busiest part of Botswana (though still a much quieter affair than most South or East African safaris). What Chobe lacks in solitude during the busier months, it more than makes up for with quality game viewing.

Chobe will leave you feeling tiny as giant elephant bulls stroll up next to your vehicle or snorkel alongside your boat. It will make you feel lost as hundreds of hippos and buffaloes crowd you out on the floodplains. It will put your heart in your throat as prides of lion's stalk antelopes by the water's edge, and it will leave you alone with your thoughts while the classic red sunsets melt over the river to a soundtrack of whistling fish eagles.

Chobe is not just a great introduction to Botswana. It also makes a rewarding repeat journey once you've ticked off the big stuff. It's a place to search for the rare sable antelope, to spot that gem from the birders' bucket list and to explore the remoter corners.

Where you stay in Chobe makes a huge difference to your safari experience. The most affordable options are at bigger hotels in a town setting where you'll share your game drives with a few more vehicles. On the more exclusive end, stay in a wilder area in or around the park, listen to the sounds of the bush at night and get a head start on accessing the park for activities.

### Overnight: Chobe Bakwena Lodge

**Includes**: meals, selected drinks, laundry (5 items per stay), activities, park fees, intermittent WiFi **Excludes**: premium and imported wines, all spirits, brandy & whiskey, visa fees if required & additional activities.

Activities: game drives, boat cruise, village walk or cycle, full day trip to Zimbabwe (accounts for 2 activities) Unguided full day trip to Victoria Falls includes shared transportation to the Falls and local shopping market. Excludes guide, lunch, visa fees, park fees and Falls entrance fees. This activity substitutes two Chobe National Park activities.

Bakwena Lodge is situated near the Chobe National Park on the banks of the Chobe River near the village of Kazangula.

The name Bakwena embraces the surrounding culture of Botswana, meaning 'people of the crocodile' and is also one of the largest tribes in Botswana.

Bakwena Lodge features ten rondavel-style river view chalets (including one family unit), and five tree top chalets.

The river view chalets sit at ground level with small, private decks in front surrounded by indigenous riverine bush, looking towards the Chobe River. The treetop chalets are elevated three metres above the ground on stilts, with large, private decks looking into the tree canopy. Both river view and treetop chalets offer twin or double beds, as well as an indoor and outdoor shower. The River view family chalet offers two bedrooms with a shared bathroom (with indoor and outdoor shower).

The personal touch of owners can be felt from the hand-selected furniture to the food served at meal times where simple, African-fusion dishes, inspired by traditional Tswana cuisine are offered. The swimming pool and main area with its lounge, restaurant and Rain Tree bar overlooking the river offers guests a relaxed atmosphere to unwind in.

Activities include game drives or river cruises in the Chobe National Park. The option to engage in a village tour or bicycle ride to the world's only four nation border or village can be arranged with management on arrival.

Guests have the option to exchange two Chobe National Park activities for an unguided full day Victoria Falls trip. You are transported (shared) in an air-conditioned mini bus to the entrance of the Falls. You will be collected and transported to the local markets and restaurants, before returning to the lodge. Please note lunch, all entry fees and park fees are excluded

Airstrip Transfer Time: 20 minutes (Transfers are only included when travellers arrive by flight at Kasane Airport)

### Kasane

This property is located in the small but thriving town of Kasane, where many bigger hotels are located

along the Chobe River banks. Entry to Chobe National Park for game drives is via Sedudu Gate ten to fifteen minutes drive from town. For Chobe River cruises, boats depart directly from town. Although wildlife often passes through Kasane a typical bush experience is not on offer here. Instead you'll get all the comforts of civilization with easy access to the bush.

**Please note**: A preference for a particular room types can be requested, and the lodge will do its best to accommodate your preference, however a particular room category cannot be guaranteed (except for family chalet bookings).



# Day 5-7 Sango Safari Camp, Khwai Community Area

### **Day Itinerary**

Following breakfast and a possible morning activity (time permitting) you will road transfer to Kasane Airport where you will be assisted by a porter with check in for your light aircraft transfer to Khwai on the edge of the Okavango Delta.

Upon arrival at the airstrip you are met for the onwards short game drive transfer to Sango where you spend the following two nights on a fully inclusive basis (activities are shared with other guests).

Please note that the flight is booked on a 'seat rate' basis and therefore flight times are not scheduled until the day prior to flying, lodge managers will arrange your activities and transfers accordingly. Please note that there is a strict luggage restriction on all light aircraft flights of 15kg per person in soft bags, plus 5kg hand luggage and there may be up to 3 stops en-route.



Looking at a map of Botswana, you'd miss Khwai completely if you didn't know it was there. Wedged between the big-ticket attractions of Chobe National Park to the east and Moremi Game Reserve to the south, Khwai exists as a significant big game destination of its own.

Lying on the eastern fringes of the Okavango Delta with a rich wildlife population and no borders drawn around it on the map, Khwai is often overlooked in favour of its more famous neighbours, though in the winter months it can hold its own for the quality of big game viewing. During your time here, you'll spend most days exploring the narrow Khwai River, which forms the natural boundary to the Moremi Game Reserve on the south. The Khwai River is a beacon for wildlife and plays host to leopards stalking lechwe in the long grass, lions swimming from the banks to save their cubs' during territorial disputes and crocodiles competing with wild dogs for a midday meal of impala.

As Khwai lies outside the parks, it offers the freedom and flexibility normally only possible with the heavier price tag of a private concession. Go off-road for a closer look at sightings, night drive in search of nocturnal species, and, with a little advance planning, head out on game walks to track wildlife on foot.

Khwai is also home to a village community where people live side by side with the resident wildlife. Some camps will offer village visits for a dose of cultural insight to go with your safari. For those not visiting the water camps of the delta, many camps in Khwai offer the chance to get out on a mokoro (traditional canoe), although excursions are less traditional in nature, skirting the riverbanks, rather than open delta floodplains.

### Overnight: Sango Safari Camp View iBrochure

**Includes:** Meals, local drinks, activities, park fees, laundry and intermittent Wi-Fi **Excludes:** Premium drinks **Activities:** Day & night game drives and mokoro (seasonal and water level dependent). Walking on request.

Sango Safari Camp is nestled in the shade of the trees overlooking the Khwai River. Situated on the outskirts of the traditional village of Khwai and on the border of Moremi Game Reserve, the camp offers guests the perfect base from which to explore the wildlife and culture of this unique habitat.

This intimate safari camp is named for the Sango Family, some of the original inhabitants of the Khwai area. Guests will have the chance to learn firsthand about the unique lifestyle and experiences that come from living and growing up in one of the most wildlife-rich areas of Botswana.

Accommodating 12 guests in 6 en-suite meru tents, Sango Safari Camp is designed in the style of the classic tented safari camp of days gone by. Hand crafted furnishings and classic styling successfully blend the rustic with the luxurious to recreate the atmosphere of the luxury mobile safari camp. Each guest tent has its own private outdoor shower with solar heated geysers for piping hot water. The main area comprises a dining and lounge area where guests can relax and enjoy meals, as well as a viewing deck and plunge pool for whiling away the hours during siesta.

With the Khwai River forming a natural border between the world-famous Moremi Game Reserve and Khwai Concession, animals can travel freely through this vast unfenced wilderness. Situated on the river overlooking the Moremi and with access to both these magnificent wildlife areas, Sango Safari Camp is focused on delivering an exceptional wildlife experience to our guests. The camp's location allows guests to take advantage of a host of wildlife activities which include open vehicle game drives both in the Moremi and in the Khwai concession area, guided bush walks, night drives and mokoro trips.

With a combination of permanent water, seasonal floodplains, open grasslands, riverine forests, and dry woodlands this incredibly rich habitat supports a diversity and abundance of mammals and birds rarely matched in northern Botswana. Sango Safari Camp invites you to share in this bounty.

Airstrip Transfer Time: 30 minutes



# Day 7-9 Setari Camp, Okavango Panhandle

### Day Itinerary

Following breakfast and a possible morning activity (time permitting), you have a light aircraft transfer flight to the Okavango Delta panhandle and Jedibe airstrip. Upon arrival at the airstrip you are met for the onwards scenic boat transfer to Setari Camp where you spend the following two nights on a fully inclusive basis (activities are shared with other guests).



Before the Okavango River fans out into its familiar delta shape, its waters are channelled between steep banks created by parallel fault lines. This channel is commonly known as the Pan Handle, named as such as the Delta takes on the appearance of a giant frying pan lying in the heat of the Kalahari.

Permanent deep water has encouraged the growth of villages along the river, particularly on the western side which is accessed by a tarred road. The communities up in this area are mainly fishing based or cattle farming and there are opportunities for some colourful encounters with the locals and the area offers a true glimpse of village life, often not seen in Botswana as guests often only visit the uninhabited wildlife areas.

The Panhandle area is not within a protected reserve or park, but there are still huge areas of unspoiled wetlands and a number of well-established lodges on the western side. The wetlands offer exquisite birdlife, a huge population of hippos and some of the largest crocodiles to be found. The general wildlife common in the lower delta is less abundant in this area. The focus of activities in the area are water based - motorboating and fishing, and it is possible to travel by road or boat to the eastern side of the river where there are community based mokoro excursions offered. The Pan Handle area is also in proximity to the world heritage site of Tsodilo Hills. Being the spiritual home of the San and Bantu people, the hills feature many well preserved specimens of 'rock art' and there is a small museum where it is possible to hire a local guide for a personal tour of the area. The annual barbell run of catfish (September/October) attract hunting tiger fish in large numbers and is the best time for serous anglers to experience this fascinating phenomenon and catch this awesome predatory game fish.

## Overnight: Setari Camp View iBrochure

**Includes**: meals, local drinks, activities laundry &Intermittent Wi-Fi **Excludes**: premium drinks

**Activities**: boat safaris, mokoro excursions, walking safaris on neighbouring islands and a cultural visit to the Jao Island Village. Scenic helicopter trips may be arranged at an additional cost.

Setari Camp enjoys an idyllic island setting on a 50,000-hectare private concession in the Okavango Delta's Panhandle region. The island is dotted with palm trees and offers an exclusive, water-based safari experience. Activities are available all year. The camp sits atop wooden walkways and platforms to maximise views of the surrounding waterways.

All of Setari Camp's nine large tented rooms, one being a family unit, feature en suite bathrooms with separate loo, outdoor shower and bathtub.

The central camp facilities under thatch include the dining area and a comfy indoor lounge. Outdoors, Setari Camp has a well shaded relaxation area and swimming pool. Electricity supply is available with certain limitations.

The permanent waters of the Okavango Delta's region are renowned for their exceptional birding, and aquatic wildlife is plentiful. Larger water dependent animals such as hippo and crocodile are frequently seen.



# Day 9 End of Itinerary

### **Day Itinerary**

Following breakfast and a possible morning activity (flight time permitting) you will transfer by light aircraft to Maun Airport in time for own onwards travel arrangements.

You will be met by a representative from Safari Specialists upon arrival into Maun to assist with check in for your outbound flight.

## **Travel Information**

• Please take note of our Booking Terms & Conditions. It will be understood that these have been read and accepted by you on receipt of confirmation of the booking.

• For your safety and peace of mind, on confirmation of your booking, we strongly recommend that Travel Insurance is arranged to cover cancellation, curtailment, emergency evacuation, medical and repatriation expenses, damage/theft/loss of personal luggage, money and goods.

• Road and air transfers and activities are quoted on a seat basis (shared) unless otherwise requested or

specified. Passengers may have various stops en-route to a destination. The transfer or charter company reserves the right to specify departure and arrival times. Private charters can be requested at an additional cost.

• Passengers weighing over 100kg should please advise us at the time of booking, as we may need to cost in an additional seat on internal flights for your safety and comfort.

• The costs are subject to change at any time due to fluctuations in fuel costs, taxes, levies, government regulations, rate of exchange and factors that are imposed upon us by our suppliers that are beyond or control.

• Please advise us of the ages of children (under 18) travelling, together with their date of birth, at the time of booking as not all lodges accept children and there may be restrictions or conditions which can affect pricing.

• We recommend that optional activities be booked in advance at time of confirmation to guarantee availability e.g. Helicopter Flight of the Angels in Victoria Falls

• Please allow a minimum 2-3 hours connection time in Johannesburg for international flights. It is important that you check that your flight tickets have been issued in your full names as per your passport.

• We require full payment for international and domestic scheduled flights at the time of confirmation e.g. Air Botswana Johannesburg to Maun, Proflight Livingstone - Lusaka and so on. We are not able to guarantee any flights before receipt of payment as seats are often held for a limited period before ticketing is required so this is a time sensitive issue. Air tickets are considered non-refundable unless otherwise specified. Please confirm the details with your consultant at the time of booking.

### Passports, Visas and Travel Documentation

Your passport must have at least 6 months validity before the expiry date and 6 empty pages (not including the endorsement pages). The onus is upon guests to ensure that passports and visas are valid for the countries visited. Please note that certain visas can take up to 3 months to be processed so please consider this when booking.

If you are travelling with children through Southern Africa, please be aware that you will be required to have certified copies of their unabridged birth certificates, and passports on hand. If you are not their legal parents, or if only one of you is travelling – you will need to have consent in the form of an affidavit giving you permission to travel with the child.

### Inter-camp transfers

Due to the vast distances involved in travelling in the remote areas of Southern Africa - your itinerary may include road, boat and air transfers in small aircraft.

On shared air transfers, all the flight times between lodges are arranged a few days before the flights take place to avoid endless schedule changes. The lodge or camp where you are staying will be advised of your departure time the day before travel and will ensure that you are at the airstrip on time. Although every effort will be made to ensure that guests are transferred together in one vehicle / aircraft, this cannot be guaranteed, especially with larger groups. The aircraft used for inter-camp transfers vary in size from 3-, 5-, 7- and 12-seater aircraft. We recommend that guests susceptible to motion sickness take appropriate precautions due to flying conditions.

### Weight & Luggage Restrictions

There are strict luggage restrictions in place on any itinerary, which includes light aircraft transfers for safety reasons. Luggage, including camera equipment and hand luggage, is restricted to 20 kg per person travelling on seat rates. Only soft bags will be accepted - no hard suitcases or bags with wheels can be transported, as they physically cannot fit into the aircraft.

The maximum dimensions of the soft bags that can be accommodated are as follows: 25cm/10 inches wide x 30cm/11 inches high and 62cm/24 inches long. Please keep in mind that the baggage compartments on

the light aircraft are only 25cm high, so the pilots must have the ability to manipulate the bag into the compartment. Note that laundry can be done on a daily basis at most camps and lodges.

Should you arrive with excess baggage without prior warning, your baggage could be delayed, as we may have to fly the baggage into camp at a later stage at considerable extra cost to you. However, should you notify us in advance that your baggage will exceed the limit; we may be able to assist you with alternative arrangements e.g. storage or purchase of additional luggage allowance.

For bookings including flights within Zambia & Mozambique, please note luggage weight exceptions under destination information.

### Lost Luggage

Lost luggage on international flights is a common problem facing travellers today. We suggest that you pack a small bag with your essentials, including any life sustaining medication, which can be carried with you as hand luggage. If travelling as a couple or family we suggest that you split your clothing between bags so that if one bag gets lost, you will have basic items on hand to see you through the first couple of days while we try and recover your lost baggage.

Please note that whilst we try our utmost to locate and re-unite you with your bags, that there may be charges involved in getting your bags to remote areas, which would be for your cost. Please remember to report the lost luggage to the airline as soon as you make the discovery - the airline will issue you with a Baggage Claim Form, which you will need in order for us to trace the bag.

### Health and Dietary

Please note that you are travelling to a Malaria-risk area. Please consult your doctor for medical advice prior to travel.

Although usually safe to drink, we do not recommend that you drink the tap water. Filtered water is available at the camps and lodges.

The camps are isolated and generally have limited power supply and access to supplies. Please notify us in advance of any special dietary requirements, medical conditions and medical equipment you may need with you. Please carry critical medication in your hand luggage.

Yellow Fever Certificates - are only required if you have travelled to a Yellow Fever area as designated by the World Health Organisation. Please check with your Travel Clinic or doctor well in advance of your departure date.

### **General Travel Information**

• There is no or limited electricity and cell phone coverage in the camps and lodges excluding major towns and cities. All camps do make provision for charging cameras and electronic devices.

• Please ensure that you do not pack any valuables, cameras, cash, laptops in your checked in luggage – these should be kept on your person at all times.

• Please notify us immediately of any changes to flight arrival and departure details as this affects onward transfer arrangements.

• Please note that most camps & lodges in Botswana do not have double beds. Twin beds are pushed together to make up a double room.

• Although every effort is made to adhere to schedules the company reserves the right and in fact is obliged to occasionally change routes and camps on safaris as dictated by changing conditions or unforeseen circumstances.

• By confirmation of the booking, you acknowledge that you have been made aware and accept that the tour carries inherent risks, and that you voluntarily assume all risks which are associated with the tour. You will be required to sign indemnities at the various camps, lodges and service providers, and abide by their operators code of conduct in order to ensure your safety.

• If you have any cause for complaint while travelling, you should immediately bring it to the attention of the camp manager and / or our Maun office that will attempt to resolve the situation immediately.

• Do not remove any animal artefacts, flora or fauna from any of the areas you visit, as there are strict international regulations on the export of such items.

Please refer to the Safari Information for further details on preparing for your safari.