‘BAOBABS - SALT LANDS - WILD WETLANDS’

BOTSWANA - LANDSCAPE & WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHIC/VIEWING SAFARI – 12 Nights|13 Days

Tour Summary & Locations:

Day 1:	Arrival at Gaborone – 1 night; Accommodation in B&B
Day 2:	Khama Rhino Sanctuary – 1 night; Accommodation in Camping
Day 3:	Kubu aka Lekubu Island – 1 night; Accommodation in Camping
Day 4:	Elephant Sands, Nata – 1 night; Accommodation in Camping
Day 5, 6:	Chobe National Park – 2 nights; Accommodation in Camping
Day 7, 8:	Savuti – 2 nights; Accommodation in Camping
Day 9, 10:	Khwai – 2 nights; Accommodation in Camping
Day 11, 12:	Moremi Game Reserve – 2 nights; Accommodation in Camping
Day 13:	Departure to Homelands

Tour Route:	Gaborone – Maun
Tour Code:	BOTS_13D_LND-WLD_KRS-KUB-CHO-OKV
Tour Cost:	360 USD pppd (per person per day) in terms of having complete 4 guests on board
Extension:	Makgadikgadi & Nxai Pan National Parks for 2-4 nights; Please note that, Kubu Island as well as Makgadikgadi and Nxai Salt Pans may not be fully and deeply accessible as the rains start falling between January to May which turns salt flats into muddy form and dry soil into marsh lands; Khama Rhino Sanctuary and/or Moremi Gorge as in one or two nights on the way to Gaborone from Makgadikgadi Pans National Park. Return Flight to Homelands to be changed from Maun to Gaborone.

DAILY PROGRAMME

❖ Day 1

Meeting in Gaborone the day before our expedition starts on Day 2, at Gaborone Sir Seretse Khama International Airport upon your arrival with flights mentioned;
Departure and Arrival times of flights from Johannesburg to Gaborone is listed below:
Air Botswana – 15:00 – 16:00 / 16:30 – 17:30 / 18:00 – 19:00
South African Airways – 15:45 – 16:40 / 16:25 – 17:20
Transfer to your B&B;
Group Dinner in Gaborone…

❖ Day 2

Driving to Khama Rhino Sanctuary (KRS) early in the morning after the breakfast – 3 hrs;
Tour briefing in KRS Campsite;
Lunch at Designated Picnic Site;
Game Drive (1) in the afternoon.

Carrying the name of Founding Father of Republic of Botswana (Sir Seretse Khama), Khama Rhino Reserve is a community based wildlife conservation and eco-tourism development area. It is also called as 'sanctuary'; however, animals, especially endangered Black and White Rhinos together with a variety of herbivores (mostly antelope species) roam wild and free.
It is a highly protected 9,000 hectar area where the main goal is to enable safe breeding of rhinos. Thanks to Department of Wildlife and State Officials brilliant idea that rhinos are then relocated to deeper zones of Okavango Delta which are mostly inaccessible by humankind; poachers to be in the first place. State of Botswana with Her citizens show 'Zero tolerance' to any kind of poaching activity.
Possible Animal Sightings: Black & White Rhinos, Burchell's Zebra, Wildebeest, Impala, Steenbok, Black-Backed Jackal, and Rock Python…

❖ Day 3

Game Drive (2) in the morning;
Driving to Kubu/Lekubu Island after the game drive and the breakfast – 3.5 hrs;
Lunch at Designated Picnic Site;

Enjoy the Sua/Sowa Pan – Hiking, Stargazing.

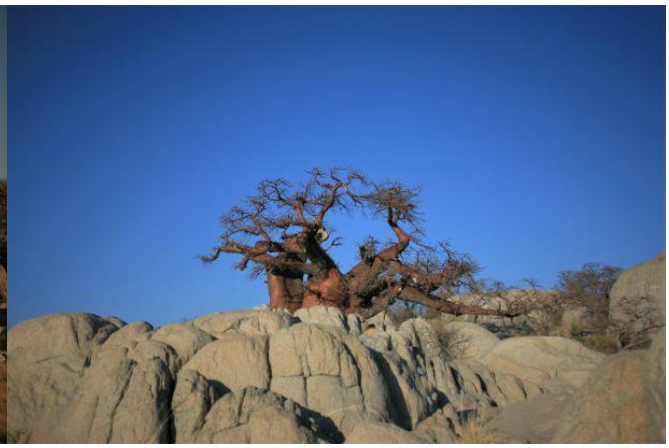
Kubu or Lekubu Island as locals call, is one of the sacred places for indigenous San People (Bushmen) of Botswana. She lies on the edge of Sua/Sowa Salt Pan surrounded by salt flats which was once the ocean. She is home to multiple thousand years old Baobab Trees in hundreds emerging out of granite rock formations. In fact, a number of oldest Baobab Trees in Africa are here.

Sunrise and Sunsets in Kubu Island is breathtaking; so is the Milky Way (stargazing) at night time. The sky is so clear, pollution and humidity-free even a Full Moon can hardly curtain the light of the stars. Oh, and when there is Full Moon, sublime Baobabs look even more sublime as if there is a leyer of snowy blanket on them.

Hiking activities; sunbathing on the pan; sunrise and sunset viewing; discovering Baobabs and other flora; star or moon gazing at night… Peace it is.

There is not much of a wildlife here except reptiles, insects and rodents. However, imagine a herd of elephants jiggly walking across the horizon like a mirage, and imagine this happening at sunrise… Wouldn't it be a life-extending moment; a picture perfect?.. It is possible!..

Please note that, Kubu Island and its surrounding may not be accessible as the rains start falling between January to May which turns salt flats into muddy form and dry soil into marsh lands.



❖ Day 4

We will be enjoying the magnificent sunrise over the Sua/Sowa Pan;
Driving to Elephant Sands in Nata after the breakfast and before noon time – 3 hrs.

Elephant Sands is a valuable stop-over point on the way to Chobe National Park, Kasane;
No need for a Game Drive (Safari) here; for, elephants frequently visit the waterhole in the middle of the campground;
We will enjoy the view with our drinks, snacks. Easy, relaxing day…

❖ Day 5

Driving to Kasane, Gateway to Chobe National Park – 4.5 hrs;
Setting up the camp at noon time;
Lunch at Campsite;
Game Drive (3) in the afternoon till sunset.

Together with Okavango Delta, Chobe River is one of the lifelines of Southern Africa. Four country lands (Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) meets here in Kasane divided by Chobe River.
Chobe NP is distinguished with the largest elephant herds of Africa. They frequently swim to and back Namibia with other wetland animals such as hippos and crocodiles through Sedudu/Sidudu Island meaning 'Lots of Hippos'... In addition to elephants, cape buffalo herds with 500 strong also roam the wetlands. These herds attract lion prides while other big cats are often seen in wildlife reserves.
Red Lechwes also known as reedbucks and waterbucks together with other antelopes like kudu, impalas share the marsh fields stretching wide open to Namibia across the Chobe River.
African Fish Eagles are very common here; so are other raptor species. Mainly the presence of rich water sources help all kinds of mammals, reptiles congregate along the riverbanks. Birdlife becomes more active starting from September.
Boat ride or let's say 'Boat Safari' is a must!.. It can be half day or extended to full day by choice. Sunsets are always a fantastic treat, especially when experienced from the boat.
Possible Animal Sightings: Big 4 of 5 (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo), Rare Sable and Roan Antelopes, Hypo, Crocodile, Giraffe, Zebra, Kudu Aquatic Bucks (Waterbuck, Reedbuck) as well as other smaller size African Antelopes, Raptors…

❖ Day 6

Game Drive (4) early in the morning;
Lunch at a Designated Picnic Site within the Chobe National Park or back at campsite;

Game Drive (5) in the afternoon; in fact, it is a Boat Ride Safari on Chobe River till sunset.

❖ Day 7

Game Drive (6) early in the morning;
Driving to Savuti Campsite in Chobe National Park after the breakfast which is in fact a Game Drive (7) – 4 hrs;
Lunch at a picnic site on the way;
Setting up the camp at noon time;
Game Drive (8) in the afternoon.

Savuti and Linyanti lies on the south western section of Chobe National Park. Both locations are at half-way distance from Moremi Game Reserve (Gateway to Okavango Delta) and Chobe National Park which makes them a very resourceful stop-over point. Especially the drive from Chobe side to here through Chobe Forest Reserve is extremely scenic.
They are both inland, however some of the channels of Khwai River (a branch of Kavango River) reaches down to Savuti and Linyanti Channels. There are large open areas, mostly marsh lands here dominated by marsh pride of lions. Leopards and cheetahs do exist, however they tend to stay elusive during daytime. There are two African Wild Dog packs in Savuti and Linyanti Zones. Gigantic elephants and giraffes in herds come together around the waterholes in open lands together with other mammals. Only the variety of bird species is limited. Roan and Sable Antelopes have started to be regularly seen lately which is very very good news.
It is always possible and exciting to hear the roars of marsh pride lions and trompet sounds of matriarchs and big male elephants in reply to them when the night falls.
Possible Animal Sightings: Big 4 of 5 (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo), African Wild Dog, Giraffe, Zebra, Kudu, Roan and Sable Antelopes as well as other smaller size African Antelopes, Raptors…
Cultural Sightings: There are wall paintings of Bushmen/San People dating 4,000 years old on rocky hills of Savuti Zone.

❖ Day 8

Game Drive (9) early in the morning;
Lunch at a Designated Picnic Site or Campsite;
Game Drive (10) in the afternoon.

❖ Day 9

Game Drive (11) early in the morning;
Driving to Khwai Gate of Moremi Game Reserve after breakfast – 3.5 hrs;
In fact, this is not just driving, but a Game Drive (12), for there are no boundaries between Chobe National Park and Khwai Zone of Moremi Game Reserve;
Setting up the camp at noon time;
Lunch at Campsite;
Game Drive (13) in the afternoon;
Game Drive (14) at night time (Night Safari) after dinner.

Trillions and trillions of thanks to Kavango River running from the forests of Angola's highlands down towards Kalahari Basin, and turning Northern Kalahari into a land of abundance. There are numerous islands formed in the delta as the main channel diverts into many running like 'Mboma' – the Snake. Botswana has more mammals and variety of birdlife than anywhere in Southern Africa as they live secluded away from human touch on these islands and on the main land around Khwai Zone.
Aside from land safaris, ancient carved-out canoes named as 'Mokoro' trip conducted by the locals of the region, scenic flights with small planes and helicopters as well as other light aircrafts are the highlights of Delta Expedition.
Cape Buffalo and Elephant herds in large numbers as well as other giants on land and in water channels roam wild and free here. Endangered Wild Dogs are present and alerted all the time for their daily food. Leopard sightings are quite common while big lion prides as well as other carnivores in big and small sizes patrol their territory. Antelopes as being at the top of the 'list of preys' act skittish most of the time.
Bird life becomes more abundant after September with the arriving of migratory species. The variety of feathers reaches at its peak in rainy season, for there are plenty of food – insects, and water around.
Okavango is one of the heavenly drops on Earth…
Possible Animal Sightings: Big 5 (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo, rhino), Hypo, Crocodile, Giraffe, Zebra, Kudu, Aquatic Bucks (Waterbuck, Reedbuck) as well as other smaller size African Antelopes, Raptors and Water Birds…

❖ Day 10

Game Drive (15) early in the morning within Khwai Zone;
Lunch at Campsite;
Game Drive (16) in the afternoon;

Game Drive (17) at night time (Night Safari) after dinner.

❖ Day 11

Game Drive (18) in Khwai Zone early in the morning;
Driving through Moremi Game Reserve which is in fact another Game Drive (19);
Lunch at campsite at upon arrival;
Game Drive (20) in the afternoon.

Moremi Game Reserve is the gateway to Okavango. It is an extremely lively habitat; however, some of the roads and zones becomes inaccessible due to rainfalls and floods in rainy season which is February-May. June to August are colder months as night temperatures can certainly drop to 0 degrees centigrade while day temperatures fluctuate between 20 and 30 degrees. Wetlands start drying and all zones become accessible with September until the rains start falling in January.
There are quite number of rhinos living in the Delta; however, they are mostly relocated to islands in order to protect these magnificent animals from the poachers. Therefore, there is no guarantee of spotting a rhino in Moremi Game Reserve.
The most significant sighting would be African Wild Dogs, as there are two main wild dog packs dominating the Xakanaxa Zone to the First Bridge.
In addition to land safaris and boat trips, 'Mokoro' can be arranged in wetlands. Both Boat and Mokoro rides are valuable in terms of spotting hypos, crocs, elephants as well as water birds.

Possible Animal Sightings: Big 5 (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo, rhino), African Wild Dog, Giraffe, Zebra, Kudu, as well as other smaller size African Antelopes, Raptors and Water Birds…

❖ Day 12

Game Drive (21) early in the morning within Okavango Delta;
Lunch at a Designated Picnic Site or Campsite;
Game Drive (22) in the afternoon; in fact, it is a Boat Ride Safari on Okavango Delta till sunset.

Please note that, if preferred a night at a lodge can be arranged for this very last night.

❖ Day 13

Game Drive (23) early in the morning as we drive to Xakanaxa Air Strip, if preferred to board the scenic flight over Okavango Delta to Maun then where you will be boarding your Air Botswana or South African Airways flight to Johannesburg right after landing at Maun International Airport;
In case a scenic flight is not preferred, we will start driving after early breakfast by skipping the morning Game Drive (23), and head directly to Maun International Airport – 3.5 hrs.
Fairwell with lots of quality time memories along with lots of quality images…
Departure time of flights to Maun is listed below:
Air Botswana – 13:50 – 15:50
South African Airways – 14:00 – 15:40

What is Included

- The tour is mostly full board - all inclusive at locations where we camp. Same statement applies in locations where guests stay in lodges if the facility embodies campsite since, we – the staff will be camping and eating in campsite. Guests are welcome to join;
- All game drives (safari) that we conduct and mentioned within the itinerary;
- Boat Rides on Chobe River and in Okavango Delta;
- All transfers.

What is Excluded

- International Flights;
- Scenic Flight(s) over the Okavango Delta;
- Mokoro Ride in Okavango Delta;
- Personal Travel Insurance;
- Dinners or any other courses that guests would like to eat out where it is possible, and where the facility (lodges and guest houses) has its own service;
- Please note that, we will have a limited selection of Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic beverages on board. If you need a specific brand of beverage, please feel free to bring it along or let us know in advance to have it on board;
- All game drives (safari) activities that we are not allowed to conduct by ourselves, such as bush walks, night drives that are only conducted by park and reserve rangers;
- Activities that we have to buy from third parties upon guests' request that may occur at locations, and not listed in mutually agreed itinerary before the tour starts.

We are looking forward to hosting you in the best way we commit and you deserve…

Yours Sincerely…