Okavango Delta and Victoria Falls 2018

MAUN

MOREMI GAME RESERVE

KHWAI COMMUNITY AREA
Okavango Delta and Victoria Falls 2018
Maun - Central Kalahari Game Reserve - Chobe River Front - Livingstone (Victoria Falls)
16 Days / 15 Nights
2 Persons
Date of Issue: 03 November 2017
02 August 2018 - 17 August 2018

Click here to view your Digital Itinerary
Overview
This Fully Guided 15 night small group Safari is for people who like the idea of an intimate wildlife viewing and photography experience in the pristine environment of the Okavango Delta made famous by many television documentaries.

You start with a recovery night at a Lodge in Botswana after your overnight flight into Africa. Next morning you start your mobile safari in the iconic Delta.

You will sleep under canvas in the mobile safari tradition of yesteryear and move every three days, sampling a variety of ecologies on offer in Botswana.

Whilst this is technically a camping safari, there are no great hardships. Your entourage includes a tour leader, guide/driver, chef, assistant chef and butler. Your ensuite bathroom includes a longdrop toilet and bucket shower which the staff will make ready with water to your liking at any time.

On "moving day" you start a leisurely drive just after breakfast. You will enjoy morning tea and picnic lunch on the road as it were; in the African bush. Meanwhile the camp staff will be busy breaking camp, moving everything and re-establishing camp in your next location. The tents will be arranged in the same order so it will be easy to find yours amongst the half dozen or so in camp.

Whilst this safari keeps some traditions alive, we've literally smoothed out the wrinkles of the camping experience of a hundred years ago. The beds are solid and amazingly comfortable. The tents are sealed against insects and there is even LED lighting.

This is our favourite safari experience.

After the mobile safari you will enjoy the contrasting experience of a classic African lodge on the banks of the Chobe River. The Chobe National Park is famous for the huge herds of elephants that seek sanctuary from poachers along the banks of the huge river that joins the Zambesi just downstream. This part of the river also teems with crocodiles, fish, and waterfowl.

After this we cross the Zambesi into Zambia and drive to The River Club. The River Club is a tranquil oasis on Zambia’s mighty Zambezi River and the perfect location for a visit to the renowned Victoria Falls - a World Heritage Site and one of the 7 Natural Wonders of the World. A host of activities await young and old, on property as well as around the Victoria Falls.

Located a short distance from the historical town of Livingstone, The River Club forms a perfect end to a safari circuit in Southern or East Africa.

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Key
B&B: Bed and breakfast. FI: Fully inclusive

Price
US$12,490 per person twin/share basis

Included
Game drives and local transfers in customised safari vehicles
Charter flight at commencement of mobile safari
Exclusive camping in private campsites within the national parks and reserves
Accommodation in luxury Lodges
All entrance and camping fees within the national parks and reserves
All meals in camps and lodges
Drinks (mineral water, soft drinks, beer, wine and G&T) whilst in Letaka Tented Camps
Drinks (Local Brands) at Chilwero and River Club
All activities as specified in the itinerary
12% Value Added Tax

Excluded
Travel Insurance (compulsory)
All International flights
Items of personal nature
Staff gratuities
Optional safari extensions
Anything not mentioned in this itinerary

Transport

Flight Information

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Transfers

Day 1: Thursday, 2 August
Royal Tree Lodge, Maun

Maun
Set on the banks of the beautiful Thamalakane River in northern Botswana, Maun is the third largest town in this spectacularly scenic southern African country. Maun is the starting point for most expeditions into the Okavango Delta and as a result, has developed into a bustling metropolis that is considered Botswana’s tourism capital. Area attractions include a renowned riverboat that offers cruises up and down the Thamalakane River; the forest groves of the Maun Game Reserve; and Moremi Game Reserve, home to hippos, lions and rhinos. Maun also serves as the jumping off point for many safaris and air charters as well as offers 4x4 rentals. Don’t miss the Nhabe Museum exhibiting the local history, art and culture of the Ngamiland region.

Day Itinerary
Spend a night relaxing at the Royal Tree. This is not essential but we recommend it if you travelled a long way to get to Maun.

Overnight: Royal Tree Lodge  View iBrochure
Royal Tree Lodge is a private game reserve located twenty minutes from the iconic safari town of Maun, the gateway to the Okavango Delta.
The lodge is situated on a private reserve on the banks of the Thamalakane River with an abundance of wildlife including giraffe, zebra, springbok, ostrich, eland, gemsbok and kudu as well as an extensive variety of bird life. Guests will indulge in comfort and relaxation in one of Royal Tree Lodge’s well appointed, private tented chalets or romantic thatched honeymoon suites. World class cuisine served by candlelight on the lodge’s expansive teak deck,
is the perfect way to conclude a day’s safari. At Royal Tree Lodge, it’s not just about luxurious accommodation and old world hospitality. Marked walking trails invite guests to create their own adventure allowing safe, intimate interaction with wildlife. For the more adventurous, set off on a horse back safari, scenic flight over the delta, or mokoro canoe trip down the river. Finish off the day with a warm drink around the communal fire as personal safari hosts and Royal Tree Lodge managers share life stories from over 80 years of combined safari experience.

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**Included**

Bed & Breakfast

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**Day 2: Friday, 3 August**

**Letaka Tented Camp, Moremi Game Reserve**

**Moremi Game Reserve**

Situated in the east of the Okavango Delta, Moremi Game Reserve ranks as one of the most beautiful reserves in Africa. It covers more than 4871 square kilometres of pristine wilderness, and the varied terrain includes savannah, winding waterways, and dense forest. This diverse ecosystem supports an incredibly wide spectrum of wildlife, ranging from large herds of buffalo, wildebeest and zebra, to the rare sitatunga and lechwe antelope, lion, cheetah and packs of wild dog in the open grasslands. The birdlife is prolific and includes most of the 550 bird species recorded on Botswana’s national bird list. A range of luxury lodges in the reserve offers visitors the perfect base to experience this corner of paradise.

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**Day Itinerary**

After your arrival at Maun International Airport you will be met by Mack Air for your charter flight at approximately 14h00 to the Xakanaxa airstrip in Moremi Game Reserve where you will be met by your guide.

Our first three nights are spent in the Xakanaxa region where we explore the surrounding wilderness on morning and afternoon game drive excursions.

Wildlife: from the air only the larger animals are easily seen. These include large breeding herds of African elephant that live in the mopane scrub. On the open plains large herds of buffalo and lechwe can be seen and in the waterways, pods of hippopotamus are a common sight. Once you land in Xakanaxa and board your land cruiser, the smaller game animals can be found.

Birding: a good day for raptors with African hawk-eagle, Gabar goshawk, shikra, little sparrowhawk, dark chanting goshawk, tawny eagle, lesser spotted eagle* and Steppe eagle* all inhabiting the mopane and adjacent woodlands.
Other birds common along this route includes most of Botswana’s hornbills including red-billed, southern yellow-billed, African rey, Bradfield’s and the southern ground hornbills. A large number of brood-parasites may also be seen. Diederick cuckoo*, Levaillant’s cuckoo*, Jacobin cuckoo*, great-spotted cuckoo*, African cuckoo*, common cuckoo*, shaft-tailed whydah, pin-tailed whydah, eastern paradise whydah, greater honeyguide, and lesser honeyguide.

Accommodation: letaka tented camp

Activities: game drives

**Consultant Notes**
This is minimal impact mobile safari at its best. The only visible thing you'll leave on the ground when you leave is footprints.

You will enjoy the bush as it has been done for hundreds of years; quietly and intimately. We have dinner in the small mess tent lit by lanterns with only grunts of hippos or the chatter of baboons or birds to disturb the silence. Or perhaps we'll hear hyena or a lion roaring as he patrols in the distance.

There are only a few things you need to remember: Always follow the directions of the guide; Never keep food of any kind in your tent; Bring toiletries; Bring a torch or headlamp.

**Overnight: Letaka Tented Camp**
The tents are 4 x 3m Sahara style tents with high roof with a 2 x 3m en-suite bathroom and a 2 x 3m covered area in front of the tent. The tents are fitted with solid base camp beds made up with mattresses, sheets, duvets and pillows. The tents have en-suite long drop toilet facilities and a bucket shower at the rear of the tent. Showers can be ordered as hot, cold or warm and the water is heated in a bucket on the fire. Showers may be taken at any time but on Kalahari safaris the guide withholds the right to limit water use and showering depending upon the availability of water. Both hand towels and bath towels are supplied for the guests’ convenience but please note that guests should bring their own personal items and toiletries.

Each tent has an oil/paraffin lamp on the veranda and in the bathroom and within the tent itself, a LED rechargeable camp light is supplied along with a side table in the sleeping area and in the bathroom. Although each tent has lighting and there are lamps strategically around the camp for navigation, an essential tool for your safari is a headlamp which lets you read a book at night in your tent or catch up with your safari journal as you listen to the sounds of the wild outside! If you don’t buy it from us make sure you buy it from someone and take our advice – don’t pack the free headlamp you got at the supermarket with your battery purchase. Spending a little bit of money will save you a lot of frustration. If you are travelling as a couple then pack one per person.

**Included**
Your mobile safari includes everything you need except toiletries so remember your soap and shampoo!

Tented accommodation, bedding, towels, minimal lighting
Meals
Wine, beer, some spirits (local brands)

Excluded
Toiletries
Premium drinks
Reading light

Day 3: Saturday, 4 August
Letaka Tented Camp, Moremi Game Reserve

Day Itinerary
Habitat: Moremi lies on the eastern extremity of the Okavango Delta. Habitats here range from wide-open floodplains, marshes, lagoons, papyrus fringed channels, vast stands of Miscanthus and Phragmites, woodland and savannah. As a result of the extremely variable habitat the diversity of both wildlife and birdlife is excellent.

Wildlife: Moremi is amongst the best game reserves in Africa for viewing the endangered African wild dog. Xakanaxa is home to a resident herd of several hundred buffalo whose range covers the territories of at least 4 prides of lion which may often be seen flanking the ever moving herd. Breeding herds of elephant move between their browsing areas in the mopane forests and the fresh water of the Okavango. Red lechwe are one of the more unusual antelope species and commonly found here.

Birding: the swampy areas of Xakanaxa are home to African rail, coppery-tailed coucal, black coucal*, red-chested flufftail, African crake*, Black rake, chirping cisticola, luapula cisticola, purple swamphen, Allen’s gallinule to name but a few. The open waters attract African skimmer, saddle-billed stork, yellow-billed stork, intermediate egret, Goliath heron, African fish eagle as well as the globally threatened slaty egret and wattled crane.

Accommodation: letaka tented camp

Activities: game drives

Included
Fully Inclusive
Drinks (Excluding Spirits) Included

Day 4: Sunday, 5 August
Letaka Tented Camp, Moremi Game Reserve

Included
Fully Inclusive
Drinks (Excluding Spirits) Included
Day 5: Monday, 6 August
Letaka Tented Camp, Moremi Game Reserve, Khwai Community Area

Khwai Community Area
The Khwai area of the Okavango lies along the northern boundary of the Moremi Game Reserve. This is an unfenced boundary allowing wildlife to move freely between the woodlands in the wet season when water is plentiful and back to permanent rivers and lagoons in the dry season. The Khwai area offers the same wildlife experience as the reserve with the added advantage of being a private concession which means the ability to do walking safaris and night drives.

Day Itinerary
Following and early morning breakfast you take a slow drive through Moremi Game Reserve north-east towards the Khwai Community Area.

Habitat: the Manuchira Channel is known as the Khwai River at its eastern most extremity. The day’s journey follows this water course, with the track weaving from the riverside and floodplains into the mopane veld and the woodlands that make Khwai one of the most scenic areas of the Okavango. We pass the magnificent Dombo Hippo Pools in the morning stopping to enjoy the scenery and the antics of the resident hippo.

Wildlife: the western mopane veld is home to mostly breeding herds of elephant whilst the eastern reaches of Khwai is home to some impressive old bulls. The mature bulls revel in the cool waters of the Khwai and are far more approachable while drinking and bathing than the breeding herds. The river has an unusually high density of hippo as well as some huge crocodile. Leopard, cheetah, serval and lion are common predators along this route and both Xakanaxa as well as Khwai are included in the home ranges of 2 different packs of wild dog. General game includes southern giraffe, Burchell’s zebra, tessebe and red lechwe with roan and sable antelope being less common residents.

Birding: in the mopane woodlands African hawk-eagle, tawny eagle, Gabar goshawk, little sparrowhawk, African harrier hawk and shikra are common raptors. Mixed bird parties move through the canopy and include red-headed weaver, Stierling’s wren-warbler, scarlet-chested sunbird, neddicky, yellow-breasted apalis, chin-spot batis, Diederik cuckoo* to name but a few. The verges of the swamp form breeding grounds for the rosy-longclaw, black coucal*, long-legged bustard and the African crake*

Accommodation: letaka tented camp
Activities: game drives and night drives

Included
Fully Inclusive
Drinks (Excluding Spirits) Included

Day 6: Tuesday, 7 August
Letaka Tented Camp, Khwai Community Area
Day Itinerary
The Khwai River forms a boundary between the reserve and the community area. We spend the following two nights camping at an exclusive campsite in the community area, exploring the Khwai floodplains on game drives both during the day and at night. Exploring after dark with spotlights offers you an opportunity to experience some of the nocturnal animals that are rarely encountered during the day.

We will also have the opportunity to explore the surrounding wilderness on foot and mokoro and enjoy an up close and personal encounter with Botswana’s flora and fauna. It is important to note that night drives and guided walks are not permitted within the national parks and reserves. These activities are conducted outside the boundaries of the Moremi Game Reserve in the Khwai community area.

Habitat: we spend our time between the dry-land habitats of the lead-wood and camel-thorn woodlands and savannas and the riverside and marshy back-waters of the Khwai. Time permitting we may visit the lagoons and waterways of Xakanaxa where the largest heronry in southern Africa exists.

Wildlife: the Khwai region boasts excellent populations of both bull elephant as well as breeding herds. Lion, leopard, serval and African wildcat are common predators of the region with wild dog and cheetah being less common. Buffalo use this area seasonally with large herds moving in during the summer rains. The swampy areas in the west are home to red lechwe. Other ungulates include tsebe, blue wildebeest, giraffe, kudu, sable antelope, roan antelope and impala.

Birding: truly one of Botswana birding mecca’s. The western reaches are prime habitat for the uncommon rosy-throated longclaw. The entire length of the river is hunting domain for the bat-hawk. Other interesting raptors here are cuckoo hawk (rare), long-crested eagle and black sparrowhawk. More commonly tawny eagle, Steppe eagle*, lesser-spotted eagle*, Martial eagle, bateleur and African hawk-eagle. The waterways host Africa rail, African crake*, greater painted snipe, Allen’s gallinule*, lesser jacana and lesser moorhen*.

Accommodation: letaka tented camp

Activities: game drive, walking safari (conditions permitting), night drives and mokoro excursions

Included
Fully Inclusive
Drinks (Excluding Spirits) Included

Day 7: Wednesday, 8 August
Letaka Tented Camp, Khwai Community Area

Included
Fully Inclusive
Drinks (Excluding Spirits) Included

Day 8: Thursday, 9 August
Letaka Tented Camp, Khwai Community Area, Savuti - Chobe National Park
Savuti - Chobe National Park

Savuti, also known as Savute lies in the heart of Botswana’s beautiful Chobe National Park. This dynamic wilderness is a sweeping expanse of savannah brooded over by several rocky outcrops which guard a relic marsh and the dry channel that was once its lifeline. The Savute goes through wet and dry cycles, where wild dogs hunt in the dry river channel where crocodiles swam only twenty years ago. Visitors to this spectacular area can spot abundant wildlife including: a variety of birds, elephants, antelope, lion prides, black-backed jackal, bat-eared foxes, tsessebe, kudu, hyena, cheetah Cape buffalo herds, and thousands of migrating zebra and wildebeest.

Day Itinerary

We head further north en-route to Chobe National Park, were we spend the following three nights camping in an exclusive wilderness campsite in the Central Chobe region, exploring the dessert-like landscape of game drives.

Habitat: a fascinating days drive looking at some of the evidence of the Paleo-Lake Makgadikgadi that dried up some ten thousand years ago. The most challenging part of the trip is crossing the Magwikwe Sand-ridge that formed the shoreline for this massive inland sea. The winding track through this deep sand makes for interesting travel in the early summer! The old lake bed is now the Mababe Depression. The dense clay floor of the depression result in high protein feed for wildlife and the area teams with game after the rains. During the rain season the depression is impassable due to the “cotton soil” and alternative routes must be used.

Wildlife: a day when anything could happen. The range of habitat that is covered encompasses most of the habitat types of northern Botswana. We pass through excellent lion country and some of the best cheetah country that our safari will cover. Elephant occur throughout the drive but are more common at the start and end of the drive where permanent surface water can be found.

Birding: the Mababe Depression is a birder’s paradise. The nutritious grasses that grow on the rich soils provide excellent seed for an impressive array of estrillids and viduids. Among these are the magnificently coloured violet-eared waxbill, black-cheeked waxbill, village indigobird, shaft-tailed whydah and paradise whydah. These in turn provide a good food source for small raptors such as the little sparrowhawk, shikra, Gabar goshawk, red-necked falcon and Lanner falcon. It is not only the small birds that feed on the grass seeds, but rodents too. There are annual outbreaks of huge numbers of rats and mice. As a result huge numbers of secretary bird, tawny eagle, black-shouldered kite, Steppe eagle*, lesser-spotted eagle*, wahlberg’s eagle* and Steppe buzzard* can be found.

Accommodation: letaka tented camp

Activities: game drives

Included

Fully Inclusive
Drinks (Excluding Spirits) Included

Day 9: Friday, 10 August
Letaka Tented Camp, Savuti - Chobe National Park
Day Itinerary

Habitat: unlike the vast majority of the country, Central Chobe is not a totally flat landscape. Large outcrops of volcanic rock reach up out of the Kalahari sands, towering over the endless savannah. These hills provide habitat for a completely different array of small wildlife, birds and plants. The Savuti Marsh has been the stage for many of the most dramatic wildlife documentaries in Africa. The wide open country, good ungulate populations and particularly strong prides of lion and hyaena clans make for dramatic wildlife interaction and excellent viewing opportunities. The now dry Savuti Channel runs through this landscape linking the dry sand-veld, the waterholes, the hills and the grassland that was the Savuti Marsh.

Wildlife: undoubtedly it is the interaction between lion and elephant that is the most interesting aspect of Savuti. The area is inhabited by a huge pride of lions with numbers fluctuating from 20-30 members. These remarkable lion have learned over the years how to hunt these massive pachyderms that are supposedly above predation. Launching their attack under darkness and using their numbers, they manage to kill adolescent and even young adult elephant.

The marsh is prime cheetah country and in the wet season it is not unusual to have the wild dog hunting here in Savuti.

Birding: the surface water that is pumped by the Government here provides a major attraction for birdlife. In the dry season thousands of dove and sandgrouse come down to drink in the mornings and are under constant surveillance by yellow-billed kite*, tawny eagle and African hawk-eagle. red-crested korhaan are common in the Kalahari apple-leaf (Lonchocarpus nelsii) veld. The marsh is the summer home for good numbers of Caspian plover* and Montague’s harrier* as well as chestnut-backed sparrowlark, grey-backed sparrowlark, northern black korhaan, rufous-naped lark, African pipit and desert cisticola. Dickenson’s kestrel, Amur falcon* and red-necked falcon are found along the perimeter of the marsh.

Accommodation: letaka tented camp

Activities: game drives and bushman painting walks

Included
Fully Inclusive
Drinks (Excluding Spirits) Included

Day 10: Saturday, 11 August
Letaka Tented Camp, Savuti - Chobe National Park

Included
Fully Inclusive
Drinks (Excluding Spirits) Included

Day 11: Sunday, 12 August
Sanctuary Chobe Chilwero Lodge, Chobe River Front

Chobe River Front
The Chobe River forms the northern boundary of the Chobe National Park, renowned for its diverse and abundant game viewing opportunities. This section of the park is best known for its dense concentration of wildlife including
elephant and hippo populations, but the waters attract all manner of game including large herds of buffalo and the lions that prey on them. A visit to this area guarantees close encounters with an array of African wildlife. Visitors can look forward to some exciting activities such as: driving along the game-dotted river banks in a 4WD; cruising along the river in a motorboat, spotting rare birdlife and for a unique, luxury safari experience, hire a houseboat.

Day Itinerary
On our final day on safari we will leave Central Chobe early to travel along the Chobe River arriving in Kasane where we will stop for a picnic lunch before taking an afternoon boat cruise to end the mobile safari.

Habitat: the habitat on today’s drive takes us through the stunted mopane scrub of the Goha clay basin, across the sand-ridge and through the wonderful Zambezi teak woodlands of the Chobe Forest Reserve and along the Chobe River itself. The Chobe floodplain is tens of kilometers wide and in years of exceptional rains the water stretches as far as the eye can see.

Wildlife: while there are community areas that we pass through that are settled by local tribes, for the vast majority of the day’s drive we pass through wild country where wildlife moves uninhibited by fences or man. Roan and sable antelope thrive in the teak woodlands where the low density of predators and lack of competition for food by other ungulates makes this prime habitat for these large ungulates. Leopard occur in these woodlands in low numbers but they are highly secretive and seldom seen. The Goha region has natural waterholes that hold water well into the dry season and herds of buffalo, Burchell’s zebra, greater kudu and elephant come down to drink.

Birding: the most unusual species are to be found in the teak (Baikea plurijuga) woodlands. This broad-leaved woodland, or miombo as it is locally known, provides good pickings for insectivorous birds that favour canopy habitat. Grey tit-flycatcher, ash flycatcher, paradise flycatcher, pallid flycatcher, scarlet-chested sunbird, amethyst sunbird, yellow-throated petronia, red-headed weaver and violet-backed starling are only some of the species that move around in the “bird parties” in the canopy. Dickenson’s kestrel, red-necked falcon, peregrine falcon* and lizard buzzard are some of the raptors to keep an eye out for, while the diminutive white-faced owl can often be seen roosting in the road-side vegetation. Flappet lark, fawn-coloured lark, dusky lark*, olive-tree warbler* and neddicky are species more likely to be enjoyed by the birding enthusiast.

Accommodation: letaka tented camp

Activities: game drives and Chobe boat trip

Overnight: Sanctuary Chobe Chilwero Lodge  View iBrochure
Sanctuary Chobe Chilwero is a luxurious retreat in the heart of the bush, located on the edge of Chobe National Park, the second largest national park in Botswana, where some 80,000 elephants roam. From the lodge’s hilltop position, guests can enjoy far reaching panoramic views over the Chobe River and floodplain below. The main public area includes a lounge, library and dining room, which are linked to outdoor viewing patios.

Guests are able to relax in the split-level swimming pool or unwind with a pampering session in the full service spa complete with a treetop treatment room.
Included
Fully Inclusive
Drinks (Local Brands) Included

Day 12: Monday, 13 August
Sanctuary Chobe Chilwero Lodge, Chobe River Front

Activities
Chobe Sundowner Cruise
Chobe Photographic Cruise
Chobe National Park Game Viewing

Chobe Sundowner Cruise
The best way to end a day of safari here is sipping on a cocktail while watching an African sunset over the still waters of the Chobe River from the comfort of one of our specially designed riverboats. Sundowner cruises are also a great way of seeing buffalo up close as they come out of the shade to graze in the cooler evenings and elephants as they wade in the river. Chobe is renowned for its abundance of dramatic sable and roan antelopes with their impressive horns. Sitatungas - antelope with splayed feet to help them run in swamps - are often seen here, as are the wild dog and lion that prey upon them.

Chobe River Front
The Chobe River forms the northern boundary of the Chobe National Park, renowned for its diverse and abundant game viewing opportunities. This section of the park is best known for its dense concentration of wildlife including elephant and hippo populations, but the waters attract all manner of game including large herds of buffalo and the lions that prey on them. A visit to this area guarantees close encounters with an array of African wildlife. Visitors can look forward to some exciting activities such as: driving along the game-dotted river banks in a 4WD; cruising along the river in a motorboat, spotting rare birdlife and for a unique, luxury safari experience, hire a houseboat.
**Chobe National Park Game Viewing (Chilwero)**

Elephants feature largely on any activity at Sanctuary Chobe Chilwero, as the largest population left in Africa occupies this northern corner between Botswana, Zambia, Namibia and Zimbabwe. Game drives in open-sided 4 x 4 vehicles bring these grey giants into easy reach as they drink and frolic at the water's edge in their boisterous herds. Thrilling game drives lead by our qualified professional guides bring you close to hippos, buffalos, puku and other animals that gather on the banks of the Chobe River. The puku, a small rusty-brown antelope, alongside impala, kudu and red lechwe, are only a few of the common antelope found here. Naturally, lion and leopard are also found in the area.

The Chobe National Park in Botswana is only a 1¾-hour drive from Victoria Falls. It is one of the greatest game reserves in southern Africa, famous for its elephant numbers. The Chobe River and Caprivi flood plains provide a haven for huge herds of buffalo, elephant, zebra, wildebeest and impala which are followed closely by lions, hyenas and leopards and the bird life is exceptional.

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**Included**

Fully Inclusive

Drinks (Local Brands) Included

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**Day 13: Tuesday, 14 August**

**The River Club, Livingstone (Victoria Falls)**

**Livingstone (Victoria Falls)**

One of the original natural wonders of the world, the Victoria Falls is a World Heritage Site and an extremely popular tourism attraction. Known locally as ‘The Smoke that Thunders’ this spectacle is accessible from both Zambia and Zimbabwe and it is an ideal place to combine game viewing and water sports. There is excellent fishing, a terrifying bungee jump and arguably the best commercial white water rafting in the world.

**Day Itinerary**

Today you will leave Chobe Chilwero and travel approximately one and a half hours by road to The River Club in Zambia.

The journey includes a boat crossing of the Zambesi at the world’s only quadripoint. Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana meet at Kazangula on the river. After completing immigration formalities on the Zambian side of the river you will continue your drive down river to The River Club.

**Overnight: The River Club**

The River Club is defined by the value we attach to lasting memories, genuine hospitality, the historical preservation of Livingstone, Zambia, and our commitment to our local community.

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*View iBrochure*
We offer a truly authentic local experience within the context of Livingstone and the natural heritage of the Zambezi River and Victoria Falls with an unrivalled presence. Our mission is achieved when engaging service, synergy with our community and attention to detail elevate each stay - turning moments into memories for our guests.

Eleven spacious, private suites are individually nestled within the tree line along the edge of the magnificent Zambezi River. From their elevated positions, the suites are perfectly situated to gaze across the river to the Zambezi National Park on the opposite bank, home to an array of wildlife and birds in an area of abundant natural beauty.

A host of activities await young and old, on property as well as in the nearby area. Located only a short distance from the historical town of Livingstone and renowned Victoria Falls, The River Club is the perfect retreat for families, honeymooners or those looking to complete a safari circuit in Southern or East Africa.

### Included
- Fully Inclusive
- Drinks (Local Brands) Included

### Day 14: Wednesday, 15 August
**The River Club, Livingstone (Victoria Falls)**

### Day Itinerary
You have two full days in the Livingstone/Victoria Falls area and there are plenty of things to do. You must see the Falls of course but aside from that your day can be as intense or as chilled as you would like.

### Activities
- Vic Falls Catwalk - Zambia
- Simonga Village Cultural Tours

### Optional
- David Livingstone Museum
- Microlight over Vic Falls
- Vic Falls White Water Rafting
- Maramba Market
- Helicopter Flight of Angels

**SUNDOWNER CRUISE**  A Zambezi River cruise is a great way to spend a few hours before drifting back to the lodge, a warm shower and delicious dinner. Sanctuary’s boats are specially designed and the guide will take the boat through a series of grade 2 rapids before finding a spot to beach for a break and a sunset cocktail. The combination of Zambezi spray on your face and delicious drink on the tongue makes for a memorable sunset cruise. Sipping on a cocktail while watching the sunset over the majestic Zambezi River is truly a once in a lifetime experience.
**Vic Falls Catwalk - Zambia**
From the catwalk and the Knife Edge Bridge you get views of the Eastern Cataract which is renowned for its morning rainbows.

![Vic Falls Catwalk](image)

**Simonga Village Cultural Tours**
The 3000 people of Simonga are a mix of the Lozi and Tonga tribes. The villagers generally make a living from agriculture, supplemented by catches from the Zambezi. Simonga has benefited from the development of tourism in the area and some residents now offer village tours.

A typical visit to the village would start at the receiving area, where the visitors are. From there they would be taken to see some of the households and shown the day by day life of the villagers, including cooking, traditional animal husbandry practices and a visit to the school.

![Simonga Village Cultural Tours](image)

**David Livingstone Museum**
Aside from a comprehensive collection of David Livingstone memorabilia the museum has interesting displays on the Stone Age people who first lived in this area and an African cultural section. Guided tours are available.

**Microlight over Vic Falls**
The microlight flights offer unique, uninhabited and breathtaking views of the Falls and the spectacular gorge that the Zambezi has carved into the surrounding landscape over many thousands of years. The 12 to 15 minute short microlight flight takes off over the Zambezi River and on towards The Victoria Falls circle over the Falls and the islands then returns to Maramba Aerodrome.

The 25 to 30 minute long microlight flight takes off over the Zambezi River and on towards The Victoria Falls, circles over the Falls and the islands. It flies upstream along the Zambezi River to Kalai Island, low level over the Mosi-oa-Tunya Zoological Park for unique game viewing and then returns to Maramba Aerodrome.
Vic Falls White Water Rafting
World famous white water rafting. Awesome grade 5 rapids all year round.

Helicopter Flight of Angels
The Flight of Angels is an amazing journey over the 1700m vast curtain of water known locally as the “Mosi oa Tunya” which translate to "the smoke that thunders", along the Zambezi River as well as the Zambezi National Park. Passengers are treated to an unforgettable helicopter journey comprising of 4 circuits, offering unrivalled spectacular views, photographic, and filming opportunities and putting the full breadth and height of The Falls into glorious perspective within the surrounding environment.

Included
- Fully Inclusive
- Drinks (Local Brands) Included

Day 15: Thursday, 16 August
The River Club, Livingstone (Victoria Falls)

Included
- Fully Inclusive
- Drinks (Local Brands) Included

Day 16: Friday, 17 August
Departure

Urgent Contact Numbers

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                                       |                     | Zambia                  |
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Travel Information
The information in this document is provided by the operators and other parties. It may not accurately reflect your experience.

Situated in the southern reaches of Africa, Botswana is renowned for its pristine wilderness areas characterised by deep lagoons, wetlands, lush palms, rugged hills and desert plains scattered with scrubland. The country’s primary tourist draw card is undoubtedly the vast red expanse of the Kalahari desert and its remarkably beautiful Okavango Delta, the largest inland delta in the world. These natural wonders provide a tranquil haven for an abundance of African wildlife to thrive. Other highlights include the impressive Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, where visitors are privy to massive zebra migrations during the flood season; the Savuti plains, which host large prides of lions; and the Tsodilo Hills, where 4500 rock paintings form a unique record of human settlement over many millennia.

Entry Requirements
Effective from 1 June 2017, all travellers to Botswana (with the exception of residents and citizens of the Southern African Development Community) will have to pay a tourism development levy. According to Botswana Tourism, the objective of the levy is to raise funds for conservation and natural tourism development. The $30 (£27) levy will be payable at all ports of entry, including airports and border posts, through electronic payment machines, cash, and debit and credit cards. After the payment, a unique receipt corresponding to the passport will be automatically generated. The receipt is presented to immigration officials and the passport and the receipt will be stamped and handed back to the traveller. The receipt will be valid for a 30-day period and can be used for multiple entries.

Banking and Currency

Currency
Botswana’s currency is Pula (which means 'rain' in Setswana). It is divided into 100 thebe (which means 'shield' in Setswana). Travellers’ cheques and foreign currency may be changed at banks, bureaux de change and authorised hotels.

The US dollar, Euros, British Pound and the South African Rand are the most easily convertible currencies (and accepted by some establishments - but, generally, then an inflated rate of exchange will be applied).

Banking
Seven main commercial banks, as well as a number of foreign exchange bureaux, operate in Botswana. Operating hours are Monday to Friday 08h30 to 15h30 and Saturday 08h30 to 10h45.

Full banking services are available in major towns, although ATMs are sprouting up all over the country. Most credit cards are accepted at hotels and restaurants. Cultural sites and community art and craft outlets usually only accept cash.
**Travel, Transport and Getting Around**

Public transport in Botswana is geared towards the needs of the local populace and is confined to main roads between major population centres. Although cheap and reliable, it is of little use to the traveller as most of Botswana’s tourist attractions lie off the beaten track.

Driving off the main roads in Botswana is only recommended to expects in 4x4 vehicles, that are equipped correctly. Most lodges offer transfers or they can be arranged. If, however, you will be driving in Botswana: your home driving licence will be accepted (with an official English translation if necessary; driving is on the left side of the road; and the national speed limit is on tarred roads is 120km/h and 60km/h in towns and villages.

**Be sure to watch out for wild animals on the roads!**

There are major airports in Maun, Kasane and Gaborone, while smaller charter flights are used to get to the other top attractions and camps.

**Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice**

Tap water is considered safe to drink, although outside main cities and towns, visitors are advised to check first and sterilise water if in any doubt. Bottled water is available in most tourist centres. Filtered water is available at most camps and shops offer bottled water - it is advised to be well stocked of bottled water if you are travelling off the beaten track. Milk is pasteurised, and dairy products, local meat, poultry, seafood, fruit and vegetables are generally safe.

Safari lodges and camps serve international-style cuisine, generally of an extremely high standard, along with local beer and imported wine and spirits. Good restaurants and bars can be found in main towns, often within hotels. Beef and goat are very popular meats. Elsewhere, food is more basic: millet and sorghum porridge are the local staples.

A discretionary 5 to 10% tip is typical for restaurant bills. In many places, a service charge is automatically added. It is customary to tip the game guide and lodge staff while on safari.

**Climate and Weather**

Botswana’s climatic pattern is typical of southern Africa, although its rainfall is less than countries further east. The rains in Botswana come mostly between December and March, when average minimum temperatures are in the low 20°s. Some days will be bright and sunny, some will have afternoon thunderstorms, and some will just be grey.

As with Namibia, April and May in Botswana are generally lovely, with the sky clear and the landscape green. Night temperatures start to drop during these months, especially in the Kalahari. Note that places in and around the Okavango tend to have less extreme, more moderate temperatures than the drier areas of the Kalahari.

From June to August the night-time temperatures in drier areas can be close to freezing, but it warms up rapidly during the day, when the sky is usually clear and blue. It’s now very much ‘peak season’ for most safari areas: the land is dry in most areas so the animals congregate around the few available water sources.

This continues into September and October, when temperatures climb again, drying the landscapes and concentrating the game even more. This is the best time for big game safaris – although October can feel very hot, with maximum temperatures sometimes approaching 40°C.

November is difficult to predict, as it can sometimes be a continuation of October’s heat, whilst sometimes it’s cooled by the first rains; it’s always an interesting month.
Clothing and Dress Recommendations
In summer, lightweight, lightcoloured cottons are preferable. Avoid synthetic materials and black clothing, as they increase perspiration and discomfort. In winter, wear trousers, longsleeved shirts / blouses and jerseys. From May – August, night temperatures can fall below zero degrees celsius, so warm jerseys and jackets are vital, especially on morning and evening game drives. Garments of neutral colours that blend with the bush and forest are advisable for safaris and game viewing. Bring a lightweight jacket and/or jersey for unexpected temperature changes or rain. Closed, comfortable walking shoes or gym shoes are a must in all seasons. Special attention should be given to protection from the sun. Bring a sunhat, good quality sunscreen, sun lotion and polarised sunglasses. Wide brimmed sun hats are essential.

Electricity and Plug Standards
Electrical sockets (outlets) in Botswana are the "Type M " South African SABS1661 ("Large" 15 amp BS-546) sockets. This is actually an old British standard. The "Type M " South African plug and socket is not to be confused with the "Type D " Indian plug and socket. In pictures, they look very similar, but the South African type is much larger than the Indian type, and they are physically incompatible. If your appliance’s plug doesn’t match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to plug in. Travel plug adapters simply change the shape of your appliance’s plug to match whatever type of socket you need to plug into.

Electrical sockets (outlets) in Botswana usually supply electricity at between 220 and 240 volts AC. If you’re plugging in an appliance that was built for 220-240 volt electrical input, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need.

But travel plug adapters do not change the voltage, so the electricity coming through the adapter will still be the same 220-240 volts the socket is supplying. If you need to use appliances that are not compatible with 220-240 volt electrical input, you will need a voltage converter.

ZAMBIA
This unique, peanut-shaped country, once known as Northern Rhodesia, offers visitors an authentic African experience complete with adrenalin pumping adventure sports, a variety of fascinating cultural activities, and an abundance of indigenous wildlife, which finds refuge in Zambia’s vast national parks. Spend your evenings enjoying the spectacular site of the world’s largest waterfall, the Victoria Falls, while sipping on sundowners after an exhilarating day of whitewater rafting down the rapids of the mighty Zambezi River. If that sounds a little too adventurous for your taste, take a houseboat cruise along the exquisite Lake Kariba while watching wild elephants drink at the riverbank as you try your hand at catching the elusive tiger fish. However you choose to spend your time in this unique country, you are bound to leave with a heavy heart and a desire to return again soon to this exceptionally beautiful Southern African country.
Banking and Currency

Currency

Zambia’s unit of currency is the Kwacha (ZMW), formally ZMK which was rebased in 2013. The denominations are K100, K50, K20, K10, K5 and K2. It is subdivided into 100 ngwee. Coins available are K1, 50 ngwee, 10 ngwee and 5 ngwee.

However, some prices are quoted in US$. It is therefore possible to use dollars and pounds as well.

Banking

In the cities and larger towns, you can change cash and travellers cheques at branches of Barclays Bank and Standard Chartered Bank. Larger branches have ATMs that accept Visa. Foreign exchange offices are easy to find in cities and larger towns.

Banks are generally open on weekdays from 08h15 to 15h30 and 08h15 to 12h00 on Saturdays. Banks are closed on Sundays and public holidays.

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Proflight flies from Lusaka to Mfuwe (South Luangwa), to Livingstone and the Copperbelt and also does charters. Various air charter companies will fly to any of the many airstrips around the country and most of the areas worth visiting are accessible by air.

Public Transport

There are many taxis available. Prices are negotiable. There is a good bus service to Chipata, Livingstone, the Copperbelt and Harare, but they don’t always follow strict schedules. The main bus terminus is in Dedan Kimathi Road in Lusaka where one can inquire about timetables. Other private bus companies offer more reliable services to Livingstone, Harare and Johannesburg.

Travel by Bus

Long range buses frequently leave from Lusaka to all the main towns. The intercity bus terminal can be found one road up from Cairo Road at the station.

Minibuses and taxis, local transport – all painted blue – can be jumped on at pretty much any juncture. They’re not expensive and you can always find a minibus that won’t cost too much to buy all the seats in it to get your own private minibus to wherever you want to go but you’ll have to negotiate.

Travel by Road

Zambia has 38,763 kilometres of roads, about 10,000 kms of which are tarred and another 8000 kms are gravel road. The rest range from reasonable to bad dirt roads.

If you’re doing a vehicle trip through Zambia it is a good idea to carry a range of tools and essential spares with you.

Be really careful, especially if travelling at night for road markings are usually non existent. Do watch out for animals in the road, vehicles without lights, pedestrians, unannounced roadworks, bad drivers and broken down trucks with no warning triangles. If you see a tree branch in the road, slow down immediately – these are improvised warning triangles and there’s bound to be a truck or car in the middle of the road up ahead.

Be sure to have all your vehicle papers on hand as you’re bound to encounter a few roadblocks.
**Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice**

Zambia’s native cuisine is based on nshima, a cooked porridge made from ground maize normally accompanied by some tasty relish, perhaps made of meat and tomatoes, or dried fish. Safari camps will often prepare nshima if requested, and it is almost always available in small, local restaurants.

Camps, hotels and lodges that cater to overseas visitors tend to serve a range of international fare, and the quality of food prepared in the most remote bush camps is typically excellent.

Water in the main towns is usually purified, provided there are no shortages of chlorine, breakdowns, or other mishaps. The locals drink it, and are used to the relatively innocuous bugs that it may harbour. If you are in the country for a long time, then it may be worth acclimatising yourself to it. However, if you are in Zambia for just a few weeks, then try to drink only bottled, boiled, or treated water in town.

Out in the bush, most of the camps and lodges use water from bore-holes. These underground sources vary in quality, but are normally perfectly safe to drink.

**Climate and Weather**

The rains in Zambia come mostly in December, January, February and March though the further north you are, the earlier the rains arrive and the later they leave. Eastern areas and higher areas generally receive more rain than western and lowland areas.

By April and May most of the rain has faded away, leaving a landscape that’s still green, but starting to dry out. Nighttime temperatures start to drop, especially in higher and more southerly locations.

In June, July and August the nights become much cooler, but the days are clear and warm. Make sure you bring warm clothes to wrap up if you're out at night, as some nights get very cold! Most of Zambia's small 'walking bush camps' open at the start of June, when the roads have dried out sufficiently to allow access. This is the start of the 'peak season' for these countries – with often cloudless days and continually increasing game sightings.

Into September and October the temperatures climb: the lower-lying rift valleys – Lower Zambezi, Mana Pools and Luangwa Valley – can get very hot in October. However, you'll see some superb game as the animals concentrate around the limited water sources.

November is variable; it can be hot and dry like October, or it can see the season's first downpours. Often it's a very interesting month as you can see both patterns on successive days.

**Clothing and Dress Recommendations**

Zambia has mild winters and the summer days can be scorching hot. Lightweight casual clothes can be worn all year round, with a jacket or jersey for early winter mornings and evenings.

On safari keep clothes to neutral colours - kharkis, browns and greens. A sunhat, sunscreen, sunglasses and insect repellent are a must.
Electricity and Plug Standards
Current is 220/240 volt at 50 cycles per second. Both square and round wall plugs are used.
Terms and Conditions

Experiential Travel Terms and Conditions
Please be sure to read our full Terms and Conditions at www.experiential.travel/Legal.php