

ASTEP AHEAD

custom guided journeys

BOTSWANA CLASSIC SAFARI - WS

10 DAYS DRY SEASON (SAVUTI & OKAVANGO DELTA)

JUNE TO OCTOBER 2022

Botswana, the southern African country where the Okavango River flows into the Kalahari Sands, forming the remarkable inland haven of water - the Okavango Delta. The game concentrations between the delta and the Chobe waterway to the north are probably the densest in southern Africa.



10-DAY ITINERARY FOR JUNE-OCTOBER - HIGH SEASON

Days 1-3	Fly from Maun to Savuti Camp, Savuti Concession, Chobe Area for 3 nights	B,L,D
Days 4-6	Fly to Little Vumbura Camp, Okavango Delta for 3 nights	B,L,D
Days 7-9	Fly to Chitabe Camp, Okavango Delta for 3 nights	B,L,D
Day 10	Last Day. Fly to Maun to connect an international flight home - or continue eon safari (Makgadikgadi Pans, Victoria Falls, Zambia, Namibia...)	B only

Key to meals included - B=Breakfast, L = Lunch, D=Dinner

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HIGHLIGHTS

Despite being a relatively uniform and flat country, Botswana has an astounding variety of habitats and scenery in a relatively small area, including the wetter and drier parts of the delta (which vary throughout the year), the Makgadikgadi pans and the Chobe waterway in the north. Water levels change throughout the year in the delta, being lowest at the onset of the rainy season in the summer months, and rising and reaching further south and deeper into the delta as the winter dry season progresses. That is also when herds of elephants move northwards across the Savute channel to the Chobe and Linyanti river systems.



ACTIVITIES

The activities shown **in bold type** are possible. Activities shown *in italics* may be possible if requested before finalizing the itinerary, and with prior planning (bush walks, ballooning, star beds). [The minimum age for mekoro rides and bush walks is 13.](#)

NOTE: All activities are seasonal. Game drives or boat cruises in the Delta may or may not be possible. They are wholly dependent on water levels which change from year to year.

SAVUTI- Game drives, night drives, boat excursions, catch & release fishing, game hide, pool, waterhole and log-pile hide, bush walks, star beds.

LITTLE VUMBURA - Game drives, night drives, mekoro rides, boat cruises, catch & release fishing, plunge pool, star gazing, cultural experience, helicopter flights (extra cost), bush walks

CHITABE - Game drives, night drives, pool, gym, bush dinners, bush walks, helicopter flights (extra cost)

CLIMATE

JUNE - AUG - Min -2°C (28°F) / Max 24°C (76°F)

SEPT & OCT -Min 10°C (50°F) / Max 31°C (90°F) However in late October, just before the rains it could get as hot as 40 °C (about 104°F)

NOV - MAR - Min 18°C (64°F) / Max 34°C (93°F)

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LINYANTI RESERVE

The 125,000 hectare (480sq mi) Linyanti Concession is bordered by Chobe National Park to the east, and the Linyanti / Chobe River to its north. The Savuti Channel, which flows through the reserve, stopped flowing between 1980 and 2008. During this period it was an unusual and productive ribbon of grassland that served as a corridor and feeding ground in the surrounding woodland for a wide variety of herbivores. In 2008, the Savuti Channel once more became a deep, clear waterway harbouring hippo and aquatic life with myriad varieties of waterbirds.



Wildlife, from plains game to a plethora of predators, has had to adapt to a new source of water and all the opportunities and menaces it has brought with it. For different species the channel has become a place of refuge, an obstacle, an unrivalled food source, a navigational aid, a larder, a playground, and a graveyard. It is impossible to say yet whether the waters will persist or begin to recede in earnest, but while it lasts, there are front-row seats for each drama that is played out here.

ACTIVITIES

We can game drive and night drive. There are some water based activities, such as boat rides and catch and release fishing, though these are dependent on the water levels at the time. It is sometimes possible to go on walks with a licensed armed walking guide, which should be requested in advance. There is a hide and sleep-out deck. Camp has a plunge pool.

SPECIAL SPECIES

Game concentrations here are high, particularly in the winter dry season when the high concentration of elephants stands out. Apart from Cape buffalo, giraffe, zebra, reedbuck and lechwe - more unusual species such as roan and sable antelope, can be seen here. The large predators - lion, leopard, cheetah, black-backed jackal and wild dog may also be encountered.

If we decide to go on a night drive we are likely to encounter spotted hyaenas warming up to their nights hunting activities, and perhaps see a genet hiding in an acacia. We might also be lucky enough to also encounter aardvark and aardwolf.

CONNECTIVITY -The camp does not have internet connection or cell phone coverage.

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SAVUTI CAMP

The site of the camp is about 17 kilometres 'downstream' from the Zibadianja Lagoon - the source of the channel.



The camp has a thatched dining area, bar and plunge pool, and seven tents, accommodating up to 16 people, all on raised wooden decks and overlooking the channel.



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LITTLE VUMBURA AREA, OKAVANGO DELTA

Little Vumbura Camp is situated on an island in a private concession bordering the Moremi Game Reserve, on the north-eastern edge of the Okavango Delta. The concession comprises both flooded and dry land areas, and offers both land and water activities. Elephants are plentiful between May and October, and plains game peaks in the drier months (August-October). Zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, impala, and Cape buffalo and the main predators (lion, hyena and leopard) are all present.



SPECIAL OR RARE SIGHTINGS

This may be the only area in the Okavango where we can see red lechwe (an animal that inhabits the fringes of the waterways) and Sable antelope (an animal that enjoys the dry countryside) on the same game drive.

ACTIVITIES

Night and day game drives in custom 4x4 vehicles, mekoro trips (dugout canoes), star gazing, motor boat excursions, catch & release fishing (except Jan & Feb), plunge pool. Village visit. Bush walks with prior booking only and subject to availability of trained walking guides.

CONNECTIVITY -The camp does not have internet connection or cell phone coverage.



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LITTLE VUMBURA CAMP

Little Vumbura Camp consists of a central area comprising lounge, dining room and bar, with an outdoor dining area or kgotla, and a plunge pool, and only six accommodation tents, each in the shade of the canopy of an ancient Delta forest. Each spacious tent has its own en-suite shower and loo.



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CHITABE CONCESSION, OKAVANGO DELTA

The Chitabe Concession is situated between the Gomoti and Santantadibe river systems and bordered on 3 sides by Botswana's first game reserve - the Moremi. The south-eastern tip of Chief's Island is only a few kilometers to the west. The 28,000 hectare concession includes savannah, wooded and palm topped islands and floodplain habitats, making it an excellent springboard for viewing the Delta's varied wildlife.



SPECIAL OR RARE SIGHTINGS

This is an excellent area for seeing the elusive leopard. The area is known for the African wild dog research done here. It is probably the best area in Botswana to see this extremely rare predator. Elephant, lion, giraffe and Cape buffalo are also prevalent, and warthog and impala are seen everywhere!

ACTIVITIES

Night and day game drives in custom 4x4 vehicles. Guided bush walks with prior booking only and subject to availability of trained walking guides. Plunge pool. Minimum age for walks is 13.

CONNECTIVITY -The camp does not have internet connection or cell phone coverage.

CHITABE CAMPS

There are two sister camps in the Chitabe Concession - Chitabe and Chitabe Lediba, situated in the same area. Facilities are very similar. The main difference is that Chitabe Camp has 8 walk-in large en-suite tents, and Chitabe Lediba Camp has only 5 walk-in large en-suite tents. The tents are built on raised decks, with views over the floodplain from the private veranda. En-suite bathrooms have indoor and a separate outdoor shower. The rooms have an electronic safe, an electric fan for hot days, and tea and coffee facilities.

Each camp has a central dining area, lounge and bar, and cooling-off pool. There is a firepit, which becomes a focal point in the star-lit evenings after a night drive.

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COSTS FOR THE ABOVE 9 NIGHT/10 DAY ITINERARY IN JUNE-OCTOBER 2022

HIGH SEASON (including internal flights beginning and ending in Maun)

With A Step Ahead professional guide and a private vehicle.

Number of guests in the group	4	6 or 8	10	12
Cost per person in US Dollars	\$25,500	\$22,500	\$22,120	\$21,120

Your A Step Ahead guide is there to orchestrate your whole safari, to provide continuity from one camp to another, to see to any special requests and arrange for unusual touches to your safari. He ensures that it is varied and fun, by adding anecdotes as an African professional with years of experience, and adds to the trip by providing extra, often broader knowledge to the excellent resident guides in the various camps, who have their valued local knowledge to offer.

Without A Step Ahead professional guide or private vehicle - all activities shared with other guests guided by experienced camp based guides.

Cost per person sharing a double or twin tent/ room in US Dollars	\$19,900
Single supplement (payable on any single room) in US Dollars	\$5,600

NOTES:

- i) Costs include scheduled flights beginning and ending in Maun.
- ii) The minimum age for children for this itinerary is 6 years. There are child discounts available for 6-16 year olds when staying at Savuti, Little Vumbura and Chitabe Lediba (not Chitabe Camp). A private vehicle must be booked for any groups with children aged 12 or under. (This is already included in the cost with an A Step Ahead guide. Please let us know if there are children in your group and we can supply child rates.
- iii) The minimum age for bush walks and mekoro activities is 13. Children aged 16 and under must share a room with an adult.
- iv) These camps can also be visited in low season November to May, when costs are lower. Price on request.
- v) It is possible to extend this safari to include a stay in other parts of Botswana (such as Makgadikgadi Pans), Victoria Falls (either Zambian or Zimbabwean sides), Namibia, or South Africa.

INCLUDED / NOT INCLUDED

Included in the above safari cost: Accommodation in best available twin-bedded tent/room on full board everywhere from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 10; a morning and an afternoon activity in each camp; the services of local resident guides; all game drives and other activities (with private safari vehicle if that option is chosen); all park entry and camping fees; transfers between the bush strips and the camps; scheduled flights Maun-Savuti-Little Vumbura-Chitabe-Maun; laundry services (reasonable amounts) at safari camps; soft and alcoholic drinks (except premium brands).

Not included in the above safari cost: Any medical services, emergency medical evacuation, items of a personal nature (e.g. visas, airport taxes, telephone or fax services, massages, internet services etc.); premium brand alcoholic drinks; any kind of insurance (medical, health, trip & travel, or any other insurance); gratuities; any regional flights other those described above; international flights to/from and within Africa. An A Step Ahead professional guide is not included in the rates unless specifically stated.

PLEASE SEE OUR **TERMS & CONDITIONS (2021)** DOCUMENT FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON TERMS AND INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

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YOUR A STEP AHEAD GUIDE

Our guides are keen and passionate bush professionals, who guide safaris because they absolutely love being in nature and helping their guests understand the world they cherish. They are mostly all-rounders, expert at the many varied fields a guide should know about, and are not limited to one field. They have experience traveling and being in the bush in many different countries in Africa and so are able to offer a broad view on most things. They are involved in designing custom itineraries for our guests. They compliment and work well with the locally based guides in the various countries or camps, and they ensure continuity and are good at adding special touches to a safari to make sure you have an amazing safari experience. Invariably once on safari with one of our *A Step Ahead* professional guides, our guests will recommend no other to their friends back home! That is the greatest tribute they give them.



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