



## **BOTSWANA DELUXE SAFARI**

**9 DAYS DRY SEASON - 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.



### **9-DAY ITINERARY FOR JUNE-OCTOBER**

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

Day 1	Fly from Maun to <a href="#">Duma Tau Camp</a> , Linyanti-Chobe Area for 3 nights	D only
Days 2&3	Various activities while staying at Duma Tau, in the Linyanti-Chobe Area	B,L,D
Days 4-6	Fly to <a href="#">Vumbura Plains Camp</a> , Kwedi Concession, Okavango Delta for 3 nights	B,L,D
Days 7&8	Fly to <a href="#">Mombo Camp</a> , Moremi Game Reserve, Okavango Delta for 2 nights	B,L,D
Day 9	Last Day. Fly home or continue elsewhere (Makgadikgadi Pans, Victoria Falls, or Namibia).	B only

### **A Step Ahead \* Custom Guided Journeys**

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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 Makgadikgadi pans, the wetter and drier parts of the delta (which vary throughout the year), 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

Activities shown *in italics* may be possible if requested before finalizing the itinerary, and with prior planning. Bush walks must be requested in advance. **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.

**Duma Tau** - game drives, night drives, boat excursions, fishing (except January & February), barge cruise (with on-board picnic or sundowner), *bush walks*, massages (extra cost), *helicopter flights* (extra cost), Olympus camera experience.

**Vumbura Plains** - game drives, night drives, motor boat excursions, mekoro rides (dug-out canoe), fishing, cultural activities, private plunge pools, *bush walks*, *balloon or helicopter flights* (extra cost) and massages (extra cost), Olympus camera experience.

**Mombo** - game drives, 2 game hides, star gazing, private plunge pool, gym, lap pool, yoga deck massages & spa treatments (extra cost), *helicopter trips* (extra cost). Olympus camera experience.



## 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)

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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. Most of the reserve is comprised of mopane woodland, popular with elephants in the dry season, with riparian woodland along the Linyanti River area in the north, and the watercourse of the Savuti Channel, which is sometimes flowing, and sometimes dried up, through the middle of the reserve. This provides an unusual and productive ribbon of grassland that serves 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.



## SPECIAL SPECIES

Game concentrations here are high, particularly in the winter dry season when the high concentration of elephants stands out. The area is also known for Cape buffalo, giraffe, zebra, reedbuck and lechwe. In very dry periods sable or roan antelope may be sighted. Large predators including lion, leopard, cheetah, black-backed jackal and wild dog are often encountered.

## ACTIVITIES

Game drives, night drives, boat excursions (6 & 8 passenger motor boats with outboards), fishing (except breeding season in January & February),

barge cruise (takes up to 8 passengers with space for a on-board picnic or sundowners), *bush walks*, massages (extra cost), *helicopter flights* (extra cost), Olympus camera experience.

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## DUMA TAU CAMP

This camp is situated overlooking Osprey Lagoon, close to the source of the Savute Channel. The public areas of the camp include an airy, expansive dining and lounge area and a pool, all overlooking the lagoon.



Each of the eight en-suite tents (seven twin and two family suites) overlook the lagoon or the spillway, and are raised on wooden decks. The rooms have ceiling fans, an electronic safe, en suite shower and flush loos, and the beds have mosquito netting.

**COMMUNICATION** - WiFi is available in the rooms but not in the main area. There is very erratic cellphone reception (sometimes a Namibian signal).



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## VUMBURA CONCESSION, OKAVANGO DELTA

Vumbura Plains Camp is situated 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). Buffalo and the main predators 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 a Sable antelope (an animal that enjoys the dry countryside) on the same game drive.

Large flocks of carmine bee-eaters abound from August-April, forming breeding colonies in September and October.



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## VUMBURA PLAINS CAMP



Vumbura Plains Camp is situated in a beautiful location beneath a canopy of cool, shady, indigenous trees and with a magnificent vista across the floodplains. The camp is made up of two separate sections, each with 7 accommodation tents and its own dining room and lounge area on raised wooden platforms with wooden interconnecting walkways.

Each tent is a spacious, contemporary design with main bedroom, sala and en suite bathroom under a thatched roof. There is an indoor and outdoor shower and each tent has its own plunge pool and reading area overlooking the floodplains. There are 2 family rooms in the camps which are slightly different.

**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). Bush walks with prior booking and are only if specialised guides are available. Each room has a private plunge pool and massages are offered at an extra cost.

**CONNECTIVITY** - There is no wifi or cellphone coverage in camp.



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### **MOREMI GAME RESERVE, OKAVANGO DELTA**

The Moremi Reserve is situated in northern Botswana covering an area of almost 4,000 km<sup>2</sup>, of which only about 1/3 of the reserve is dry land, the rest being part of the Okavango Delta and often under water. The western part of Moremi includes the diverse and wildlife rich Chief's Island part of the Delta. This area is renowned for being the most wildlife-rich part of Botswana. The sheer numbers and variety of large mammals in this area, all year round, defy description, and you are likely to see buffalo, giraffe, lion, leopard, hyaena, jackal, impala, and red lechwe, and maybe even cheetah, as well as some of the 400 species of birds in the area.

### **SPECIAL OR RARE SIGHTINGS**

The area is known for its good leopard sightings. Both black and white rhinoceros have been re-introduced to the Moremi. This is the only place in Botswana where you may see these animals in their natural habitat. The Chief's Island area has been the focus of a wild dog study since 1989, and there is a good chance you may see these rare predators here.



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## MOMBO CAMP, CHIEF'S ISLAND



Mombo is built in and around the shade of some large mangosteen, ebony and fig trees and overlooks a wonderful floodplain that teems with wildlife. The main living and dining area is under thatch and is built on a raised deck. There is an enclosed open air area or 'kgotla' for enjoying delicious dinners under the stars, and two plunge pools to relax in on a hot day. There is a gym area, shop, and massages are available at extra cost.

The camp has nine comfortably furnished, luxurious tents, raised on decks off the ground. Bathrooms are en-suite, with indoor and outdoor showers, and a veranda overlooking the plains below.

### ACTIVITIES

As the wildlife is so astounding, activities here are focused on morning and afternoon game drives in open 4x4 Land Rovers. There is also a gym, lap pool, yoga deck, spa and boutique. Star-gazing is possible and there are 2 game hides a short drive from camp. Each room has a private plunge pool and 'gym in a bag'. Helicopter flights, massages and spa treatments are offered at an extra cost.

**CONNECTIVITY** - Complimentary wifi in guest tents.



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## COSTS FOR THE ABOVE 8 NIGHT/9 DAY ITINERARY JUNE-OCTOBER 2022

**With A Step Ahead professional guide and a private vehicle(s) in all camps:-**

	Number of guests in the group			
	4	6 or 8	10	12
Cost per person in US Dollars	\$33,900	\$30,800	\$30,700	\$29,700

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

**Without A Step Ahead professional guide or private vehicle - all activities shared with other guests:-**

Cost per person sharing a double or twin tent/ room in US Dollars \$28,500

Single supplement US\$ 8,200 per single room

### NOTES:

1. Costs include internal scheduled flights beginning and ending in Maun.
2. Children aged 6 and up are allowed at Duma Tau and Vumbura Plains. Children aged 13 and up are allowed at Mombo. Children aged 6 and up are allowed at Little Mombo (sister camp of Mombo) when booked on exclusive basis. Private vehicles must be booked for families with children aged under 13. These are already included in the costs with an A Step Ahead guide.
3. Some child discounts are available and we can supply these on request.
4. The costs for larger groups, single rooms and odd group sizes are available upon request.
5. These camps can also be visited in low season November to May, when costs are lower. Price on request.
6. 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 in the above safari cost:** Accommodation in best available twin-bedded tent/room on full board everywhere; a morning and an afternoon activity in 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; airport transfers to the camps and to/from Maun airport; 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 than the flights detailed 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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