

EXPLORE!

Tailormade Kalahari and Delta Highlights
9 days

Botswana - Trip code TMBW1



Tailormade Kalahari and Delta Highlights

Game drives, boat safaris and bushmen experience

The Kalahari salt pans include Makgadikgadi and Nxai Pan National Parks, while just south, the Central Kalahari National Park dominates the country and is one of the largest game reserves in the world. This itinerary visits the best spots in the Kalahari depending on the time of year, whether that's watching meerkats and the zebra migration in Makgadikgadi National Park, seeing the impressive Baines' baobabs in Nxai Pan or learning about the San bushmen in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. Plus boat safaris on the waterways of the Okavango Delta and game drives in Moremi Game Reserve.

Enriching tailormade journeys – for you

This bespoke journey features some of our favourite spots in Botswana. You can choose to take our destination experts' recommendations and travel just as you see the itinerary here, or contact us to add your own special touches; maybe an extension to Victoria Falls or an ultra-luxury lodge in the Okavango Delta. We're here to design your perfect holiday.

Call us on 01252 883 184.

Trip highlights

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Premium

Our premium accommodation is hand-picked and chosen for its character, location or local importance. These properties have excellent facilities and a higher level of comfort and service. They provide the perfect wind down after an active day.

TRIP PACE:

Moderate

Moderate pace tours are ideal if you want a holiday which combines exciting activities and experiences with plenty of time to relax and unwind. Typically you'll be active and busy for part of the day but then also have time to rest and recharge your batteries.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Depart the UK

Depart the UK on your overnight flight to Maun.

 None

DAY 2 - Arrive in Maun and fly to the Kalahari

On arrival in Maun you'll transfer by light aircraft to your camp in the Kalahari. Stretching as far as South Africa and covering much of Botswana plus areas of Namibia, the Kalahari Desert is simply vast. Depending on the time of year, these are our favourite hot spots to visit:

November – March: Kalahari Salt Pans – The wet season in the salt pans sees the area flourish with nutrient-rich vegetation, becoming a veritable Garden of Eden. Large herds of zebra in the area take advantage of the vast amounts of plant life before migrating south. The mopane woodland areas of Nxai Pan National Park are home to lion, giraffe and kudu, as well as black korhaan, kestrels and goshawks; you will also see Baines baobab, immortalised in paintings by the explorer, these huge, gnarled trees have changed little over the past 150 years. While in the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans you can visit the resident meerkat families.

April – June: Central Kalahari Game Reserve – After the rainy season the Central Kalahari Game Reserve teems with wildlife – springbok, wildebeest, hartebeest, eland, zebra, giraffe and kudu can be seen wandering the plains, and carnivores include lion, cheetah, leopard and hyena. The birdlife here is outstanding with lilac-breasted rollers, black and red-crested korhaans, chestnut-vented tit-babblers and rufous-eared warblers, to name but a few.

July – October: Makgadikgadi National Park – Between July and October the salt pans to the north and west dry up, bringing huge herds of Burchell's zebra and wildebeest to the permanent water source of the Boteti River. Thousands of zebra come to drink from the river, making this the second largest migration of land mammals after the Serengeti migration. This is also one of the best places to see meerkats in their natural habitat.



Accommodation: Camp Kalahari (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Lunch Dinner

DAY 3 - Activities from your camp

Today you have the opportunity to explore the region on a game drive in search of wildlife in the area. Depending on your lodge/camp you may be able to go on a nature walk with the local Bushmen in search of smaller animals and birdlife. Also known as the San, these traditional hunter-gatherers have lived in southern Africa for 20000 years, so know this area like the backs of their hands. Traditionally Bushmen hunt game with bows and arrows, supplementing their diet with plants, nuts and insects, also using plant life for medicinal purposes and finding water deep underground. While few bushman still live this lifestyle they are happy

show you the culture and survival skills of their ancestors.

Alternatively you may be able to visit the local meerkat residents, searching for scorpions and playfully interacting while the adults stand tall keeping a watchful eye out for predators. In the far western border of the Makgadikgadi National Park, the Boteti River snakes its way across the Kalahari Desert. Until 30000 years ago this area was an enormous inland sea that dried up, but today the Boteti River experiences periods of plentiful water, during the winter months the migration of wildebeest and zebra to the area with the attendant predators such as lion and cheetah create great game-viewing.

Please note: The variety of excursions available will vary dependent upon where you are staying. Your Tailormade Regional Specialist will discuss this with you.



Accommodation: Camp Kalahari (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Breakfast Lunch Dinner

DAY 4 - Fly to the Okavango Delta

Today you will take a short flight to your lodge in the Okavango Delta. The mighty Okavango is the third largest river in Africa and its delta area covers 16000 square kilometres of crystal clear channels, a myriad of ephemeral lakes and ever changing islands. The river flows south-east from the Angolan highlands over 1000km away, taking up to six months to reach the delta area which floods on an annual cycle. Depending on your arrival time you maybe be able to enjoy an afternoon game activity.



Accommodation: Xugana Island Lodge (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Breakfast Lunch Dinner

DAY 5 - Mokoro ride and bush walks

Set off early this morning from your camp on a traditional-style dug-out canoe, known locally as a mokoro. With an experienced 'poler' you will gently punt along the calm waters in search of birdlife, crocodiles and elephants. Thought to be one of the most peaceful ways to enjoy the surroundings, this will be a highlight of your trip to Botswana. You have the opportunity to stop off for a nature walk. In the afternoon and evening enjoy a boat safari in the area where you may see elephant, hippo, vervet monkey, warthog and much more.



Accommodation: Xugana Island Lodge (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Breakfast Lunch Dinner

DAY 6 - Fly to Moremi Game Reserve

Tucked into the north-eastern sector of the Okavango Delta, Moremi is thought to be the country's most beautiful game area and is rated as one of Africa's greatest wildlife sanctuaries. It covers an enormous wilderness area composed of permanent swamps, islands, forest and dry land. Exceptional though the geography of the Delta may be, it is the amazing wildlife that draws many visitors, here you will find a variety of antelope including tsessebe, impala, reedbuck and kudu, birdlife is prolific everywhere, while larger mammals may be spotted on the flood plain, including elephant, giraffe, zebra and ostrich, as well as predators like lion, leopard and wild dog.



Accommodation: Xakanaxa Camp (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Breakfast Lunch Dinner

DAY 7 - Moremi Game Reserve

Moremi Game Reserve is home to a wide variety of animals including lions, buffaloes, elephants and leopard. The birdlife is vast and varied, and ranges from elegant water birds to a huge variety of ducks, geese, heron, storks, wattled cranes and many species of kingfishers and bee-eaters. There is a variety of activities available from your lodge including game drives boats rides. Depending on your accommodation mokoro rides may be available; perfect for photography you'll quietly float along without the noise of motors to scare off wildlife, allowing you to capture the perfect shot.



Accommodation: Xakanaxa Camp (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Breakfast Lunch Dinner

DAY 8 - Depart Botswana

Today you depart Moremi Game Reserve and return to Maun for your onward flight home.



Breakfast Lunch

DAY 9 - Arrive UK

Arrive UK.

Tailormade Expert



Meet Sarah Phelps,
Regional Specialist for Botswana

Call on 01252 883 184

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 6
Lunch: 7
Dinner: 6



Transport

Flight
4WD
Mokoro
Boat



Trip staff

Safari guide



Accommodation

2 nights premium camping
4 nights premium campsite
6 nights standard hotel

Trip information

Country information

Botswana Holidays & Tours

Climate

Botswana's regional characteristics, from fertile areas in the east to waterless desert in the centre and south, and a vast delta in the north-west, make for extremes of temperatures and highly variable rainfall. Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/weather>. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up-to-date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

Time difference to GMT

+2

Plugs

3 Pin Round

Religion

Christians. Anglicans, Methodists

Language

English, Setswana

Budgeting and packing

Country Information

Botswana Holidays & Tours

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price

£8.00

Dinner price

£15.00

Beer price

£1.50

Water price

£0.75

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Botswana Pula

Recommended Currency For Exchange

We suggest that you take your spending money in cash as US Dollars. Please note that the banks and Forex Bureaus do not accept US Dollars pre-2002. NB: you may find it useful to bring smaller denominations of US Dollars for tips.

ATM Availability

Cash can be drawn out on credit cards from ATM's in Kasane and Maun

Credit Card Acceptance

Limited. Some lodges may accept credit cards, however the service is very sporadic.

Travellers Cheques

Not recommended

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Accommodation notes

Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

Standard

Light on your pocket but long on authentic experiences, these holidays are based in simple, sometimes local-style accommodation. If your idea of adventure travel is to experience real, everyday life then you will enjoy our Simple style of tour. You will have the chance to stay at simple, family-run hotels and guesthouses where the lack of luxury is more than compensated for by the warm welcome and genuine insight into local life.

Haina Kalahari Lodge

Haina Kalahari Lodge is located on the northern border of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. The lodge offers solar-powered Standard tented camps with a spacious bedroom and private porch, and Luxury tents offering a larger decking area and indoor and outdoor showers. The lodge is designed in a typically African style with wooden furniture and thatch roof, there is a communal Boma area plus a lounge, dining room and bar area, and a swimming pool outside.

Moremi Crossing Camp

Moremi Crossing is built on a palm-fringed island surrounded by seasonal floodplains overlooking Chief's Island. The camp is a 100% eco-friendly development featuring the latest in solar and waste disposal technology. There are 16 spacious en-suite tents on raised decking each with their own veranda. There's plenty of space to relax; on a large, open-plan deck with wonderful views of Chief's Island, in small, private lounge areas, by the pool or in the thatched dining room and bar.

Sango Safari Camp

Sango Safari Camp is nestled in the shade of trees, overlooking the Khwai River. The camp accommodates just 12 guests and aims to recreate the atmosphere of the luxury mobile safari camp. With access to both the Moremi Game Reserve and Khwai Concession, Sango Safari Camp is focused on delivering an exceptional wildlife experience to guests.

Premium

On premium level tailor-made tours you will stay at comfortable mid-range hotels, chosen for their location, ambiance or local character. Your rooms will be clean and well-appointed, with en suite bathrooms and air-conditioning or heating as necessary. Standard level hotels normally have restaurants, bars and often other amenities such as a swimming pool and gardens, offering a good level of comfort at a reasonable price.

Camp Kalahari

Camp Kalahari is located in the eastern area of the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park. The camp offers a small number of meru-style tents with a spacious bedroom, porch and out-door showers. There are also connecting tents - perfect for families. The lodge is designed in a typically African style, with wooden furniture and locally sourced handicrafts, there is a communal dining area and lounge, plus a shaded veranda overlooking the small pool. The lodge provides a variety of activities, including bushmen interaction and walking safaris to a meerkat colony.

Gunns Camp

Set on raised platforms overlooking the delta plains, Gunns Camp is a small camp offering fully furnished, deluxe meru-style tents with en suite bathrooms featuring standalone baths and outside private showers. All tents offer a lounge area as well as private verandahs and are discretely set around the island ensuring privacy and tranquillity. The tented area is connected to the main camp via a raised wooden walkway crossing the wetlands and magically lit by a series of fairy-like lanterns in the evening. The camp is eco-friendly, running off solar-panels, which feed power to the entire camp. There is an elevated bar, lounge and dining room, campfire boma and swimming pool.

Khwai Tented Camp

Khwai Tented Camp is located within the Khwai Concession area, east of Moremi Game Reserve. The camp offers spacious Meru tents raised on decking with views over the lagoon. The communal area has a dining area and outdoor boma where guests can relax under the stars and chat with fellow travellers. Khwai Tented Camp offers unrivalled service, from the wonderful safari guides, the chef cooking incredible homemade dishes to the housekeeping staff warming your bed with a hot water bottle in the cooler months.

Essential information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Botswana Holidays & Tours

Vaccinations

We do recommend protection against malaria, hepatitis A, tetanus, typhoid and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Travellers may wish to immunise themselves against meningitis. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Immigration/Borders in Botswana are requesting a Yellow Fever certificate if you have previously travelled within/via an endemic country. For a list of Yellow Fever affected countries please refer to: <http://www.who.int/ith/2015-ith-annex1.pdf?ua=1> Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure. Please note that any travellers who have visited Ebola affected countries during the last 30 days will be denied entry into Botswana. These countries are: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Liberia

