

BOTSWANA (2016)

“J.Davis – Custom SAFARI”

Photo and Video Specialty

10 day small group adventure safari

DEPARTS: MAUN, BOTSWANA - Mid August Dates TBD
ENDS: VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE

Highlights

- * Okavango Delta – mokoro trail and bush walks
- * Moremi Game Reserve – 4WD game viewing & night drive
- * Chobe National Park, Savuti – 4WD game viewing
- * Victoria Falls – Falls hike (easy), craft market, optional activities

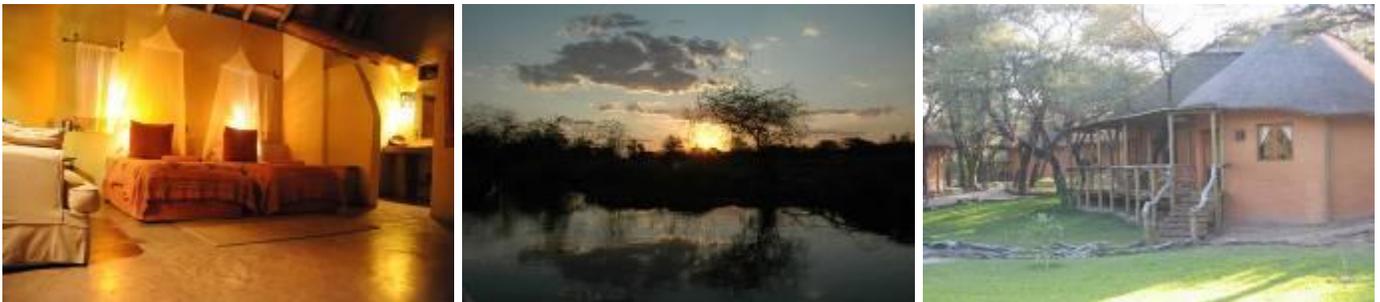
Includes

- * 7 nights tented lodge or chalets and 2 nights tented camping
- * Entrance Fees
- * Transport in OPEN 4WD days 1-8 and light aircraft flight to Kasane and local transfers to VFA
- * Meals per itinerary
- * Professional guide & tracker for 1-8 days



Day 1 MAUN [lodge --D]

Arrive in Maun off flight TBA arriving at TBA where you will be met by a representative and transferred to your overnight lodge. The name Maun is derived from the San word 'maung', which translates 'the place of short reeds'. After a tour briefing we prepare for the delta excursion, we have the rest of the afternoon to relax by the pool before having our first dinner under an African sky.



Day 1: buffet dinner provided by the lodge

Includes: -
Overnight: Crocodile Camp – deluxe twin rooms with en-suite facilities, pool, restaurant/bar
Distance/time: Not applicable, clients join the group at +/-16:30
Optional Activities: Scenic flight over the Okavango Delta (cost based on # people per plane)

Day 2-4

OKAVANGO DELTA [tented camping BLD]

We drive into the Okavango Delta to our remote tented camp in the heart of the largest inland delta in the world. This amazing environment has large numbers of red lechwe, buffalo, elephant and birds, particularly kingfishers! One of the best experiences in the Okavango Delta is to be poled along reed lined channels in a mokoro (dug out canoe). Sit back and relax as the water gurgles gently under the mokoro while your skilled poker points out the fauna and flora.



Day 2: breakfast provided by the lodge

Day 2: lunch & dinner provided by the tour leader with the help of the group

Day 3: breakfast, lunch & dinner provided by the tour leader with the help of the group

Includes: Entrance fees to the Okavango Delta, morning & afternoon game walks with local guides

Overnight: 2x tented camping – basic ablutions with shared bucket shower, and shared long Drop Toilet tent

Distance/time: 2 hour 4WD transfer into the Delta, each way (light game viewing during drive)

Day 4-5

MOREMI [tented bushlodge BLD]

We take an open 4WD into Moremi Game Reserve for fantastic game viewing! Chief's Island is the largest landmass within Moremi and was the Batswana tribe's richest hunting ground, before being declared a game reserve by the tribe. We spend 2 days on game drives watching the abundant wildlife including elephant, hippo, buffalo, lion & other game, both in Moremi Game Reserve and in private concession reserves surrounding the park.

During your stay at Hyena Pan Bush Lodge you will enjoy morning and afternoon game drives in an open 4WD game viewing vehicle with a local Botswana guide will give you the opportunity to view all the big game of this environment. On day 5 you will head out on a full day game drive into Moremi Game Reserve before returning to the lodge in the late afternoon.



Day 4: breakfast & lunch provided by the tour leader with the help of the group

Day 4: buffet dinner provided by the lodge

Day 5: breakfast, lunch (picnic), buffet dinner provided by the lodge

Includes: Entrance fees to Moremi Game Reserve, morning & afternoon game drives in open 4WD vehicle

Overnight: Private tented bush lodge – twin permanent tents with en-suite facilities

Distance/time: 180kms ± 6 hours, excludes game drives & stops for wildlife viewing (Okavango–Lodge)

Day 6-7 SAVUTI [tented bushlodge BLD]

We continue our overland journey northwards, over the Mababe Sand Ridge and onto the Savuti Marsh. This open grassland area attracts herds of zebra and wildebeest, which in turn draw the large lion prides for which Savuti is famous. We overnight at a tented lodge in the central Chobe National Park at Savuti overlooking the channel.



Day 6-7: breakfast, lunch & dinner provided by the lodge

Includes: Entrance fees, morning and afternoon game drives in open 4WD game viewing vehicle
Overnight: Tented bush lodge – twin permanent tents with en-suite facilities
Distance/time: 180kms ± 6 hours, excludes game drives & stops for wildlife viewing (Moremi–Savuti)

Day 8-9 VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE [B - -]

After an early breakfast we enjoy our last game drive in this amazing area as we drive to the airstrip. Here the group will bid farewell to the safari tour leader who will return to Maun.

The group will fly by light aircraft from Savuti airstrip to Kasane Airport. At Kasane airport the group will be met by a representative and then take a minibus road transfer to the Rainbow Hotel in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. From this point the group will be lead by your organizer, Janice Davis.

Day 8-10: breakfast provided by the lodge

Day 8-9: lunch own expense

Day 8-9: dinner own expense (suggest taxi's to the Local Restaurant and back)

Includes: light aircraft from Savuti airstrip to Kasane Airport , road transfer from BBK to Rainbow Hotel, un- guided
Overnight: Hotel – twin rooms with en-suite facilities, swimming pool, restaurant & bar
Distance/time: 70kms – 1 hour, excluding border formalities
Activities: Victoria Falls and Craft Market.
Optional Activities: Available by choice and at your own expense.

Day 10 - Services end after breakfast. Transfers to airport available if required. Guests invited to stay additional days if you choose or fly to Cape Town and spend additional time exploring the wonders of the Point of South Africa (additional costs for optional excursions and extended tours not included) Ask for more info.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please Note:

- The distance and travel times quoted above are an estimate only, and subject to local road conditions
- When traveling in the Okavango Delta, Moremi & Chobe by light aircraft, the luggage limit is 20 kg's packed in a soft bag. The 20 kg luggage limit includes hand luggage and photographic equipment, which needs to be kept to a reasonable weight and quantity.
- No bookings for accommodation or local flights are held until payments are made therefore any booking is subject to availability.

COST

This is a custom tour designed just for us. The benefits of this custom safari are:

- The jeep is private to only your group. In addition to your company guide and tracker/driver it has enough seats for 12 people (4 rows of 3 each). However, we have limited the total number of guests to 8 so everyone gets an outside seat at all times. This gives you plenty of room for your photo and video equipment and the room to get GREAT shots. (NOTE: possible limited discount spots available for guests willing to sit 3 to a row on all drives once 8 spots are filled)
- Most camp and tent lodge accommodations are also private or only accommodate a minimum number of guests. This enhances your wilderness experience and often you will view the wildlife right at your front door/porch.
- Due to the distance from populated areas, the game reserves where we will spend our game viewing time are not generally traveled by "self-driving" vehicles or the large safari buses you will find in other locations. This gives your tracker/driver the opportunity spend more time viewing at a relaxed pace that meets the specific needs of your group.

Because everything is private or semi-private the costs are based on the number of people in your group (2 per room). Single travelers will be paired up with another single travelers of the same gender. Six person minimum (including guides & tracker/driver), 8 person maximum at 2 per row. Contact professional videographer, Janice Davis right away to reserve your space for this memory of a life-time experience.

Contact Information:

Janice Davis

Take 1 Productions

Janice@take1pro.net

(916) 366-7165

Rates are based on 2015 costs and number of people going. Actual 2016 costs will be available fall of 2015

8 people - \$7,504 per person sharing 2 per room*

7 people - \$7,818 per person sharing 2 per room*

6 people - \$8,292 per person sharing 2 per room*

* Costs are based on South American Rand, converted to US currency and subject to fluctuations based on current exchange at the time of payment. Costs above do not include airfare (except the private charter from Savuti to Kasane), tips, gratuities or souvenirs. Request additional information regarding Single supplement for travelers requesting private (1 person per room) accommodations. All payments made through US based Travel Agent.

DETAILED TOUR INFO

Accommodations

- **Maun – Crocodile Camp**, twin share bedrooms with en suite facilities. Swimming pool, bar, restaurant, telephone.
- **Okavango Delta – wilderness tented camp** - for 2 nights while in the Okavango Delta we overnight in a pre-erected tented camp. The facilities are very basic but we will provide a simple bucket bush shower and a toilet tent will be provided of the “sand and bury” variety. We need to take our own water and all equipment. Wild tented camping can be very enjoyable but please remember that we leave no trace of our stay and take all rubbish away with us. Tour company supplies all the camping equipment including use of a sleeping bag & camp pillow. The dome tents we use are 2.2 x 2.2 x 1.8 metres. Tents have built-in insect nets. We supply mattresses, which are about 5 cm thick, warm and comfortable. The camp chairs have a backrest.
- **Moremi – Hyena Pan tented bushlodge** – Exclusive private tented bushlodge, bordering Moremi Game Reserve. Twin share permanent tented lodge with en suite facilities.
- **Savuti – Savuti tented lodge** – Tented bush lodge. Twin share permanent tented lodge with en suite facilities.
- **Victoria Falls – Rainbow Hotel**, twin rooms with en-suite facilities. Swimming pool, restaurant, bar and telephone.

Transport

- On foot - easy to moderate walks throughout the tour –Okavango Delta & Victoria Falls. Duration from 1/2 - 4 hours.
- Mokoro - In the Okavango we use mokoro (dugout canoes), “poled” by our local guides, 2 people and their kit per mokoro.
- Open Game drives - for game viewing activities in Moremi Game Reserve and Chobe National Parks we use open game viewing 4WD vehicles. The vehicle has canvas roof and sides, which are open whenever possible, to allow for the best possible game viewing experience. (Remember to bring a warm jacket for the chilly early morning game drives!) The transfer into the delta is also with an open 4WD vehicle. This allows us the opportunity to really feel part of the bush, the smells, sounds and of course great views!

SOS trees project – Okavango Botswana

- For hundreds of years, the local communities in and around Botswana's Okavango Delta have used the wood of the sausage tree to craft their traditional mokoro (dugout canoes). The knowledge and skill have been passed down from generation to generation and, up until recently, has been a sustainable practice. With increasing numbers of people visiting the Delta each year, more mokoro are needed and as a direct result, more and more sausage trees are being felled and the sausage tree is sadly disappearing from the region. A traditional wooden mokoro will have to be replaced every five years, thereby placing increased pressure on the dwindling sausage tree supply.
- Local Safaris companies have established a project to encourage polers in the local communities to buy replica fiberglass mokoro's, which have a lifespan of approximately ten years, are more stable and are produced without any negative affect to the environment. As such, sponsorship for each fiberglass mokoro is needed, and a portion of the tour cost will be donated to the project.

Participation

- An essential part of your Safari is participation – from helping around the camp fire, to packing away in the morning, to helping with cleaning up – it's all part of your adventure and when everyone puts in a little effort the trip will run smoothly. Your tour leaders will do all the meal preparation but we do ask the clients to help with the washing up. Team-work with new friends is part of the fun!

Recommended reading

Before you travel you might want to read any of the following books. While not specific to your tour, they do provide some background understanding of the countries you will be visiting.

- #1 Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith (Fictional story of life in Botswana)
- Trees of the Okavango by Veronica Roodt (A reference book with traditional uses and myths)

- Okavango: Jewel of the Kalahari by Karen Ross (A comprehensive description of the Delta ecology)
- Don't run whatever you do by Peter Allison (A guide's perspective of Botswana lodge life)
- Okavango: Africa's Last Eden by Frans Lanting (A coffee table book of photography)
- Newman's Birds of Southern Africa by Kenneth Newman
- Sasol Birds of Southern Africa by Ian Sinclair, Phil Hockey, and W.R. Tarboton
- The Safari Companion: A Guide to Watching African Mammals Including Hoofed Mammals, Carnivores, and Primates by Richard D. Estes and Daniel Otte
- Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa (Field Guides) by Braam Van Wyk, Keith Coates Palgrav, and Piet Van Wyk
- The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild by Lawrence Anthony & Graham Spence. (True story of how Anthony accepted a herd of "rogue" wild elephants on his Thula Thula game reserve to give them a final chance of survival.)

Shopping

- Craft shopping for carvings, batiks, paintings and clothing are best in Victoria Falls which has a wide variety of curios. Botswana has beautiful grass weavings. If time allows, we may also visit Sibanda's Craft shop in Maun.

Food

- We pride ourselves on giving very good healthy meals to our clients and will provide three meals per day, except where shown in itinerary, when we try out local restaurants.
- The tour leaders do the shopping and meal planning and preparation when not at a lodge. He/she will always try to obtain fresh produce wherever possible. A rough idea of what these will consist of is: Breakfast - cereals or coffee and toast or the occasional fried breakfast, Lunch - cheese, cold meats, salads on bread or rolls, Dinner - braais (local barbecue), potjies (stews), stir fries etc. We use regular plates, cups and cutlery. All cooking and eating utensils will also be provided.
- We do cater for special dietary requirements (e.g. vegetarian or allergies.)
- We will supply fruit squash (beverage) served with breakfast and tea or coffee served with breakfast and dinner. All other beverages will be at your own expense. Bottled drinking water is available for purchase at many shops on our way to/from game lodges.

Difficulty

- Anyone who is generally active and in good health should enjoy this trip. The accommodation used is simple but clean and this trip will appeal to anyone interested in getting the real wilderness of Botswana.
- Full itinerary with a couple of long drives. The road conditions through the wilderness areas are very poor and our progress can at times be slow and dusty. Remember to hold on at all times and enjoy the ride!

Things you should know

- Includes park entrances, game drives and the Okavango Delta excursion.
- You will need a valid passport and visas for entry into South Africa, Botswana & Zimbabwe.
- Luggage, please pack to a limit of 20kgs in a soft-sided sports bag. Also bring daypack for walks and keeping in the vehicle.
- We recommend that you bring Euro, US\$ or South African Rand for personal expenses on this trip but please note that foreign currency will need to be changed into Botswana Pula as shops, restaurants and market vendors only accept BWP. Expenses in Victoria Falls can be paid in US\$ and major credit cards can also be used for optional activities.
- Traveller's cheques can be changed in Maun, Kasane and Victoria Falls.