



Experience. The Difference.

Namibia, Botswana and Victoria Falls

9 June-1 July 2023

\$32,995 pp twinshare, \$35,495 pp single.



Fri 09 Depart Christchurch at 605am for Qantas flight via Sydney to Johannesburg, arriving 240pm local time.

ARRIVE JOHANNESBURG

Upon arrival at OR Tambo International Airport you will be met airside and assisted to your transit hotel.

Protea Hotel OR Tambo Airport Transit

Accommodation for 1 night in Superior Rooms including breakfast vouchers

In: 09 Jun 23 Out: 10 Jun 23

Turn a long layover into a refreshing experience at the convenient Protea Hotel O R Tambo Airport Transit where day use and overnight rooms offer an ideal reprieve between flights for weary international travellers. Enjoy the convenience of not having to collect your luggage upon arrival, check in and relax while in transit at Protea Hotel O R Tambo Airport Transit. Please note that the hotel is not suitable for domestic passengers or guests, as it is situated inside the international terminal at the O R Tambo International Airport. Guests must not clear customs or immigrations, and should follow the signs towards International Transfers. Guests will need their boarding pass or e-ticket upon check in. A visa is not required and you may only bring in hand luggage.

Sat 10 JOHANNESBURG > WINDHOEK (B)(D)

This morning make your own way to the departure gate for your onward flight to Windhoek. Upon arrival in Windhoek, clear customs & immigration and make your way to the arrivals hall. Here you will be met by a local representative who will escort you to your private vehicle for transfer to your hotel.

Hilton Windhoek

Accommodation for 1 night in Standard Rooms including breakfast

In: 10 Jun 23 Out: 11 Jun 23

In the heart of Namibia's capital city lies the spectacular Hilton Hotel. In an exceptional downtown location, Hilton Windhoek emanates pure opulence with impressive facilities and Hilton's hallmark hospitality. The Hilton Windhoek Hotel's lobby lounge and café, Centrum, features large bay windows and warm, neutral decor. With 110 seats split over a stylish lounge area and a tree-shaded, decked terrace, Centrum at the Hilton Windhoek Hotel overlooks the vibrant city of Windhoek. The Hilton offers 150 rooms and suites which feature traditional African inspired décor and are furnished with king-sized beds, LCD TV, high-speed internet access and an elegant en-suite bathroom with a range of luxurious amenities and separate rain shower.

A Welcome Dinner is included this evening with your private naturalist guides at the popular Joe's Beerhouse.

With 250,000 inhabitants, Namibia's capital of Windhoek is the biggest city in the country. The attractive town lies at an altitude of 1650 metres in a beautiful valley bordered by the Eros Mountains in the north and the Auas mountains in the south. Towards the west, stretches the Khomas Highland to the Namib and the coast. Windhoek combines the modern city architectural style with that of the German colonial era. The influence of the German language and culture is, in many ways, still present. There are German restaurants where one can have traditional German dishes, bread and beer, and even celebrate the German carnival. Although English is the official language, one can use German just about anywhere.



Sun 11 WINDHOEK > SOSSUSVLEI (B)(L)(D)

Today you will commence your privately guided 10 day Ultimate Namibia Safari. You will travel in luxury air-conditioned safari vehicles with a maximum of seven group members per vehicle and mineral water supplied onboard. Luggage is normally restricted to 20 kg (not including photographic equipment) per person in a soft, hold all type bag. Weight is generally less important than volume as everything is carried with you on safari.

You will have a professional and experienced safari guide per vehicle who will enhance your enjoyment of this unique country by making it a fascinating and stress-free journey of discovery amidst very dramatic scenery. The knowledge, experience and attitude of the guides are critical to a successful safari and they are both personable and very professional.

Your guides will have an intimate knowledge of each area and camp/lodge that you visit, allowing them to share the local highlights whilst adding continuity and depth to your safari. It goes without saying that they know exactly what a "True African Safari" is all about. Not only are the guides highly qualified, each has a specific area of expertise. Together they possess the breadth and depth of knowledge to allow them to answer questions and satisfy the particular interests of all of the group members.

At around 8.00 am you will be collected from your accommodation to begin your drive southwest through the scenic Khomas Hochland highlands before heading down the Great Escarpment into the Namib Desert below, stopping for a picnic lunch at a scenic location along the way.

Arrive at Desert Homestead Lodge in the mid-afternoon for a two night stay. From the lodge you will explore the remarkable sights of the Namib Desert with your guide. If there is still time today, your guide will take you to visit Sesriem Canyon, a nearby geological attraction, or explore Elim Dune. If you prefer, you can just relax and soak in the scenic and tranquil surroundings at the lodge.

Desert Homestead Lodge

Accommodation for 2 nights in Standard Rooms including all meals and excursions with your private guides

In: 11 Jun 23 Out: 13 Jun 23



Desert Homestead Lodge is ideally located 30km south-east of Sesriem, the gateway to the Namib Naukluft National Park. The Lodge offers comfortable accommodation in thatched en-suite chalets with relaxed hospitality in a natural atmosphere. Meals can be enjoyed within the indoor dining room complete with candles and fireplace, or alternately on the traditional wide farm verandah with lanterns and stars adding to the ambience. There is also an inviting swimming pool to cool off and a guest lounge and library to curl up indoors. For keen horse riders' morning and afternoon rides can be arranged.



Mon 12 SOSSUSVLEI (B)(L)(D)

This morning you will need to rise early for a magical excursion with your guides in the Namib Naukluft National Park, normally setting off before sunrise to capture the dunes whilst the light is soft and shadows accentuate the towering shapes and curves. This area boasts some of the highest free-standing sand dunes in the world, and your guide will give you an insight on the formation of the Namib Desert and its myriad of fascinating creatures and plants that have adapted to survive these harsh environs.



This most frequently visited section of the massive 50,000 km² Namib Naukluft National Park has become known as Sossusvlei, famous for its towering apricot coloured sand dunes which can be reached by following the Tsauchab River valley. Sossusvlei itself is actually a clay pan set amidst these star shaped dunes which stand up to 300 metres above the surrounding plains, ranking them among the tallest dunes on earth. The deathly white clay pan contrasts against the orange sands and forms the endpoint of the ephemeral Tsauchab River, within the interior of the Great Sand Sea. The river course rises south of the Naukluft Mountains in the Great Escarpment. It penetrates the sand sea for some 55 kilometres before it finally peters out at Sossusvlei, about the same distance from the Atlantic Ocean. Until the encroaching dunes blocked its course around 60,000 years ago, the Tsauchab River once reached the sea; as ephemeral rivers still do in the northern half of the Namib. Sand-locked pans to the west show where the river previously flowed to before dunes shifted its endpoint to where it currently gathers at Sossusvlei.



Once you have explored Sossusvlei, Dead Vlei and surrounding dune fields to your heart's content you can enjoy a relaxed picnic brunch in the shade of a camel thorn tree.

Return to your lodge in the early afternoon in time for a late lunch, with the option to visit Sesriem Canyon afterwards if you haven't already done so the day before. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure.

Tue 13 SOSSUSVLEI > SWAKOPMUND (B)(L)(D)

This morning after breakfast your guides will meet you to commence today's touring.

The fascinating drive today takes you northwest through awesome and ever changing desert landscapes of the Namib Naukluft National Park, including the impressive Gaub and Kuiseb canyons. You will meet the coast at the port town of Walvis Bay and then continue north to Swakopmund where you can enjoy the pleasant seaside location and cooler coastal air for the next two nights.

There will be time this afternoon to explore the town and wander along the waterfront on foot (please note that most shops and businesses close at lunchtime over weekends and public holidays), before heading off to dinner with your guides at a popular restaurant which specializes in fresh seafood.

NOTE: As an alternative to the drive from Desert Homestead Lodge to Swakopmund you may like to take a scenic light aircraft flight over Sossusvlei and along the Diamond Coast (optional extra at additional cost), allowing you a bird's eye view over the dune sea, abandoned mining camps, shipwrecks, Sandwich Harbour and salt pans before you land at Swakopmund Airport. Your guide will drive to meet up with you in Swakopmund later in the day. *Please note that if taking this optional flight it will need to be booked exclusively with the tour operator for absolute logistical reasons and in order to fit in with other timings for this day.*



Today Swakopmund is a popular holiday resort, but it had a very important function as a harbour town during the German colonial time and the many old buildings dating back to the turn of the century give the town a special flair. Considered by most Namibians to be the country's only real holiday resort, this

old German town spreads from the mouth of the Swakop River out into the surrounding desert plain. Climatically more temperate than the interior, the palm-lined streets, immaculate old buildings and well-kept gardens give Swakop (as the locals call it) a unique atmosphere, and make it a pleasant oasis to spend some time.



Hansa Hotel

Accommodation for 2 nights in Standard Rooms including breakfast

In: 13 Jun 23 Out: 15 Jun 23

A timeless classic forming part of Swakopmund's architectural culture is the grand Hansa Hotel, dating back to 1905. Conveniently located in the centre of town, the Hansa Hotel is within easy walking distance to the waterfront, shops, cafes, the aquarium, Crystal Gallery and other attractions which Swakopmund has to offer. Not only is the Hansa Hotel world renowned for its outstanding cuisine, but also comparable with the most prestigious address encountered abroad. This luxurious residence places emphasis not only on personalised service and elegant style, but also affordability.

Wed 14 SWAKOPMUND (B)(L)(D)

After an early breakfast your guide will drive you along the scenic coastal road back south to Walvis Bay for a memorable kayaking adventure within the outer lagoon.



After meeting your kayaking guide you will be taken on a short scenic drive to Pelican Point to see its lighthouse and windswept beauty, stopping briefly at the salt works to view the variety of birdlife on your way to the launch point. Kayaking is an ideal way of seeing Cape fur seals, Heaviside and bottlenose dolphins, pelicans, flamingos and a wide variety of other sea birds. If you are lucky, there is also a chance of seeing whales, leatherback turtles and sunfish. During the course of the day the guide will stop and inform you about the environment. Light refreshments will be served on the beach.

If kayaking does not appeal, you have the choice to partake in a motorised boat seal and dolphin excursion within the outer lagoon and harbour, with the chance of seeing the same variety of wildlife as on the kayaking expedition. Snacks will be served, along with local sparkling wine and fresh oysters, before returning to the jetty at around midday.

At the conclusion of your kayaking or motorised boat excursion, you will have the opportunity to explore the waterfront area of Walvis Bay further before returning to Swakopmund for an afternoon at leisure. Activities such as camel rides, scenic flights, quad-biking in the coastal dunes, tandem or solo sky diving and more can all be booked at an extra cost.

In the evening you head off to dinner with your guides at one of the popular restaurants in Swakopmund.

Thur 15 SWAKOPMUND > DAMARALAND (B)(L)(D)

Continuing on your safari today, the road takes you north and east into the wonderful and diverse region of Damaraland. Pass Namibia's highest mountain, the Brandberg which peaks at 2,573 metres above sea level, and take time to view game and absorb the vastness of the scenery along the way.

Damaraland is typified by displays of colour, magnificent table topped mountains, rock formations and bizarre-looking vegetation. The present day landscape has been formed by the erosion of wind, water and geological forces which have formed rolling hills, dunes, gravel plains and ancient river terraces. It is the variety and loneliness of the area as well as the scenic splendour which will reward and astound you, giving one an authentic understanding of the word 'wilderness'.

If time allows this afternoon your guide will take you to visit the nearby attractions and geological sites of the pre-historic Twyfelfontein rock engravings (recently declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site), Burnt Mountain and the Organ Pipes - if not there is plenty of time to see them tomorrow.

Twyfelfontein Country Lodge

Accommodation for 2 nights in Standard Rooms including all meals and excursions with your private guides

In: 15 Jun 23 Out: 17 Jun 23



Twyfelfontein Country Lodge lies in the heart of Damaraland, ideally located a short drive from the local attractions in the area. The Lodge is spread along the base of an impressive sandstone mountain, a short distance from the ephemeral Aba Huab riverbed where desert adapted elephants often traverse. Guests are accommodated in comfortable thatched en-suite rooms. The expansive main area of the lodge boasts an open dining room, bar, reception, curio shop and swimming pool.



After an early breakfast you will be treated to an exciting 4x4 excursion along the ephemeral Aba Huab and Huab River valleys to explore this remarkable region and to search for game, including the elusive desert adapted elephants if they are in the area. Damaraland is home to a variety of desert adapted wildlife and hidden desert treasures. As the elephants are mostly active in the mornings you will normally have the best chance to see them then before returning to camp for lunch. However, if all the safari participants agree, you also have the option to take a picnic lunch and stop to enjoy that in the shade of a large Ana tree by the riverbed, ideally while watching a herd of elephant browsing nearby.



In habitats with sufficient vegetation and water an adult elephant consumes as much as 300 kg of roughage and 230 litres of water every day of its life. Consider what a herd of them would eat and drink in a week or a month or a year. Finding an African elephant in a desert? Well, yes and not only elephant, but other large mammals as well, such as black rhinoceros and giraffe. Their ranges extend from river catchments in northern Kaokoveld as far south as the northern Namib. Apart from the Kunene River, seven river courses northwards from the Ugab provide them with possible routes across the desert, right to the Skeleton Coast. The biggest are the Hoarusib, the Hoanib, the Huab and the Ugab Rivers. Desert adapted elephant in Kaokoland and the Namib walk further for water and fodder than any other elephant in Africa. The distances between waterholes and feeding grounds can be as great as 68 km. The typical home range of a family herd is larger than 2,000 km², or eight times as big as ranges in central Africa where rainfall is much higher. They walk and feed at night and rest during the day. To meet their nutritional and bulk requirements they browse on no fewer than 74 of the 103 plant species that grow in their range. Not a separate species or even a subspecies, they are an ecotype unique to Namibia in Africa south of the equator, behaviourally adapted to hyper-arid conditions. Elephant in Mali on the southwestern fringe of the Sahara Desert are the only others known to survive in similar conditions.

Your guide will arrange a visit to Twyfelfontein and other nearby attractions at a suitable time if you didn't fit it in yesterday. On return to camp there should be time to take a walk into the local area with your guide if desired, or simply relax and enjoy some leisure time.



Today after an early breakfast you set off on your journey to the outskirts of the southern boundary of the Etosha National Park. Along the way your guides will take you to visit a Himba 'Living Museum'. At the Living Museum you will be able to meet some of the local community who will be happy to demonstrate elements of their traditional lifestyle. The Himba are one of the last truly traditional peoples of Namibia and they are normally nomadic, but those that have settled here are now firmly established and unlikely to move on. They have little time for conventional practices but welcome visitors who want to learn about the customs and traditions of this very proud nation, and they are very willing to offer insight into their beliefs, way of life and everyday routine.

A picnic lunch will be enjoyed en-route and arrival at the lodge will be in the late afternoon. After your arrival you will have some time at leisure, which can be spent appreciating the unique surroundings.



Enjoy time at leisure appreciating the lodge's unique surroundings.

Etosha Safari Lodge

Accommodation for 1 night in Standard Bungalows including all meals and excursions with your private guides

In: 17 Jun 23 Out: 18 Jun 23

Etosha Safari Lodge is situated on a hillock overlooking the African bush savannah, approximately 9km from the southern entrance to the Etosha National Park. Each en-suite chalet offers a warm and creative African ambience and has air-conditioning and mosquito netting. Apart from the restaurant and bar, there is a wooden deck ideal for enjoying sundowners high above the Mopani bush, and three inviting swimming pools.



Sun 18

SOUTHERN > EASTERN ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK (B)(L)(D)

Etosha National Park covers 22,270 km², of which approximately 5,000 km² is made up of saline depressions or 'pans'. The largest of these pans, the Etosha Pan, can be classified as a saline desert in its own right. The Etosha Pan lies in the Owambo Basin, on the north-western edge of the Namibian Kalahari Desert. Until three million years ago it formed part of huge, shallow lake that was reduced to a complex of salt pans when the major river that fed it, the Kunene, changed course and began to flow to the Atlantic instead. If the lake existed today, it would be the third largest in the world.



Etosha is the largest of the pans at 4,760 km² in extent. It is nowadays filled with water only when sufficient rain falls to the north in Angola, inducing floods to flow southward along the Cuvelai drainage system. The park consists of grassland, woodland and savannah. Game-viewing centres around the numerous springs and waterholes where several different species can often be seen at one time. Etosha boasts some 114 mammal and over 340 bird species. Wildlife that one might see includes elephant, lion, giraffe, blue wildebeest, eland, kudu, gemsbok (oryx), zebra, rhino, cheetah, leopard, hyena, honey badger and warthog, as well as the endemic black faced impala.



Today is dedicated to a full day of exciting game viewing within the central section of Etosha National Park from your private safari vehicles as you make your way from the southern Andersson's Gate to Halali (where you may stop for lunch) and then on across via selected waterholes such as Goas, which are particularly good for game viewing, to Namutoni Camp in the east.

You will have to leave the park before sunset and head out to stay at Mokuti Etosha Lodge with enough time to relax and freshen up before for dinner. The rest of the evening can be spent game viewing at the camp's floodlit waterhole where game comes and goes throughout the day and night.

Mushara Lodge

**Accommodation for 2 nights in Chalets including all meals and excursions with your private guides
In: 18 Jun 23 Out: 20 Jun 23**

Located just 8km from the Von Lindequist Gate on the eastern boundary of Etosha National Park, Mushara Lodge is an ideal overnight stop for visitors to the game reserve. The lodge consists of ten spacious chalets, one family unit, a triple room and two single rooms. The name Mushara is derived from the Purple Pod Terminalia tree which grows abundantly on the lodge grounds and in the surroundings. The thatched public area includes a small library with a selection of good books, a bar with an extensive wine cellar, an airy lounge complete with welcoming fireplace for winter evenings, a dining area and a well-stocked curio shop. Great attention has been paid to the décor, which is an eclectic blend of traditional African and modern works of art mixed with original older paintings.



Ten well-spaced thatched chalets are arranged in horseshoe shape around the swimming pool. All the chalets and individual rooms are extremely spacious and equipped with air-conditioning, mosquito net, mini-bar, safe, tea and coffee station, sockets for charging storage batteries and direct telephone connection. The bathrooms are en-suite with shower and separate toilette. One of Mushara's prominent features is its large bright blue swimming pool, surrounded by green lawns which are kept perfectly manicured by visiting local wildlife.



Mon 19 ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK (B)(L)(D)

Today is dedicated to memorable game drives within the eastern section of Etosha National Park with your guides, including a picnic lunch inside the park. You leave the park before sunset to return your lodge with enough time to relax and freshen up before for dinner. The rest of the evening is spent at leisure.



Thu 20 ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK > WINDHOEK (B)(L)(D)

An early departure this morning as your journey takes you south from Mushara Lodge via Tsumeb, Otavi and Otjiwarongo to reach Okonjima's AfriCat Day Centre, a wonderful highlight with which to conclude your safari. You embark on an exciting and informative game drive and tour of the centre to learn about the function and vision of the AfriCat Foundation. Afterwards you will be able to see some

of the ambassador cheetahs in the large enclosures before returning to the lodge for lunch. Please note there will be no tracking of wild cats on this visit.



From here you continue your journey back to Windhoek and further to the Windhoek International Airport for your late afternoon/early evening outbound flight to Johannesburg.

Upon arrival at Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport make your own way to your overnight transit hotel.

Protea Hotel OR Tambo Airport Transit

Accommodation for 1 night in Superior Rooms including breakfast vouchers

In: 20 Jun 23 Out: 21 Jun 23

Wed 21 JOHANNESBURG > VICTORIA FALLS (B)(D)

This morning make your own way to the departure gate for your onward flight to Victoria Falls.

Upon arrival at Victoria Falls Airport, and after clearing entry formalities and collecting your luggage, you will be met by our local representative and transferred by private vehicle to your accommodation.

Victoria Falls Safari Lodge

Accommodation for 3 nights in Lodge Standard Rooms including breakfast

In: 21 Jun 23 Out: 24 Jun 23



Overlooking the expansive wild plateau of the Zambezi National Park, the Victoria Falls Safari Lodge is just four kilometres from the thundering Victoria Falls. With tasteful African-inspired décor and furnishings, the stylish en-suite rooms all have private balconies with spectacular bush views. Buffalo, elephant, warthogs, antelope and an abundance of birds are easily spotted at the hotel's waterhole while dining at the hotel's award-winning Makuwa-Kuwa restaurant or enjoying sundowners at the open-air Buffalo Bar. The lodge offers a complimentary scheduled shuttle service to transport guests to the Victoria Falls and town centre.



Lodge Standard Room

The Victoria Falls Safari Lodge Standard Rooms all have a balcony with a view overlooking the Zambezi National Park. The rooms are furnished with double or twin beds and have an en-suite bathroom with a rain shower and mini bar. All rooms are air-conditioned and also have ceiling fans.



Insiders' Tips:

- Spoil yourself with a soul-soothing treatment at the hotel's splendid spa.
- Take a gentle stroll towards the David Livingstone Statue.
- After a rewarding day of sightseeing, splash out in one of the hotel's sparkling swimming pools

Dinner this evening (table d'hôte) is included at Victoria Falls Safari Lodge's award-winning MaKuwa-Kuwa Restaurant which is open on three sides and overlooks a game-rich waterhole,

offering a unique opportunity to view elephant and other wildlife as you enjoy your meal – truly some of the finest dining in Victoria Falls.



Africa's undisputed "Adventure Capital", the Victoria Falls is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, not only because it is the largest curtain of falling water on the planet, but it is also a haven for the most diverse and easily seen wildlife of any major waterfall site. Known by the locals as "Mosi-oa-Tunya" (meaning the Smoke that Thunders), it was the British missionary - David Livingstone - that named the Falls "Victoria Falls" when he discovered them in the 1850s. Straddling Zambia and Zimbabwe, the Falls are by some measures the largest in the world, as well as being among the most unusual in form. Although neither the highest nor the widest, the claim of being the largest is based on a width of 1.7 km and height of 108 m, forming the largest sheet of falling water in the world. The unusual form of Victoria Falls enables virtually the whole width of the Falls to be viewed face-on, at the same level as the top, from as close as 60 m, because the whole Zambezi River drops into a deep and narrow chasm, connected to a long series of gorges. Few other waterfalls allow such a close approach on foot.

Thu 22 VICTORIA FALLS (B)(D)

This morning you will be collected from your hotel for a private tour of the Falls on the Zimbabwe side (including Park Fee).



Your tour begins with a visit to the Victoria Falls Map Room where your guide will explain the fascinating history, layout and geology of the falls. Afterwards, make your way on foot to the David Livingstone Statue and then onwards through the flourishing rainforest to the beautiful view points of Cataract View, Devil's Cataract, the main falls and then lastly to the Eastern Cataract. During your walk through the rainforest, you will have the opportunity to view the numerous birds, butterflies and smaller animals that have settled in these lush surrounds as well as view huge mahogany, wild fig, sausage trees and delicate orchids.

At the conclusion of your visit return to your lodge for some free time through to mid-afternoon.

This afternoon you will be collected for a sunset cruise on the Zambezi. Sail upstream to celebrate the setting African sun. Share in the end of day ritual which sees wild herds streaming to the river banks for

their last drink. Flocks of birds skim the waterline as the sun sets behind the African skyline. Enjoy the range of beverages served with an accompaniment of delectable hors d' oeuvres. Make sure you have your camera with you to capture some special moments!



At the conclusion of your cruise, you will be returned to your lodge to enjoy the remainder of the evening at your leisure.

Fri 23 VICTORIA FALLS (B)(D)

A free day at leisure to explore independently with dinner included at your lodge this evening.

Sat 24 VICTORIA FALLS > SAVUTE (CHOBE NATIONAL PARK) (B)(D)

Today you will be collected from your lodge and transferred by scheduled/shared service to Kasane Airport in Botswana. From Kasane you will take a scheduled/shared light aircraft flight to Savute Airstrip in the far west of Chobe National Park.

** Maximum luggage allowance on all light aircraft flights within Botswana is 20kg per person incl. hand luggage and camera equipment in soft bags only.

On arrival you will be met and transferred with fellow guests to your lodge.

Savute Safari Lodge

Accommodation for 2 nights in Suites including all meals, refreshments, selected local spirits and wines, laundry service, scheduled activities and national park fees.

In: 24 Jun 23 Out: 26 Jun 23



Savute Safari Lodge accommodates only 24 guests in local timber and glass suites with cool thatching, beautifully furnished in fresh colours. All chalets have private decks, a combined bedroom and lounge area and en-suite facilities, which sets the lodge apart from typical safari accommodation. The lounge, library and cocktail bar are situated in the exquisite thatch and timber main building. Overlooking the channel, Savute boasts a viewing deck, al fresco dining area and swimming pool - ideal for watching game at the water hole. The viewing deck is utilized for brunch and dinner, however is dependent on

weather and animal activity at night. After dinner, enjoy a night-cap by the fire-side whilst viewing the bull elephants congregate at the water-hole for their night-cap.



Insiders' Tips:

- Relax in the pool while watching the elephants quench their thirst at a nearby waterhole.
- Head to the library sitting room to relax or curl up with a book from the wide selection available.
- Ask your hosts about the outing to view ancient San (Bushmen) rock paintings in the hills.

Sun 25 SAVUTE (B)(L)(D)

Activities are organised around game drives throughout the Savute area in open 4x4 safari vehicles. Many trips will incorporate a visit to the Savute Marsh to give you a chance to see the historic presence of the Savute Channel at the marsh against a backdrop of teeming wildlife. Guests can also enjoy a visit to the ancient San rock paintings at Gubatsa Hills – a small hilly outcrop which forms a prominent landmark in the otherwise flat landscape.



Savute, a remote and wild corner of Chobe National Park, stretches from the park's northern boundaries to the Linyanti River. The area's main feature is the mysterious Savute Channel, which flows and dries up seemingly unrelated to the rainfall. Dry and arid for almost 30 years, animals in the area were sustained by artificial waterholes. The Savute Channel started flowing again in 2009, but stopped again about three years ago.



Savute is a famous battleground for lions and spotted hyena, and guests can also enjoy frequent sightings of zebra, wildebeest, buffalo, giraffe, tsessebe and kudu. You will also learn about the vegetation of the region and the behaviour of the animals that you come across. In some cases, the guides will be able to identify individual animals and let you know about their history and habits.



Mon 26 SAVUTE > OKAVANGO DELTA (B)(L)(D)

Today you will be transferred with fellow guests to Savute Airstrip for your scheduled/shared light aircraft flight to the Okavango Delta. On arrival you will be transferred with fellow guests to your accommodation.

Xugana Island Lodge

Accommodation for 2 nights in Chalets with ensuite bathroom including all main meals, local spirits and wine, scheduled safari activities, national park fees and laundry.

In: 26 Jun 23 Out: 28 Jun 23



Xugana Island Lodge is perfectly positioned on a private concession in the seasonal water of the Okavango Delta, where the surrounding wilderness is home to spectacular wildlife sightings. Each spacious raised reed and thatch chalet looks out over the lagoon and features a private viewing deck.

Here you can relax in the main lodge's lounge or enjoy a drink at the bar, all situated under an Ebony and African Mangosteen tree canopy. The al fresco dining area and open boma overlooks the Xugana lagoon's expanse of pristine water of this unique delta.

Luxury Safari Cabin

Luxurious thatch lagoon-facing chalets with sliding glass doors and private viewing teak decks are situated on the shaded fringe of the island. En-suite bathrooms are comprised of a lagoon facing shower, double hand basin and toilet.



Tue 27 OKAVANGO DELTA (B)(L)(D)

Enjoy a full day of scheduled safari activities from Xugana Island Lodge, a pure water paradise which gives you the chance to experience a true Okavango Delta safari. All activities are conducted by experienced professional guides. Explore the crystal-clear waterways by mokoro (traditional dugout canoe) or motorboat, and enjoy the magnificent variety of bird, plant and reptile species found in the area.

Guided Nature Walks

Guided nature walks on the various islands allow for the opportunity to track some of the larger species that inhabit this water wilderness.



Motorboat Safaris

Explore the crystal-clear waterways and deeper channels of the Okavango Delta by motorboat and enjoy the magnificent variety of bird, plant and wildlife species found in the area.

Mokoro Safaris

Explore the crystal-clear waterways by mokoro (traditional dugout canoe) and enjoy the magnificent variety of bird, plant and reptile species found in the area.



Optional Day & Night Drives

Take the opportunity to explore the surrounding islands on day and night game drives with your expert guide in search of the prolific wildlife which inhabit the region.



Bird Watching and Fishing

Bird-watching opportunities are outstanding, and fishing for bream and tiger fish is also offered as an activity at the camp (seasonal)



Botswana's magnificent Okavango Delta is a maze of lagoons, lakes, hidden channels, islands forested with palms and wide grassy floodplains covering an area of over 16,000 km² in flood and shrinking to less than 9,000 km² in the dry season. Trapped in the parched Kalahari sands, the fresh water oasis attracts wildlife that depends on the permanent waters of this unique wilderness. The water supply comes from the Okavango River that flows over 1,000 km from its source in Angola before disappearing beneath the sands of Botswana, creating a lush inland delta in the midst of this otherwise arid country. The Okavango Delta is in a constant state of flux, expanding and contracting according to the rainy season. While some parts of the delta remain permanently flooded, others only experience high water levels from May to September, when rainwaters from Angola reach the outer stretches of the Okavango.



The permanent swamp areas that make up a third of the delta are lush and green, with groves of wild date palm, papyrus and water lilies growing around deep lagoons lined with riverine forest. Seasonal swamps, on the other hand, contain a network of small channels that cut their way through papyrus and reed beds to create islands of all shapes and sizes. As the floodwaters recede, the islands grow large until, eventually, water only remains in depressions in the landscape, which turns into open grassland.



Wed 28 OKAVANGO DELTA (B)(L)(D)

Today you will be transferred with fellow guests to the airstrip for your scheduled/shared light aircraft flight to Xakanaxa Airstrip where you will be met and transferred to your camp.

Camp Xakanaxa

Accommodation for 2 nights in Tented Suites with en suite bathroom. Your stay includes all meals, refreshments, selected spirits and wines, laundry service, scheduled activities, and national park fees.

In: 28 Jun 23 Out: 30 Jun 23



The prime location of Camp Xakanaxa (pronounced Ka-ka-na-ka) on the banks of the Khwai River on the Xakanaxa Lagoon, in the heart of the Moremi Game Reserve, makes it one of the very few safari camps that offers guests an authentic, year-round Okavango Delta land and water safari experience.

The camp accommodates twenty-four guests in twelve spacious all-canvas, classic Meru-style luxury safari tents, with en suite showers, hand basins and toilet facilities. Situated around the fringe of the lagoon, every tent has a private viewing deck with comfortable loungers. Camp Xakanaxa is one of the few camps in Botswana which still offers the essence of a classic tented camp.

The stylish main buildings extend over the Khwai River and are set on raised platforms to maximise the views over the surrounding lagoons and islands. The elegant lounge and dining rooms, built of local timber, reed and thatch, feature a small library, expansive sundeck, plunge pool and sala with day bed. The fire-deck extends over the Khwai River and creates an enchanting environment in which to relax after dinner. There is also a larger pool with elevated sun deck in the expansive grounds.

Authentic Safari Tent

The camp accommodates 24 guests in canvas Meru-style safari tents on raised decks. The spacious and tastefully furnished luxury tents have either twin or double beds and ensuite showers.



Insiders' Tips:

- Soak up the spectacular views of the Khwai River and Xakanaxa Lagoon.
- Relax on the raised sundeck or cool off in your plunge pool.
- After a long day exploring the wonders of the Okavango delta, unwind while sipping on a gin and tonic around a blazing campfire on the fire deck.

Thu **29** **OKAVANGO DELTA** (B)(L)(D)

Spend the day enjoying the scheduled activities from Camp Xakanaxa. The ancient riverine forests, open savannah, serpentine channels and seasonal floodplains that surround the camp make for a varied habitat of exceptional fauna and flora. The camp is one of few offering a year-round land and water game-viewing experience, in open 4x4 safari vehicles or powerboats. The diverse habitat ensures prolific sightings of elephant, buffalo, hyena, giraffe, hippo, wildebeest, kudu, lechwe, lion and leopard, among many others. Birding is spectacular, especially in the spring and summer months when the migrants are breeding.



The area has abundant elephant, lion, leopard and hippo and is also well known for a vast number of

antelope, including impala, kudu and waterbuck. Birdlife is also prolific. Safari activities are conducted by licensed guides eager to share their in-depth knowledge and impart the treasured secrets of this great wilderness.

Camp Xakanaxa game drives

Guest activities include morning and afternoon game drives throughout the many different ecosystems that the Moremi Game Reserve has to offer.



Camp Xakanaxa motorised boating trips

Explore the Xakanaxa Lagoon and its surrounding channels by boat for a chance to enjoy the picturesque waters of the Okavango Delta



The only proclaimed wildlife reserve in the Okavango Delta, Moremi Game Reserve is also widely regarded as the most beautiful. Set aside in 1963 by the Batawana tribe, the reserve is rated as Africa's most beautiful wildlife sanctuary. Moremi Game Reserve has the most diverse habitat and animal populations in Botswana.



Covering approximately a third of the eastern portion of the Okavango Delta, the Moremi Game Reserve combines permanent waterways with drier areas, creating a reserve filled with unexpected contrasts and diverse wildlife. Although it is not one of the country's largest reserves, its tall mopane woodlands

and spreading floodplains fringed with majestic palms make it one of Africa's most scenic wilderness areas. Riverine forests are dominated by jackalberry, mangosteen and sausage trees.



The richly varied habitats make Moremi the ideal place to combine typical savanna game viewing with leisurely cruises along lagoons and channels, and abundant bird watching. Dense riverine forests are home to shy leopard and deep lagoons are inhabited by hippo, while the semi-aquatic red lechwe and sitatunga antelope can be seen wading the shallows. Buffalo, giraffe, lion, leopard, cheetah, hyena and jackal can all be spotted on the floodplains and among Moremi's drier areas. A birdwatcher's paradise, the rich and diverse habitat of the reserve is home to a surprising diversity of birds, with almost 500 species, from water birds to forest dwellers. The area is also well known for containing a significant percentage of Africa's wild dog, which are regularly sighted in the reserve.

Fri 30 OKAVANGO DELTA > MAUN > JOHANNESBURG (B)(D)

Today you will be transferred with fellow guests from Camp Moremi to the airstrip for your scheduled/shared light aircraft flight to Maun Airport. On arrival at Maun Airport you will connect to your onward flight to Johannesburg. On arrival, you will stay in transit, for your onward flight at 440pm overnight to Sydney.

Sat 1 July ARRIVE CHRISTCHURCH

Arrive Sydney 125pm and connect onwards to Christchurch, arriving just after midnight (0030am on 2 July).