

TRACKS SAFARIS

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**15 NIGHT BOTSWANA WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE WITH
WILDERNESS SAFARIS
TOP END LUXURY TENTED FLYING SAFARI WITH VICTORIA FALLS**



DAY ONE

On arrival into Livingstone International Airport you are met and transferred by road to Toka Leya Camp for 3 nights on a fully inclusive basis.

Overlooking islands in the Zambezi River, Toka Leya offers the perfect combination of relaxation and adventure and is ideal for the beginning or end of your African safari. Enjoy morning explorations of the river, visit the rhinos in the surrounding Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park or head for nearby Victoria Falls.

Your morning activity can be followed by a tranquil afternoon at the spa or practicing inspired yoga on the panoramic deck of the gym.

The camp's twelve spacious, en-suite safari-style tents (including three family tents) with expansive decks serve up the dramatic views and glimpses of wildlife. Limiting their footprint on this pristine area – the camp's wooden walkways snake between the units and the main area where the dining, bar and lounge area are complemented by an infinity pool, a sundeck for meals under the stars and a fire pit for pre-dinner drinks.



DAY FOUR

Today you will be transferred across the border into Botswana by road and on to Kasane International Airport where you will be met by Wilderness Safaris on arrival and assisted to check in for your light aircraft flight to Kings Pool for 3 nights on a fully inclusive basis.

King's Pool overlooks the oxbow lagoon of the same name in the Linyanti Wildlife Reserve, bordering Chobe National Park and at the crux of the important wildlife corridor that straddles Angola, Namibia, Zambia and Botswana.

This 100% solar-powered camp has eight luxurious thatch and canvas rooms, each boasting a large bedroom area and lounge leading to a veranda that soaks up the gorgeous views. The river along which King's Pool is located hosts numerous species of birds and is a magnet for game, especially elephant, in the dry winter months.

The sumptuous main area comprises a lounge, library, dining and a convivial bar area stylishly set on expansive raised decks close to the water's edge. There is also a pool and an open-air 'kgotla' for evening dining under the stars.



The Linyanti Wildlife Reserve has abundant wildlife in a wide variety of species but is most noted for its very large elephant population which can reach enormous densities during the dry winter months. Other game is abundant, such as impala, lechwe, kudu, zebra, giraffe, buffalo and bushbuck, and their predators: lion, leopard, cheetah, wild dog and spotted hyaena. Rarer species such as sable and roan antelope also emerge from the woodlands during the dry season. The area is a birder's paradise. Just one feature is the carmine bee-eater nesting site nearby – a spectacle to behold in the summer months.

DAY SEVEN

Today you will be transferred back to the airstrip in time for your light aircraft flight across the Delta to Jao Camp for 3 nights on a fully-inclusive basis.

In the heart of the Okavango, luxurious Jao is set amongst islands fringed with riverine forests and vast, floodplains with prolific wildlife. The camp's main area is elevated into the tree canopy, and there are two exclusive villas and five rooms all with private plunge pools, lounge and dining areas, and en-suite bathrooms, including indoor and outdoor showers.

The two Jao Villas, accommodating four people each in two identical guest rooms, share a main area, and also have an exclusive vehicle, guide, chef and butler.

Underpinning it all is Wilderness Safari's commitment to the pristine environment around Jao, minimising their footprint and allowing guests to experience the Delta in its fullest sense. Innovative insulation ensures comfort, while gauze and glass panels let natural light and the outside in. The suites and villas are cooled with a silent evaporative cooler, at a fraction of energy used by conventional air-conditioning, and Calore 'fireplaces' provide heating during the colder months.

The game viewing at Jao is superb. Huge herds of red lechwe can be seen, followed by their primary predator – prides of lion. Other game typical of the area includes elephant, buffalo, leopard, tsessebe, zebra, hippo and crocodile as well as the uncommon sitatunga and spotted-necked otter. Many bird species are resident such as Meyer's parrot, African harrier hawk, black heron, coppery-tailed coucal, and black crane being some of the avian treasures found at Jao.



DAY TEN

Today you will transfer back to the airstrip in time for your light aircraft flight to Vumbura Plains for 3 nights on an all-inclusive basis. The Vumbura Plains Private Wilderness Area is found in the northern-eastern Okavango Delta adjoining the Moremi Game Reserve. Its prime position in the dry savannah interior, set on one of the main channels that feeds the Delta, means year-round adventures on land and water. The 60,000-hectare (148,263-acre) private concession is leased from five villages through the Okavango Community Trust (OCT), a partnership that spans many successful years of impactful conservation tourism in the area.



This stylish and contemporary camp provides the highest level in comfort, wonderful local cuisine and attention to detail from the warm and professional staff members. Set on raised decks in the midst of

annually inundated grassland the camp is a marvel of engineering design. An artful, contemporary balance of wood, glass, and canvas, reflecting the rich colours of the Delta.

Vumbura Plains is two satellite camps - each with its own main area with expansive vistas across the vast floodplains and furnished with beautiful local objects d'art - which showcase the camp's successful partnership with the Okavango Community Trust. The camp is one of the most spacious available in the Okavango Delta, with generous and private guest suites each featuring a plunge pool and outdoor sala.

Wildlife viewing in the concession is superb - elephants, giraffes, impala, sable antelope, kudu, zebra, common waterbuck as well as reedbuck, tsessebe, wildebeest, red lechwe and Cape buffalo. Following this exceptional diversity of ungulates is a vast array of predators, including lion, leopard, the occasional cheetah, African wild dog and wildcat. Hippo pods and basking crocodiles can often be spotted in and along the waterways, while birding is exceptional all year round.



DAY THIRTEEN

Today you will transfer back to the airstrip in time for your light aircraft flight to Maun and on to the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans - the remnants of an enormous super-lake that used to cover most of Southern Africa.

Jacks Camp has just nine guest tents all adorned with a classic East African safari feel - the iconic green canvas and muslin-draped walls are embellished with Persian and North African rugs, paraffin lamps, brass fittings, luxuriant textiles and mahogany campaign furniture. There is a comfortable living area, with a sofa and day bed for relaxing on and the outer deck has a private plunge pool, with swing beds for exquisite views overlooking the Makgadikgadi Pans. The beds have an over-bed air-conditioning system to ward off the desert heat and an en-suite bathroom with indoor and outdoor showers.



The camp's large mess tent houses the renowned Natural History Museum, library, vintage 36-seater dining table that served as an officer's mess table in the 1820's, a well-stocked drinks cabinet and an antique pool table. The iconic nomadic Persian tea provides a variety of afternoon sweet treats, and the shop is stocked with treasures to take home from your travels.



Makgadikgadi is full of elusive species and desert-adapted animals – brown hyena, aardwolves and bat-eared foxes, honey badgers and black-maned Kalahari lion. Then there's aardvark, gemsbok, springbok and black-backed jackals to look out for on game drives, and perhaps even an elephant or two. But for many the highlight is meeting and spending time with one of the colonies of habituated Meerkats.

Other activities include game drives, night drives, guided quad biking, bushman walks, horse riding, and extra are helicopter flights over the pans.

As part of a larger scale project looking at the link between climate change and aardvark biogeography, this project uses camera traps and anthill counts to determine the distribution of aardvark in CT11 (Jack's Camp, San Camp and the Camp Kalahari area). The hypothesis is that climate change has been negatively impacting the food resources of ant- and termite-dependent myrmecophagous species, such as aardvarks and pangolins, across southern Africa.

DAY SIXTEEN

Today you will transfer back to the airstrip in time for your light aircraft flight to Maun where you will be met and assisted to check in for your international flight home.



Not ready to go home yet? Then we recommend tagging on Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe at the beginning of your safari or take advantage of direct flights down to Cape Town for a few days exploring this fabulous city by the ocean – please ask!



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