

# TRACKS SAFARIS

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## CENTRAL KALAHARI RESERVE SMALL GROUP TENTED DESERT ADVENTURE



**Routing:**

Maun to Maun.

**Access:**

Maun Airport.

**Accommodation:**

Fully serviced en-suite Tented Accommodation and Camping.

### Highlights:

- Central Kalahari Desert
- Bushman Experience

### Itinerary Outline:

#### **1 Night Tented lodge accommodation at Meno A Kwena**

Activity guide: bushmen walk

#### **3 Nights Tented Camp in Passarge Valley - Central Kalahari Game Reserve.**

Activity guide: game drives

#### **2 Nights Tented Camp Deception Valley - Central Kalahari Game Reserve.**

Activity guide: game drives

### Your Safari Includes:

- Spacious and comfortable tented accommodation, including beds and bed linen, with a private bathroom en-suite.
- Services of a professional guide, safari chef and camp assistants, complete with a supply vehicle whilst on Tented mobile; service of professional guides whilst at Meno A Kwena
- Game drives and local transfers in customised safari vehicles whilst on Tented mobile, access to floating hide and bushmen walk whilst at Meno A Kwena
- Exclusive camping in private campsites within the national parks and reserves
- All entrance and camping fees within the national parks and reserves
- All meals and drinks (mineral water, soft drinks, beer, wine and G&T) whilst in Tented Camps and at Meno A Kwena
- All activities as specified in the itinerary
- 12% Value Added Tax

### Your Safari Excludes:

- Travel Insurance
- All flights unless otherwise indicated
- Items of personal nature
- Toiletries
- Staff gratuities
- Optional safari extensions
- Any drinks at lodges or accommodation other than Tented Camps unless stated.

#### ***Day 1: Maun/Meno A Kwena. Road Transfer (3 hours)***

You will arrive from Johannesburg by 13h30 into Maun Airport where you will be met by your Safari guide for the drive to Meno A Kwena Tented Camp where you will be spending your first night.

Upon arrival at Meno A Kwena, once you have been shown to your tent, the afternoon will be at your leisure. You can choose to spend your first afternoon on the Boteti River on the unique floating hide where you will be able to game view from the comfort of the hide with your guide or relax in the pool overlooking the river with a sundowner, or just relax on the veranda of your tent. Sit back and relax as the wildlife comes to you.

**Accommodation:** Lodge Tented Accommodation

**Activities:** Game viewing

#### ***Day 2: Meno A Kwena/Passarge Valley, Central Kalahari Game Reserve Travel Day (5 hours)***

After an early breakfast, you will depart Meno A Kwena for the drive to central Kalahari Game Reserve and the Passarge Valley Region where you will be spending the next 3 nights in a private site miles from anyone or anything else other than the local wildlife.

**Accommodation:** Mobile Tented Camp

**Activities:** Game Drives

***Day 3 & 4: Passarge Valley Exploration Days*** The next two days will be spent exploring this fascinating area. With 52,800 km<sup>2</sup> of protected area (the second largest in Africa) set aside, there is plenty of ground to cover and we will

be focusing on the areas surround Passarge Valley including the southwest region to Tau Pan and other remote regions.

**Habitat:** The Passarge Valley is actually a fossil river bed and the clay floor provides highly nutritious grazing and browsing for Kalahari game and can support much higher numbers of large animals than the sandy dune-veld. The wide open spaces are punctuated by tree islands of Umbrella Thorn Acacia tortillis. These quintessential African trees offer precious shade in an otherwise harsh landscape.

**Wildlife:** Oryx, Springbok, Blue Wildebeest and Red Hartebeest make up the common herbivores. Herds in excess of 30 giraffe are not uncommon here in the north and the largest of all the antelope, the eland, are also seen quite regularly here. The wide open plains are the domain of the cheetah but lion are also frequently seen here. African wildcat as well as caracal are the more common small predators.

**Birding:** Montague's Harrier\*, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Steppe Buzzard\*, Steppe Eagle\* and Tawny Eagle are the most common raptors. The globally threatened Lapped-faced Vulture nest here in the valley. Other scavengers include White-headed Vulture, White-backed Vulture, Cape Crow and Pied Crow.

**Accommodation:** Mobile Tented Camp

**Activities:** Game Drives

### ***Day 5: Passarge Valley/Deception Valley Travel Day 60km (4 hours)***

Today will be move away from the Passarge Valley to the Deception valley region made famous by Mark and Delia Owen who spent 7 years in the area studying the wilderness and its inhabitants chronicled in their book, the "Cry of the Kalahari". Although our accommodation will be a more comfortable than the conditions the Owen's endured during their time there, we will endeavour to learn more about the inhabitants of the area including the impressive black-maned lions of the Kalahari.

**Accommodation:** Mobile Tented Camp

**Activities:** Game Drives

### ***Day 6: Deception Valley Exploration Day***

**Habitat:** Comprised of a combination of vegetated duneveld, valleys of ancient rivers and pans, the Deception Valley region is the most famous of all the areas of Botswana's Kalahari. Some of the highlights of the area are Tau Pan, Sunday Pan, Leopard Pan, Deception and Passarge valleys, Deception Pan and Passarge Waterhole. The northern regions of the Kalahari boast a higher rainfall than the drier south and as a result mature woodlands of purple-pod terminalia *Terminalia prunoides* grow.

**Wildlife:** Large herds of oryx and springbok make up much of the wildlife here with smaller groups of red-hartebeest, eland, blue wildebeest, southern giraffe and greater kudu. The predators are comprised of lion, leopard, cheetah, wild dog (rare) spotted hyena, brown hyena, caracal, African wildcat, black-backed jackal, bat-eared fox and Cape fox.

**Birding:** The terminalia woodlands support many species that would not typically be associated with Kalahari such as Crested Francolin, Paradise Flycatcher, White-crowned Shrike, Black-backed Puffback and the White-browed Scrub-Robin replaces the Kalahari Scrub-Robin. Black Cuckoo arrive on good numbers in summer to parasitize the Crimson-breasted Shrike. On the pan floor we look for the Temmink's Courser and the far more common Double-banded Courser as well as Northern Black Korhaan and Crowned Lapwing.

Great Sparrow are relatively common along the fringes of the pan along with Clapper Lark. Orange River Francolin occur in the longer grasses of the vegetated sand dunes. Gabar Goshawk, Lanner Falcon, Pale-Chanting Goshawk and Greater Kestrel are common. Martial Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Black-chested Snake-Eagle and Brown Snake Eagle are the more common of the large raptors.

**Accommodation:** Mobile Tented Camp

**Activities:** Game Drives

### ***Day 7: Deception Valley/Maun Travel Day 180km (6 hours)***

Today will be an early start in order to return to Maun in time for your departure flight. We will leave camp directly after an early breakfast and take a slow drive back to Maun which will see us in Maun at approximately 12h00.

**Habitat:** Our drive takes us through the Northern Kalahari and past the southern shore of the famous Lake Ngami. Time permitting we will visit this magnificent body of water. Declared a Ramsar site as well as an Important Bird Area (IBA) the lake plays a crucial role in the lives of migratory and resident species as a stopover and breeding area respectively. Along the way the landscape varies from the vast open plains and valleys to the sandy vegetated dunes to beautiful woodlands of purple-pod *Terminalia* trees and arid Acacia scrub-veld



**Wildlife:** The wildlife viewing for the most part is restricted to the Game Reserve itself although we may see greater kudu, steenbok and ostrich along the tracks to the north of the Game Reserve.

**Birding:** For most of the drive we will see the typical Kalahari species. A stop at Lake Ngami however can provide magnificent birding depending on the season. Birding at the lake is at its best when the lake's water is receding and the fish become concentrated in an ever shrinking body of water (usually Feb-June). Hundreds of thousands of water birds of every description frantically feed for every type of aquatic organism in what can only be described as a frenzy of birds.

*Looking to spend longer in Botswana? Why not combine this itinerary with one of your northern Botswana itineraries giving you the opportunity to visit some of Botswana's greatest wildlife areas. The dates are linked so that you can link the two safaris seamlessly for an amazing 12 night safari.*

**NOTE:** Although we make every effort to adhere to schedules and itineraries, these are subject to change subject to weather, roads, and animal movements and availability. You will be notified of any changes.



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