



THE OKAVANGO DELTA FOOT SAFARI

5 Nights/6 Days

BOTSWANA

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

DAY 1:

Arrive in Maun and charter flight to Oddballs Enclave Camp, Okavango. Overnight.

DAYS 2,3 & 4:

Fly-camping in the Okavango exploring Chief's Island on foot.

DAY 5:

Oddballs Enclave Camp

DAY 6:

Charter flight back to Maun OR to camp of choice.

The timeless land of the Okavango Delta in northern Botswana is set deep within the Kalahari Desert. Recently proclaimed as a World Heritage Site, the Okavango is the largest inland delta in the world, and one of the most pristine wilderness areas on the planet. A vast tapestry of waterways, lagoons, floodplains and islands support an astonishing array of game.

The larger islands of the southern regions of the Okavango support an amazing array of wildlife, from elephants to predators to numerous antelope, giraffe and aquatic wildlife. Our choice of destination is slap bang in the middle of all of this activity! There are no roads here and access by vehicle is out of the question ... it is a foot safari (and traditional dugout canoe) in the true sense of the word.

Walks on the islands are in search of elephant, lion, buffalo, wild dog, leopard, giraffe and a vast cast of characters. Tracking and stalking is part of the fare, ensuring stirring and exciting encounters along the way. The safari is personally led by Alan McSmith, widely recognised as one of Africa's top walking guides and wildlife trackers.

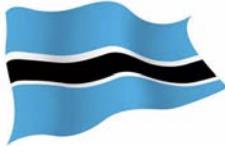


DETAILED ITINERARY FOLLOWS ...

PLEASE NOTE

The duration, destinations and activities on our privately guided safari are based on our style and preference for delivering memorable safari encounters. However, flexibility is assured in tailoring your ultimate safari, and we trust that the itinerary provides you with insight into our differences and unique approach. Please feel free to contact our office to discuss variations, or design an itinerary of your choice

BOTSWANA



Considered by many to be the safari capital of Africa, Botswana is vast, diverse and alluring land. Located between South Africa, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, Botswana is a safari travellers delight and consists of some of the wildest and uncharted game reserves left in Africa today. Game viewing locations are superb. Botswana is considered to be one of Africa's major success stories and is politically stable, prosperous and a world leader in wildlife conservation. A large country and with one of the lowest population densities in the world, the sense of space and remoteness is amazing.

OKAVANGO DELTA: the wildest wetland on earth



The timeless land of the Okavango Delta in northern Botswana is set deep within the Kalahari Desert. Recently proclaimed as a World Heritage Site, the Okavango is the largest inland delta in the world, and one of the most pristine wilderness areas on the planet. A vast tapestry of waterways, lagoons, floodplains and islands support an astonishing array of game. Our safari incorporates the renown Chief's Island and Moremi Game Reserve in the southern region, as well as an extremely remote area in the north-east of the Okavango. This combination of habitats and game viewing opportunities ensures the best possible exploration of this wonderland.

ALAN McSMITH



For over 30 years Alan has lived and worked as a wilderness guide and tracker exploring the wild-lands of six African countries. An Alan McSmith Safari is a meaningful journey of unsurpassed discovery as the pulse of Africa beats wildest off the beaten track, around a remote desert campfire or out on foot. These safaris also explore real time conservation issues and our commitment to low impact safaris, sustainable logistics and dignified interactions with people, animals and the environment is non-negotiable. For Alan, wilderness is no longer just a place, its a way of life. Please visit www.alanmcsmith.com for more.

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN MAUN, BOTSWANA. AIR CHARTER TO ODDBALL'S ENCLAVE.

The safari begins on arrival in Maun, the administrative centre of the Ngamiland District. There are daily flights from Johannesburg which would more than likely be the most convenient access. Please feel free to discuss and options or ideas about this arrival point.

Established as a tribal capital in 1915 on the fringe of the great Okavango Delta, Maun has developed considerably over the years. It is now considered the safari capital of Botswana. Still, it is very much a frontier town, and with horses, donkeys, wild looking characters and wildlife, Maun still retains the spirit of early Botswana. The airport serves the safari industry in northern Botswana and is a hive of light aircraft activity.

From Maun airport, we arrange a charter flight to our Okavango base, Oddballs camp. The flight lasts about 25 minutes and is a wonderful bird's-eye introduction to this remarkable wilderness which extends from horizon to horizon. Our destination is a dirt bush airstrip on a remote island!



ODDBALL'S ENCLAVE CAMP

Oddballs Enclave is a charming reed and tent base camp, ideally suited for adventurous travellers! While certainly not included in any "Hollywood-type" safaris, the camp is perfect and has it all – rustic and comfortable accommodation, a delightful setting, great food, and above all else, a connection with the spirit of the Okavango!!! Very few people leave without falling in love with the simplicity, bush-charm and warmth.



We have arrived!

The camp is an ideal base for our trails, and accommodation consists of walk-in safari tents, each built on a raised deck with shade. Each unit has an en-suite open-air reeded bathroom with a flush toilet and bucket shower ... nothing beats a bucket shower under the stars!. The main lodge contains a thatched dining area, small lounge and a pub with the best view in Africa.



Opposite the small channel and floodplain lies the Moremi Game Reserve and Chief's Island where we will be heading the next morning.

Our goal would be to arrive at camp in time for a light lunch and an orientation. This is where the trail experience begins as the change of pace becomes evident, the sounds and smells become louder and stronger, and the sense of place becomes real. An afternoon activity is followed by dinner and overnight.

DAYS 2-4: FLY-CAMPING ON CHIEF'S ISLAND

After breakfast we load our mekoro with all the supplies required for the following four days. Once we start poling and leave our base behind, we will be isolated from other people. When we are deep within the Moremi, we select a campsite to be our home. The islands are vast and unspoilt wilderness, far from any habitation and depending on water levels of the day, we hope to access some remote regions.



Beyond the reaches of motorized transport, the Okavango's most hidden-away places can be accessed by traditional dug-out canoes or mekoro - our choice of transport for the trail. Completely silent, these vessels have been used by fishermen and hunters for over 500 years. All other game viewing, tracking and stalking for the duration of the trail is done on foot.

Once we have located a suitable island, we stop and prepare the camp and lunch. The campfire becomes the focal point of the camp.

The two-man rip-stop dome tents with sewn-in groundsheets include a bedroll and sleeping bag. The essence is on mobility and traveling light, which goes some way in reaping a rewarding and significant wilderness encounter. All meals are prepared on an open fire, and water is drawn from the delta. We will have exclusive use of this magical corner of the Okavango although we do have radio contact with our base.



Once settled, an afternoon walk on the island is highly recommended. The region is well known for its concentrations of elephant, lion, leopard, kudu, impala, giraffe and zebra. We return to the campsite for dinner and an evening of wilderness tales around the fire - hopefully accompanied by the night sounds of lion, leopard and nightjars. A night spent camping out beneath the African stars under canvas is one sure to be treasured!

With absolute flexibility, we explore the region and surrounding smaller islands. Early starts are recommended, and long walks are possible in cooler weather. Meals are prepared at camp, but picnic snacks are possible while on walks. It would also be possible to combine walks with mekoro activities to neighbouring islands.

Please note though, that movement will be determined by the flood levels. Chief's Island being the largest of the islands in the delta supports a rich diversity of game. Elephant are normally encountered, and some close up contacts are predicted! Buffalo, giraffe, zebra, antelope as well as predators such as lion and wild dog are often sighted



Part of a walking trail is to allow the rhythm of the bush to dictate. We have no set routes, and the walk depends on the signs, sounds and tracks of game. Tracking animals on foot is extremely exciting, and is highly recommended - we often encounter lion and elephant on the walks. This is the essence of a mobile trail – we are absolutely flexible according to the requirements of the party.

A fresh footprint in the dust, the faint sound of a breaking branch, wet mud rubbed on a tree, the presence of birds or a sudden quiet in the air. The tracking experience. Your senses are heightened searching for clues, sounds or smells to indicate an animal is near by.

We return to our campsite for lunches and a rests during mid-day. There is a chance of seeing game wandering by as we will be camping fairly close to the water. Afternoon walks or mekoro activities in search of game along the water's edge are available in the afternoons.

Dinners storytelling are around the fire!

DAY 5: RETURN TO ODDBALL'S ENCLAVE CAMP

After breakfast we break the camp and load our mekoro. As we pole back to Oddballs Enclave, we take the opportunity to explore any smaller islands for game movements along the way. The target arrival time would be mid-afternoon in time to enjoy a hot shower, cold drinks and a hearty lunch.

An afternoon walk is available, and we return to Oddballs Enclave for dinner and overnight.

Please note it is possible to extend the fly-camping section, and move to a different island or region.

CHARTER FLIGHT TO MAUN OR ONWARD TO ANOTHER CAMP



Breakfast is served in camp after a last morning's walk. The safari includes a charter flight back to Maun to connect with the international departure to Johannesburg.

Alternatively we could resume the safari itinerary with a fly-in module to an additional camp in the Okavango, Linyanti, Chobe or Victoria Falls, or even a road mobile safari from Maun. Please feel free to make contact with us to discuss all possibilities.

SAFARI ENDS
TSAMAYA SENTLE!
(Bon Voyage)

WHAT MAKES THE SAFARI UNIQUE?

1. A classic tented foot safari base camp.
2. Visit the Okavango Delta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of only two inland deltas in the world.
3. Exploring Chief's Island and smaller islets within the Moremi Game Reserve which was the first protected area in Africa to be proclaimed by a tribal authority.
4. Explore the Okavango by traditional dugout canoe
5. Track elephants, lions and other big game on foot.
6. Discover more about the ancient art of tracking.
7. Learn about the fascinating history and culture of the Bayei people who live in the delta.
8. Camp wild in a remote mobile tented fly-camp
9. Discover all about the mysterious ecology of the Okavango; why the water is so clear and non-saline.
10. Convenient add-on modules to visit other camps or regions in Botswana, Zambia or Zimbabwe.

OPTIONAL MODULES THAT COULD BE INCLUDED OR ADDED ON

1. We could extend the length of the fly-camping action to include a different island or region.
2. Continue to explore northern Botswana's Linyanti and/or Chobe regions, culminating at the sensational Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. Time at the Falls allows opportunities to enjoy Zambezi River boat trips & white water rafting, adventure activities such as Devil's Pool, game

viewing, cultural tours and of course exploring the World Heritage Site of Victoria Falls itself.

3. Resume a safari to Mana Pools on the Lower Zambezi and base at a secluded tented camp on the floodplain. Enjoy sensational game viewing and fly-camping at a secluded Chitake Spring. Return to Johannesburg via Harare.
4. Add on a safari into Zambia to the renown Luangwa Valley with incredible leopard viewing.
5. Return to Johannesburg from Maun to connect with outgoing flights