

Seats strictly limited

Affordable Africa

Classic Botswana & Victoria Falls

Fully Escorted Africa Safari

16 days from **\$14,499*** per person twin share

 **Includes airfares ex Australia**

Departs Melbourne: 20 August 2024

- Makgadikgadi National Park
- Central Kalahari
- Moremi, Savuti and Chobe
- Moremi, Island Expedition
- Chobe River
- Victoria Falls

Join us on our Classic Botswana & Victoria Falls Safari. A fully escorted multi-lodge safari through some of the best wilderness areas in Botswana to the mighty Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. A great value trip offering both comfort and adventure and the best of both worlds with accommodated stays coupled with luxe, walk-in meru tents within this trip. Accommodation throughout your journey with us includes lodges, camps and tents.

This activity packed safari is guided from beginning to end by a qualified and experienced local guide. Explore the stark Salt Pans of the Makgadikgadi and surrounding grasslands of the Kalahari. Spend time on a secluded island and explore the unique wildlife paradise of the Okavango Delta on foot and by boat. Game drive in fully equipped open 4 x 4 vehicles, following age old migration tracks in search of the abundant wildlife of Moremi Game Reserve. Meander along the banks of the Chobe River in search of its famed elephant herds. Finally, enjoy impressive views and the unforgettable roar of "The Smoke that Thunders", Victoria Falls.

Staying in permanent camps and remote lodges offers an intimate wilderness experience close to nature intertwined with the local communities.

Travelling in a small group of like-minded travellers, offers a unique and intimate atmosphere. With a focus on conservation, game viewing and sustainable eco-tourism, this tour offers the adventurer, photographer, birdwatcher and naturalist the ultimate African wildlife experience.

Following the success of many unique Explorer Group Safaris since 2006, and due to popular demand, we have scheduled another adventure to the fascinating continent of Africa.

In 2024, I will be leading an **accommodated multi-lodge safari** to Botswana. A peaceful country of extremes and renowned for its spectacular wildlife and pristine wilderness areas.

Travel with highly qualified local guides through the vast and diverse landscapes of the African bush. Get under the skin of the world's most exciting continent with up-close wildlife encounters and meaningful interactions with local communities. Staying in permanent camps and remote lodges offers an intimate wilderness experience close to nature and intertwined with the local communities. Dining outdoors under a star-studded Africa night will be a profound experience. This will not be a simple "scenic" experience; we will "touch the heart" of Botswana.

We will be travelling in late August at the end of the dry season. With clear skies and moderate temperatures, there should be little to no rainfall. We should also coincide with the seasonal conundrum of the Okavango Delta flood waters in the dry season. Wildlife tends to concentrate along permanent water, making them easier to spot with less vegetation. We will be staying in small lodges and private camps and group size is strictly limited.

Having had the privilege of working as a Professional Safari Guide and Lodge Manager in some of the best lodges in southern Africa, I have experienced what I believe to be true wilderness. I wish to introduce to you to more of these areas and hope to instil a deeper understanding and appreciation of these delicate eco-systems and the communities that live on the edge of these protected spaces.

We have created an affordable adventure with an opportunity to travel with like-minded explorers. A new world of travel awaits, and I look forward to exploring it with you.

Go siame, tsmaya sentle.

Mike Papenfus




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Or book at your local licensed travel agent

Day 1: Melbourne - Johannesburg. Fly from Australia to Johannesburg.

Day 2: Johannesburg - Maun - Khumaga.

(D)

Connect with the flight to Maun and meet your guide on arrival. Travel 150km to Khumaga, a small village of about 1000 people. Home for 2 nights, our simple and comfortable accommodation is located on the outskirts of Khumaga overlooking the Boteti River and the Makgadikgadi National Park beyond. Stay in en-suite chalets with air-conditioning and mosquito nets. After a long day, the lounge deck is the place to relax and watch animals coming down to the river to drink.

Accommodation: Boteti River Camp, Khumaga - Standard chalets - 2 nights.

Day 3: Khumaga, Makgadikgadi.

(B,L,D)

Morning and afternoon game drives in Makgadikgadi National Park to explore the vast open plains and one of the world's largest salt pans. This harsh environment is home to a fascinating variety of wildlife such as Springbok, Giraffe, Kudu, Elephant, and predators including Lion, Hyena and Cheetah. Unusual species include Meerkat, Bat-Eared Fox and Brown Hyena.

Day 4-5: Dune Camp, Deception Valley.

(B,L,D)

Our adventure continues through to Dune Camp, located in Deception Valley Private Reserve on the northern border of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. The intimate camp has en-suite chalets each with a private verandah with views over the Kalahari. The waterhole is a major attraction and hours can be spent sitting at the main area enjoying the view as the wildlife comes for a drink.

The region offers amazing wildlife viewing and is home to abundant roaming wildlife, including Black-Maned Lions, Cheetah, Oryx, Aardwolf, Aardvark and even Elephant. Designated waterholes, hidden viewing hides, vegetated dunes, natural pans and an amazing valley, offer incredible game viewing opportunities. Keen birdwatchers can spot the Secretary Bird, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Ostrich, Black-Breasted Snake Eagle and other species.

Explore this remote area on game drives, night drives and participate in a nature walk led by a local San tracker. They will share intricate bush knowledge and give you an insight into their unique and intriguing culture. Savour the vast open spaces, clear night skies and uninterrupted beauty.

Accommodation: The Dune Camp, Kalahari Botswana - 2 nights.

Day 6: Dune Camp, Kalahari - Maun.

(B,L)

Travel north to the 'Gateway to the Okavango Delta', Maun. Enjoy some curio shopping in the cultural and colourful hub of Maun. In the afternoon, have the option of taking a scenic helicopter flight over the Delta (own expense). With no windows and doors, allowing magnificent views, this magical experience provides another perspective of the Okavango Delta's distinctive water system. During the flight it is possible to spot large game animals such as Elephant, Giraffe and Hippo.

Cool off in the large swimming pool with a terrace bar or relax on the outdoor dining area where you can enjoy refreshments and an amazing dinner out on the deck under the stars. Spend the night in this comfortable hotel on the banks of the Thamalakane River.

Accommodation: Sedia Riverside Hotel or similar, Maun - 1 night.

Day 7-8: Western Moremi Game Reserve, Island Expedition.

(B,L,D)

After breakfast, an early morning departure to Moremi Game Reserve, one of the best wilderness areas of Botswana. Leaving civilisation behind, there is a gradual change through small villages and rural farmland to Wildlife Management Areas and pristine, protected National Parks. Moremi Game Reserve is a varied landscape of winding waterways, seasonal flood plains, savannah and dense forest. At the main channel close to Xakanaxa, transfer by boat to a secluded island in the Delta. Stay in fully serviced ensuite tents with bucket shower and bush toilet 2 nights.

The diverse ecosystem supports a wide spectrum of wildlife, ranging from large herds of Buffalo, Wildebeest and Zebra, to the rare Sitatunga and Lechwe antelope. Lion and Leopard can also be found. The birdlife is prolific and includes most of the 550 bird species recorded on Botswana's national bird list.

Accommodation: Fully serviced Island Camping, Moremi Game Reserve.



"Ghost elephant" of the Makgadikgadi



Nature walk led by a local San tracker



Custom Game Drive vehicle



Lilac-breasted Roller



Khwai Guest House - Standard Bungalow

Day 9-10: Khwai Guest House, Khwai Community Area.

(B,L,D)

After breakfast we will return by boat to Xakanaka, to meet our vehicle and continue to Khwai. Nestled on the edge of the traditional village, Khwai Guest House offers comfortable ensuite bungalows on the edge of Moremi Game Reserve. Committed to employing local staff and supporting their dependant families in the community, the lodge generates the positive impact of having community members deriving direct benefits from tourism. Through authentic experiences and a strong conservation ethic, local communities benefit from the value of conserving the wildlife and environment.

The next 2 days will be spent exploring both Moremi Game Reserve and Khwai Community Area on game drives. There is a chance of excellent sightings of Lion, Elephant, Hippo and African Wild Dog, all roaming freely through the unfenced park and concession areas. Enjoy game drives in the early morning and late afternoon while absorbing the sounds and beauty of the region. The Khwai Community Area offers the added ability to off-road and night drives and traditional dugout canoe (Mokoro) excursions on a channel bordering the game reserve.

Accommodation: *Khwai Guest House, Khwai Village - 2 nights.*

Day 11-12: Khwai - Savuti - Chobe River Front.

(B,L,D)

The drive north will be a full day game drive through the Savuti area with a lunch break en-route. This remote region of the Savuti is famous for its predators, especially its resident lion prides, large packs of African Wild Dog and Spotted Hyena clans. Head towards our eco-friendly lodge situated on a rocky ridge, overlooking the spectacular Chobe River floodplains. All rooms are en-suite with both indoor and outdoor showers and private verandas to fully enjoy the views and surroundings.

The following day is spent exploring the banks of this life giving river on a game drive and boat cruise to immerse ourselves into this incredible area from both land and water. An area incredibly rich in wildlife sustained by the Chobe River, this section of the park is known for its dense concentration of wildlife including large herds of Elephant and Buffalo. August is usually when the vast herds of Zebra congregate on the grassy floodplains of the Chobe. Due to the high density of herbivores in this area, many predators, such as Lion and Leopard, can be found.

Accommodation: *Chobe Elephant Camp, or similar - 2 nights.*

Day 13: Chobe - Victoria Falls.

(B)

Transfer through the park towards Kasane. Proceed to the Zimbabwe border and say farewell to our guide. Transfer to Victoria Falls for 2 nights at a comfortable lodge. After a few weeks on safari, Pioneers - Victoria Falls, is a great option for those who value comfort and elegance. Situated in a peaceful residential suburb, this lodge is in an ideal location. A short 2.5 km from the impressive Victoria Falls and set in lush gardens with beautifully manicured lawn and 2 refreshing swimming pools. With spacious and tastefully decorated rooms styled to reflect the nostalgic era of the pioneer explorers and blended with modern amenities to meet all the requirements of today's traveller. Guests have the option of relaxing and dining on the expansive terrace, overlooking lush gardens. There is a large bar area which serves a variety of cold and hot beverages, including local craft beer made with water from the mighty Zambezi River nearby. Dinner will be at own expense.

Accommodation: *Pioneers Victoria Falls or similar, Zimbabwe - 2 nights.*

Day 14: Victoria Falls.

(B)

Today is at leisure with time to explore the town. Visit the thunderous Victoria Falls, explore the surrounding rain forest and craft markets. Victoria Falls is also home to many adventure activities, such as a helicopter flight over the falls, a boat trip on the Zambezi River, white water rafting, bungee jumping or gorge swing (own expense). There is also an opportunity for a Wildlife Conservation Safari to explore the conservation efforts in the Zambezi National Park (own expense). Tonight eat at a local restaurant (own expense). Relax to the sound of the African night with the distant roar of the falls and drink a farewell toast to our adventure.

Day 15: Victoria Falls - Johannesburg. A leisurely breakfast then transfer to Victoria Falls Airport for the flight to Johannesburg. Transfer to overnight accommodation including breakfast. (B)

Accommodation: *Peermont Metcourt at Emperors Palace, Johannesburg - 1 night.*

Day 16: Fly Johannesburg - Australia. Transfer to the airport for return flight to Australia. (B)

Day 17: Arrive Australia.



Victoria Falls - 'The Smoke that Thunders'

Prices per person twin share ex Melbourne		
Departs	Twin Share	Single Supp
20 August 2024	\$14499*	\$1600

Price includes all pre-paid taxes

→ Call about our airfares ex other Australian cities →

Price Includes:

- Return economy class airfares from Melbourne to Johannesburg with Singapore Airlines via Singapore. Subject to confirmation.
- Economy class airfares Johannesburg to Maun and Victoria Falls to Johannesburg with Airlink.
- Accommodation, tours, meals and transfers as indicated in the itinerary.
- 12 nights comfortable hotel and lodge accommodation.
- Camping for 2 nights in fully serviced ensuite tents with camp bed, mattress and all necessary bedding, ensuite ablution section with bucket shower and bush toilet.
- Okavango Air Rescue medical emergency evacuation cover from remote locations whilst in Botswana.
- *Prepaid taxes and park fees. Subject to alteration until final payment has been received by our office.
- Escorted ex Australia by Mike Papenfus.

Notes

- *Prices are correct at time of printing but are subject to availability, currency fluctuations and surcharges and are only guaranteed when paid in full.
- Deposit of \$2000 per person due within 7 days of confirmation.
- Ask about our companion register for single travellers.
- Optional extensions to South Africa, Kenya & Tanzania can be offered post safari, please contact us for details.
- Tour is based on a minimum of 11 passengers travelling together. Therefore should final number not reach this minimum number it will be necessary for this tour to be costed accordingly.



Chobe Elephant Camp - Room



Chobe River game viewing by motorboat



Local markets for curios and souvenirs

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twin share



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