



CK/2006 028071/23

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Last Minute Botswana Christmas Safari Special - Dec 2014



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Okavango Delta - Makgadikgadi Pans - Savuti

8 Days / 7 Nights

2/4 Persons

Date of Issue: 27 October 2014

22 December 2014 - 29 December 2014



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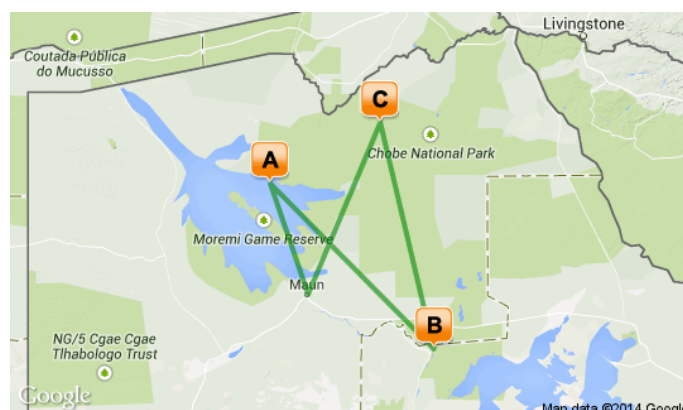
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Overview

Take advantage of this fantastic, last minute Botswana Safari special for Christmas 2014 - or travel anytime before 31 December 2014 for the same price!!!

This itinerary takes you to three of Botswana's iconic destinations: the Okavango Delta, Makgadikgadi Pans National Park and Savute in Chobe National Park!

Take advantage of a this truly remarkable 20% discounted rate for travel in December (or 30% discounted for travel in the November shoulder season) and come on your safari of a lifetime!

Destination	Accommodation	Arr.	Dep.	Nights	Basis	Room Type
Okavango Delta	Xugana Island Lodge	22 Dec	25 Dec	3	FI	1x Standard Safari Tent
Makgadikgadi Pans	Leroo La Tau	25 Dec	27 Dec	2	FI	1x Standard Safari Suites
Savuti	Savute Safari Lodge	27 Dec	29 Dec	2	FI	1x Standard Safari Suites

Key

FI: Fully inclusive – meals, drinks, activities, evacuation insurance, laundry

Day 1-4: Xugana Island Lodge, Okavango Delta (Mon, 22 Dec to Thu, 25 Dec)

Upon your arrival at Maun Airport, you will meet a representative of Safari Essence. After a brief introduction you will be escorted to you charter flight and leave for the Okavango Delta

Travelling Time: 20 min flight over the Delta

Okavango Delta

Lying in the middle of the largest expanse of sand on earth the Okavango Delta is one of Africa's most amazing, sensitive and complex environments supporting a spectacle of wilderness and wildlife. Unique as one of the world's few inland deltas, the placid waters and lush indigenous forests offer a safe haven for innumerable bird and wildlife



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species. The Okavango Delta offers a number of activities for the visitor; game viewing, birding and fishing are all on offer. One can experience this magical world of islands and waterways from land, air and water.

Highlights include the elusive Sitatunga antelope which has found refuge in this pristine wetland ecosystem, while birds such as the African fish eagle, Pel's fishing owl and many others provide a spectacular display.

Overnight: Xugana Island Lodge

Xugana Lagoon is widely accepted as being the most spectacular permanent water site in the entire Okavango Delta. Xugana Island Lodge, situated on a wooded island abutting the lagoon, takes full advantage of this magnificent site. The thatched common area, comprising cocktail bar, lounge and curio shop, is still the original building put up in 1974, when Xugana became only the second tourist lodge ever built in the Okavango Delta. Meals, for which the lodge is justly famous, are taken alfresco on the edge of the lagoon, except on those rare occasions of rain when the lounge doubles as the dining-room. Tea is often served in the garden inside the island, where quiet, secluded reading benches can also be found.

Mokoro trips in eco-friendly dugout canoes built to the traditional design, boat safaris to lagoons and islands and wilderness walks give guests the chance to see the Delta denizens such as sitatunga and lechwe antelope, crocodile and hippo, as well as the other big game that frequents the islands and riverine fringes. Bird-watching opportunities are outstanding, and the bream and tiger fishing can be excellent at certain times of the year. The peaceful boat ride back across Xugana Lagoon during the spectacular African sunset provides a lifelong memory. All activities are conducted by our experienced naturalist guides, who, as well as ensuring that guests come to no harm, are keen to impart their vast knowledge and love of this unique area.



Activities

Explore the Delta by motorboat or canoe (mokoro), combined with walking on surrounding islands in the concession; provides the opportunity to experience a classic Okavango Delta safari.

Included

Fully Inclusive

Drinks (Local Brands) Included



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Day 4-6: Leroo La Tau, Makgadikgadi Pans (Thu, 25 Dec to Sat, 27 Dec)

Flight time dependent, you will perhaps have time for the morning activity and a light branch. Your flight will take you over the Delta and the northern part of the Kalahari Area.

Travelling Time: 50-60 min flight (the exact route and time of departure will be confirmed the day before)

Makgadikgadi Pans

The Makgadikgadi Pan is the world's largest salt pan, formed on the bed of an ancient lake that began evaporating aeons ago. Visiting Makgadikgadi is a unique desert experience: in the dry season, this vast expanse of sun-baked salt glistens in the light and when the rains come, the pan is home to a cornucopia of flamingos and other waterbirds, as well as one of Africa's biggest zebra populations, whose annual migration is a wonder to behold.

Overnight: Leroo La Tau

Leroo La Tau rises majestically above the Boteti River which stretches across the western border of the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park.

The park, populated by up to 30,000 zebra and wildebeest closely accompanied by predators, offers guests the chance to experience the exhilaration of seeing large concentrations of game and the resultant predator interaction. The lodge offers a raised hide above the river where guests can enjoy the spectacular wildlife sightings that we've come to expect in this part of Botswana.

With just 12 thatched luxury chalets all overlooking the magnificent Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, each with en-suite bathrooms. There is a dining room, reading room and bar in the main lodge, expansive wooden decks and a plunge pool, where guests can immerse themselves seamlessly into the ultimate wildlife experience in Botswana. Having explored the area and enjoyed a spectacular wildlife phenomenon on guided day and night game drives, guests can retire after dinner to a splendid fireplace overlooking the river.



Activities

Day and night game drives; Boating on the Boteti River (water level dependent); Optional cultural excursions to Khumaga Village (to be pre-arranged) and Guided nature walks.

Please note: Due to their remote location within the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, the physical Makgadikgadi Pans are not visited on daily scheduled activities from Leroo La Tau.



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Included

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Day 6-8: Savute Safari Lodge, Savuti – Chobe National Park (Sat, 27 Dec to Mon, 29 Dec)

Once again you will be transferred by air to your next destination, situated in the southern part of the Chobe National Park.

Travelling Time: 50-60 min flight

Savuti

In the heart of Botswana's Chobe National Park lies a dynamic wilderness, a sweeping expanse of savannah brooded over by several rocky outcrops which guard a relic marsh and the dry channel that was once its lifeline. This is Savute, where mysterious wet and dry cycles mould the landscape and dictate the nature of its wild inhabitants. Currently it is dry, and wild dogs hunt in the channel where crocodiles swam only twenty years ago.

The Gubatsa Hills shelter leopard and klipspringer and rock paintings of early man's wildlife sightings. During the arid winter months game viewing concentrates on Savute's resident bull elephants, antelope and lion prides, and black-backed jackal, bat-eared foxes, tsessebe, and kudu, abound.

The summer rains bring a feast for lion, hyena and cheetah as thousands of migrating zebra and wildebeest assemble in a chaotic pattern on the marsh. Cape buffalo herds arrive and migrant birds swell Savute's 300 resident species, thrilling bird-watchers with their spectacular antics.

Overnight: Savute Safari Lodge

Located on the banks of the Savute channel, Savute Safari Lodge is intimate, accommodating only 24 guests in cool thatched timber and glass suites.

The area is renowned for its population of bull elephant and for the unique interaction of the resident predator species. The close proximity of wildlife translates itself into the recently refurbished, modern African décor.





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Activities

Early morning and late afternoon game drives; Visit the ancient San rock paintings at Gubatsa Hills.

Please note: Due to the location of this lodge inside a National Park, activities times are dictated by Park opening/closing times.

Included

Fully Inclusive

Drinks (Local Brands) Included

Day 8: Departure (Mon, 29 December)

Today you will return to Maun Airport in time to connect your outbound flight back home.

Travelling Time: 30-40 min flight

Day Notes

On this morning, after breakfast and your last morning activity (flight time dependent), you will fly back to Maun in time for your onward connecting flight.

Transport

Flight Information (seat rates; these flights are not private)

Date	Flight	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time
22 Dec		Maun Airport [MUB]		Xugana Island Lodge	TBA
25 Dec		Xugana Island Lodge		Leroo La Tau	TBA
27 Dec		Leroo La Tau		Savute Safari Lodge	TBA
29 Dec		Savute Safari Lodge		Maun Airport [MUB]	TBA

Price

The quoted **price** of this fly in lodge safari, based on a minimum of 2 / 4 people, in Nov/Dec 2014, is:

Option 1: US \$2,850.00 per person sharing *excluding* private activities, based on a minimum of 2 people.

Option 2: US \$3,250.00 per person sharing *including* private activities, based on a minimum of 4 people.

Please note that dates are currently booked for travel 22 - 29 December 2014, but are flexible for travel any time before 31 December 2014 - subject to accommodation availability.

Please note this offer has limited participant availability on a first come first serve basis, and is therefore subject to availability at the time of enquiry.



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This amazing offer expires on the 15th of December 2014.

Included

- Accommodation, scheduled activities and laundry service.
- All meals, refreshments, local spirits and wines.
- Internal scheduled flight between camps as specified on the itinerary, starting/ending in Maun.
- Emergency medical evacuation insurance. (All guests must have personal travel insurance and medical cover).
- National park fees and all government levies and taxes.
- Airport transfers to/from scheduled/charter flights.
- A private vehicle and private activities at each of the lodges for the duration of the safari if Option 2 is taken.

Excluded

- International flights and airport taxes.
 - Additional activities and transfers not specified on the itinerary.
 - Premium import drinks.
 - Passport & Visa Fees.
 - Comprehensive Travel Insurance.
 - Gratuities and items of a personal nature.
 - Any Government taxes, levies, fuel or industry increases beyond our control.
 - Any errors & omissions excluded
- (All guests must have personal travel insurance and medical cover).