

ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

News and Updates

[General Updates](#) | [First-hand feedback](#)

BOTSWANA

July 2024

GENERAL UPDATES

Ker & Downy are excited to announce the opening of their new property, Maxa, which is located overlooking the permanent Maxa Lagoon, on the South-Eastern Panhandle within Botswana's Okavango Delta. Maxa is scheduled to open on 20 March 2025 and will accommodate up to 12 guests in tented rooms, each comprising an en-suite indoor bathroom as well as full outdoor open-air bathroom. The Maxa family tent has two bedrooms and a shared en-suite bathroom along with an outdoor bathroom.

FIRST-HAND FEEDBACK

Mosiwa Mofokeng, Kabelo Mothibeli, Siphokazi Kalo and Alex Rautenbach recently went on a Botswana educational trip, and shared some feedback on their stay.

Alex flew in directly to Maun from Cape Town to meet her Johannesburg colleagues. The 2h40-min direct flight on Airlink is a convenient way to link the two tourist destinations. The Cape Town International Departures is a small and stress-free environment, allowing for an enjoyable start to your travels. On arrival at Maun International Airport, we had a swift connection to Wilderness Air.

On arrival at Xakanaxa airstrip in the Moremi, we were met by Jonah, a young guide who drove us to **Okuti Lodge**, in the Ker & Downey portfolio. On the way, you stop at the entrance gate to the Moremi Game Reserve, where the guide has to sign in the guests. Once inside the reserve, all vehicles have to respect the park rules which includes no off-road driving. There are also camping sites inside the park, so one encounters self-drive vehicles. Okuti Lodge is a lovely place located on the Maunachira River and is run by wonderful and competent staff. The dome-shaped tents are a unique design and full of character. The units are quite close to each other, but are spacious with a good flow inside, with the beds facing the river. There are two family tents that can accommodate up to six people (kids seven years and older welcome). There are inside and outside showers and fans over the beds and in the sitting area. No tea/coffee station nor minibar, but hot beverages are brought to the room in the morning, and there is complimentary sherry in the rooms in the evening. Dining is communal with great fresh options, and guests are encouraged to gather around the fire before dinner, with staff entertaining guests with songs and dances. Jonah stood out here as a guide, who taught us so much in a very casual and fun manner. We had an amazing lion and cubs (just over a month old) viewing. There were quite a few vehicles on the sighting, but it was well managed. A truly inspiring and enriching educational!

