



WILDERNESS PRODUCT

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BOTSWANA

June 2024

GENERAL UPDATES

Mokete Helicopter Transfers

In order to provide a more seamless experience to our guests, there has been a change in operational logistics – all arrivals and departures will now be flown directly by helicopter transfer with Helicopter Horizons to Wilderness Mokete.

- Applicable routes include from Maun International Airport and/or alternative Wilderness camps within the Delta and Linyanti, as well third-party properties in the Delta and Linyanti.
- The estimated flight duration is 40 minutes from Maun International Airport to Mokete, which provides an elevated aerial experience, adding a unique value-add to the overall Wilderness Mokete experience.
- The vehicle transfer from the Mokete helicopter pad to camp is approximately four minutes.
- Existing rates have been honoured for all current confirmed and provisional bookings with helicopter transfers. Therefore, no cancellation fees are applicable when making the necessary changes.
- Regarding the routing via Kasane Airport, for both legs from and to, guests will continue to fly by fixed wing with Wilderness Air Botswana to Santawani Airstrip. Then from Santawani Airstrip, there is an approximate 15-minute helicopter transfer to Wilderness Mokete.
- New bookings entered into the system are to provide applicable costings on quoting for this service.

Mokete Helicopter Transfer Flying Times

- King's Pool, Duma Tau & Little DumaTau, Savuti – 35 minutes
- Little Vumbura, Vumbura Plains South & North, Mombo & Little Mombo – 45 minutes
- Jao, Pelo, Kwetsani, Tubu Tree & Little Tubu – 45 minutes
- Qorokwe, Chitabe – 25 minutes

Important:

- Please make a note of guests weighing more than 90kg in your booking; Helicopter Horizons will then accommodate them in a Bell helicopter.
- For anyone over 125kg, additional charges may apply; however this will depend on the booking as a whole.
- For transfers in and out of Maun, Helicopter Horizons will schedule transfers as a combo, so that no guests need to wait in Maun.
- They can easily transfer up to 12 guests at a time – please advise them of bigger groups.

AIRLINES**Ethiopian Airlines**

- The airline will commence a triangular route connecting Addis Ababa, Ndola, and Maun from 10 June 2024.
- The flight will operate on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.
- Flight ET 0833 will depart Addis Ababa at 08h30, arriving in Maun at 12h40.
- The return flight departs from Maun at 13h30, arriving in Ndola at 15h30. It then departs from Ndola at 16h20, arriving in Addis Ababa at 21h25.

SPECIALS

A reminder that our Wilderness Exclusive Safari Offers have been extended to 2025. Download our PDF with all the offers [here](#).

For clarity on Governors' and Wayo Africa packages, FAQ's have been addressed in the sections below.

CAMP REVIEWS

Our Travel Designers, Gordon Bauerlie-Sims, Suraj Jivan, Anna Tinkler and Leigh-Anne Williams visited our camps in Botswana and this is what they had to say.

Wilderness Savuti

We fell in love with Savuti instantly. The décor and architecture is charming, tasteful and evokes the classic safari experience. It's unpretentious and in tune with Wilderness' purpose. The camp seamlessly meshes with its riverine surroundings, bringing in elements from the channel and surrounding bush, and the effect is lovely.

The communal spaces in camp were warm and inviting, and the staff here were particularly attentive. The tents themselves sit on platforms overlooking the channel and were comfortable. The decks were perfect for just sitting and watching the African jacanas move around on the water.

Wilderness Qorokwe was a lovely surprise. On our way from the airstrip, we were treated to a drinks stop, while watching a herd of elephants.

The lodge is a contemporary design, on raised decks and walkways. The rooms are spacious and well appointed, looking out over the plains in front of camp, which, when the annual waters come in, fill up.

The main area is nice and large, with intimate seating areas scattered around. The boma is quite open, which is actually very nice and is situated in the front of the camp. Close to the bar area are two large floating, swing couches overlooking a water feature with lilies. They are lovely to laze around on when you have some down time. The water feature gives the whole area a very relaxed and laid-back feel. On one side of the main area is a large swimming pool and is great to be in while overlooking the plains in front of camp.

Being in the Gomoti area, it also offers really good game viewing, and one of our first sightings was of wild dogs.

Wilderness Vumbura Plains

The four elements of a safari came together nicely at this camp:

People, Camp, Guide and Safari Experience.

Suraj grew up in the North-West Province of South Africa, and the local language is Setswana, which is also the official language of Botswana! To give some geographical context, North-West Province borders southern Botswana – about 3-4 hours' drive from Mafikeng to Gaborone. Having spent the majority of his life here, he picked up a little Setswana and was really excited to understand what the staff in camp were chatting about.

The main area has a premium feel with artful and contemporary décor. To complement this it overlooks a permanent water channel, which is home to hippos. The camp itself is quite widespread, with the common area at the centre and guest tented suites located to the left and right. The suites are large, each having its own private deck with lounge and plunge pool over the looking the permanent water.

The food was amazing and very well presented. We had a bush boma dinner on one of the nights – be sure to try the Pap & Gravy! We were also entertained with singing and dancing by the staff members, and had the opportunity to participate – a really eventful night!

Our guide, Bame, was undoubtedly one of our best-ever experiences with a guide on all safaris we have ever been on! He is young, energetic, entertaining, attentive and very knowledgeable. He challenged our knowledge and learnings as we went along – everything from the grasses and plants, to birds and guessing animal tracks – we had some great laughs indeed. He fed off our energy and in turn we fed off his energy.



The mokoro excursion is one of the highlights of staying at a camp which offers both land and water activities. Afternoon came and we departed on the game vehicle, heading towards the location of the mokoros. En route, we spotted a pack of nine wild dogs along a water channel. Wild dogs are nomadic and ever on the move, therefore always making them a thrilling sighting. As we made our way closer to them, we noticed the leader was golden in colour, from head to toe, which is rather unusual – an albino wild dog! We were all really amazed and fascinated to experience this rare encounter of the Vumbura Concession's famous Golden Pack, which is known to the guides in this corner of the Okavango Delta for the dogs' distinctive gold patterning.

