



WILDERNESS

BOTSWANA WILDLIFE & ECOLOGY

Situated in the centre of southern Africa and more than 600 kilometres (373 miles) from the nearest ocean, Botswana is surrounded by Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe as its immediate neighbours. With the exception of the eastern part of the country, where the great majority of the Botswana people live and where the summer rainfall is slightly higher, the majority of Botswana is desert.



The Okavango Delta rests between shallow fault lines at the end of the Great African Rift Valley. Deserts are low in annual rainfall, and Kalahari is no exception. However, each year, 'floodwater' (best described as a slow, gradual inundation) flows southwards from its source and catchments in the moist Angolan highlands over 1000 km (620 miles) away and into the Kalahari Desert to create a unique wetland that supports and sustains a huge diversity of wildlife. Apart from year-round excellent game viewing, the beauty of this water wonderland is awe-inspiring.

To the northeast of the Okavango Delta are the Chobe and Linyanti Game Reserves. The many varied habitats within the Chobe and Linyanti parks – such as marshes, waterways, riverine forests, dry woodlands and the world-famous Savute Channel – have created an area renowned for its predators and large concentrations of game, particularly elephants. The grasslands of the Kalahari, together with the lunar expanse of the Makgadikgadi salt pans, complement and are in total contrast to the verdant, game-rich Okavango and Linyanti regions. The ancient fossil riverbeds and associated pans of the Central Kalahari are the playground of desert-adapted wildlife, which includes a wide range of ungulates and predators. The Kalahari as a whole, with its striking contrast to the Okavango and Linyanti Regions, adds significantly to Botswana's already overwhelming diversity.

WILDLIFE



593 bird species



80 fish species
identified in the
Okavango Delta



75 larger mammal
species



2,500+ plant species

SEVEN DISTINCT ECO-ZONES

- Kalahari Acacia-Baikiaea Woodlands
- Southern African Bushveld
- Zambezian Baikiaea Woodlands
- Zambezia Mopane Woodlands
- Zambezian flooded grasslands
- Zambezian Halophytics
- Kalahari Xerix Savannah