

CHITABE AND CHITABE LEDIBA



WILDERNESS

BOTSWANA





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01

We hope that your stay will be an enjoyable one!

For your information, safety and to enhance your stay, we have set out a few details regarding the area, camp and its activities. Please take the time to read this booklet, as we believe it will contribute greatly to your enjoyment in our area.

With warm regards,
The Wilderness Chitabe Team



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A photograph of a modern interior space. In the foreground, a round, brushed metal tray sits on a dark wooden surface. Behind it, a sofa with a light-colored geometric pattern is visible. A large, patterned cushion with a dark and light dot design rests on the sofa. To the left, a tall, thin wooden pillar stands against a wall with horizontal wood slats. Dried, golden-brown plants are scattered throughout the scene, adding a natural touch. The right side of the image is partially obscured by a grey vertical bar containing text.

02

ALL YOU
NEED TO
KNOW

SOLAR POWERED

All electricity and hot water is provided renewably by the sun (with a backup generator just in case). Please use electricity mindfully and turn off lights when you leave (that way, you'll also have fewer bugs). You can use the adaptor in your suite to recharge phones, camera batteries, etc.

STAYING HYDRATED

The water in our taps has been filtered and purified and is safe to use for washing, cleaning teeth, etc. For drinking, please rather refill your water bottle from the coolers in the main area, or use the water provided in your suite.

LAUNDRY

A laundry service is provided at no extra cost. Please leave any items for laundry in the basket provided and, weather permitting, these will be returned to you on the same day. Please fill in the laundry care slips provided, where you can specify special attention required for a particular item of clothing. We cannot be held liable for any damage to your clothing.

For cultural reasons, please place underwear in the net bag for separate washing.

Laundry services are weather- and water-supply dependent.

If you'd like your towels to be washed during your stay, please place them in the laundry basket. Otherwise, we'll hang them up to air so that you can reuse them.

SEPTIC TANK

As the camp makes use of a septic system, please don't flush any sort of chemicals or foreign objects down the toilets as this will seriously affect the system's efficiency. Please use the containers provided for any sanitary items.

AMENITIES

The amenities in your suite are eco-friendly – please use these rather than your own products.

WI-FI

Disconnecting to reconnect is one of the greatest benefits of spending time in remote, beautiful places.

However, the Wi-Fi network is open in your suite, so please feel free to use it at your leisure. As our internet connection relies on satellites rather than fibre, speed and reliability might not be quite what you're used to.

When you're using connected devices, please do be conscious of the fact that other guests may be choosing to have a digital detox during their stay.







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SAFETY & SECURITY

There is no fence around the camp, and wild animals can and do move around freely during the day as well as at night. Please always use the raised wooden walkways when moving about the camp, unless accompanied by a guide on a walk.

During the hours of darkness, a guide or manager will always walk with you. Nocturnal animals can make some unfamiliar noises, but you are perfectly safe in your suite. Rather than going outside to investigate, please stay inside and enjoy the magical sounds of the African night.

VALUABLES

Please use the digital safe in your suite to secure any valuables or cash. Larger items can be given to a manager for safe storage in the main camp safe.



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YOUR WELLBEING



DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

If you have not already told us of any special dietary requests or food allergies, please do so as soon as possible. Our executive chef is always happy to meet with guests and discuss any special needs so that we can be sure to serve you food that you can enjoy to the fullest.

EMERGENCIES

To ensure your safety, each suite has an emergency foghorn and a phone on which you can reach a member of the management team.

Please only use the foghorn in extreme situations or medical emergencies. A wild animal outside your tent is not an emergency!

If you hear someone else's emergency foghorn, please do not leave your suite to investigate – this may delay our response times.

FIRE

If you discover a fire, sound your emergency foghorn or use the phone. Please do not put yourself at any risk in attempting to fight the fire. Familiarise yourself with the fire plan document on the desk in your suite; the emergency assembly point is the parking area where your game drives start from.

SMOKING & VAPING

Please do not smoke or vape in any indoor part of the camp, or in the public areas, vehicles or aircraft.

You may smoke or vape on your private deck, or during breaks on activities – please always ensure that you completely extinguish any cigarette ends.

SUN SAFETY

The sun here in Botswana may well be much stronger than where you live, so please always use hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and appropriate clothing, avoid the midday sun, and stay hydrated.

MOSQUITOES & OTHER INSECTS

As we are in a malaria-risk area, please take precautions including following advice from your doctor or travel clinic and completing any course of prescribed medication or prophylaxis.


During your stay, please use insect repellent, wear long-sleeves, and trousers at night, and sleep under the mosquito net in your suite.

When you are away from your suite, close all doors, windows and zip-up panels, and switch off any lights. We recommend that you store any food or drink items in the bar fridge in your suite.



CHITABE CAMP LAYOUT



 ASSEMBLY POINTS

Units: 1 - 8

CHITABE LEDIBA CAMP LAYOUT



ASSEMBLY POINTS

Units: 1 - 4

Family Units: 2A & 2B

Family Units: 5A & 5B

Private/Guide: 6A & 6B



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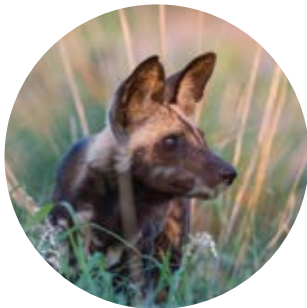
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MONEY MATTERS



BAR ACCOUNTS

All items from our bar are complimentary for guests, with the exception of reserve wines and Champagne.

Your account can be settled at the end of your stay – we accept cash (South African Rand, Botswana Pula, US Dollars, Euros and British Pounds) in these currencies, and VISA and MasterCard credit cards.

Unfortunately we cannot accept Diner's Club or American Express credit cards.

GRATUITIES

Tipping is entirely at your own discretion. If you do wish to tip, we suggest the following amounts:

- Guide, Specialist Guide – We recommend about USD 20.00 per guest per day.
- The general camp staff – We recommend about USD 20.00 per guest per day. This should be placed in the communal tipping box to be distributed equally amongst all the staff.

Tipping only need be done once, at the end of your stay.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE



CHECKOUT TIMES

We will let you know your departure from camp and flight times the evening before you are due to leave. We'll also let you know when we will need to ask you to vacate your suite – in some cases, this may be at a specific, earlier time, but we will do our best to minimise any inconvenience.

LOST & FOUND

Returning lost items to you can be expensive due to the remote locations of our camps. Please make sure that you take all your possessions with you, including any items from the digital safe in your suite, and the main camp safe.

If you do leave items behind, we will need to ask you to bear the costs of returning them to you.

EVALUATION FORMS

Please let us know how much you enjoyed your stay, or if you feel that there is anything we need to improve on.

You can complete the evaluation form in your suite, email travelanalysts@wilderness.co.za or leave a review on TripAdvisor. However you prefer to share your thoughts, we look forward to receiving your feedback.

Safe onward travels, and we look forward to welcoming you back soon.

Tsamaya sentle!

The Wilderness Chitabe Team







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A photograph of a zebra running through a shallow waterhole in a savanna landscape. The zebra is in the foreground, splashing water. In the background, there are several tall palm trees and other vegetation under a clear blue sky.

03

EXPLORE THE WILDERNESS

ACTIVITIES

Day and night game drives are exceptionally rewarding in this particularly diverse corner of the Okavango Delta. Grab your camera for some of the best photo-ops in Africa.

Guided nature walks are also an option, but must be prearranged with your guide or camp manager, as not all guides are qualified for walking in Botswana. Walks are also undertaken at the discretion of the camp manager, as during certain seasons of high vegetation growth, there are additional safety factors to consider.

Do note that for safety reasons, walking safaris are subject to vegetation height. The minimum age for walking activities and mekoro excursions is 13.

Chitabe is part of an internationally recognised IBA – Important Birding Area – making birdwatching a very rewarding activity.

Take in this corner of the Delta from a new perspective, with a scenic helicopter flight, or ask management about an excursion to Tsodilo Hills (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) to learn more about Botswana and the history of the San (both at extra cost).

GAME DRIVE ETIQUETTE

Unless a private vehicle and guide have been booked and paid for, in advance, you will be expected to share vehicles. Should availability of guides and vehicles not be a problem, we will try and assist at an extra daily fee. Please consult the camp manager if you are interested.

It would be greatly appreciated if you follow the few guidelines listed below:

- Stay alert and adhere to the guide's instructions.
- Please rotate seats with fellow travellers.
- It is recommended that you bring your binoculars, reference books and checklists on all game drives. Field guides are also available on the vehicle and binoculars are available on request.
- Please keep noise levels to a minimum to avoid disturbing fellow travellers and to avoid chasing game away.
- Do not stand up in the vehicle without your guide's consent. Many animals will flee on seeing the outline of a human shape as opposed to the outline of the vehicle.
- Always keep your arms and legs inside the vehicle. Be aware of overhanging branches and thorns.
- Please keep any litter in the vehicle and your guide will take care of it after the game drive.
- Take care of all your belongings and equipment while on activities. The game drives can be bumpy and there is a risk of items falling out. Please be aware of this as we cannot be held liable for any damages or losses.
- No smoking on vehicles. This is as a consideration to fellow travellers and because it is a fire hazard. Your guide will be happy to stop for the occasional smoke break for the smokers on board.







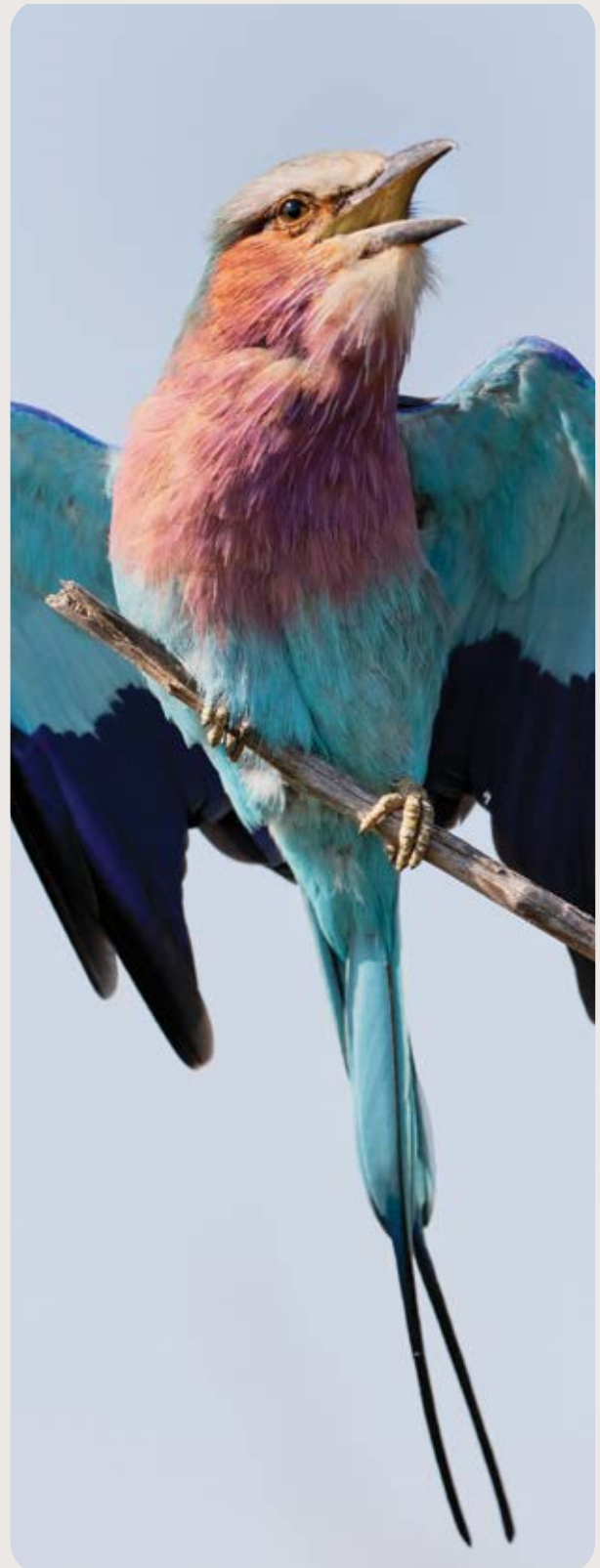
‘TAKE ONLY PICTURES’

The concept of ‘taking only pictures and leaving only footprints’ is important to us. Please do not pick up any plant, animal, or mineral while on activities or in camp, thereby removing it from its natural habitat. In this area, no disturbance of fauna and flora, organic or inorganic, is permitted

Please note: Botswana has a No Drone Flying Policy in all of its private wilderness areas. This policy extends to terrestrial and aerial UAVs, as well as drones.

SPECIES CHECKLIST

A species checklist detailing mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and trees found in the region is available for your use during your stay. Please advise the camp manager if you do not have one and feel free to take it with you for the rest of your journey.





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A savanna landscape with a large acacia tree, palm trees, and an elephant in the foreground. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The elephant is walking from left to right in the lower left corner. The background is filled with dense green and yellow foliage.

04

ABOUT THE AREA



Botswana's Okavango Delta is rightly considered one of the most incredible wildlife and wilderness sanctuaries in Africa. It is one of the largest inland delta systems in the world, an area of 15 000 sq. km filled with water channels, lagoons, swamps and islands. The Okavango lies between shallow fault lines at the end of the Great African Rift Valley that cuts through the length of Africa. What makes this area most remarkable is that it is a wetland paradise located deep within the arid Kalahari Desert, a miracle created by floodwaters that flow from catchment areas a thousand kilometres away into the Delta. Apart from the outstanding beauty of the wetland habitat, this unique area supports and sustains a huge diversity of fauna and flora, so that game viewing is excellent throughout the year.

The heart of the Okavango is the Moremi Game Reserve, where the major habitats and vegetation zones of the Okavango are conserved. Around this reserve are large private reserves or concessions that are leased out to safari companies under strict guidelines. These concessions offer the very best safari experiences with massive tracts of pristine and private parkland that are encountered in very few other places in Africa today.







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WILDLIFE AT CHITABE

Chitabe has a particularly wide variety of habitats: approximately 10% of the area has permanent water, 56% is seasonally or intermittently flooded and 34% is dry land. Between them, they include all the Okavango scenery of open floodplains, waterways, marshlands, dry acacia, mopane woodland, riverine areas and open grasslands. Such a range ensures an abundance of wildlife to be seen: elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah and wild dog are among the major attractions of the area. Chitabe is also home to a wide range of species including impala, zebra, wildebeest, buffalo, tsessebe, giraffe and kudu. Given that we are in an unconfined wilderness area and animals roam wherever they want, no sightings are guaranteed. The mixture of wet and dry environments also means that both land and water-based birds are found in the area. Some of the highlights include the rare wattled crane, slaty egret and black coucal.

ABOUT CHITABE

Chitabe is situated within a private concession (wilderness area) called NG31, which is in turn located in an Okavango Wildlife Management Area, set aside by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks for photographic safaris. NG31 borders the Moremi Game Reserve to the north and east. The Gomoti Channel forms the boundary to the east and the Santantadibe River the boundary to the west.

The Chitabe Concession was originally awarded to Flamingo Investments in a Government tender in 1996 and the original camps opened in July 1997. Flamingo Investments is jointly owned by Wilderness, Dave and Helene Hamman, and Neil Lumsden. Since inception, Helene has been at the helm of the company, not only on the accounting and finance side, but all subsequent camp refurbishments and rebuilds (due to fire or storms).

For more information on the area, its animals and birdlife, a detailed map is located in the lounge. Our guides will keep you well informed about the species you come across in camp and during your activities, and our management and staff are happy to share any information on Botswana's culture and history.



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05

ABOUT WILDERNESS

Wherever we operate, we aim to create the biggest positive impact for our conservation mission.

What started as a passionate group of African guides in 1983 is now a world-leading conservation and hospitality company, responsible for helping to conserve and share over 2.3 million hectares (or 6 million acres) of wilderness across our planet.

Wherever Wilderness operates, it aims to create the biggest positive impact for its conservation mission. As circumstances change, Wilderness continually evaluates, adapts and evolves. The company focuses on conservation, community development and making its operations more sustainable, and where possible, implement initiatives that play a role in all three areas.

We strongly believe that the world's wild places and the communities that surround them are completely interdependent. For them to co-exist, there needs to be a meaningful and widespread commitment on the part of everyone involved – including you, our guest.







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WILDERNESS WILDLIFE TRUST

The Wilderness Wildlife Trust is an independent non-profit organisation that supports wildlife management, research and education projects across Africa. These projects include innovative approaches to seeking solutions to save endangered species and provide education and training for local people and their communities. Wilderness provides logistical support for projects in its concessions.

CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS

Children in the Wilderness (CITW) is Wilderness' non-profit partner focused on inspiring the next generation of environmental leaders in each of the regions where it operates.

The CITW programme starts with Eco-Clubs, which introduce primary school children to the programme. This is followed by Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Clubs, aimed at secondary school students who continue to show an interest in conservation and the environment.

The Scholarship Programme is a vitally important aspect of CITW's work with our children in the communities. Currently some 600 children are supported on the programme, to help them finish school and find employment.

To find out more about our conservation and community projects, and how you can help, visit the Wilderness Wildlife Trust at www.wildernesstrust.com and Children in the Wilderness at www.childreninthewilderness.com.





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OUR FOOD JOURNEY



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THE THREE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF OUR FOOD JOURNEY



Our guests' food experience is a journey in itself, and we want you to feel truly indulged as you discover local ingredients and learn about this spectacular area. We believe that the more food is locally grown, the more we can manage it from Earth to plate – to reduce our foodprint, strengthen our ties with the community and create a healthier, more harmonious environment for all of us.

CELEBRATING LOCAL PRODUCE – IN SEASON FOR A REASON

We aim to use as much locally grown produce as we can, not only for the nutritional benefits of reducing the time it takes to get to our camps, but for our positive impact on the environment through reduced carbon emissions.

By making heroes of indigenous ingredients we support the local communities in which we operate, as well as celebrate heirloom produce in each region. These whole foods have a deep-rooted ability to support the body's natural detoxification process, in addition to myriad nutrients to sustain vibrant health.

WAR ON WASTE

Due to the location and logistics of our camps, the shelf life of our fresh produce is sometimes compromised. For this reason we have formed upcycling teams in our kitchens to utilise any potential waste, and turn it into preserves, pickles, stocks, and dehydrated fruits and vegetables, which we have added to our menus.



To further reduce waste in camps we engage with our suppliers to minimise packaging coming into our camps, and since 2017 we have completely eliminated the use of plastic wrap in our camps. We embrace the root-to-stem concept in our kitchens, meaning we make use of the whole ingredient in creative forms to minimise waste. Any unused portions go to recycling or worm farms and composting.

Our meal choices are consistently designed with conservation in mind, and achieving a balance between meat- and plant-based options directly contributes to our mission to operate with a light foodprint.

ECO|LABORATIONS THROUGH LOCAL EMPOWERMENT

Our commitment to community empowerment and involvement entails job creation through our local farming and existing hospitality model. We support small-scale entrepreneurial projects, ranging from artisanal pottery to crafting and other traditional wares, which are used for dining, beverages and mealtime presentation.







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www.wildernessdestinations.com