

LINYANTI WILDLIFE RESERVE WILDLIFE & ECOLOGY

The 121 000-hectare (299 000-acre) private Linyanti Concession bordering Chobe National Park's western boundary is an enormous, wildlife-rich area, shared between just four small camps (King's Pool, DumaTau, Savuti and Linyanti Tented camps), which creates an unrivalled atmosphere of remoteness and space.

CAMPS

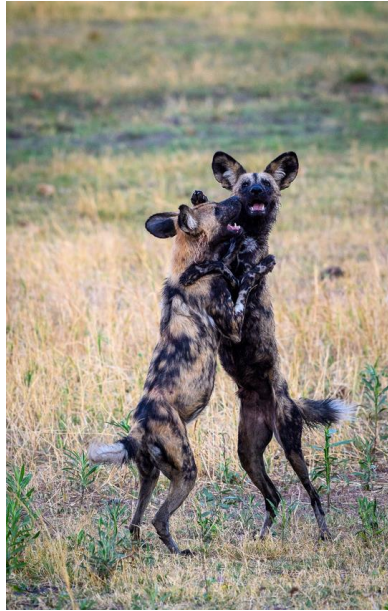
- DumaTau
- Little DumaTau
- King's Pool
- Savuti
- Linyanti Tented Camp



There are three main features of the Linyanti Concession: the Linyanti River, the woodlands of the interior and the well-known Savute Channel, famous as a sporadic and unusual watercourse that is often dry but occasionally, inexplicably flows. The wildlife mix in and around the Channel thus also changes depending on the water levels. The Savute is described as 'erratic' – throughout its recorded history it has dried up several times, the reason for which is probably related to tectonic plate movement. With two thirds of the Channel located in the concession, Wilderness Safaris guests have private and exclusive access to its abundant game.

The river and Channel, together with the floodplains, woodlands, grasslands, palm islands and scrub vegetation of the area, harbour one of the densest dry-season concentrations of elephant in Botswana – at times, several thousand elephants roam through the landscape. This phenomenon is one of the main attractions for travellers to northern Botswana, but the area is also important in holding good numbers of predators, providing an integral stronghold for species like the critically endangered wild dog, as well as lion, cheetah and spotted hyaena. The rare roan antelope found in the area can provide an equal thrill, as can the high concentration of birds of prey, seasonal zebra congregations and the cathedral-like woodland of mature mopane trees.

Other plains game includes red lechwe, Burchell's zebra, blue wildebeest, impala, common waterbuck, sable, eland, southern giraffe, chacma baboon, vervet monkey, warthog, hippo and Cape buffalo. Nocturnal species often seen are lesser bushbaby, spring hare, aardwolf, serval, large spotted genet and, for the extremely lucky, the elusive pangolin!



Birding is outstanding here, ranging from Okavango specials, such as slaty egret, Hartlaub's babbler, Allen's gallinule (seasonal) and wattled crane, to the drier mopane woodland species like racket-tailed roller, Bradfield's hornbill, white-breasted cuckoo-shrike, Bennett's woodpecker, swallow-tailed bee-eater, coqui francolin and Arnot's chat. The open areas are excellent for Kori bustard, ostrich, secretarybird, and southern ground-hornbill with southern carmine bee-eaters in summer. The Savute Channel is famous for its high concentration of eagles and raptors; this area is internationally recognised as an IBA (Important Bird Area), particularly for birds of prey like Dickinson's kestrel. There are also various owl species to be seen here such as Verreaux's eagle-owl and African scops-owl.

The many varied habitats within these areas, the prolific and diverse wildlife and the spectacular scenery together form a wonderful contrast and complement to the Okavango. Adding this area to a Botswana itinerary makes for a varied and balanced experience of the country.