

BOTSWANA



Our journeys change lives

Below: A mobile safari in the early days, circa 1985



Above: Staff at Kalahari Plains singing to guests



The story of Wilderness

It was in Botswana that we first fell in love with the wilderness.

In 1983, two experienced safari guides, Colin Bell and Chris McIntyre, who had been working in the remote reaches of Botswana, decided to strike out on their own. They wanted to somehow guarantee that the financial benefits of their safaris flowed to the country and its people, ensuring the sustainable protection of the country's wildlife areas. In retrospect this approach was logical and today forms the cornerstone and central tenet of ecotourism the world over, but in the early 1980s it was a groundbreaking philosophy and set Wilderness Safaris apart.

What also set us apart was our fervent desire to offer authentic safaris that catered for people as passionate about nature as we were. So, registering Wilderness Safaris as a Botswana company with a logo representing the African skimmer (a bird restricted to pristine ecosystems), we based ourselves in Maun, south of the Okavango Delta, and started running mobile safaris.

By 1985, we had begun to establish tented camps on exclusive sites in the Okavango Delta. Then, in 1990, we were offered an opportunity to run an unknown camp called Mombo on Chief's Island. It was in an area that had been heavily hunted, but within a few years of photographic safaris, Mombo had rapidly developed an enviable international reputation. This was achieved mostly through exceptional viewing of large predator species in a spectacular landscape into which plains game streamed once it was clear that hunting was no longer practiced there.

It was during that time (the early- and mid-1990s) that we branched out to neighbouring countries, firstly Namibia, then South Africa, Malawi, Zimbabwe and further afield, but our roots remain in Botswana, evidenced by the fact that in 2010, Wilderness was listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange.

We believe the single most important achievement by Wilderness Safaris to date is to have built a sustainable business model that does not compromise its environmental principles and which, through jobs, training, skills, careers, adjusted horizons and hope, provides a realistic alternative to Africa's challenges. The fact that we have been able to achieve success in our business while remaining environmentally responsible over the past 30+ years is a boon.



Above: The fulfilment of the Wilderness dream began with a single Land Rover and plenty of enthusiasm



Botswana

The Kalahari Desert, part of the world's largest unbroken expanse of sand, forms the bulk of Botswana. Yet within it lies a jewel: the Okavango Delta is a wondrous wetland that receives its waters from rain falling a thousand kilometres away and sustains a huge diversity of fauna and flora. In the north-east of the country, the Chobe and Linyanti reserves are renowned for their predators and large concentrations of game, while to the south lies the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, one of the biggest protected areas in Africa, its diverse arid-adapted wildlife and starkly scenic landscapes offering an amazing contrast to the rest of the country.



Linyanti

Woodland, floodplain and the Savute Channel, huge elephant densities, abundant predators and prey

Camps

DumaTau • Kings Pool • Savuti



Okavango – Land

Scenic floodplains, forested islands and acacia woodland; high predator densities and good antelope diversity

Camps

Chitabe • Chitabe Lediba • Little Mombo • Mombo

Pages: 6 – 19

Pages: 20 – 35



Okavango – Water

“The real Delta” ... lagoons, channels, papyrus swamps; specialised birds, mammals and amphibians

Camps

Xigera • Jacana • Pelo

Pages: 36 – 49



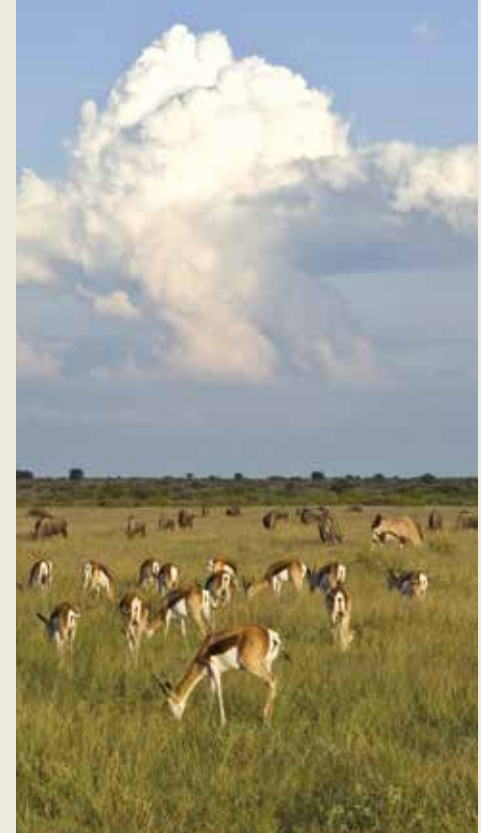
Okavango – Combination

The best of both worlds between wet and dry; seasonal floodplains and channels; wide variety of species

Camps

Abu • Jao • Kwetsani • Little Tubu • Little Vumbura • Seba • Tubu Tree • Vumbura Plains

Pages: 50 – 81



Central Kalahari

Deception Valley, the “green desert,” black-maned male lion, cheetah and hundreds of springbok and oryx

Camp

Kalahari Plains

Pages: 82 – 91

LINYANTI

• Kings Pool • DumaTau • Savuti



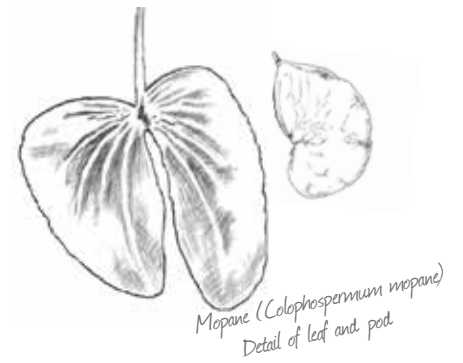


Botswana's wild, wooded fault-line frontier



Kings Pool

Named for Scandinavian royalty, Kings Pool looks out over a sparkling oxbow-shaped lagoon framed with reeds and punctuated by the occasional elephant moving through the water. Expansive decks in the main area echo the natural spaces, and an open-air 'kgotla' (boma) is the perfect setting for fine dining under the stars. Two hides – one with the water (and wildlife!) literally at eye-level – are perfect places to spend your siesta: elephant feet and trunks are almost within touching distance. End the day with sundowners on the elegant, colonial-style *Queen Sylvia* barge as she cruises down the Linyanti River.



• 9 tents • 100% solar • game drives • nature walks • hides • barge cruises • boating • catch-and-release fishing







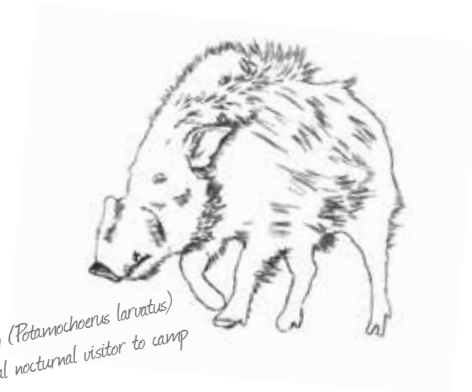
"It was obvious that the primary objective was to meet all our expectations and more. They surprised us daily with unanticipated treats..."

Kings Pool guest, August 2015



DumaTau Camp

DumaTau means “roar of the lion,” yet it is the elephant that reigns here. Set on a lagoon on the Linyanti River between two “elephant highways,” this stylish lodge offers unparalleled viewing of these mammals; in winter, enormous herds traverse the area. The land’s many habitats and the river create a diverse home for a variety of wildlife, from plains game to predators, with the endangered wild dog and the elusive leopard playing starring roles. Taking in sweeping, dramatic views of the river, DumaTau’s airy architecture expresses the explorer aesthetic.



- 10 tents (2 family) • 100% solar • game drives • guided walks • boating • barge cruises
- hide • catch-and-release fishing







"DumaTau means lion's roar – and roar they do! This gorgeous camp is the best of all worlds...miles from anything ... and an abundance of majestic creatures."

DumaTau guest, September 2015





Savuti Camp

Standing on the raised wooden deck of Savuti, one is able to marvel at the phenomenon of nature at work. Just beneath this remote safari camp meanders the enigmatic and sporadic Savute Channel. As part of a natural cycle the waters come and go, resulting in either good concentrations of game in search of water or a rich feeding ground and corridor between the surrounding mopane woodlands for both plains game and predators. A thatched main area and viewing deck take in the scene, while exploring the length of the Savute and its associated woodlands is a highlight here.

*Arnot's Chat (Myrmecocichla arnoti)
Male seen in mopane woodland.*



- 7 tents (1 family)
- day and night game drives
- nature walks
- hides





Clockwise from top left: Cheetah drinking at camp waterhole, September 2003 • Arrival of new water, July 2008 • Established channel in front of camp, July 2013



The “disappearing river”

Famed as the “stolen river” owing to its periodic vanishing waters, the Savute Channel is an unusually productive ribbon of grassland that serves as a feeding ground for herbivores in their numbers – followed by their predators. When there is a subtle shift in the underlying tectonic plates (which we experienced between 2008 and 2016), the river that disappeared, reappears. Water creeps in from the Channel’s source at the Zibadianja Lagoon, moving towards the distant, long-dry Savute Marsh, creating a deep, clear waterway harbouring hippo, aquatic life and myriad waterbirds.

The Channel is thus a place of refuge and food, an obstacle, a navigational aid, a playground and, for some, a graveyard. Savuti Camp has exciting front row seats to this natural marvel, watching wildlife having to adapt to changing conditions, with both its opportunities and threats.

Various episodes over the past few hundred years suggest this is a regular, albeit unpredictable phenomenon. The question on everyone’s minds is: when will we see the waters begin to trickle our way again? Impossible to say, but for now, our guests have exclusive access to this phenomenon, and to admire the way geology and nature can completely transform a landscape.

Left: Aerial view of the receding Savute Channel, May 2016

OKAVANGO - LAND

• Mombo • Little Mombo • Chitabe • Chitabe Lediba





Quite simply one of Africa's top wildlife experiences

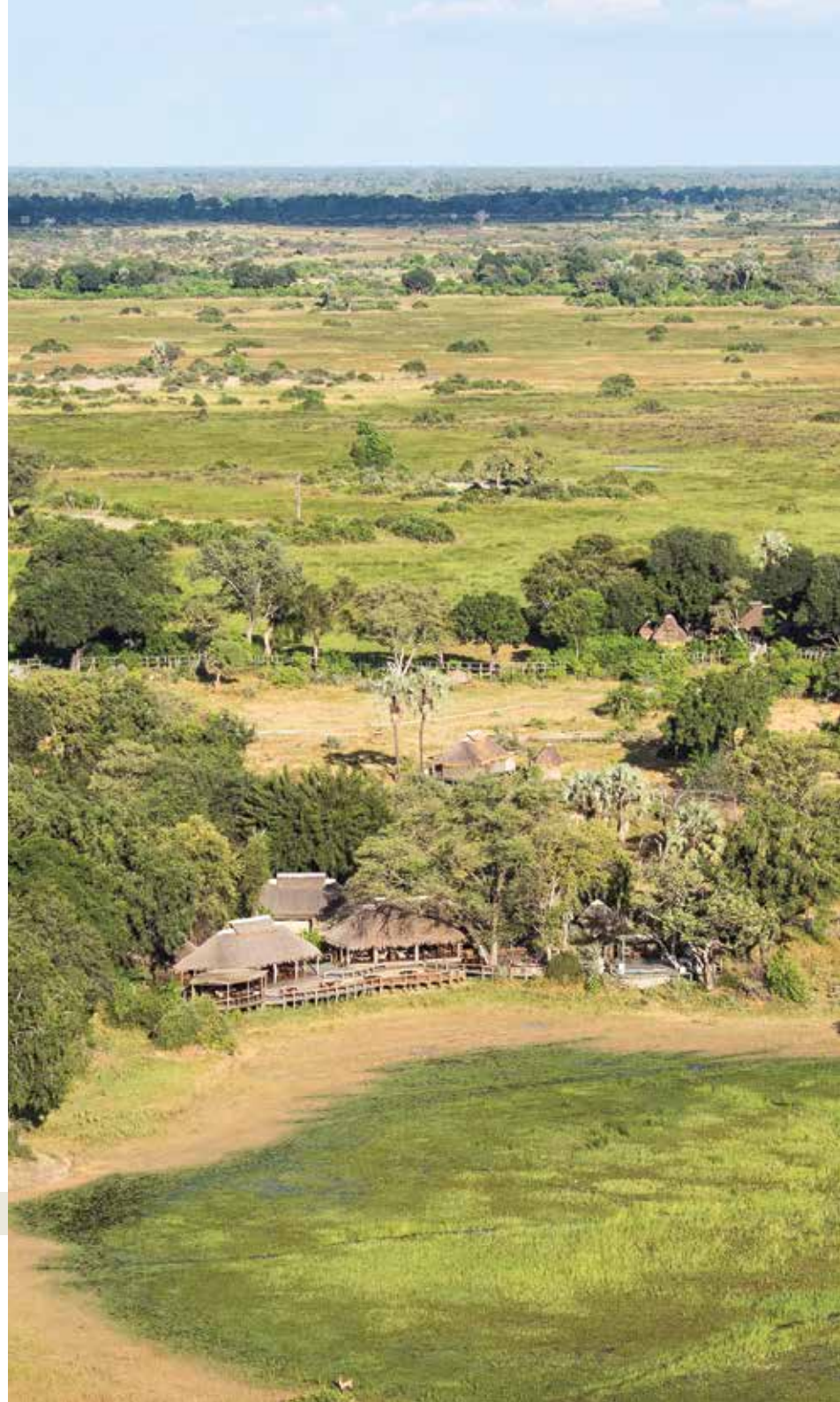
Mombo Camp

It is often said that as soon as you walk out onto the main deck at Mombo and note the plain dotted with a variety of species of game, you know you are somewhere special. Not for nothing is Mombo known as “the place of plenty.” Situated at the northern tip of Chief’s Island, the largest landmass in the Okavango, the camp’s elegant design complements its magnificent surroundings, with the spacious, luxurious tents – each sporting a private sala – raised off the ground to maximise the views of the floodplain. The game viewing here is exceptional with abundant plains game and predators never far away, from leopard and spotted hyaena to large prides of lion.

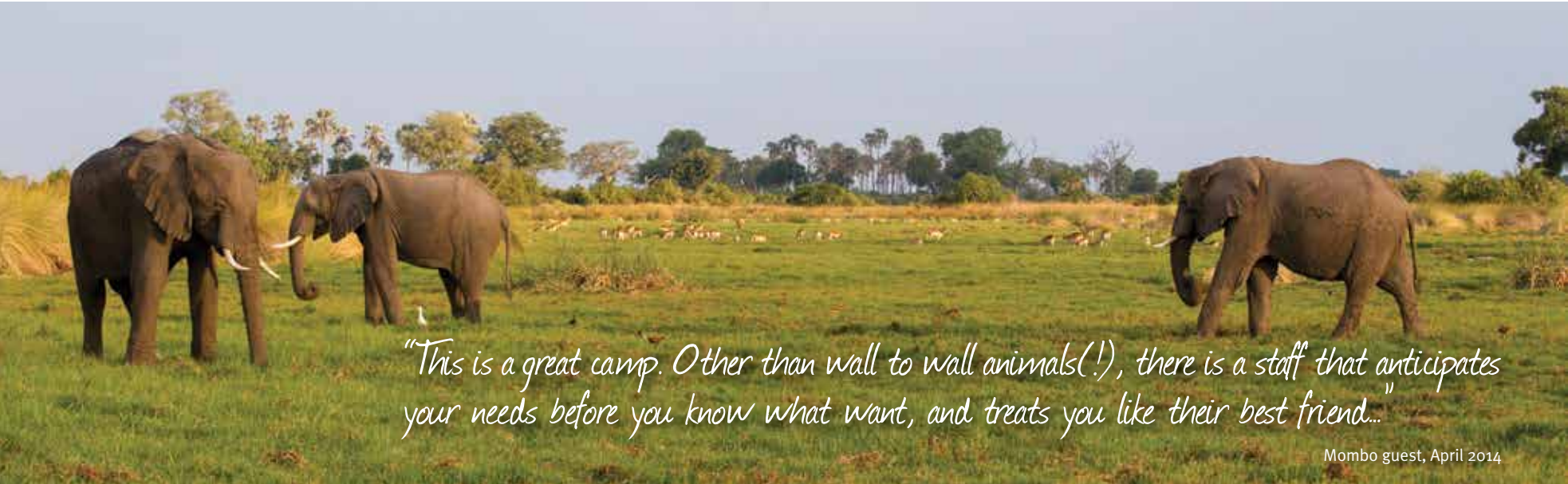


*'Baobab Babi' (Adansonia digitata)
Unofficial sentinel en route into Mombo Camp*

• 9 tents • 100% solar • morning and afternoon game drives • gym • massages • 4Cs Centre







"This is a great camp. Other than wall to wall animals(!), there is a staff that anticipates your needs before you know what want, and treats you like their best friend..."

Mombo guest, April 2014





Little Mombo

With just three tents tucked away on the other side of the same island, Little Mombo is a smaller, more intimate version of its sister camp, Mombo. Built under a shady canopy of jackalberry and sausage trees, overlooking a floodplain regularly visited by herds of herbivores, the camp has its own facilities including a dining room, kitchen, lounge and plunge pool, while being connected to Mombo Camp via a raised boardwalk. Days are spent exploring the savannah and floodplain mosaics of Chief's Island in search of the area's teeming wildlife.



*Sausage Tree (Kigelia africana)
Pendulous pods and detail of flower spray*

• 3 tents • 100% solar • morning and afternoon game drives • gym • massages • 4Cs Centre









A safe haven for rhino

Since 2001, Wilderness Safaris and the Botswana Government have partnered in a pioneering rhino conservation programme that has seen healthy breeding populations of both Critically Endangered black rhino and Near Threatened white rhino reintroduced to the Okavango Delta after being declared locally extinct in the wild in Botswana in the early 1990s.

Between May 2014 and June 2015, we successfully achieved the largest cross-border move of black rhino ever on the continent. This event – a mammoth collaboration between the private and public sector, governments and private individuals, along with determination, negotiation and commitment – is the latest in a series of translocations that resulted in no less than 1% of the global population of the Critically Endangered black rhino being restored to a safe haven: Botswana's Okavango Delta.

It has always been a big part of the Wilderness vision to create viable thriving populations of both species here, where they can be monitored and protected by one of the best anti-poaching teams in Africa aided by the Botswana Defence Force. And, long after the hype and the headlines, our rhino monitoring teams continue their vital work to help pull these species back from the brink of extinction.

This operation, which brought black rhinos from two countries (South Africa and Zimbabwe) to Botswana, was applauded by top conservationists and enjoyed the support of no less than three Governments. It would not have been possible without the support of all our partners... with one goal: to help these black rhino back to a place where we know they will be safe.

Map Ives, Wilderness Safaris Environmental Manager and Botswana National Rhino Coordinator





Chitabe Camp

In the south-east of the Okavango Delta, Chitabe can be found on a beautiful, shady tree-island. Each individually-designed tent exudes its own character, aided by superb fine art wildlife photographs, and has a sweeping view across the floodplain that transforms from dry rushes in winter to a lush oasis in summer. The concession is well known for its mosaic of habitats and equivalent range of wildlife, from elephant, buffalo, and antelope such as lechwe and tsessebe, to a plethora of predators, with wild dog and leopard being the stars of the show.



• 8 tents • 100% solar • day and night game drives • nature walks



"Our guide was not only super knowledgeable and professional in finding animals... but also incredibly respectful and sensitive to the needs of the animals and environment."

Chitabe guest, September 2015

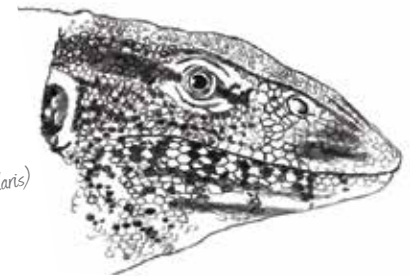




Chitabe Lediba

This intimate camp, with its well-appointed canvas tents and uniquely-styled interiors, is ideally suited to families and small groups. Located on the other side of the same island as Chitabe Camp, it is named after the *lediba* (a remnant lagoon that has become a waterhole) in front of camp. The surrounding mix of savannah, woodlands and palm-dotted floodplains that characterise this corner of the Delta support scores of game year round, so that game drives take in an abundant array of big game, herbivores, and an impressive cohort of carnivores.

*The lizard king?
White-throated monitor (Varanus albigularis)*



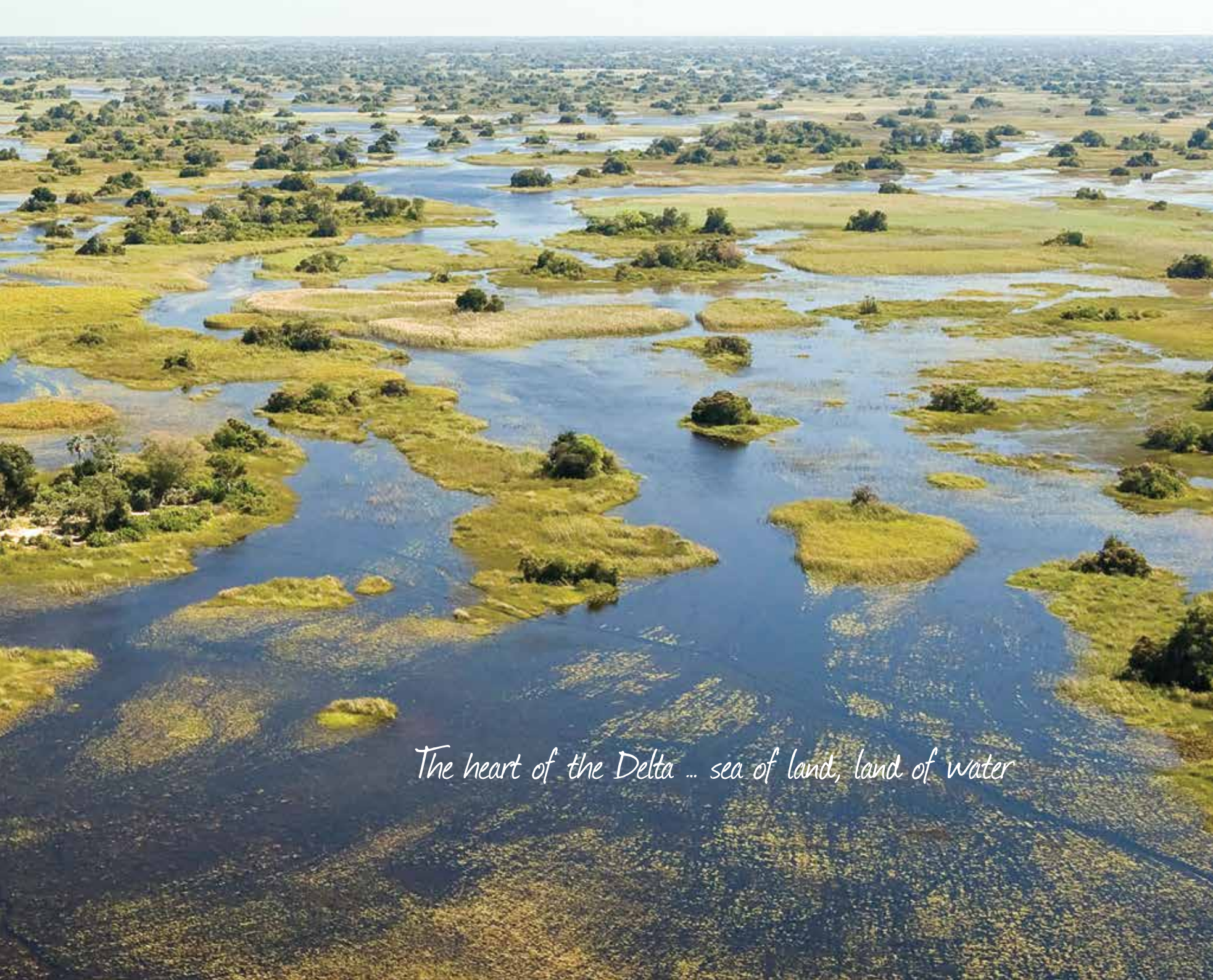
- 5 tents (2 family) • 100% solar • day and night game drives • nature walks



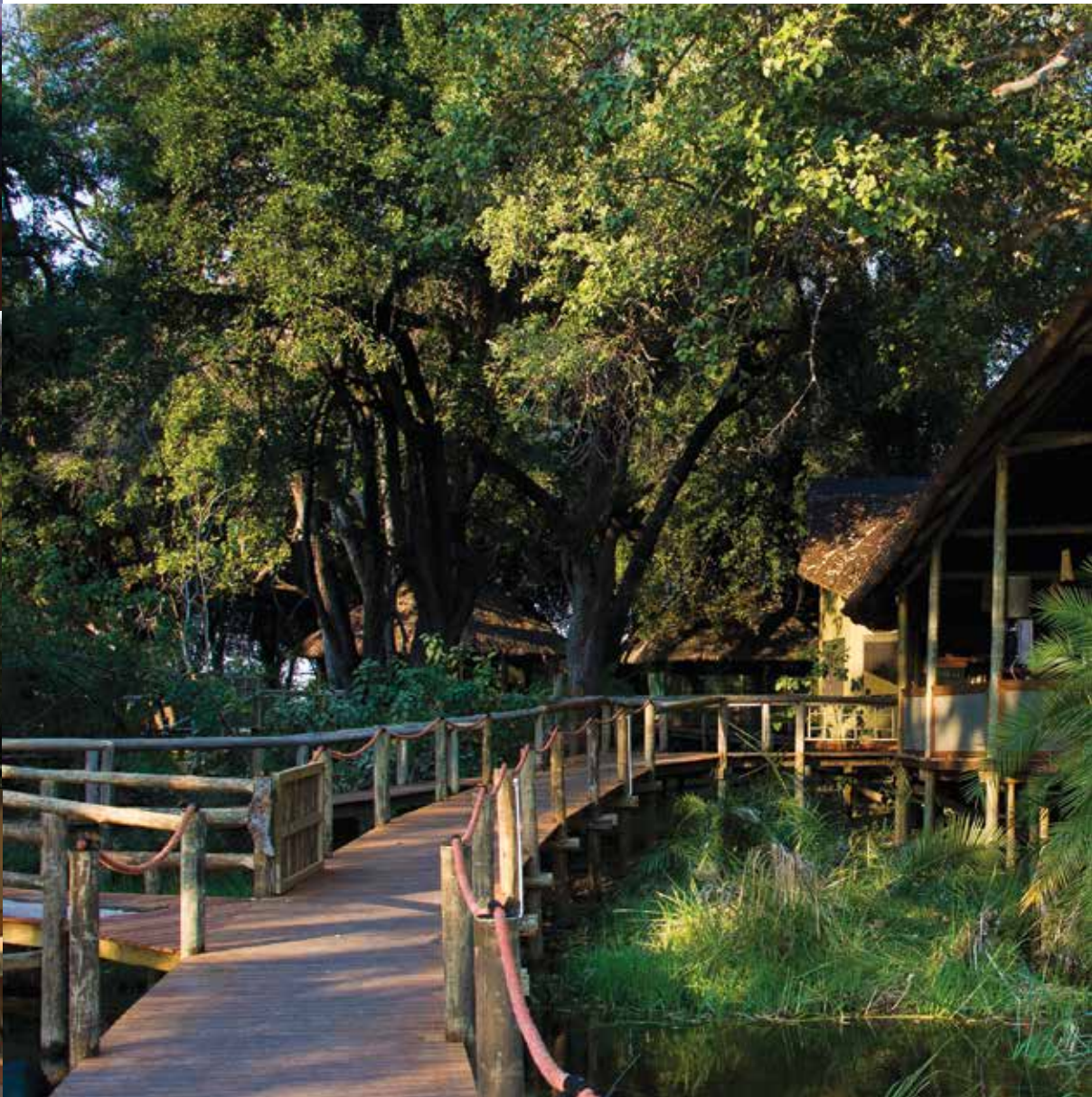
OKAVANGO - WATER

• Xigera • Jacana • Pelo





The heart of the Delta ... sea of land, land of water





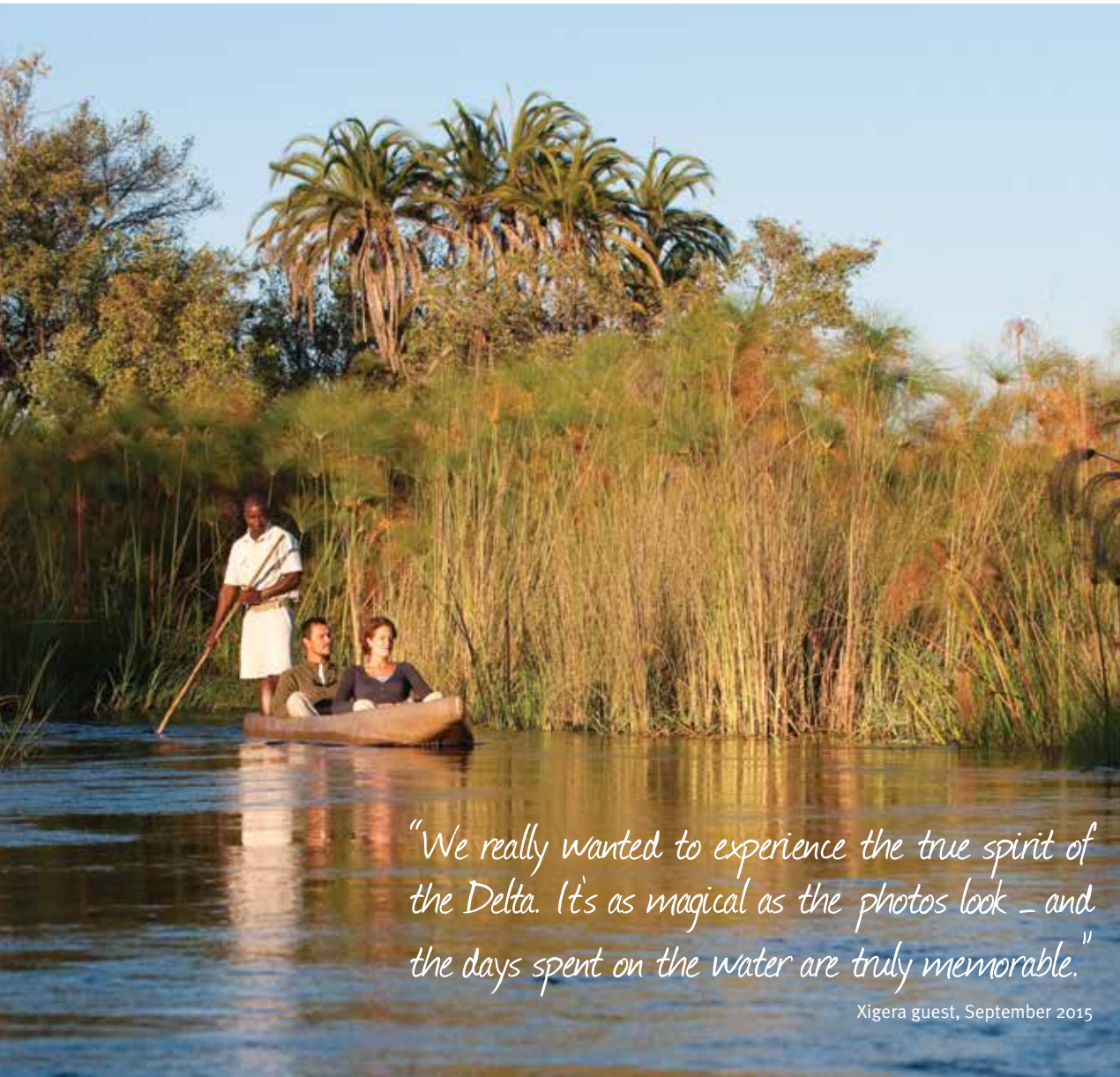
Xigera Camp

Deep in the Delta, surrounded by crystal-clear channels of water and lush vegetation, Xigera is the quintessential Okavango experience. This blue-green world is home to a number of water-loving Okavango 'specials' including spotted-necked otter, Pel's fishing-owl, wattled crane and the Delta's highest concentration of the elusive sitatunga antelope. Situated on the aptly-named Paradise Island, the almost-year-round water makes this the ideal camp for exploring by motor boat and mokoro (dugout canoe) – an idyllic connection to a bygone era that allows silent and tranquil progress across waterlily-dotted waters.

*African Skimmer (Rhyncops flavirostris)
Adult bird skimming at Xigera Lagoon*

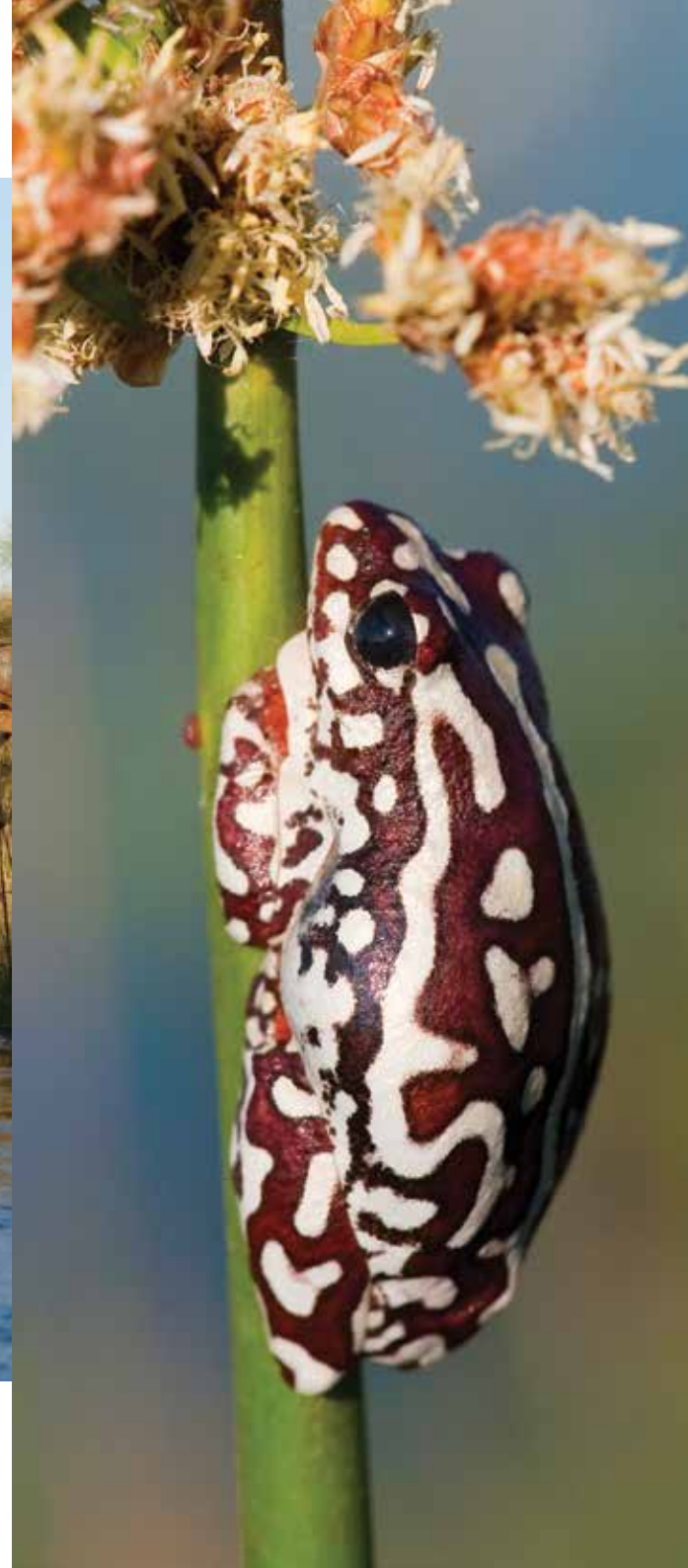


• 9 tents (1 family) • 100% solar • mokoro • boating • game drives • nature



"We really wanted to experience the true spirit of the Delta. It's as magical as the photos look – and the days spent on the water are truly memorable."

Xigera guest, September 2015



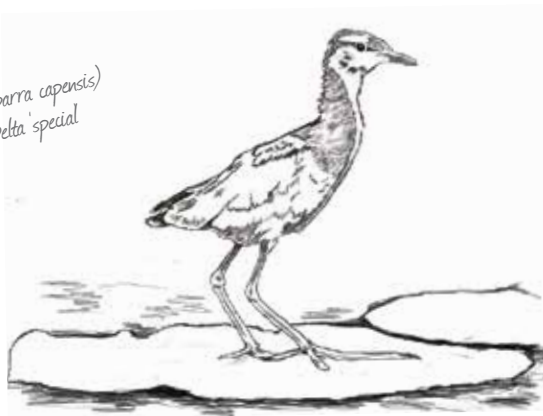




Jacana Camp

Peeking out from under a canopy of mangosteen, giant sycamore and wild date palm trees on a secluded tree-island, Jacana is a typical water camp. From here, you can experience the tranquillity of the Okavango Delta by floating along its clear, quiet channels in a traditional dugout canoe, or mokoro. Jacana's near-permanent water means you can discover the fascinating creatures that flourish in this unique environment, from hippo and crocodile to a wealth of waterbirds including the emblematic African jacana as it delicately steps from one waterlily to the next.

*Lesser Jacana (Microparra capensis)
A lily-trotting Delta special*



• 5 tents (1 family) • mokoro • boating • game drives • catch-and-release fishing





Children in the Wilderness

In 2001, the American actor Paul Newman and his family visited Africa with Wilderness Safaris. After discussions around the campfire about the future of Africa's youth, we decided to create Children in the Wilderness, a programme that exposes children to their natural heritage, and creates a network of learning sanctuaries that uplifts and cares for Africa's children and conserves our planet at the same time. In December that same year, Children in the Wilderness successfully ran its first camp in Botswana.

Children in the Wilderness was an organic evolution of Wilderness' vision. The areas in which we operate are some of the planet's more sensitive and fragile environmental hotspots. Therefore, by focusing on children, we believe that a programme of this calibre can impact significantly on the local communities in the hope of securing their future and that of the wilderness.

Throughout the year, Eco-Clubs are run at schools within the rural communities located on the edges of the wild areas in which we operate, introducing them to their wildlife heritage. Eco-Club members are then hosted at a Wilderness Safaris camp, closed to guests for the purpose. The fun-filled three-night educational programme is run by volunteers and Eco-Mentors and focuses on teaching the children about the importance of wilderness areas. The kids go on game drives and walks, enjoy games that build self-esteem and teach life skills, and are inspired about conservation and to continue with their education.

The most important things I learnt on camp is how to stop poaching, how is the circle of life, careers ... Wilderness areas are important to us so that our children and grandchildren may see animals.

Sebathu Kgosiemang, 10 years old



Pelo Camp

Almost as deep into the Okavango Delta as one can go lies Pelo Camp. Intimate and unpretentious, its tents are sheltered by impressive fig, and jackalberry trees and a few sentinel mokolwane palms. Pelo means 'heart,' a most fitting name as, from the air, the small island on which the camp is located seems to be shaped like a heart. Given the water that surrounds the camp, activities here focus on mokoro (traditional dugout canoe) excursions – an adventurous, up-close and silent way to experience the beauty of the Delta and its distinctive flora and fauna.



*Water Lily (Nymphaea nouchali)
Unfertilised white flower*

• Seasonal camp • 5 tents • mokoro • boating • nature walks • catch-and-release fishing



Water wilderness

As a biological resource, an aesthetic treasure and an economic engine fuelling Botswana's tourism industry, there is quite simply nothing like the Okavango Delta anywhere else in the world. Such uniqueness, coupled with the chance to help conserve it and show it to our guests are just some of the reasons that we consider it our origins and roots.

Its crystal-clear waters flow a thousand undammed kilometres from its source in neighbouring Angola before spreading out into one of the largest inland delta systems in the world: an area of 15 000 km² filled with channels, lagoons, swamps and islands. So crammed with life is it, that apart from its outstanding beauty, it is also considered one of Africa's most important wildlife sanctuaries and a World Heritage Site. Its huge diversity of fauna and flora includes specialised water-loving creatures, from the sought-after Pel's fishing-owl to the shy sitatunga, and myriad reed frogs that fill the nights with sound.

At its tranquil, watery heart, one can imagine a world without human impact, and truly appreciate an ecosystem in balance.





OKAVANGO - COMBINATION

• Vumbura Plains • Little Vumbura • Jao • Kwetsani • Tubu Tree • Little Tubu • Abu • Seba





A tapestry of habitats - floodplains, channels, islands and lagoons



Vumbura Plains

Vumbura Plains, a luxurious retreat of contemporary design, seems to float on a sea of waving reeds in the midst of a large floodplain. The sumptuous rooms, each with its own plunge pool and sala, are uniquely designed, spacious and raised on wooden decks to take in a wide-angled vista. Because the area is a mix of water and dry land, wildlife is diverse, so water-loving lechwe splash through the reeds, while rare sable antelope can be seen in the dry savannah. Lion, leopard, elephant, cheetah, wild dog and buffalo along with plains game and prolific birds provide an excellent all-round wildlife experience.



• 14 tents • 100% solar • game drives • cultural excursions • mokoro • boating • nature walks • hot air ballooning • catch-and-release fishing • massages





Partnering with local communities

Without the cooperation, support and understanding of local communities that adjoin concession areas, national parks and reserves, conservation would have a far more limited chance of success. Since 1983 Wilderness Safaris has led the field in terms of recognising that the involvement of communities in conservation and tourism is not only ethically right, but also presents its own set of opportunities, both for the sustainability of conservation and also its expansion into areas previously not available or considered for the purpose.

In Botswana, we are proud of our partnership with the Okavango Community Trust (OCT) in the Kwedi Concession where we operate Vumbura Plains and Little Vumbura. The concession is leased from the OCT representing approximately 5 000 people in five key villages to the north of this conservation area; members of this community make up the bulk of the staff employed in these camps. Benefits to the community include employment, a lease fee and a share of revenue, and in fact extend to a variety of social services. For example, a number of projects around local crafts have been put in place to mutually benefit the community and the camps.







Little Vumbura

A beautiful camp built unobtrusively beneath a canopy of an ancient Okavango forest, Little Vumbura, accessible only by boat, is the epitome of island living in the midst of the water wonderland that is the Delta. Surrounded as it is by water, and with its proximity to large channels, a boat or a traditional-style mokoro are both excellent ways to explore this area, while classic game drives take in the plains game and predators that inhabit the area in good numbers.

Little Vumbura is situated in a concession leased from remote rural communities organised under the Okavango Community Trust.

*"ribs of the giraffe"
The intricate process of Botswana basket weaving*



- 6 tents (1 family) • game drives • village visit • mokoro • boating • nature walks
- hot air ballooning • catch-and-release fishing



"The safari experiences and game viewing were monumental. There is no Wi-Fi, no television and no telephones - perfect for the safari experience my wife and I had in mind."

Little Vumbura guest, August 2015





Jao Camp

Located on a large island in the Okavango's western enclave, Jao's individually handcrafted and luxuriously large tents look out onto classic Delta scenes: swathes of water, swaying reeds, leaping lechwe and dancing cranes. Its position – amongst waterways and lagoons, yet close to seasonal floodplains – means you can enjoy both land and water experiences, depending on the time of year and the level of the ceaselessly-moving waters. An elaborate two-storey main area, excellent wine cellar and an award-winning spa epitomise luxury in the most remote, scenically splendid setting.



*Banded Mongoose (Mungos mungo)
Inquisitive animal in camp*

- 9 tents (1 family) • game drives • mokoro • boating • nature walks
- catch-and-release fishing • star-bed • spa







"Lovely place to end a safari ... a place to lie back and take a breather. The bird life is impressive. The most beautiful sunset."

Jafo guest, July 2015







Kwetsani Camp

On an elongated Okavango island, spacious and stylish tree-houses are raised high above the ground to overlook a picture-perfect, often lechwe-dotted floodplain. While hippo and crocodile reside in the deeper, permanently lily-filled lagoons, and tsessebe, wildebeest and reedbuck frequent the floodplains, nearby Hunda Island – largest landmass on the Jao Concession – provides ample room for plains game such as giraffe, wildebeest, zebra and impala and their predators, chiefly leopard and spotted hyaena. Whether the water levels are high or low, there's always something to do at Kwetsani.



• 5 tents • game drives • mokoro • boating • nature walks • catch-and-release fishing





Where land meets water

While some areas of the Okavango are very distinctly either land- or water-dominated, many straddle the cusp and fall into a blend between the two – a mix of dry land and watery habitats that give visitors access to representative parts of the overall Okavango experience. The relative combination of water and land along this cusp varies depending on the time of year and the exact location within the Okavango Delta.

These areas – known informally as ‘combination’ – are in fact an ecotone and lie on the outer fringes of the permanent swamp. As a result, they contain a mix of habitats that range on one side from permanent water, open channels and lagoons, to seasonal floodplains and on the other side, various forms of woodland and scrub. These in turn host a diverse array of mammal and bird species that adapt to the changing conditions, to be seen while on an equally diverse array of activities.







Tubu Tree

Shaded by a lush, leafy canopy, Tubu Tree is situated on the western side of Hunda Island, the largest stretch of dry land in this part of the Okavango Delta. Its beautiful location makes for diverse game viewing, from water-loving lechwe to land-based predators, particularly leopard and hyaena. Built in a classic and traditional style, Tubu Tree is also known for having the best-placed bar in all of the Delta, in the canopy of a marula tree overlooking the open grassy floodplain directly in front of camp – the perfect setting for evening sundowners.

*Leopard (Panthera pardus)
'Spoor' on camp pathway in the morning*



• 8 tents (1 family) • game drives • mokoro • boating • nature walks • catch-and-release fishing • star-bed





Little Tubu

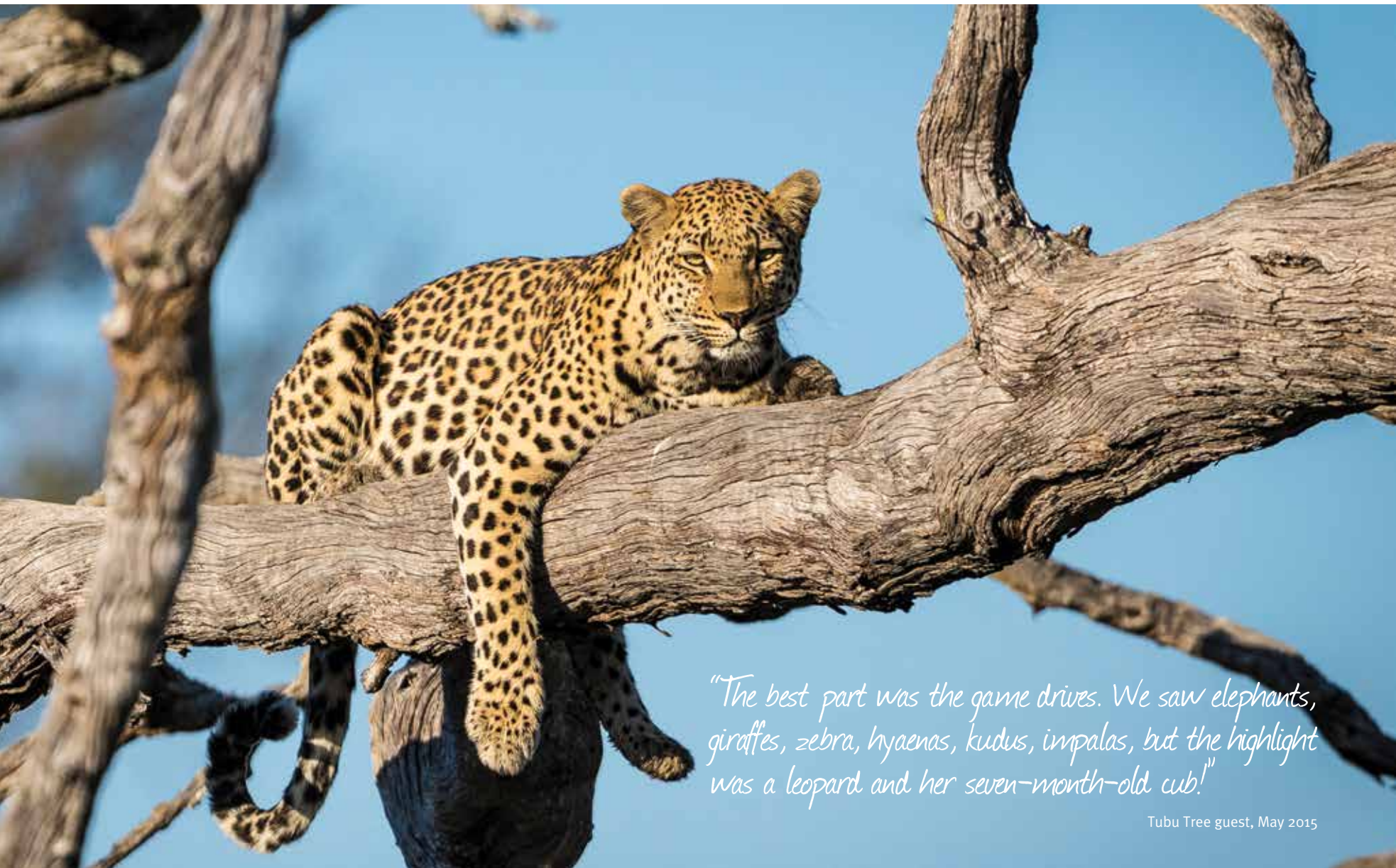
Little Tubu is situated on the same island as its sister camp, Tubu Tree, and benefits from the same mix of landscapes – from Hunda Island, the largest dry-land environment in the area, to floodplains that increase with the arrival of the seasonal inundation. This makes for exceptional and varied game viewing, along with fantastic birding. Private and intimate, with just three tents, the camp is connected to Tubu Tree by raised boardwalks, but has all of its own facilities, including a beautiful bar built into a waterberry tree.

*Double-banded Sandgrape (Pterocles binnatus)
Male bird foraging*



• 3 tents • game drives • mokoro • boating • nature walks • catch-and-release fishing • star-bed





"The best part was the game drives. We saw elephants, giraffes, zebra, hyaenas, kudus, impalas, but the highlight was a leopard and her seven-month-old cub!"

Tubu Tree guest, May 2015





Seba Camp

Considered the best camp in the Delta for families, Seba likes to ensure that all guests, old and young, get the most out of their safari. Overlooking a perennial lagoon, and in an area known for its plains game, and leopard and spotted hyaena sightings, there are two uniquely-designed family tents, each with its own plunge pool. Aided by guides who specialise in keeping children entertained on safari, from photography to bush cooking lessons, this is the perfect place to introduce your family to the wonder and magic of wild Africa.



*Bushbuck (Tragelaphus scriptus)
Dainty doe outside my tent*

- 8 tents (2 family) • game drives • mokoro • nature walks • catch-and-release fishing
- children's activities



Abu Camp

The light, airy villas of majestic Abu Camp echo the curved, grey hides of the Abu Herd, a unique group of pachyderms that you are invited to interact with, seeing the splendid world of the Okavango through their eyes. Over and above the camp elephants, the area hosts other wildlife, from herds of lechwe, zebra, giraffe, tsessebe and even the rare roan antelope, to spotted hyaena and leopard. Abu, set beneath ancient sycamore figs overlooking a lagoon, is an idyllic environment where sophisticated architecture is at ease with a pizza oven. Spend an evening curled up near the elephants in the unique “star-bed” while the herd slumbers below.



Did you know elephants actually walk on 'tip-toe'?

- 6 tents • elephant interaction • game drives • mokoro • boating • star-bed
- nature walks • catch-and-release fishing



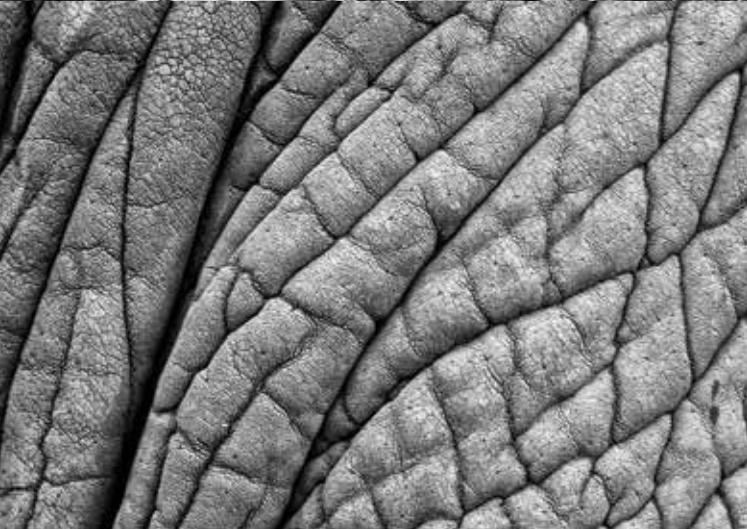




"The elephant experience was really unique and you feel privileged. The caretakers have a great and respectful interaction with their darling elephants. It is really touching to see.

Abu guest, February 2015





Elephant ambassadors

The whole premise on which Abu Camp is based is that of elephant conservation. These largest of land mammals are a keystone species on whose conservation the existence of many other aspects of biodiversity depends and which currently face the threat of a rampant illegal ivory trade.

Abu was originally opened as a haven for elephants who had previously been held in captive situations such as zoos or circuses around the world, the bold vision of the founder being to release as many as possible into the wild. On reaching adulthood, all young bulls from the herd have left to wander the Okavango, and a matriarchal unit of two adult cows and their respective calves has also chosen to leave. This latter group, as well as a number of wild elephants, have been fitted with GPS collars by NGO Elephants Without Borders as a means of understanding the process of reintegration into the wild. In this way, these elephants are contributing significantly to our understanding of the conservation issues that the species faces and of course allow our guests first-hand insights.

The Abu herd, present and past, are therefore eloquent ambassadors for elephant conservation.



CENTRAL KALAHARI

• Kalahari Plains



A herd of gazelles is captured in motion, running across a vast, open plain. The gazelles are in the foreground, moving from left to right. They have light brown bodies with white underparts and distinctive black horns. The plain is covered in tall, dry grass. In the background, there are several acacia trees under a clear blue sky. The overall scene conveys a sense of space and freedom.

Space, skies, vast plains and infinite horizons

Kalahari Plains

Situated in the immense Central Kalahari Game Reserve, Kalahari Plains overlooks a vast plain offering endless vistas towards the horizon and star-studded skies by night. This area is home to the legendary black-maned lion and some of the best cheetah viewing in the world, especially in the summer months when huge herds of springbok, oryx and wildebeest attract predators from all corners of the desert. Our staff are always keen to share their fascinating San culture on an authentic Bushman experience.



*Ostrich egg shell
Traditional means of water storage in the desert*

- 8 tents (1 family) • 100% solar • sleep-out deck • game drives • guided Bushman walk









" ... one of the most remote and unspoilt areas we have ever visited."

Kalahari Plains guest, April 2015



True sustainability – adaptation to the desert environment

We established Kalahari Plains primarily to allow our guests to experience the unique dry savannah habitats of Botswana, so different to the wet northern regions. Both animal and plant life have adapted well to the arid Central Kalahari Game Reserve, and when we arrived, we had to too.

Between the low rainfall (115 mm a year) and high evaporation, this is an extremely dry biome with virtually no surface water for up to nine months of the year. In addition, the borehole water drawn from beneath the camp is very salty and undrinkable. We have therefore used flat-roof technology which directs water from the 990 square metres of roofing in the camp via a system of gutters and pipes to 10 000-litre tanks situated at the rear of all guest tents, the kitchen and office to collect rainwater during the rainy season. When all tanks are full, the camp has 150 000 litres of additional water, which is then purified using a reverse osmosis system.

The environment doesn't only provide us with drinking water however, it is also the source of all energy for the camp. The long, sunny, cloudless days are ideal for generating solar energy and Kalahari Plains was one of our first completely solar powered camps when we built it in 2008.







Wilderness Air ... connecting you to the wilderness



Our fleet of light aircraft provides seamless connections from camp to camp; the air-conditioned lounge in Maun a welcome retreat before international flights





Privately-guided journeys through the vast, unexplored nature of it all...



Explorations

Wilderness Safaris began with mobile camping safaris as the cornerstone of our operation, where we sought out prime wilderness areas throughout southern Africa and channelled our passion into guided safaris that were educational and fun filled. Our Explorations represent both a commitment to our origins, as well as a progression in traditional safari concept – that of a guided, original journey through Africa.

Each Exploration is privately guided by one of our superlative guides. Highly trained and noted for their passion and knowledge, they lead each journey from start to finish, creating a seamless and detailed interpretive experience.

Aside from our exciting set itineraries, Tailor-made Explorations – personally-crafted itineraries for private groups – are available.



Great Wilderness Journey

10 nights / 11 days

May – November

Encounter the world-famous Victoria Falls and explore Botswana's scenic northern areas: from the blue-green wetlands of the Okavango Delta to the Linyanti and Chobe River systems renowned for their predators and large concentrations of game.

Botswana Summer Encounter

10 nights / 11 days

December – April

Explore the life-filled Central Kalahari Game Reserve, the fertile green islands and wildlife-rich floodplains of the Okavango Delta, a cruise down Chobe River, and a grand finale of the world-famous Victoria Falls – all in one of its most abundant and remarkable seasons.

Okavango Channels and Plains

6 nights / 7 days

January – April

Set out to explore the wildlife-rich savannahs of the Santawani Concession in the south-eastern corner of the Okavango and the floodplains and waterways in the heart of the Delta in the warm summer months. Marked by the life-giving rains, the season heralds the profusion of new life of both fauna and flora.



Into the Wilderness – Botswana

6 nights / 7 days

July – November

Exploring two unique wilderness areas that have been shaped by the southernmost fault lines of Africa's Great Rift Valley, this safari begins in the pristine Xigera concession at a camp on a remote island deep in the Okavango Delta. We then discover the lush riverine woodlands of the Linyanti River and its wildlife-filled floodplains.

The Trans-Okavango

9 nights / 10 days

Limited departures

This unique and exclusive Exploration captures the essence of the Okavango and the spirit of exploration on land, water and in the air. It visits the prime game-viewing areas of Hunda Island, Mombo and Chitabe combined with the iconic water experiences offered at Pelo and Xigera. Guests have the rare opportunity to walk, boat and fly from one camp to the other, as well as enjoy the thrill of flying over the Delta in a helicopter.



Our people

People are at the heart of Wilderness Safaris. Our staff is made up of individuals who share the beliefs and values of our organisation and who together form the extended Wilderness family. These warm, inspiring and enthusiastic individuals are the vital link and interface between our guests, our partners and the wilderness; their knowledge and passion gives a new meaning to service.

From the Maun and Gaborone offices to the far-flung camps and Explorations across the wild parts of the country, our people – approximately a thousand of them – are the custodians of what we call the Wilderness Way, which means to have a humble pride in the bigger vision of the organisation and the difference we seek to make. They convey their enthusiasm to our guests and by sharing what they have learned, encourage them to learn about ecological and conservation principles.

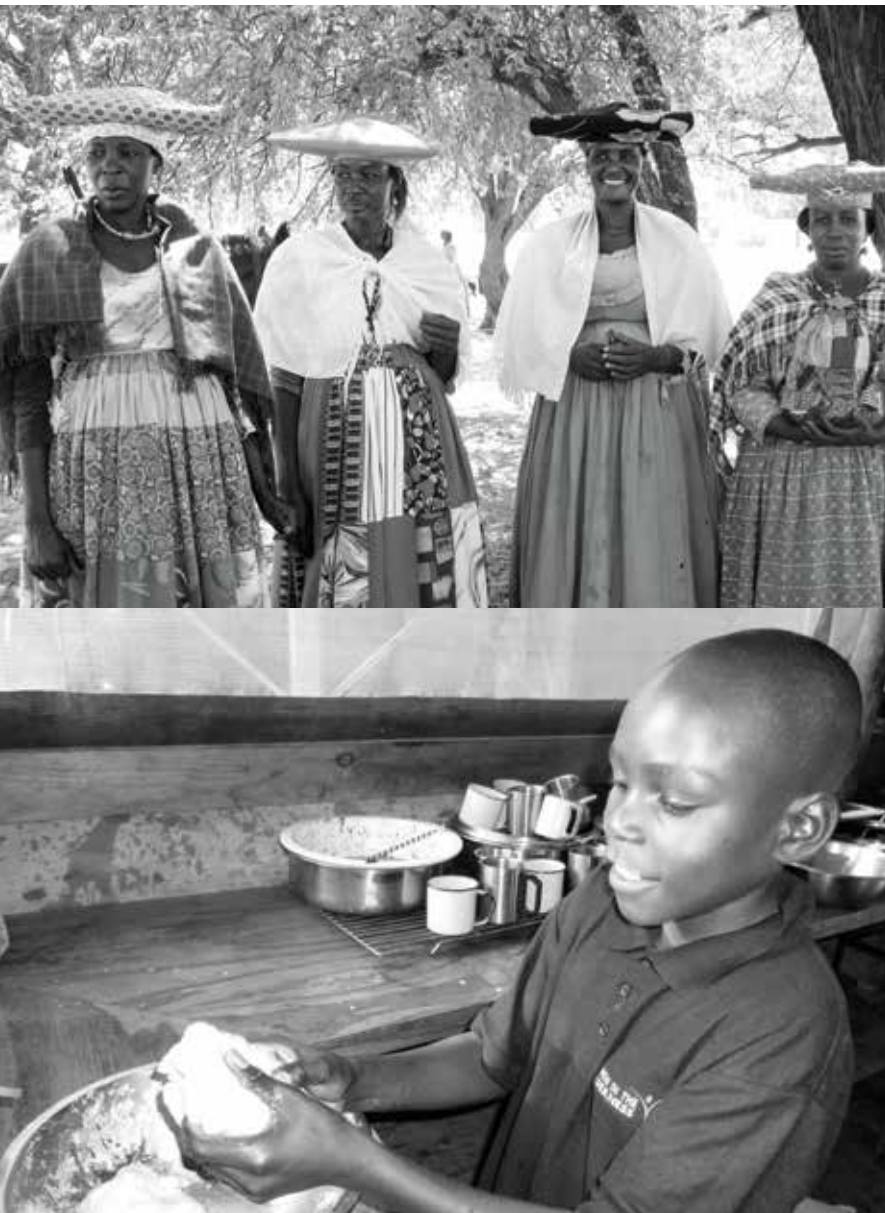
“Like conductors of an orchestra, the managers guided all their gifted staff to come together, like beautiful music in harmony, giving revitalising, relaxing pleasure to all. The attention to detail, the awareness and anticipation of our needs and wants was beyond anything we have ever experienced in all our many travels.”











Your journey will make a difference ...

Experiences with wildlife, being in truly remote locations and interacting with our staff are the primary reasons why our guests choose to travel with Wilderness. But more than this; when you journey with us, you are helping make a difference – to Africa, its people and its wildlife.

A portion of every bednight that you book with us is dedicated to conservation. A small percentage goes to the Wilderness Wildlife Trust, our non-profit entity that supports a wide variety of projects throughout Africa: from research and conservation to wildlife management and educational bursaries.

Another share is portioned off to be used throughout the organisation in protecting and nurturing these wild places, in uplifting the communities that live adjacent to these, and in ensuring that our camps step with as light a footprint as possible on the Earth. Our pride and joy is our Children in the Wilderness programme, which aims to educate the youth of Africa, inspiring and helping them to appreciate and thus protect their magnificent natural heritage.

We invite you to join us on a journey that makes a difference.



www.wildernesstrust.com



www.childreninthewilderness.com



PLANNING A SAFARI IN BOTSWANA



Camps

1. Linyanti: Kings Pool, Dumatau, Savuti
2. Northern Okavango: Vumbura Plains, Little Vumbura
3. Central Okavango: Mombo, Little Mombo
4. Western Okavango: Jao, Jacana, Pelo, Kwetsani, Tubu Tree, Little Tubu, Abu, Seba, Xigera
5. Southern Okavango: Chitabe, Chitabe Lediba
6. Central Kalahari: Kalahari Plains



The Botswana flag
The light blue represents water - specifically rain, a precious resource in the arid climate of Botswana. The black band with the white frame symbolises harmony and cooperation between the people of different races who live in Botswana. These stripes also represent the zebra, the national animal of Botswana.

The Botswana coat of arms

The three cogwheels in the shield symbolise industry, while the three waves represent water, which in Setswana is *pula* - the motto beneath the shield. *Pula* means rain, is the name of Botswana's currency and also means good luck. As cattle farming is significant in Botswana, there is a head of a bull at the bottom of the shield. Finally, two zebra support it: the one on the right has a sorghum ear - a vital crop - while the left holds an ivory tusk relating to the historical ivory trade.



Population: 2.2 million (2014)

Country size: 581,730 sq. km / 224,610 sq. mi (almost the size of Texas; slightly larger than France)

Capital: Gaborone

Official language: English, with Setswana being the most widely spoken African language

Ethnic groups: baSaruwa (San), baTswana, baKgalagadi, baMbukushu, baVei,

baGakwe, Herero

Currency: Pula (BWP)

Planning a Botswana safari

While the emphasis of a Botswana safari is often on large mammals – and there are plenty of these – there are many other specialised creatures to be seen and enjoyed. The lush floodplains and islands of the Okavango contrast with the woodlands of the Linyanti and their associated species, and then there are the arid-adapted animals and plants of the Kalahari, so that the differences to be experienced in this country range from subtle to extreme.

But overall it is often the sense of undisturbed wilderness and pristine functioning ecosystems that has the most significant impact on visitors.

Very few people have a month to spare for a safari though, so planning what to see and do in your available 7-14 days is critical. We strongly recommend working with an African travel specialist in your home country in order to get the best advice. We work with a number of excellent tour operators and travel agents who know our camps and services intimately and will design the perfect safari especially for you.

When considering how to ensure the best experience from your safari, in our view the most important aspects to consider are diversity and logistics. How will you see as much variety as possible, while still having time to relax, reflect and enjoy your time? It is for this reason that we attempt to provide as seamless a journey as possible ... operating our own meet and greet services, an airport lounge, a touring and transfer business and our own 'bush airline' that flies you from camp to camp.

We want a journey with us to change your life, and to change the way you see the world and your place in it.



Images, from top: Wilderness Air: GA8 Airvan over the Okavango • Wilderness Air: Friendly meet and greet on arrival in Maun Airport • Wilderness Air: Pilot departure briefing

WHERE ELSE IN AFRICA



Botswana

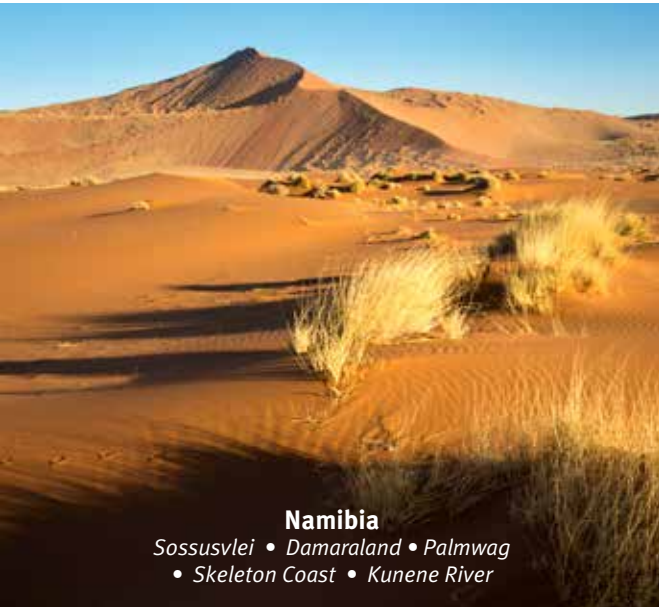
Linyanti • Okavango • Central Kalahari



Kenya

Laikipia





Namibia

*Sossusvlei • Damaraland • Palmwag
• Skeleton Coast • Kunene River*



South Africa

Maputaland



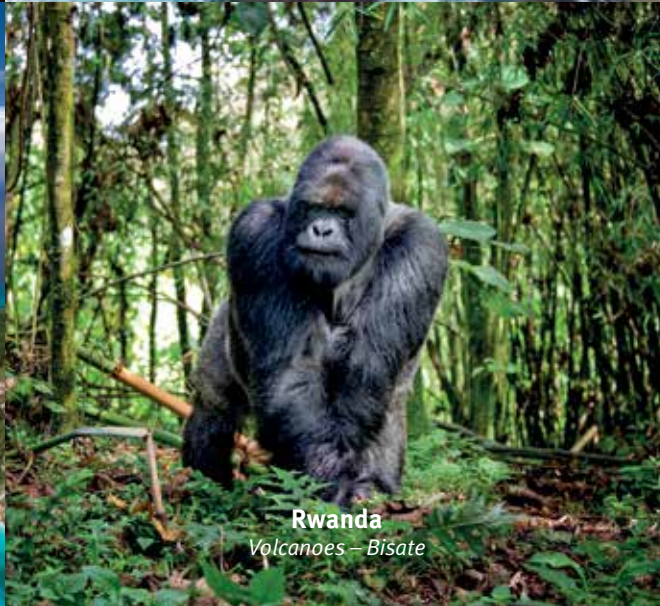
Zambia

Victoria Falls – Livingstone • Kafue



Seychelles

Inner Islands – North Island



Rwanda

Volcanoes – Bisate



Zimbabwe

Hwange • Mana Pools

Our Vision

*To conserve and restore Africa's wilderness and wildlife
by creating life-changing journeys and
inspiring positive action.*



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Please note that all of our activities may be subject to availability of guides or vehicles and are water-level and weather dependent. Some activities are seasonal.





www.wilderness-safaris.com


WILDERNESS
SAFARIS

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