



A LIFELINE FOR LINYANTI ELEPHANTS

LIFE-CHANGING 7 DAY/6 NIGHT
SAFARI ITINERARY

Help Support Elephant Conservation in Botswana
• Vumbura Plains and DumaTau •



HELP SUPPORT ELEPHANT CONSERVATION IN BOTSWANA

To celebrate the opening of the extraordinary new DumaTau, this conservation-focused safari introduces you to a number of initiatives to reduce human-elephant conflict in Botswana. At the same time, you will be actively contributing to the projects through the proceeds raised from the sale of this safari.

In partnership with Eco-Exist, Wilderness Safaris will collar 10 elephants in an effort to learn more about elephant movement patterns, and thus create elephant corridors between rural communities to limit human-wildlife conflict. The Wilderness Safaris Impact Fund has already purchased the 10 satellite collars required, and through our partnership with Ukama, the full proceeds of the Wilderness Safaris-owned elements of this itinerary will be utilised to support this noble initiative. At the same time, the itinerary will provide a truly unique experience for conservation- and community-minded travellers.

WHY COLLAR ELEPHANTS IN THE LINYANTI?

By fitting satellite tracking collars to a small number of elephants in the Linyanti Wildlife Reserve – where DumaTau is located – we hope to learn much more about their movements and habitat choices.

This is important because elephants use regular routes as they move between different regions and countries. Elephants don't recognise

international borders, but their movements are affected by human presence and land-use decisions. So securing corridors around the routes they use is critical to enable them to continue moving safely through the environment where communities are located between protected areas.

Once established, it is hoped that these corridors will ensure ongoing free movement for elephant between Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Angola. The Linyanti and Kwando wetlands have been identified as a key wildlife dispersal area (WDA) – that is, an area through which wildlife moves, has healthy populations, and from where some animals leave to find new resources or territories.

This natural process reduces over-concentration and competition for resources, and helps maintain the genetic health of meta-populations. The idea of wildlife corridors and WDAs is essential to understanding the importance of Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) such as the Kavango-Zambezi TFCA.

In addition to threats from poachers, elephants face obstacles to their free movement, in the shape of border fences and changes to land use that preclude the animals from passing through.

By studying their movements, we can identify WDAs and corridors – and make a compelling argument for enhanced protection for them,

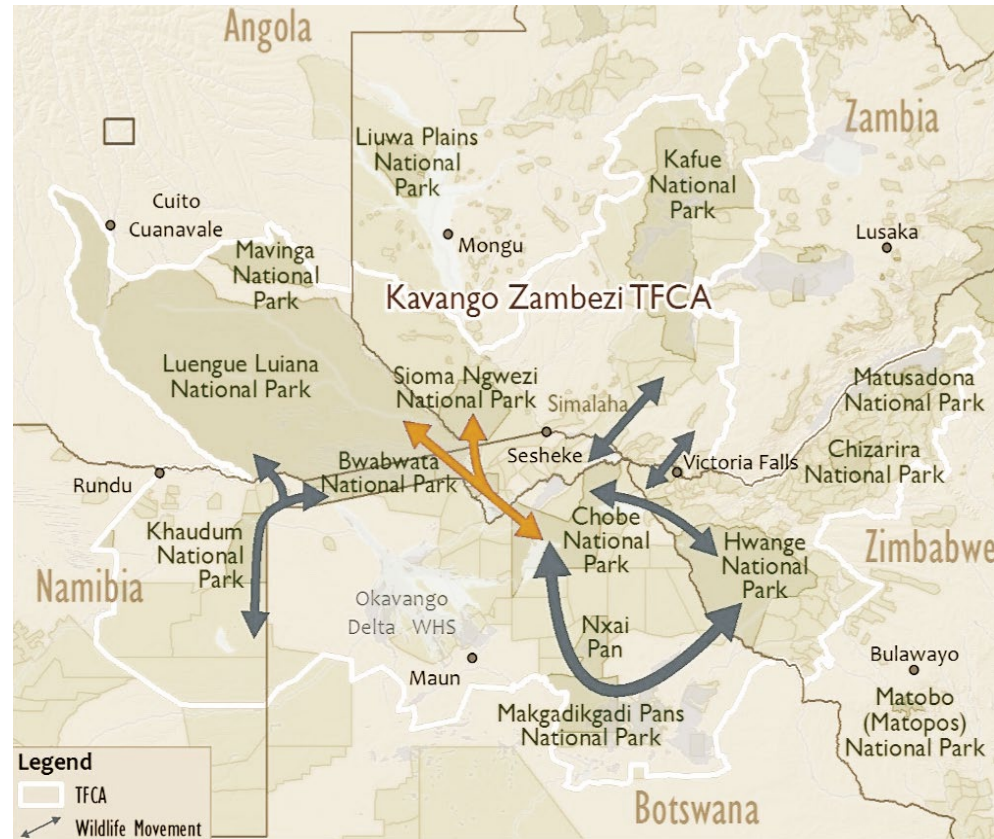


while satellite tracking data will guide better design and management of “elephant-friendly landscapes”.

Potentially, this will ensure that elephants have safe passage from high-density to lower-density areas, which will in turn naturally reduce the ecological impact that can result when large numbers of elephant are effectively confined to limited areas.

Well-defined corridors for elephants also allow an understanding of their movements by local communities, and help reduce the potential for human-elephant conflict, such as crop damage and competition for water resources.

With the data obtained from satellite collars fitted to elephants in the Linyanti, we can make an informed and important contribution to sustaining a balance between the safety and livelihoods of local community members, and the necessary and natural unfettered movement of elephants between protected areas.



Key Wildlife Dispersal Areas of the Kavango-Zambezi TFCA. The Kwando WDA, incorporating the Linyanti concession, is shown in orange



HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ITINERARY

Escorted throughout our exquisite areas by a highly experienced and knowledgeable Wilderness Safaris private guide, your journey will be further enhanced by the following:

- A scenic helicopter flight from Vumbura Plains to meet the Eco-Exist team at Seronga, to learn more about human-wildlife conflict and the collaborative work undertaken to address this, as well as enjoy a traditional cultural experience and meet the local Kgosi (Chief)
- See a water hand-pump installed on a borehole, another contribution to the community as a result of the funds raised by this trip
- Spend a day with Kim Nixon, Managing Director of Wilderness Safaris Botswana, who will explain what we do as an organisation, for both the community and wildlife
- Spend time with an elephant researcher at DumaTau, and hopefully even see some of the elephants collared as a direct result of this safari, if they are within the area and accessible



7 DAY/6 NIGHT SAFARI ITINERARY

DAY ONE - FOUR

Arrival at Maun Airport, Botswana. Light aircraft flight to Vumbura Plains for three nights

DAY FOUR - SEVEN

Transfer to the Linyanti Wildlife Reserve, spend three nights at the newly rebuilt DumaTau



DETAILS OF THE ITINERARY

DAY ONE

On arrival at Maun Airport, Botswana, you will be met and assisted to your light aircraft for the flight to Vumbura Plains in the north-western reaches of the Delta. Spend 3 nights at Vumbura Plains, where all meals, twice-daily scheduled camp activities, park fees, laundry and all local drinks are included. Premium imported brands and Champagne are available at an extra cost.

A contemporary safari camp, Vumbura Plains is designed and operated in total empathy with its diverse surroundings. Partnerships with local communities in this region of the Okavango Delta have created empowerment opportunities, while allowing guests access to its many treasures.

Fourteen light, airy guest tents feature designer fittings and touches of unabashed luxury, including private plunge pools and salas, and indoor and outdoor showers. Safari activities focus on day and night game drives through a variety of phenomenally game-rich terrain. Seasonal water activities can be very rewarding, to say nothing of a hot air balloon safari.

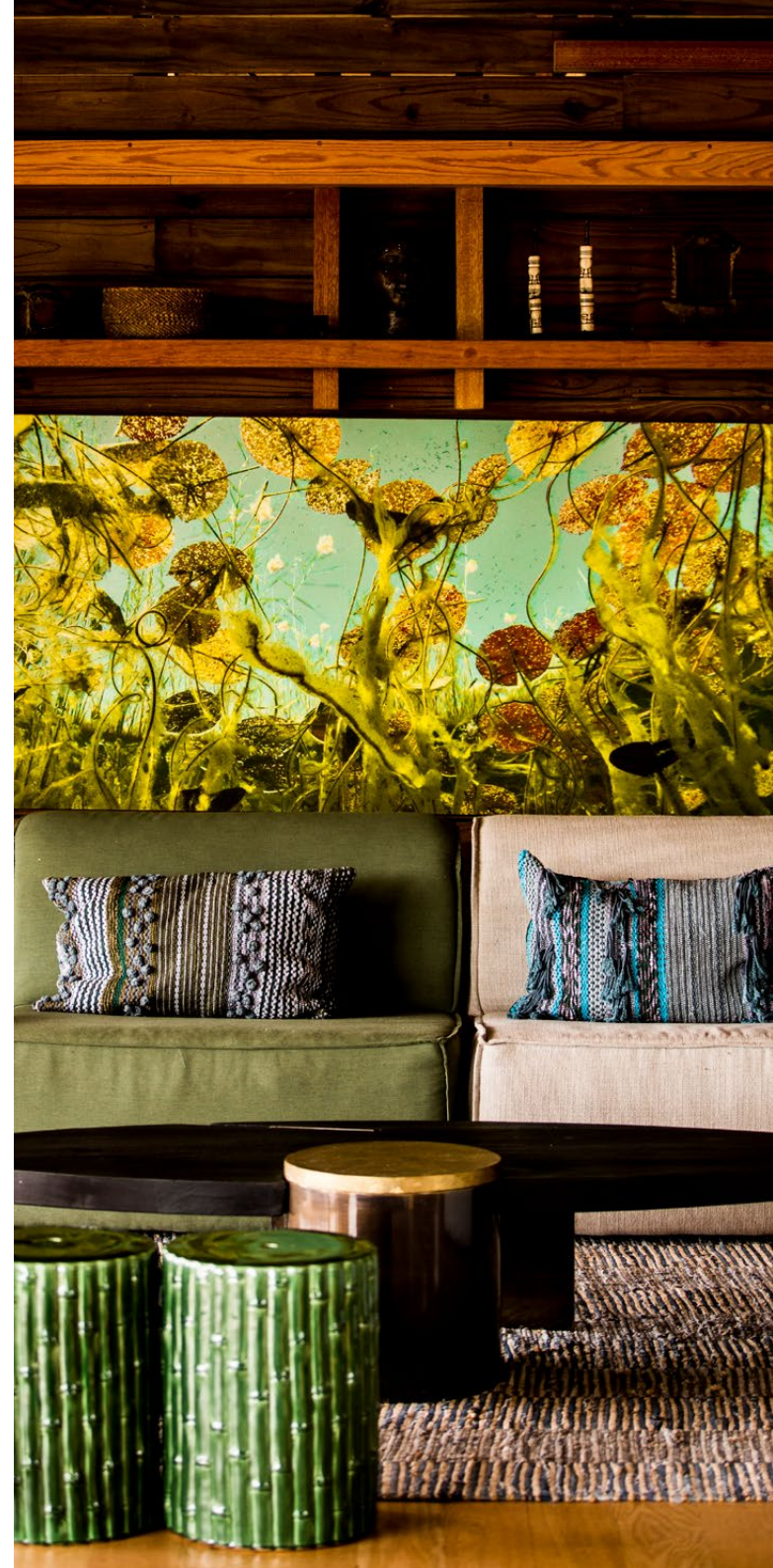
INSIDER'S TIP: Enjoy the use of the spotting scope for exceptional viewing of birds and wildlife. If you are lucky, you may even catch a glimpse of the resident otter family!

DAY TWO

Depart camp on a helicopter scenic flight with Helicopter Horizons to visit the community farming “ghandos” – or fields. En route, enjoy the breathtaking views of this paradise from the air. Witness the crystal clear water channels meandering their way through lagoons, and lush green floodplains providing sustenance to the many animal species of the Okavango region.

These ghandos are just one example of how we are trying to address the conflict between humans and elephants when it comes to crops. In one of these plots, we will install the hand pump to assist with easy access to water for the farmers, and emergency irrigation for the crops. There will also be an opportunity to visit the community and meet some of residents, which will hopefully include a short meeting with the village elder.

Water is vital for life and it is this need that results in much of the conflict. Wildlife and people often meet at or en route to water sources, with sometimes catastrophic consequences. Putting in these boreholes helps to address water issues for the people – securing good quality water and minimising the risk of exposure to wildlife, and elephants in particular. In addition, the spillage and run off from these boreholes and water pumps, goes into troughs which provides water for livestock, again reducing the risk for further issues between predators and livestock.







DAY THREE

Enjoy a day on safari exploring the Vumbura Concession by boat, mokoro or game drive vehicle.

DAY FOUR

Transfer to the airstrip for your onward light aircraft flight to the Linyanti Wildlife Reserve, which borders Namibia in the northern part of Botswana. Here you will spend three nights at the newly rebuilt DumaTau, where the extensive lagoon frontage ensures that each ultra-spacious 142m² guest suite has uninterrupted views over Osprey Lagoon, and the movements of the mega-herds of elephant the Linyanti is so famous for. All meals, twice-daily scheduled camp activities, park fees, laundry and local drinks are included, while premium imported brands and Champagne are at an extra cost.

All seven twin suites and one family unit have a private plunge pool and a comfortable lounge, and feature a large bathroom with indoor and outdoor showers. The main dining and lounge area boasts its own wide-angle vistas overlooking the wildlife-rich lagoon, while a new wellness centre and gym – shared with Little DumaTau – includes an inviting shaded deck, a lap pool, spa, snack deli and trading store. DumaTau runs on 100% solar energy.

INSIDER'S TIP: The Linyanti is recognised as an IBA (Important Bird Area), so the hides and platforms in the area are ideal for birdwatching and photographing wildlife.

DAY FIVE

Spend time with the researcher/Eco-Exist, learning more about our partners in the Linyanti Elephant Corridor Project, which we're basing out of Duma Tau. Eco-Exist has worked extensively on human-elephant conflict and maintaining elephant corridors that are safe for people and elephants in the panhandle area of the Delta for a number of years. They are now bringing their expertise to the Linyanti area to assist us in understanding elephant dispersal needs into Namibia, and beyond into Angola and Zambia.

DAY SIX

Explore the area on game drives, perhaps spotting one or more of the collared elephants, ending the day with a sunset cruise on Osprey Lagoon.

DAY SEVEN

Transfer to the airstrip for your light aircraft flight back to Maun and onward arrangements.







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