

# Wings Over BOTSWANA!

 [walkingconnection.com/holiday/botswana/](http://walkingconnection.com/holiday/botswana/)

If you have been to Africa once, you will understand...Africa gets in your soul. You long to go back. Images of the tawny landscape stretching deep into the hazy distance draw you in. You crave the anticipation of what gift from nature a new day will bring. Elephants wallowing in the mud around a reed-fringed waterhole as a warning cry echoes across the water. A herd of waterbuck crash through the shallows at the sight of a wandering lion. You have to go back...

Whether your first safari or one of many the call of BOTSWANA should be on your list...



**One of Africa's greatest success stories, Botswana is a stable country with a booming economy.** After their independence in 1966, its visionary leaders secured Botswana's borders from poachers. The game concentrations multiplied and flourished. Since then the country abandoned mass tourism and focused on high quality / low volume as the best way to create a sustainable industry that would employ a large percentage of its people, while still preserving the environment.

Abundant wildlife congregate on the country's vast salt pans of the Kalahari and rich floodplains of the Okavanga Delta. This wetland within a desert, provides life-giving sustenance, generating an everlasting vision with large herds of elephants, zebras, wildebeest, and a host of other wildlife. The Okavanga Delta is also home to some of the world's most endangered species such as the cheetah, white rhinoceros, black rhinoceros, African wild dog and lion.

With a combination of natural riches, teeming wildlife, a low human population density and a forward thinking government, Botswana has become a premier destination for a most rewarding African safari.

## Highlights:

- Herds of elephants coming to drink as the sun sets.
- The peacefulness of gliding through the delta by mokoro (traditional canoe).
- Sightings of a wide variety of wildlife on both land and water based game drives.
- Opportunity for guided bush walks on nearby islands.
- Three different luxury lodges, each with its unique micro environment, topography, vegetation and variation in nature.

**The trip begins in Maun, Botswana.**

**The trip ends in Maun or Kasane, Botswana**

**Our journey through Botswana features three different locations each with its unique micro environment, topography, vegetation and variation in nature.**

For your experience we have selected three luxury safari lodges that offer spectacular game viewing opportunities that allow you to get up close and personal with some of nature's biggest personalities. Owing to their location, these lodges offer a diverse experience while providing the personalized service for an unrivalled safari.

## **May 13, 14 & 15**

### *Moremi Game Reserve*

Trip starts in Maun, Botswana where you will be met and assisted to your light aircraft flight to our first location in the Moremi Game Reserve.

The Moremi Game Reserve is situated in the eastern part of the Okavango Delta, on the south-western border of the Chobe National Park. Covering almost one-third of the Delta it is considered one of the finest reserves in Africa.

The ancient riverine forests, open savannah, serpentine channels and seasonal floodplains that surround this area will make for a varied habitat of exceptional fauna and flora. You will have the opportunity for both land and water game-viewing experiences in open 4x4 safari vehicles or powerboats. The diverse habitat ensures prolific sightings of Elephant, Buffalo, Hyena, Giraffe, Hippo, Wildebeest, Kudu, Lechwe, Lion and Leopard, among many others.

Overnight 1 of 3 Nights: Safari Lodging Of Distinction: Camp Xakanaxa – The prime location of Camp Xakanaxa (pronounced Ka-ka-na-ka) on the banks of the Khwai River on the Xakanaxa Lagoon, in the heart of the Moremi Game Reserve, makes it one of the very few safari camps that offers guests an authentic, year-round Okavango Delta land and water safari experience. With only twelve spacious all-canvas, classic Meru-style luxury safari tents, with en suite showers, hand basins and toilet facilities, it is one of the few camps in Botswana which still offers the essence of a classic tented camp. Situated around the fringe of the lagoon, every tent has a private viewing deck with comfortable loungers.

(B,L,D)

## **May 16 & 17**

### *Okavango Delta*

An early morning game drive, return for breakfast transfer by light aircraft to Camp Okavango for two days of fully escorted game viewing by mokoro (traditional canoe), motor boat or tracking wildlife on foot on a nearby island. Fishing is also an available optional activity

Botswana's magnificent Okavango Delta situated within the heart of the newly declared World Heritage site, is the world's largest inland delta, and is a maze of deep lagoons, large lakes and hidden, meandering channels. During the annual flood season the Delta covers a vast area of over 16 000 km<sup>2</sup> before shrinking to less than 9 000 km<sup>2</sup> in the dry season. Trapped in a basin of parched Kalahari Desert sand, the fresh water oasis attracts wildlife that depends on the permanent waters of this unique environment.

Overnight 1 of 2 Nights: Safari Lodging of Distinction: Camp Okavango – This unique and exclusive African safari camp is situated on the remote Nxaragha Island. This hidden treasure, in the heart of the permanent Okavango Delta, assures our guests of an unparalleled water wilderness experience.

(B,L,D)

## **May 18 19 & 20**

### *Chobe National Park*

Stretching from the Linyanti River all the way to Savute Marsh, the winding waterways of the Savute Channel have pumped life into the western section of Chobe National Park for many thousands of generations. However, this fickle and unpredictable channel, which has a fascinating history of flooding and drying up, independently of good rainy seasons and flood levels elsewhere, has mystified local inhabitants, geologists and others for many years.

### **THE UNEXPLAINED**

When David Livingstone, the first European to visit the area, saw the Savute Channel in 1851 it was flowing. Thirty years later it had disappeared and the Savute Marsh had dried out, remaining this way for almost 80 years. It flowed again from the late 1950s to the early 1980s, when it again receded, hence its reputation as 'the river that flows in both directions'.

In 2009, after another extended hiatus, the channel began flowing again and by January 2010 had spilled into the Savute Marsh for the first time in three decades, but for how long – no one knows ...

Overnight 1 of 3 Nights: Savute Safari Lodge – Savute Safari Lodge includes only eleven private thatched chalets built of local timber. The chalets, which have been elegantly furnished in calm neutral tones to blend with the natural environment, feature expansive private viewing decks, a combined bedroom and lounge area and en suite facilities.

(B,L,D)

## **May 21**

### *Departure*

A final early morning of game viewing activity. Breakfast and return flight to Maun or Kasane. (Kasane is preferred for those traveling on to Victoria Falls.)

(B)

### **Optional Extension:**

**Victoria Falls and Zambia – please ask for details.**

### **Departure:**

**The trip begins in Maun, Botswana.**

**The trip ends in Maun or Kasane, Botswana**

### **Your Walking Connection Experience Includes:**

- Expertly planned itinerary by Jo Ann Taylor, Walking Connection co-founder who will also be escorting this departure. (Jo Ann has 25 years of experience in the adventure travel industry and has traveled to nine African nations many times over her career.)
- Wildlife experiences in Chobe National Park, Okavango Delta and Moremi Game Reserve.
- Four chartered internal flights between each camp.
- Airport departure tax at Maun/Kasane.
- National Park Entry fees \*(See Price Variation Below).
- 3-Nights accommodations located at Camp Xakanaxa in the Moremi game Reserve.
- 2-Nights accommodations located at Camp Okavango on Nxaragha Island in the heart of the permanent Okavango Delta.
- 3-Nights accommodations at Savute Safari Lodge in Chobe National Park.
- Scheduled activities including land and water game drives, guided mokoro experience and bush walk. \*Walking will not be available in some areas due to park restrictions.
- Resident experienced interpretive and naturalist guide(s).
- Daily Meals as indicated in itinerary: (B) Breakfast, (L) Lunch and (D) Dinner.
- Coffee, tea, drinking water, soft drinks, local spirits & wines (excluding premium brands)
- Laundry service at camps.
- Arrival meet & greet assistance, departure assistance.
- Detailed “Know Before You Go” information including recommended website, reading lists, packing list, what to bring, weather and much, much more.

### **Your Walking Connection Experience Does Not Include:**

- All international and domestic airfares with taxes not outlined in the above inclusions.
- All items of a personal nature including beverages and shopping.
- All passport and visa application fees, vaccination and medical consulting fees.
- All international departure taxes collected at airport of departure. (Other than at Maun or Kasane)
- Gratuities for the local guides
- Travel insurance

- Early check in & late check out of rooms
- Optional tours or items of a personal nature such as premium drinks
- Photographs & phone calls
- No discounts or refunds on any unused portion of the tour.
- Anything that is not expressly stated in the itinerary or on the inclusions page as included.
- Travel Insurance is not included, we recommend CSA Travel Pro.

\*PRICE VARIATION – Prices are based upon the current government fees for park and sanctuary entry and all taxes at the time of publication of this web page. Should the government impose any new taxes, raise the current tax or increase the entry cost to any park or sanctuary, the price increase will be passed along and charged to you. All payments received by us are subject to the cancellation policy already published and in effect.

**Trip Price – Double occupancy:** \$6798/person ending with flight to Maun, \$6948 ending with flight to Kasane (Kasane is the preferred destination if you are extending to Victoria Falls.) \*Please see Price Variations below.

**Single occupancy:** There is limited availability and a supplement will apply. Please contact us for details.

**Deposits:** An initial deposit of \$1000 USD per person is required to reserve your space. A second deposit of \$1000 must be made by September 30, 2017 . Both payments can be paid by credit card for your convenience.

No space will be held without a complete deposit. Deposits may be made by check or credit card. Our tour prices are subject to change due to currency fluctuation at the time of final payment.

**Payments:** All payments must be made according to the schedule & are subject to the cancellation & penalty policy. Final payment is due on or before 90 days prior to the trip. (February 12, 2018) We request that all final payments be made by check. Credit cards are accepted for final payment, with a surcharge of 3% of the amount due. Our tour prices are subject to change due to currency fluctuation, park fee increases and increase in tax imposed by the government at the time of final payment.

**Botswana Passports/Visas:** Valid passports must have 3 blank pages and a minimum of 6 months remaining before expiration. Visas are not required for all U.S., New Zealand and Canadian citizens to enter Botswana. Recommended by the Walking Connection for passport applications and renewals: Passport Visa Express .

**Botswana Levy:** As of 1st June 2017 Botswana has imposed a \$30.00USD /person levy. This is collected on entry to Botswana.

**Domestic Air:** Our group will be taking four light aircraft flights within Botswana to get to our varied locations. These flights are included in your tour price. Please note that there is a difference in your tour price depending on which airport you fly to at the end of your trip.

**Itinerary:** Please note that the details of this itinerary are subject to change. Many of the planned activities are organized according to availability, events or seasonal dates, appropriate weather conditions or the discretion of our guides. We make every effort to provide the experience described in the itinerary with the understanding that some things may change.

**Special Supplier Gifts and Items:** As a local custom, vendors, suppliers, ground operators, restaurants and hotel properties may offer complimentary beverages that may or may not contain alcohol. Should you elect not to accept this gift, complimentary water may not be offered as a replacement and may only be offered for a fee. This is a local custom beyond the control of The Walking Connection.

**Travel Roommates and Single Supplements:** If you have registered for double occupancy but don't have a travel roommate, the Walking Connection will attempt to locate one for you. In the event that a roommate cannot be found, you may be charged for a Single Supplement for any portion of the trip where you will be rooming as a single.

Travel roommates are assigned in the order in which we receive deposited and confirmed reservations. Final roommate assignments will be made and you will be notified of any Single Supplement charges due 30 days prior to the due date of your final payment.

**Air Arrangements:** The Walking Connection does not typically make any airline reservations, either domestic or international. BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR AIRLINE ARRANGEMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT US BY TELEPHONE (800) 295-9255 TO RECONFIRM THE FINAL ASPECTS OF THIS TRIP. The Walking Connection will provide you with the recommended arrival and departure airports, times and any additional information you may need BEFORE YOU BOOK YOUR AIR for this trip.

**Trip Minimum:** 8 Full Paying Guests: Because the Walking Connection specializes in traveling in small groups, many times we stay in small boutique hotel properties, historical Inns, private homes and bed and breakfasts. For this and contractual related reasons, some trips may require a minimum number of guests traveling together to go. FOR THIS TRIP, an additional Small Group Surcharge may be assessed or the trip may be cancelled at the option of the Walking Connection if sign ups does not meet the 8 person minimum. This trip will be guaranteed to be conducted either when we have reached the minimum number of guests or evaluated 120 and 90 days prior to departure. Also, should the minimum not be met, the Walking Connection at it's sole discretion may elect to operate this departure as an independent trip without a Walking Connection host. Please do not make your international or domestic air arrangements until trip is confirmed.

**Cancellation, Penalty & Refund Policies:** Should you have to cancel your tour the following terms will apply: Due to the exclusive and small group nature of this adventure, for all cancellation requests the initial trip deposit is forfeited.

-For cancellations from 61 – 90 days prior to the trip 50% penalty of the total trip cost.

-For Cancellations and no shows 60 days before trip, no refunds.

-No refunds will be made for any unused portion of the tour.

All cancellations must be made in writing and delivered to The Walking Connection via e-mail and/or United States Post Office. Your cancellation date is the date your notice is received and confirmed by The Walking Connection, not the postmark date.

**Travel Insurance provided by:** [CSA Travel Pro](#)

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