
Desert & Delta Special





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Desert & Delta Special

Makgadikgadi Pans - Okavango Delta - Savute - Chobe National Park - Chobe River
9 Days / 8 Nights



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Overview

The Desert & Delta Special encompasses the best that Botswana has to offer. For those guests that have never visited Botswana, this package includes all the must see's of Botswana.

From the parched grasslands of the Kalahari, with the famous black-maned lions, to the papyrus lined crystal clear waterways with astounding birdlife, to the famous Savute, renowned for its large concentration of predators, to the river banks of Chobe, teeming with elephants herds & hippos.

Not only is your client rewarded with the memories of a life time but this package will also contribute to the Environmental & Social Programmes that include, the Botswana Rhino Relocation and Reintroduction programme, Support for the Aged & Retired Employees, Khumaga Primary School and Community Outreach and the Tsodilo School.

Destination	Accommodation	Nights	Basis	
Makgadikgadi Pans	Leroo La Tau	2	FB	
Okavango Delta	Xugana Island Lodge	2	FB	
Savute - Chobe National Park	Savute Safari Lodge	2	FB	
Chobe River	Chobe Game Lodge	2	FB	

Key

RO: Room only

SC: Self Catering

HB: Half Board

B&B: Bed and breakfast

D, B&B: Dinner, bed and breakfast

FB: Dinner, bed, breakfast and lunch

FB+: Dinner, bed, breakfast, lunch and activities daily

FI: Fully inclusive



Day 1-3: Leroo La Tau, Makgadikgadi Pans

Makgadikgadi Pans

The Makgadikgadi Pan is the world's largest salt pan, formed on the bed of an ancient lake that began evaporating aeons ago. Visiting Makgadikgadi is a unique desert experience: in the dry season, this vast expanse of sun-baked salt glistens in the light and when the rains come, the pan is home to a cornucopia of flamingos and other waterbirds, as well as one of Africa's biggest zebra populations, whose annual migration is a wonder to behold.

The Makgadikgadi Pans National Park stretches away from the banks of the Boteti River, through its hinterland of scrub and grassland. The river and the nutrient-rich western grasslands supply the essential water and sustenance for the herds that inhabit the park. Leroo La Tau is situated on the western bank of the Boteti River, north-west of Khumaga village, about 140 kilometres south-east of Maun. The river's eastern bank forms the boundary of the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park. The Boteti River is the main outflow of the Okavango Delta, collecting the water that flows past Maun, then continuing about 250 km south-eastwards, finally ending at Lake Xau on the extreme south-western edge of the great Makgadikgadi salt pans.

There was permanent water in the river long before Livingstone first explored the area in the late 1840s and brought the existence of Lake Ngami to the attention of the outside world. The river provided water for the great herds of wildlife that seasonally utilised the short-grass plains on the north-western side of the Makgadikgadi, and latterly provided water for the Setswana cattle herders who moved onto the western bank. The river was thus a natural barrier between the wildlife and the cattle – and subsequently a natural boundary for the National Park. In the mid-1980s the flood waters of the Okavango started diminish as the region entered a cycle of low rainfall in the catchment area – and the Boteti River, receiving far less water, began to recede progressively. It finally started drying up completely in the mid-1990s. The water no longer reached Leroo La Tau by about 1987/88 – leaving a few waterholes in the riverbed fed by underground seeps, and trapping a small pod of Hippo, which stayed in a deep pool near Leroo La Tau, together with Crocodiles that became completely terrestrial and denned in caves in the eastern river bank. 2009 saw the highest floods in the Okavango in the past 25 years, and the Boteti River flowed strongly again, with the water reaching and flowing past Leroo La Tau.

The Zebra and Wildebeest herds migrate in their thousands to the river at the end of winter to access the water. The Makgadikgadi is a harsh, dry environment, suited to Oryx and Kudu, but the river provides a life-giving source of water for the Zebra and Wildebeest utilising the eastern grass plains. After the start of the rainy season, this desert area teems with wildlife as herds of Zebra and Wildebeest graze to their hearts' content on the wide-open green grassland plains of the Makgadikgadi. During the wet season there is an influx of migratory bird species, while resident desert species welcome their visitors by showing off their breeding plumage.

The Boteti River is the main outflow of the Okavango Delta, collecting the water that flows past Maun and stretching about 250 kilometres southeast to Lake Xau on the extreme south-western edge of the great Makgadikgadi salt. Leroo La Tau is built on cliffs over 10 metres above this changing riparian environment, offering a vantage point that ensures unsurpassed views of the river and the Makgadikgadi Pans to the east.

Overnight: Leroo La Tau [View iBrochure](#)



Leroo La Tau is situated on the western bank of the Boteti River, northwest of Khumaga Village and about 140 kilometres southeast of Maun. The eastern bank of the Boteti forms the boundary of the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, which stretches away from the riverbank towards its interior of scrubland and mineral-rich grasslands.

The lodge features twelve luxurious thatched and glass-fronted suites with en-suite bathrooms, each unit raised on a wooden platform. The main lounge and dining area, with its inviting wooden and thatch finish, allows you to relax at the bar while listening to the wide variety of night sounds so characteristic of the African bush. Alternatively you can lounge around the swimming pool or enjoy the panoramic river vista from the game-viewing hide built into the bank of the river.

The lodge offers guided day and night game drives. Depending on the water level, boat activities are also provided. Optional cultural excursions can be arranged to Khumaga Village, as can guided nature walks in the area surrounding the lodge. Leroo La Tau translates as 'lion's paw' but, although the surrounding area features abundant Lion, Zebra and Wildebeest, it also boasts Chobe Bushbuck, Leopard, Cheetah, Brown and Spotted Hyena, Impala, Kudu, Jackal, Porcupine, Genet and Caracal, to name but a few.

Please note: Owing to their remote location within the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, the Makgadikgadi Pans themselves are not visited on daily scheduled activities from Leroo La Tau.



Activities

Leroo Game Drives

Included

Full Board

Drinks (Local Brands) Included

Day 3-5: Xugana Island Lodge, Okavango Delta

Okavango Delta



Lying in the middle of the largest expanse of sand on earth the Okavango Delta is one of Africa's most amazing, sensitive and complex environments supporting a spectacle of wilderness and wildlife. Unique as one of the world's few inland deltas, the placid waters and lush indigenous forests offer a safe haven for innumerable bird and wildlife species.

Described as 'the jewel of the Kalahari', the Okavango Delta – a tranquil and isolated oasis set in the harsh and arid surroundings of Botswana's bush and desert – is widely regarded as one of Africa's best safari destinations, with its rich diversity of fauna and flora. The delta is one of the largest and most important inland wetlands of the world, with 2500 species of plants, 65 fish species, 20 large herbivores and their attendant predators, and more than 450 species of birds.

The Okavango Delta is one of the world's largest inland water systems. It rises in Angola's western highlands, then flows through northern Namibia and finally enters Botswana, where it is called the Okavango. Seen from space as an emerald swirl surrounded by a parched landscape, the delta is a miraculous source of life in a country that is 80% arid. The delta's floods are fed by the Angolan rains, which start in October. The floods cross the border between Namibia and Botswana at Molembo in December and reach Maun only in July. The Okavango River never reaches the sea, but flows south-eastwards into the Kalahari. Here it spreads out into a delta formation – a lush water-wilderness of papyrus swamps, shallow reed-beds and floodplains, dotted with islands and laced with a network of channels and lagoons. The annual seasonal flooding of the delta occurs during July and August, which is a few months after the peak levels at Molembo. It takes approximately four months to filter through the Delta from Molembo to Maun. The reasons for this slow meandering pace of the flood are the very gradual drop in elevation – little more than 60 metres over a distance of 450 kilometres – and the dense vegetation, which slows down the movement of the water. A lot of the water is lost to groundwater re-charge as well as evaporation. During the peak of the flooding the delta's area can expand to over 16 000 km², shrinking to less than 9000 km² in the low period. As the water travels through the delta, the wildlife starts to move back into the region.

As the Okavango Delta always has a certain amount of water, water-based activities are on offer at many of the safari camps situated there. A mokoro safari is a definite 'must do' for all guests visiting the Okavango Delta – a dugout canoe poled along by your guide is a favourite method of exploring the waterways. Motor-boats operate on the main waterways and lagoons. Traditional 4x4 game-viewing vehicles are used on the main island. Walking safaris are very popular in the Delta – the feeling of being on foot in Africa's wilderness, exploring the flora and fauna, is a remarkable experience – perhaps the most exciting way of viewing game – stalking and tracking wildlife with an expert guide

Overnight: Xugana Island Lodge [View iBrochure](#)

Xugana Lagoon is widely accepted as being the most spectacular permanent water site in the entire Okavango Delta. Xugana Island Lodge, situated on a wooded island abutting the lagoon, takes full advantage of this magnificent site. Xugana Island Lodge is situated on a private concession and takes full advantage of this magnificent site.

An expansive deck and al fresco dining area overlooks the vast, pristine body of water that makes up the permanent Okavango Delta. The lounge, bar and dining areas are set back under the Ebony and African Mangosteen tree canopy in open-sided thatched structures, and the swimming pool, located within the mature gardens in the centre of the island, is a perfect place to relax.



The lodge accommodates only sixteen guests in large, raised, reed and thatch lagoon-facing chalets, with en-suite facilities and private viewing decks optimally placed on the shaded fringe of the island.



Xugana Island Lodge is a pure water paradise and gives you the chance to experience a true Okavango Delta safari. All activities are conducted by experienced professional guides. Explore the crystal-clear waterways by mokoro (traditional dugout canoe) or motorboat, and enjoy the magnificent variety of bird, plant and reptile species found in the area.

Birding is absolutely spectacular, especially during the summer months when the migrant birds come to breed. Your experienced guide will also take you on a guided nature walk on surrounding islands in the concession, giving you the chance to experience nature up close and personal. Fishing for bream and tiger fish is also offered as an activity at the lodge. Xugana Island Lodge is a water-based camp and game drive activities, using safari vehicles, are not possible.

Activities

Mokoro Trip
Motorboat Trip
Fishing

Included

Full Board
Drinks (Local Brands) Included

Day 5-7: Savute Safari Lodge, Savute - Chobe National Park

Savute - Chobe National Park

In the heart of Botswana's Chobe National Park lies a dynamic wilderness. The Savute Marsh, fed by the Savute channel, has developed a reputation over the years as one of the world's premier predator viewing areas, boasting one of the highest concentrations of wildlife on the African continent. A number of award winning documentaries have cemented this reputation. Key to this area is the unpredictable Savute Channel, which sometimes flows from the Linyanti's waterways and into the heart of Chobe National Park, flooding the Savute Marsh. Even when dry, the marsh is a real attraction; a vast, open grassland dotted with the skeletons of drowned trees.

The lion and hyena and zebra migrations are synonymous with Savute but the area also hosts an excellent diversity of other predators and plains game species. Its pans and waterholes in the dry season sustain a large population of bull elephants. Many animals pass through here on their annual migrations – attracted by the marsh's particularly nutritious grasses. Zebra visit in large herds, accompanied by impala, wildebeest, giraffe, tsessebe, buffalo and elephant.



Overnight: Savute Safari Lodge [View iBrochure](#)

To ensure a private and relaxing environment, Savute Safari Lodge accommodates just twenty-four guests in twelve 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 decks, a combined bedroom and lounge area and en suite facilities. Sink into one of the numerous comfortable leather, wood or wicker sofas in the lounge – and library – or sip a cocktail in the stylish bar. All these facilities are situated in a beautiful two-storey thatch-and-timber main building. Savute Safari Lodge offers a shaded viewing deck, an al fresco dining area and swimming pool with spectacular pool loungers – ideal for watching the varied wildlife – including the resident Elephants – as they make their way to the Channel to drink, bathe and play.

Activities are organised around game drives throughout the Savute area in open 4x4 safari vehicles. Many trips will incorporate a visit to the Savute Marsh to give you a chance to see the historic presence of the Savute Channel at the marsh against a backdrop of teeming wildlife. Guests can also enjoy a visit to the ancient San rock paintings at Gubatsa Hills – a small hilly outcrop which forms a prominent landmark in the otherwise flat landscape.

Savute boasts the second-largest summer Zebra migration in Africa; its timing is determined by the rains, but usually occurs between November and December and again between February and April, when the Zebras move from the rivers in the north in search of the rain-ripe grasslands and full waterholes in the southwest of the park. The migration is always followed by large numbers of predators – the Zebra migration is a must for visitors.



Activities

Game Drives Savute

Included

Full Board

Drinks (Local Brands) Included



Day 7-9: Chobe Game Lodge, Chobe River

Chobe River

The Chobe National Park is located in the Northern part of Botswana and lies along the Chobe River, which borders Botswana and Namibia. The Park is the second largest in Botswana and is known for its superb game viewing all year round, as it has one of the largest populations of game on the African continent. Chobe is probably best known for its impressive Elephant herds. The Chobe River supports the largest concentration of Elephant found anywhere in Africa and it is not uncommon to encounter herds in excess of a hundred animals. Serondela area (or Chobe riverfront) in the north-east has lush plains and dense forests which attract huge numbers of Elephants and Buffalo. The Serondela area is the most visited part of the Park. The Chobe River forms the northern boundary of the Chobe National Park, renowned for its reliable and diverse game viewing.

Overnight: Chobe Game Lodge [View iBrochure](#)

The only permanent game lodge situated within the famous Chobe National Park, Chobe Game Lodge is Botswana's premier venue for guests looking for a perfect base from which to explore the National Park and the Chobe River. This five-star Lodge has full eco-grading by Botswana Tourism Board.

Chobe Game Lodge can accommodate up to ninety-four people in total luxury. Each of the forty-seven rooms at the lodge is river-facing and air-conditioned, featuring overhead fans, complimentary mini bar, en-suite bathrooms and a private terrace. For those guests who demand the ultimate in exclusivity, the Lodge has four river-view suites, each with its own plunge pool and separate lounge area.

Chobe Game Lodge is designed as a haven of peace and privacy – where relaxation is effortless and you can enjoy your own space. With six comfortably furnished viewing decks, a riverside boma, two bars, six different lounges and four dining locations, a comfy chair or lounger is never far away, each with a different perspective on the wilderness that surrounds the lodge. A large swimming pool provides welcome relief during hot afternoons and there is always a waiter on hand to bring you refreshments from the bar. Guests wishing to pamper themselves are welcome to book one of the delightful treatments from our in-house beautician (for which there is an extra charge) or hit the gym for some exercise between the usual Lodge activities (complimentary). Chobe Game Lodge caters for travellers with disabilities; all recent additions to the lodge were designed to provide easy accessibility.

The Chobe Lodge Boardwalk area is the perfect place to relax or explore during your spare time at the lodge, with excellent game viewing, bar facilities, toilets and plenty of areas to just sit back and watch the sunset or the Chobe wildlife parade. Chobe Game Lodge offers a choice of land or water-based activities and the most complete game experience in the Chobe National Park. Early-morning and late-afternoon game drives are conducted by our expert guides in open-sided 4x4 vehicles to ensure maximum visibility of Chobe National Park's spectacular scenery and abundant wildlife. Meanwhile, riverside game viewing may be done from small and highly manoeuvrable boats, perfect for morning or sunset cruises. Chobe's diverse wildlife roams in abundance – it is, for instance, home to the largest concentration of elephant in Africa. During the dry season these large herds, as well as vast herds of buffalo, congregate on the fertile flood plains along the Chobe River to drink, bathe and play. There are frequent sightings of lion, African wild dog, puku, red lechwe, sable, giraffe and roan antelope.





Activities

Chobe Game Lodge Game Drives

Chobe Game Lodge Boat Cruise

Included

Full Board

Drinks (Local Brands) Included

Day 9: Departure

You will be transferred to Kasane Airport for your charter flight to Maun International Airport. From here you will board your connecting flight home.

Transport

Flight Information

Date	Flight	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time	Class	Ref
		Maun Airport [MUB]		Leroo La Tau			
		Leroo La Tau		Xugana Island Lodge			
		Xugana Island Lodge		Savute Safari Lodge			
		Savute Safari Lodge		Chobe Game Lodge			
		Chobe Game Lodge		Maun Airport [MUB]			

Urgent Contact Numbers

Company Name	Telephone	Email Address	Contact Person



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