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## Extravagant Okavango

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Linyanti - Okavango Delta

9 Days / 8 Nights



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### Overview

Explore the Okavango delta and all its delights in definitive extravagance. This safari combines the great game viewing areas of Botswana, teeming with lions, wild dog, leopards and large herds of elephant with the ultimate in luxury camps. Fly in from Maun, reach your camps by charter plane and relax in the opulence of these bush camps. This safari will exceed your expectations of what the African bush can offer.

Destination	Accommodation	Nights	Basis	Room Type
Linyanti	<a href="#">Kings Pool</a>	3	FB	
Okavango Delta	<a href="#">Yumbura Plains</a>	3	FB	



Okavango Delta	<a href="#">Tubu Tree Camp</a>	2	FB	
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### 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 1-4: Kings Pool, Linyanti

### Linyanti

The Linyanti Wildlife Reserve is a private reserve bordering Chobe National Park's western boundary. It is an enormous reserve within a park, teeming in wildlife, covering an area of 125,000ha (308,000 acres).

Aspects of the concession include floodplains, grasslands, exotic palm islands and scrub vegetation. Together with the 3 main features, the entire region harbours one of the densest, dry season concentrations of elephant in Botswana. It has been estimated that Linyanti must have several thousand elephants roaming around at any one time, and it is not hard to understand in this day and age of conservation, this phenomenon has become one of the main attractions for travellers to northern Botswana. The Linyanti's waters weave and meander as they make their way eastward towards Chobe and along its way form a myriad of pools and lagoons which are favoured by Hippos, Crocodiles and incredible birdlife. These pools also attract game from the dry lands to the east, for out of the rainy season they hold the first permanent waters to be found. In the early evening, with youngsters in tow, several breeding herds of Elephant usually gather to the pools along the Linyanti to enjoy a drink and to wallow and frolic in the mudholes.

Although the concession lies within the greater Chobe National Park, it has a distinctly different eco-system. The Swamp has formed in the corner where the permanently-flowing Linyanti River takes a 90° turn, forming channels, lagoons and a lush area of reed beds, providing permanent water to the region. The lush and attractive vegetation at Linyanti includes jackal berry, leadwood, sausage trees and other hard woods. This natural creation in turn has become home to aquatic species such as sitatunga and red lechwe, and handsome roan and sable antelope can be seen all year round. During the dry winter months, The Swamp lures vast herds of thirsty elephant, zebra and wildebeest. Other plains game includes Cape buffalo, eland, southern giraffe, hippo, impala, warthog, common waterbuck and Burchell's zebra. Chacma baboon and vervet monkey are also resident.

With such a wide variety of mammals on call, predators are prevalent in Linyanti, including lion, cheetah, hyena, leopard and other smaller carnivores. It also provides a stronghold for the endangered African wild dog. Nocturnal species of animal include aardwolf, lesser bushbaby, serval, spring hare, (large spotted) genet and occasionally the elusive pangolin! Linyanti is an outstanding all-year birding destination, with species ranging from the Okavango specials, such as Hartlaub's babbler, wattled crane, slaty egret, African skimmer, Allen's gallinule, to the drier mopane woodland species like racket-tailed roller, Bradfield's hornbill, white-breasted cuckoo-shrike, Bennett's woodpecker, swallow-tailed bee-eater and



Arnot's chat. This reserve is also excellent for kori bustard, ostrich and various owl species, such as Verreaux's giant eagle-owl and the African scops-owl.

Visiting the Linyanti Reserve area and its many varied habitats of dry woodlands and grasslands, marshes, riverine forests and waterways, together with the prolific and diverse wildlife and spectacular scenery, forms a wonderful contrast to the Okavango Delta. Adding this area to your Botswana itinerary should be considered strongly, as it will complement any visit to the region.

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**Overnight: Kings Pool** [View iBrochure](#)



Situated to overlook the oxbow-shaped Kings Pool Lagoon and the Linyanti River, it is set in a private reserve characterized by open grasslands, mopane and mixed terminalia woodlands, riverine forest and the Savute Channel. Named for Scandinavian royalty, this luxurious and stylish camp overlooks the oxbow-shaped Kings Pool Lagoon and Linyanti River system.

Nine well-appointed rooms (including one family unit) of canvas and thatch each have a large en-suite bedroom and lounge. Folding doors lead to a veranda with private plunge pool, separate thatched sala to soak up the views and an outdoor shower. The lounge and dining areas are set on expansive decks, and there is a pool and an open-air 'kgotla' (boma) for evening dining under the stars. An open-sided thatched gym is available.

Many guests of Kings Pool comment on the high standard of accommodation and facilities, friendly and helpful staff, tasty meals and exciting, high quality game viewing trips. There is a huge amount of space in which to relax, take a splash in the pool, or to sip a cocktail/sundowner in the sun or shade. Alternately, you can review your pictures on their computer (no internet access though).

An added attraction at Kings Pool is the raised walkways, which allow animals to wander freely through the camp to and from the water. The lounge, dining room and pub areas are on expansive elevated decks, and there is a pool and an open-air 'kgotla' for dining under the stars. The camp's chefs prides themselves on hearty and healthy menus, and they are only too willing to accompany you on a guided tour of the kitchen, but not without handing you a few recipes to try at home before you leave! Your guides will be happy to interact with you at all times; they communicate regularly to share their sightings.







Activities include day and night game drives, walks (depending on qualified guide availability), and elegant boat cruises along the Linyanti River (water levels allowing) on Kings Pool's colonial-style barge, the Queen Sylvia. In the dry season, two hides allow guests to spend their siesta watching game come down to drink. One is on the edge of the camp, while the other is underground, with the water at eye-level – seeing elephant feet and trunks almost within touching distance while safely inside is an experience that transcends that of an ordinary safari.

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#### Activities

Kings Pool Game Drives

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#### Included

Full Board

Drinks (Local Brands) Included

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## Day 4-7: Vumbura Plains, Okavango Delta

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### 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 Moheumbo 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 are a few months after the peak levels at Moheumbo. It takes



approximately four months to filter through the Delta from Mohembo 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 km<sup>2</sup>, shrinking to less than 9000 km<sup>2</sup> 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.

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## Vumbura Plains

[View iBrochure](#)



Vumbura Plains is a luxury camp situated in the northern Okavango Delta.

North of Botswana's Moremi National Park is a series of large floodplains dotted with small palm islands and interspersed with large forested areas. Here, the 94km<sup>2</sup> (60,000-hectare) Vumbura Reserve – known for wonderfully varied and high densities of game – is home to the two adjacent camps that make up Vumbura Plains. Imagine a luxury hotel of contemporary, minimalist design, deep in the Delta, and you're nearly there.

Each of Vumbura Plains' camps has seven cavernous suites, spaced well apart and raised up on decks. These suites really are luxurious, even by Botswana's standards, each with its own very private plunge pool and deck, and lots of safari-chic touches. At North Camp, two of the suites are designed with families in mind, each with two bedrooms.

The open-plan suites with high thatched ceilings are positively palatial. Floor-to-ceiling glass panels frame each suite on three sides, maximising the views of the surrounding bush. Decked out in light wood and natural hues, the bedroom, sunken lounge and bathroom flow almost seamlessly into one another.

Set up on a slightly raised platform is a mammoth bed under an equally immense mosquito net, and to the front is a sunken lounge area. The back of the room is kitted out with a writing desk with plug points suitable for a laptop, charging electrical equipment or the hairdryer, and ample storage space. There is a minibar fridge as well as tea- and coffee-making facilities. All the rooms have a small safe, and umbrellas, dressing gowns, mosquito repellent, insect spray and mosquito coils are provided.

Fully one half of the suite is essentially the 'bathroom' area. The shower is open-plan, although floor-to-ceiling curtains can be pulled on one or more sides for privacy. A second large shower is set outside, under the stars. A separate flushing toilet, twin hand washbasins and a vanity unit complete the picture, complemented by a good selection of toiletries. Outside



each suite is a large private decked area, complete with a plunge pool, sunloungers, and a covered 'sala' with a sofa and small table for occasions when you might prefer to 'dine in'.

High wooden walkways link the suites at Vumbura Plains with the central areas. Whilst North and South camps are not identical, these sprawling areas are similar in style and provide the same facilities. In each, the deck seems to flow into sunken lounges with their blend of muted earth-coloured and green cushions. The purposeful use of shapes lends a stylish, almost organic feel, albeit very modern.

Guests are encouraged to help themselves from the bar – although there will usually be a member of staff on hand to help. Fancy a latte? Craving a cappuccino? No problem! Guests have the chance to indulge in both, courtesy of a rather elaborate coffee machine. A large portion of the deck is dedicated to the dining area – part of it under cover and part under the stars – adorned with wooden carvings and interesting African sculptures. There is a quirky 'loo with a view' (and it's a rather good view too), which is reached by a short boardwalk from the main lodge.

Vumbura Plains offers a wide choice of activities, including day and night 4WD game drives, mokoro trips and sometimes short walks – although because of the density of big game, walks are always at the discretion of the guides and managers. When water levels are high enough, the nearby channel is used for motorboat trips. Lion are relatively common, and the open areas suit cheetah and wild dog, which sometimes den in the vicinity. Leopard and spotted hyena are also seen frequently.



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## Activities

Vumbura Plains Game Drives

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## Included

Full Board

Drinks (Local Brands) Included

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**Day 7-9: Tubu Tree Camp, Okavango Delta**

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**Overnight: Tubu Tree Camp** [View iBrochure](#)







Tubu Tree Camp is a small, traditional tented safari camp on a large island in the 600km<sup>2</sup> (60,000 hectare) Jao Reserve, on the west of the Okavango Delta. Although this reserve is dominated by permanent wetlands with deep-water channels, seasonal floodplains and islands, Tubu is built on Hunda Island, the largest dry island in the reserve – so when the floods arrive, the game drives from Tubu Tree offer the best game sightings in the area.

The raised main area at Tubu Tree feels like an enormous tree house and the views over the seasonal plains in front of the camp are fantastic. When the water levels are low the plains are dry, but the view changes completely during the flood season when the plains in front of the camp fill with water. Off to one side of the building are the open-air lounge with a number of comfy sofas and chairs, and the adjacent loo with a view. There's a good selection of reference books available, and the deck in front has a viewing scope for guests to use.

The quirky bar, hand carved from a large sausage tree and built around trees to the front of the camp is a firm favourite. From here a wooden walkway leads down to a small plunge pool and sundeck, and – just beyond – a fire pit, where a fire is lit most evenings and early mornings. The camp also has a small curio shop.

Tubu Tree Camp now has eight tented chalets, each built on individual decks (with super views), giving them the feel almost of tree houses. All are reached from the main area along raised wooden walkways. In keeping with the style of the camp, the design of the rooms is very traditional. The tents have big windows and a large sliding door with mesh panels, making them feel quite light and spacious. Each room has a veranda with a couple of directors' chairs, providing a perfect spot to sit and contemplate the surrounding plains. Inside, the rooms are simply but adequately furnished with a desk, decent reading lamps above the beds, a couple of chairs, a free-standing fan, tea- and coffee-making station and a collection of international adaptors.

Owing to its locale and easy access to diverse habitats, Tubu Tree ensures excellent game viewing. Activities at Tubu Tree vary with the water levels in the Jao Reserve. For a good portion of the year, the emphasis is usually on day and night game drives, but when water levels permit, usually between May and end September, then motorboat trips and fishing are possible. Mokoro trips are available all year round.





**Activities**

- Tubu Tree Birdwatching
- Tubu Tree Camp Mokoro
- Tubu Tree Camp Motorboat
- Tubu Tree Camp Nature Walk

**Included**

- Full Board
- Drinks (Local Brands) Included

**Day 9: Departure**

After a last African breakfast, you will board a charter flight to Maun International Airport for your connecting flight home.



Transport

**Flight Information**

Date	Flight	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time	Class	Ref
		Maun Airport [MUB]		Kings Pool			
		Kings Pool		Vumbura Plains			
		Vumbura Plains		Tubu Tree Camp			
		Tubu Tree Camp		Maun Airport [MUB]			



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**Urgent Contact Numbers**

Company Name	Telephone	Email Address	Contact Person
Pride of Africa Safaris	+267 6800 890	reservations@prideofafrica-safaris.com	Tanja von Kaschke

