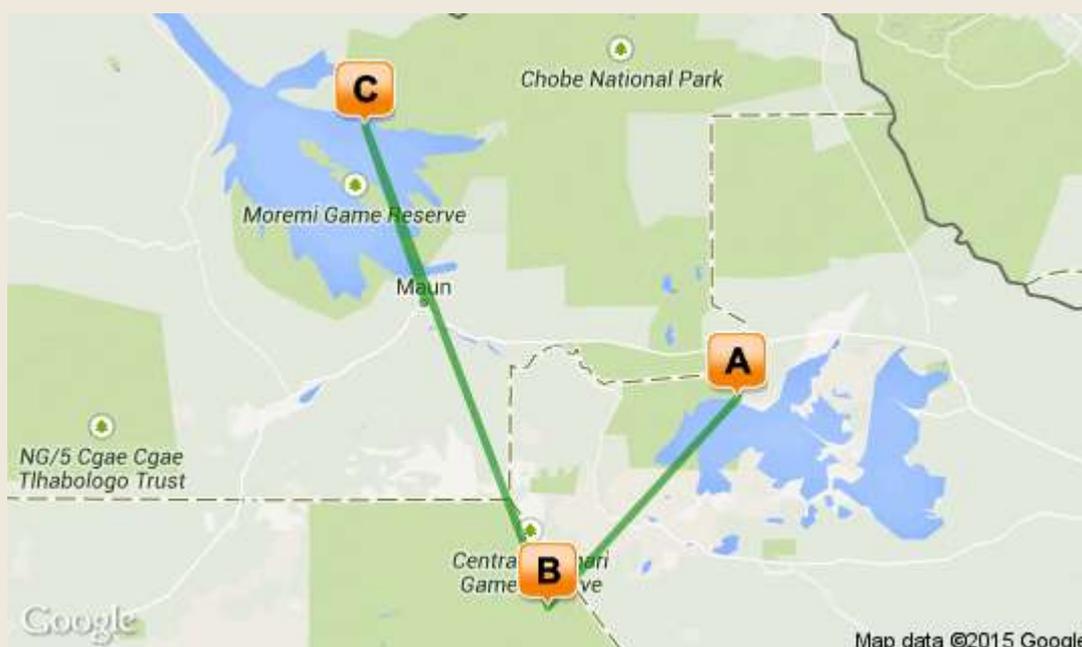


Kalahari Exposed



Kalahari exposed

Makgadikgadi Pans - Central Kalahari Game Reserve - Okavango Delta
9 Days / 8 Nights



[Click here to view your Virtual Itinerary](#)

Overview

This safari includes the best that Botswana has to offer, from the open grasslands of the Kalahari, the famous black maned-lions and Africa's 2nd largest Zebra migration, the vast salt pans of Makgadikgadi Pans and the ancient Bushman way of life to the breathtaking lush waterways of the Okavango Delta teeming with birdlife, hippos and the iconic large herds of elephants.

Destination	Accommodation	Nights	Basis	Room Type
Makgadikgadi Pans	Camp Kalahari	3	FB	
Central Kalahari Game Reserve	Kalahari Plains Camp	3	FB	



Okavango Delta	Xugana Island 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 1-4: Camp Kalahari, 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. Lake Makgadikgadi is an ancient lake that existed in what is now the Kalahari Desert in Botswana. It may have once covered as much as 80,000 km² and was 30 m deep. The Okavango, Zambezi, and Cuando rivers once all emptied into the lake.

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 Zebra and Wildebeest herds migrate in their thousands to. The Makgadikgadi is a harsh, dry environment, suited to Oryx and Kudu, but the Boteti 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.

Of course within the Kalahari there are many special sights. Magical places where you can pick up tools last handled in the Stone Age, or examine the world's first paintings, or look around you and see nothing but the earth's curvature. Then at



other times you may see vast herds of animals following ancient migration routes, or drive over enormous open plains dotted with endless game. Around January to March, if the rains have been good, the pans flood. When this happens, grasses spring to life, flamingos arrive to nest, and a huge migration of zebra and wildebeest arrives. This is one of Africa's great, unpredictable wildlife spectacles. It's a fascinating place, but above all it's a wilderness. That's what captivates us about it.

Overnight: Camp Kalahari

You'll find Camp Kalahari nestled amongst the acacias and Mokolwane palms of Brown Hyena Island, on the edge of the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, Botswana.

A relaxed, family-friendly traditional safari camp, ideal for those seeking fun and adventure, without sacrificing comfort or style. The camp is an eclectic mix of original African furniture and textiles paired with traditional campaign style furniture and colonial antiques. Guests can relax in a traditionally built thatch library, living and dining area, and when it heats up, cool off in the plunge pool.

Camp Kalahari has 10 spacious Meru tents. 6 Twin tents, 3 Double tents and 1 Family tent: 2 adjacent tents, accommodating 2 Guests in each with an inter-leading bathroom. All ten traditional safari tents are en-suite and outfitted with rich textiles, Moroccan kilims, and four poster beds.

Get unbelievably up close and personal with a gang of incredibly friendly habituated meerkats. Spend time walking with a group of Zu/'hoasi Bushmen for a glimpse into their ancient culture. Game drives to experience unique desert wildlife. Visit to Chapman's Baobab, campsite of Livingstone & Selous: one of the three largest and oldest trees in Africa. Dry Season Only: Quad biking across the lunar expanse of the pans. Lie out on the pans as the sun sets, and watch the planetarium show unfold with horizon-to-horizon stars. Wet Season Only: Experience the spectacular migration of zebra and wildebeest – the second biggest in Africa, and the last remaining in Southern Africa.



Activities

Camp Kalahari Quad Biking
Camp Kalahari Game Drives
Guided Walk Camp Kalahari
San Camp Meerkat Tour

Included

Full Board
Drinks (Local Brands) Included



Day 4-7: Kalahari Plains Camp, Central Kalahari Game Reserve

Central Kalahari Game Reserve

Miles and miles of grassland, a true wilderness.

The Central Kalahari Game Reserve is the ultimate in 'remote' safari destinations. It covers over 50,000km², most of which is inaccessible. It was closed to the public, although there have always been small groups of Bushmen living in the reserve. Even now, this region is seen by only a handful of visitors every year.

The best-known account of the area was the haunting book, *Cry of the Kalahari*, written by American biologists Mark and Delia Owens about their research in Deception Valley.

Overnight: Kalahari Plains Camp [View iBrochure](#)



Kalahari Plains Camp is set in a remote part of the diverse and productive Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) and offers some of the best summer wildlife viewing opportunities in Africa. Located in the Kalahari Desert biome in the central part of Botswana, this reserve is the largest conservation area in the country and one of the largest in the world. Its star attractions include the legendary Kalahari black-maned lion as well as some of the world's best cheetah viewing.

Kalahari Plains Camp is perfectly situated overlooking an immense pan with endless horizons and beautiful skies. Recently upgraded to a Classic camp, Kalahari Plains comprises ten en-suite canvas units each with a sleep-out deck area from which to enjoy the night skies. The lounge and dining area has a separate swimming pool and deck. The camp is raised off the ground to catch the breeze and take in the sweeping, spacious views across the Kalahari. Solar power provides electricity and hot water, and the innovative insulated canvas walls and roof keep the temperatures inside comfortable.

Guided game drives and walks (subject to the availability of a qualified walking guide) unlock the wildlife treasures found here and San Bushman experiences provide insights into the unique culture of this people.

Twice daily game drives or full-day excursions take place in open 4x4 vehicles and directed towards the seasonal movements of the wildlife. As we are in a National Park, we adhere to the regulations of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks restricting off-road driving and night driving. An interpretive, guided "Bushman Walk" led by camp staff members who hail from the San Bushman clans of the area provides insights into their traditional lifestyles through dress, activities and a short walk (800 metres) in the immediate camp area. The Kalahari is famous for its clear night skies, and with



no light pollution it is the ideal spot from which to view the incredible formations of the stars and planets. Our guides are also known to dabble with astronomy and will take you on a tour through the constellations.



Activities

Kalahari Plains Game Drive
Kalahari Plains Star Gazing

Included

Full Board
Drinks (Local Brands) Included

Day 7-9: 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 are 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. The thatched common area, comprising cocktail bar, lounge and curio shop, is still the original building put up in 1974, when Xugana became only the second tourist lodge ever built in the Okavango Delta. Meals, for which the lodge is justly famous, are taken alfresco on the edge of the lagoon, except on those rare occasions of rain when the lounge doubles as the dining-room. Tea is often served in the garden inside the island, where quiet, secluded reading benches can also be found.

Mokoro trips in eco-friendly dugout canoes built to the traditional design, boat safaris to lagoons and islands and wilderness walks give guests the chance to see the Delta denizens such as sitatunga and lechwe antelope, crocodile and hippo, as well as the other big game that frequents the islands and riverine fringes. Bird-watching opportunities are outstanding, and the bream and tiger fishing can be excellent at certain times of the year. The peaceful boat ride back across Xugana Lagoon during the spectacular African sunset provides a lifelong memory. All activities are conducted by our experienced naturalist guides, who, as well as ensuring that guests come to no harm, are keen to impart their vast knowledge and love of this unique area.



Activities

Xugana Mokoro Trip
Xugana Motorboat Trip

Included

Full Board
Drinks (Local Brands) Included



Day 9: Departure

Day Notes

Depart from Xugana Island Lodge on a charter flight to Maun International Airport for your connecting flight back home.

Transport

Flight Information

Date	Flight	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time	Class	Ref
		Maun Airport [MUB]		Camp Kalahari			
		Camp Kalahari		Kalahari Plains Camp			
		Kalahari Plains Camp		Xugana Island Lodge			
		Xugana Island Lodge		Maun Airport [MUB]			

Urgent Contact Numbers

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

