



Self Drive Namibia & Fly In Botswana



WINDHOEK



SWAKOPMUND



DAMARALAND



ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK





KAVANGO



CHOBE RIVER



SAVUTE - CHOBE NATIONAL PARK



OKAVANGO DELTA





Namibia & Botswana

Windhoek - Swakopmund - Damaraland - Etosha National Park - Kavango - Chobe River - Savute -
Chobe National Park - Okavango Delta
17 Days / 16 Nights



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

Overview

Explore the Southern African countries of Botswana and Namibia. Namibia is a land of startling contrast, from desert landscapes to the verdant Caprivi Strip. Botswana, one of the world's greatest safari destinations, teeming with wildlife and home to the iconic Okavango Delta.

Destination	Accommodation	Nights	Basis	Room Type
Windhoek	Olive Grove Guesthouse	1	B&B	
Swakopmund	Atlantic Villa	2	B&B	





Damaraland	Etendeka Mountain Camp	2	DBB
Etosha National Park	Okaukuejo Camp	3	B&B
Kavango	Hakusembe River Lodge	1	B&B
Chobe River	Chobe Game Lodge	2	FI
Savute - Chobe National Park	Savute Safari Lodge	3	FI
Okavango Delta	Xugana Island Lodge	2	FI

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 1-2: Olive Grove Guesthouse, Windhoek

Windhoek

Windhoek is Namibia's capital, home to an international airport and a plethora of restaurants, shops, entertainment venues and accommodation options. The city is clean, safe and well-organised, with a colonial legacy that is reflected in its many German eateries and shops, and the widespread use of the German language. Windhoek has an interesting mix of historical architecture and modern buildings, many of which are worth a look, including the Alte Feste (Old Fort), the 1896 Christuskirche (Christ Church), and the more contemporary Supreme Court.

Overnight: Olive Grove Guesthouse [View iBrochure](#)

Olive Grove is a small upmarket accommodation establishment situated close to the city centre in a quiet, peaceful area. Big Sky's first property in Windhoek and bordering The Olive Exclusive, the guesthouse takes homely atmosphere to a different level. Recently completely refurbished, each room has been decorated and painted with new colour schemes allowing a different feel, but with the same elegant and simplistic emphasis on décor.

The newly renovated, open-plan kitchen allows guests to see how meals are prepared, while they enjoy a drink in the lounge. The menu was also reinvented and is now fully a la carte, quite unique for a guesthouse. Home-style food is rounded off with great presentation, pushing up the level of the guesthouse dining experience. The upper deck has been revamped into a private dining corner, with two Moroccan-style sections, for guests to get comfy on the large pillows and enjoy the ambience and view from the top. The on-site Wellness Room offers a selection of professional





services, to assist guests on their journey towards inner and outer well-being. Whilst each of the ten rooms and one suite cater for every need of the most discerning traveller, the emphasis remains one of simplicity and elegance.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 2-4: Atlantic Villa, Swakopmund

Swakopmund

Founded in 1892 as the main harbour for German South West Africa, Swakopmund is often described as being more German than Germany. Now a seaside resort, Swakopmund is the capital of the Skeleton Coast tourism area and has plenty to keep visitors happy. The quirky mix of German and Namibian influences, colonial-era buildings and the cool sea breeze make it very popular.

Overnight: Atlantic Villa



Palm-lined streets, seaside promenades, fine accommodation, a pleasant summer climate and decent beaches. Welcome to Swakopmund - Namibia's premier holiday resort!. Founded in 1892 as the main harbour for German South West Africa, Swakopmund is often described as being more German than Germany. Now a seaside resort, Swakopmund is the capital of the Skeleton Coast tourism area and has plenty to keep visitors happy. The quirky mix of German and Namibian influences, colonial-era buildings and the cool sea breeze make it very popular. The area of Namib Desert around Swakopmund is named the West Coast Recreational Area. And recreation is the towns number one draw card. There are countless pursuits to help you spend your time, and money. For those interested in adventure





activities Swakopmund offers sandboarding, quad biking, dune carting, parachuting, hot air ballooning, shark fishing, deep sea fishing and beach angling to name but a few. For the more sedentary there are restaurants, cafes, art galleries, museums, a snake park and aquarium.

If the adrenaline inducing activities are not suited to you, then the architecture and general feeling of Swakopmund might be more to your liking. This town has the ambiance associated with a small German village, and the town seems to be stuck in time. Although in recent times the new generation have woken up to the tourist potential of the area, Swakopmund still manages to create a feeling of timelessness.

Buildings and monuments of note in Swakopmund include the Hohenzollern Building, the Marine memorial, the War memorial in memory of those killed in World War 2, Princess Rupprecht House originally a military hospital now a private guest house. The Kaserne buildings originally served as a barracks and is of a similar design to the Alte Feste in Windhoek and Fort Namutoni in Etosha. The Swakopmund Railway station was completed in 1901 and now houses the Swakopmund Hotel, while the bells of the Deutsche Evangelical Church were imported from Germany. Standing close to the State House (Kaiserliches Bezirksgericht) is the Swakop Lighthouse at just over 20 meters it has been functional since 1902.

The main beach area is called the Mole, and is the result of a largely unsuccessful attempt to construct the artificial harbour (as South Africa owned the only natural harbour in the area at Walvis Bay). The town's most iconic symbol is the Swakopmund jetty, initially used as mooring for ships it later became a popular area for anglers and walkers. It has fallen into disrepair on numerous occasions and has been subject to several attempts to rescue it from complete dereliction. Recently large scale work has been completed on the jetty which now proudly boasts a small restaurant and bar area.

True to its German traditions early mornings and evenings in Swakopmund can be cold throughout the year, as the cold Atlantic Ocean meeting the Namib Desert creates a fog bank. This coolness is often a relief from the heat of the rest of Namibia, but does mean that Swakopmund is not the tropical sunbathing mecca that most people imagine. For day trippers a visit to the Cape Cross Seal Colony is worth a visit as it offers a taste of the Skeleton Coast and the seals are worth a visit. The Welwitschia drive is an interesting way to spend a few hours and introduces you to some of the fauna and flora of the Namib Desert. Bird lovers can pay a visit to the Swakopmund Salt Works or the Walvis Bay Lagoon, which in season is frequented by thousands of flamingos.

Situated within sight and sound of the mesmerising Atlantic Ocean, The Atlantic Villa offers accommodation within walking distance from the beach, a few minutes drive from Swakopmund town centre and a quiet relaxed atmosphere complimented by its location. Our elegantly and luxurious decorated rooms offers spacious and comfortable accommodation. Our friendly staff will make you feel pampered from the minute you enter the Atlantic Villa Boutique Guesthouse. Relax with a cup of freshly ground coffee in your room or unwind in any of our comfy lounges where you are welcome to play on our grand Piano, or just settle down with a cold drink on the terrace.

Activities

Swakopmund Museum
Boat charter Swakopmund
Quad Bike Swakopmund
Crystal Gallery Swakopmund
Swakopmund Jetty
Swakopmund City Tour

These are optional activities that can be done in Swakopmund.

Swakopmund Museum

Located at the Mole, the Swakopmund Museum is diminutive but fascinating, housing displays focusing on a wide array of aspects related to the region and its surrounds, including wildlife, environment, geology, history and anthropology.





Swakopmund Jetty

A favourite viewpoint with tourists and locals alike, the Swakopmund jetty stretches out into the ocean, offering beautiful panoramas of the town and excellent angling. The northern half of the jetty is reserved for fishermen.

Swakopmund City Tour

Better known as Namibia's playground, this idyllic town is wedged between the sweltering Namib Desert and cold Atlantic Ocean. This desert town is a rhapsody of adventure, fun, exploration and relaxation. Graced with many beautiful, old buildings in a colonial, Bavarian style, the best way to experience this small town is on foot.

Included

Bed & Breakfast



Day 4-6: Etendeka Mountain Camp, Damaraland

Damaraland



Huge, untamed and ruggedly beautiful Damaraland is an exceptionally scenic landscape of open plains and spectacular rock formations. Here there are prehistoric water courses with open plains and grassland, massive granite koppies and deep gorges. Towards the west, the geography changes dramatically with endless sandy wastes, that incredibly are able to sustain small, but wide-ranging, populations of desert-adapted elephant, black rhino, giraffe, ostrich and springbok. These animals have adapted their lifestyles to survive the harshness of the sun-blistered, almost waterless desert spaces. Elephant move through euphorbia bush country, and can travel up to 70km in a day in search of food and water and unusually, do not destroy trees in their quest for food. Follow black rhino cow and her calf in typical Damaraland 'melkbos' terrain. Together, Damaraland and Kaokoland are known as the Kaokoveld.

Highlights of the area include:

- The Brandberg - Namibia's highest mountain and home to the famous 'White Lady' Bushman Painting.





- Twyfelfontein - a wonderful rocky outcrop with thousands of Bushman engravings.
- Spitzkoppe - a typical pointed inselberg, and a place of great mystery to the ancient San people
- The Petrified Forest - which is millions of years old.
- The Vingerklip (finger rock) - a towering finger of limestone that rises 35m above its base.

The Brandberg 'the fire mountain' is named after the effect created by the setting of the sun on its western face, which causes the granite massif to resemble a burning slag heap glowing red. The Brandberg (and the Spitzkoppe) is a favourite place for climbers in Namibia, and both mountains contain a high density of San (Bushman) art. The main attraction at Twyfelfontein (doubtful spring) is its large gallery of rock art, one of the most extensive in Africa.

Two other well-known geological features close to Twyfelfontein are the Organ Pipes and the Burnt Mountain. The Organ Pipes are a distinctive series of dolerite pillars that have been exposed by erosion and can be viewed in the small gorge on the left hand side of the road leading to the Burnt Mountain. This flat-topped mountain derives its name from the piles of blackened limestone at its base.

The Spitzkoppe (sharp head) is one of Namibia's most recognizable landmarks. Its shape has inspired its nickname, 'The Matterhorn of Africa,' but the similarities begin and end with its sharp peak. It is actually the remnant of an ancient volcano, formed in the same way as the Brandberg and Erongo massifs. It was first climbed in 1946 and is now a popular climbing destination with local and foreign mountaineers alike, with plenty of technical climbs available.

The trees of the Petrified Forest were uprooted some 200 million years ago and were swept along by rivers in flood, covered by sediments and then subsequently uncovered by erosion. Your local community guides will provide more of an insight into the area, whilst ensuring that pieces of petrified wood are not removed.

The 35m-high Vingerklip (finger rock) is also known as Kalk-Kegel (limestone pillar) and rises above the Bertram farm. It is an erosional remnant of a limestone plateau and was formed over 15 million years ago. The large cave in its base, surrounded by rubble, gives the impression it will topple over any minute. It was first climbed in 1970 by the American Tom Choate.

Overnight: Etendeka Mountain Camp [View iBrochure](#)

Following the signing of the groundbreaking joint-venture agreement with the neighbouring communities, the decision was made to completely rebuild and relaunch Etendeka Mountain Camp. The unique new dining area stays true to Etendeka's long standing and award winning commitment to eco-friendly values.

In the foothills of the Grootberg massif, set amidst magnificent scenery and the ancient Etendeka lavas of northern Damaraland, the ten new en-suite Meru tents have been refitted with luxury mattresses and 100% cotton linen. Necessary comforts have not been overlooked with the bathrooms also benefiting from a makeover, while the traditional, open-air bucket shower still holds pride of place. Simple, fresh, wholesome meals are prepared, either in solar ovens or on open fires, and enjoyed under African skies. Extensive use is made of solar power throughout the camp. Etendeka is one of only two establishments that have been awarded the highest rank in the Namibian Eco-awards.

At Etendeka, wildlife has acclimatised to a precarious existence amongst the towering basalt mountains and dry mopane-shaded river courses of the Kunene Region. A strong focus is on walking activities. "The feel at Etendeka is rustic; we wanted to bring back that rugged element of the traditional tented camp that most have unfortunately lost." Manager and co-owner of Etendeka Mountain Camp, Dennis Liebenberg has been running the property for the past 20 years and knows the area like the back of his hand. He loves to share his knowledge with guests.





Activities

Nature Walk
Game Drive

Included

Fully Inclusive
Drinks (Local Brands) Included

Day 6-9: Okaukuejo Camp, Etosha National Park

Etosha National Park

Translated as the 'Place of Mirages', 'Land of Dry Water' or the 'Great White Place', Etosha is an apparently endless pan of silvery-white sand, upon which dust-devils play and mirages blur the horizon. One of Africa's best game reserves, Etosha National Park protects a vast shallow bowl of silvery sand the size of Holland – and its surrounding bush. The Etosha National Park is Namibia's premiere game viewing experience, situated in the northwest of Namibia and is an area well known for its wildlife. Vegetation ranges from dense bush to open plains attracting a diversity of wildlife. In the heart of the Park is The Etosha Pan - a shallow depression that covers an area of 5000sq kilometres. Dry and shimmering for most of the year, the pans fill up with water after good rains to a depth which is seldom deeper than 1m. In the dry season wildlife is attracted to perennial springs and waterholes that makes for excellent game viewing.

Etosha National Park is one of Southern Africa's finest and most important Game Reserves. Etosha Game park was declared a National Park in 1907 and covering an area of 22 270 square km, it is home to 114 mammal species, 340 bird species, 110 reptile species, 16 amphibian species and, surprisingly, one species of fish. The Etosha Park is one of the first places on any itinerary designed for a holiday in Namibia.

Etosha, meaning "Great White Place", is dominated by a massive mineral pan. The pan is part of the Kalahari Basin, the floor of which was formed around 1000 million years ago. The Etosha Pan covers around 25% of the National Park. The pan was originally a lake fed by the Kunene River. However the course of the river changed thousands of years ago and the lake dried up. The pan now is a large dusty depression of salt and dusty clay which fills only if the rains are heavy and even then only holds water for a short time. This temporary water in the Etosha Pan attracts thousands of wading birds including impressive flocks of flamingos. The perennial springs along the edges of the Etosha Pan draw large concentrations of wildlife and birds.

The game viewing in Etosha National Park is excellent, the best time being from May to September - the cooler months in Namibia. Elephant are very common, though digging for water below the sand wears down their tusks, so big tuskers are very rare. Often large family groups are seen trooping down to waterholes to drink, wallow and bathe. The park's population has been under scientific scrutiny for the infrasonic noises (below the range of human hearing) which they make. It is thought that groups communicate over long distances in this way.

Among the rarer species, black rhino continue to thrive here, and the floodlit waterholes at Okaukuejo and Halali provide two of the continent's best chances to observe this aggressive and secretive species. In recent years, about a





dozen white rhino have been introduced. Your best chance of seeing these is in the east of the park, around Aus, Springbokfontein, Batia or Okerfontein, either early or late in the day.

Black-faced impala are restricted to Namibia and southern Angola, occurring here as well as in parts of the Kunene region to the west. With only isolated populations, numbering under a thousand or so, they are one of the rarest animals in the region. The Damara dik-dik is the park's smallest antelope. Endemic to Namibia, it is common here in areas of dense bush.

Roan antelope and red hartebeest occur all over the subcontinent, though they are common nowhere. This is definitely one of the better parks in which to look for roan, especially in the mopane areas around Aus and Olifantsbad. All of the larger felines are found in Etosha, with good numbers of lion, leopard, cheetah and caracal. The lion tend to prey mainly upon zebra and wildebeest, whilst the cheetah rely largely upon springbok. The seldom-seen leopard, take a varied diet, including antelope and small mammals, whilst the equally elusive caracal go for similar but smaller prey.

There have been several attempts to introduce wild dog here, but so far no success. The usual problem has been that the dogs don't know to avoid lion, which have subsequently killed them for no apparent reason.

Overnight: Okaukuejo Camp

Okaukuejo Camp (formerly known as Okakwiju), meaning a woman who bore a child each year, stands near the public southern entrance of Etosha National Park, at the western end of the famous Etosha Pan. Although a larger camp than most we feature, it is a popular choice due to its well-established waterhole, which attracts a variety of game in large numbers. Okaukuejo is located 17 km from the southern entrance of the park, and famous for its flood-lit waterhole, where visitors can observe at close quarters a spectacle of wildlife congregating and interacting. Accommodation is provided to suit every need, in premier bush chalets overlooking the waterhole; bush chalets and double rooms; or family chalets. Other facilities include a restaurant, bar, shop, swimming pool, kiosk and camping facilities.

Okaukuejo officially opened for visitors in 1957, and is the oldest and largest of the three former government-run rest camps (the other two are Halali Camp and Namutoni Camp). Okaukuejo's main attraction is the large, flood-lit waterhole, which receives exceedingly regular visits from a wide diversity of wildlife. These animals include herds of antelope, lion, family groups of elephant and black rhino, which are seen remarkably frequently. It's not an overstatement to say that this is probably the best place in Africa to observe black rhino in the wild – as there are often a number of individuals that come down to this waterhole to drink at night.

The spectacle starts at dawn and continues throughout the day, with visits from herds of zebras and springbok during the afternoon. It's especially fun to sit back after dinner with a bottle of wine, watching the water's nocturnal visitors and their interactions. Beside this, the landmark stone tower at the heart of Okaukuejo rest camp is an excellent spot to relax and watch the sun go down behind distant mountains.

The main facilities at Okaukuejo are typical of a rest camp and include a restaurant, where all the meals are served as a buffet, a bar, a kiosk where light meals and drinks are available during the day, a curio shop, a post office, as well as a fuel station and three swimming pools. Two large pools are for adults and there's a smaller, shallower pool for children. There's also a tourist shop, selling basic food items, and a tourist centre, displaying the ongoing park research.

Whilst staying at Okaukuejo, activities mainly consist of wildlife viewing – and the vast majority of visitors come in their own cars, and drive themselves around the park. Etosha was set up as a reserve for visitors to drive themselves, with a network of very well-marked and signposted roads. However, Okaukuejo does offer morning, afternoon and evening game drives. The advantage of taking the morning or the night drive is that they give you access to the park before/after the gates are closed to the public. The morning drives leave around an hour earlier than the park gates open to the public, and the night drive is entirely after the park closes for the day – so you will have the park to yourself.





Activities

Etosha Game drive

Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 9-10: Hakusembe River Lodge, Kavango

Kavango

This region of Namibia takes its name from the Kavango River on which the main town of Rundu is built. Unlike much of the country the Kavango region receives sufficient rain for cultivation.

Overnight: Hakusembe River Lodge

[View iBrochure](#)



Picturesquely situated on the south bank of the Okavango River, 16 km west of Rundu, Hakusembe River Lodge makes for the perfect stopover on the way into Caprivi and to the Victoria Falls. The 10 chalets (with air-conditioning) offer magnificent views of the river and the lush vegetation which teems with diverse birdlife. The swimming pool invites to cool off on hot summer days. Experience the river world on a boat trip and relish the enchanting atmosphere during dinner in the restaurant and with a drink at the bar. A campsite is available.





Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 10-12: 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

Day 12-15: 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 Savuti Marsh, fed by the Savuti 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 Savuti Channel, which sometimes flows from the Linyanti's waterways and into the heart of Chobe National Park, flooding the Savuti 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.



Day 15-17: 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 17: Departure

Board a scheduled charter flight to Maun international Airport for your connecting flight home.

Transport

Flight Information

Date	Flight	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time	Class	Ref
		Chobe Game Lodge		Savute Safari Lodge			
		Savute Safari Lodge		Xugana Island Lodge			

Transfers

Date	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
	Hosea Kutako International Airport [WDH]	Olive Grove Guesthouse		
	Katima Mulilo	Chobe Game Lodge		





Car Rentals

Date	Pick Up	Length	Company	Category	Vehicle	Drop Off
	Windhoek	0 Days	Namibia Car Rental	4 x 4	Double Cab	Katima Mulimo

Urgent Contact Numbers

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

Contact Details & Reference Numbers

Service Provider	Ref. Number	Telephone	Address
Chobe Game Lodge		+267 625 0340	
Etendeka Mountain Camp		+264 61 23 9199	Etendeka Concession, Kunene Region, Damaraland, Namibia
Hakusembe River Lodge		+264 61 23 0066	Nkurukur Road / B8 (old C45) on the banks of the Okavango River
Olive Grove Guesthouse		+264 61 23 9199	20 Promenaden Road Windhoek Namibia
Savute Safari Lodge		+267 686 1559	Private Bag 310 Maun Botswana
Xugana Island Lodge		+267 686 1243	

