



Okavango Experience - Camping - (ZB07) – Tour Dossier

Introduction

This exciting adventure begins with a drive from Johannesburg through to Botswana's spectacular Okavango Delta. We cross the wilds of the interior settling in Maun, deep within the heart of Botswana. We take a 4x4, travelling across the Buffalo fence, where we join our Mokoro (dugout canoe) guides at the waters' edge. Spending three days in the heart of the Okavango, gliding across channels of crystal clear water, this is an adventure everyone should experience. The Delta is an exciting way to discover what life is without modern influences and appreciating local people in the region compared to our cosmopolitan living.

Highlights

3 Day Delta trip
Mokoro trip

Nature / Game walks
Freestyle bush camping

Khama Rhino Sanctuary

Intended Itinerary

Day 1: Johannesburg – Nata, Botswana

Distance travelled: +/- 760km

Approx driving time: Full day

Departing from South Africa's largest city, Johannesburg, we embark on a new journey taking a pleasant two hour road trip north to the Botswana border post, "Martins Drift". Crossing the Limpopo River, we clear immigration's before changing currency into "Pula" the local currency of Botswana. Rain is a sought after luxury in Botswana, the currency is called "Pula and Thebe" interpreted means "rain drops" in Tswana, the national ethnic language. More than one-half of the population live in rural areas and are largely dependent on subsistence crop and livestock farming. We meander through vast open savannahs, passing many local villages and bustling trading towns, including Palapye, before our lunch stop in Francistown, a once thriving gold mining town. We complete our road trip crossing over "veterinary fences" (to control foot and mouth disease) into wilder habitats, arriving at the tranquil rustic setting of Nata Safari Lodge in the late afternoon, where we enjoy a dinner under the stars in the wilds of Africa.

Wow Factors: *Nata rest camp*

Accommodation: *Nata Safari Lodge or similar*

Meals included: *Dinner*

Day 2 Maun – Okavango Delta

Distance travelled +/- 320km

Approx driving time: Full day

Following an enjoyable early morning breakfast, you begin an easy paced expedition to the lifeline of Botswana, (the massive and remote Okavango Delta). Driving west with a strong possibility of encountering towering Elephant and Buffalo alongside the road, you encounter many interesting local villages and herdsman attending to their live stock. Maun is the gateway town where you first stock up on your supplies, for your three day adventure excursion into one of the wildest and most remote territories on the continent. Basing ourselves at a tranquil bush camp out of town, shaded by many trees, you enjoy the night in the calm surroundings of Sitatunga camp.

Wow Factors: *Maun, Sitatunga rest camp*

Accommodation: *Sitatunga Safari Camp*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Dinner*

Day 3 Maun – Okavango Delta

Distance Travelled +/- 60km

Approx driving time: Two hours

With bags and food supplies packed and sun screen and hats on hand, you climb onto our 4x4 bush tracker, ready to unearth the wonders of the Okavango Delta. This beautiful region is a natural wetland system spreading over 1, 6 million hectares of northern Botswana, formed from rivers that flow south from Angola and divide repeatedly over the flat Botswana plains and wind an intricate floodplain of channels and an inland 'delta', the only one of its kind in the world. After a slow drive along rugged windy tracks, you cross the Buffalo fence, exposing you to



Okavango Experience - Camping - (ZB07) – Tour Dossier

untamed Africa under the care and safety of your experienced guide. At the water's edge you meet your local guides who are overly familiar with the region and you are gently poled out onto the narrow flat waterway on a Mokoro (dugout canoes). Gliding over glistening ponds while weaving through the dense green bulrushes and beautiful wild lilies, we set up a bush camp under shade and gather for lunch. The afternoon is spent either on a game walk with your local guides, viewing Hippo from a Mokoro or simply taking some relieving time out. The nights are enjoyed with the sounds of wild animals in the distance around your campfire and encouraging your local guides to sing us traditional Tswana songs.

Wow Factors: 4x4 transfer, entry to delta, Mokoro with poler, local guide, game walks

Accommodation: Okavango free camping (2 man dome tents with shared facilities)

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 4 Okavango Delta

Distance Travelled 0km

Approx driving time: Nil

The sounds of snorting Hippo nearby and the aroma of coffee brewing on an open fire, awakes you for a light breakfast in the cool morning breeze. The water of the Okavango is remarkably pure due to the fact that it passes through very sparsely populated areas on its journey from Angola, making the water safe to drink and bathe in. Joining your guide you enjoy an informative trek through the marvelous savannah terrain. The delta environment has large numbers of animal populations such as Crocodile, Red Lechwe, Sitatunga (Antelope), Elephant, Wild dogs, Buffalo, Wattled Crane as well as the other more common mammals and bird life. From relaxing at camp through the midday heat to the incredible silence experienced on the cool waterways, you are able to ponder the magnitude of life without western influences. If our camp is in reasonable walking distance of a local village, then you stand a good chance of visiting these humble folk before retiring to camp for another night of laughter and stories gathered around a warm flickering fire.

Wow Factors: Entry to delta, Mokoro with poler, local guide, game walks

Accommodation: Okavango free camping

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 5 Okavango Delta – Maun

Distance Travelled +/-60km

Approx driving time: Two hours

After a final game walk followed by a light breakfast, we pack up our gear clearing the site of our existence before loading our Mokoro's. Satisfied, you glide over the still waterways returning to the poler's station, where our 4x4 tracker waits for you and your poler's bid you farewell. Crossing the buffalo fence back to civilization, you enjoy the luxury of hot showers once again with some time out for a lunch break or a swim, in the main camp's swimming pool. This afternoon feeling revitalized and refreshed, you have the opportunity to join a trip with a guide into town, where you can explore the shopping area and little market stalls scattered around the C.B.D. A popular activity is a flight around the Delta, which will leave you breathless when you see the vastness of the surroundings from the air and the insignificance of man in these parts. We return to camp and prepare a wholesome dinner ending the night under the stars with the distinct scent of wild sage in the air.

Wow Factors: Entry to Delta, Mokoro with poler, local guide, game walks

Accommodation: Sitatunga Safari lodge

Meals included: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 6 Maun – Khama Rhino Sanctuary

Distance travelled: +/-530km

Approx driving time: Third of day

An early rise and shine call, followed by a satisfying breakfast, we leave Maun travelling through the greater Kalahari region via Mopipi, seeing vast salt pans in the distance. Although a very enjoyable and scenic route, Mopipi has a very small population and is known as the least visited place in Botswana. We arrive at the Khama Rhino Sanctuary in the early afternoon. In 1989 a group of locals wished to convert the Serowe Pan, previously a hunting area, into a conservation region for the rhino that inhabit the area. The 'Pan' was chosen because of its 'rhino-friendly' habitat and its proximity to a Botswana Defense Force base, which can provide 24 hour protection. Located on the edge of the vast Kalahari Desert, Khama is a prime habitat for white Rhino, Zebra, Wildebeest and Giraffe. Khama is a community based wildlife project which, benefits the local community and teaches and educates the importance of conserving these



Okavango Experience - Camping - (ZB07) – Tour Dossier

animals. This afternoon we enjoy an open game drive with knowledgeable local rangers, taking in an abundance of interesting facts from Rhino to Fauna and Flora. Our last night on safari, is spent in the camp site, swapping stories and laughter with our last meal as a group.

Wow Factors: *Kalahari Desert fringes, Khama Rhino Sanctuary, open vehicle game drive*

Accommodation: *Serowe Hotel or similar*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Dinner*

Tour Information

TOUR STYLE: Small Group - Accommodated

WHAT'S INCLUDED: Tour highlights, transport, accommodation, meals as indicated, services of an English speaking driver tour leader.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED: Visas, travel insurance, flights, airport transfers, optional activities, laundry, gratuities, passport & visa fees, items of a personal nature.

LOCAL PAYMENT: The local payment (LP) set out in the brochure is to be paid to the tour guide/driver on day 1 of this tour. This local payment covers running costs on the road – meals indicated, accommodation and tour highlights. Traveller's cheques and credit cards are not accepted. Payments must be made in US Dollars (US Dollars in clean, un-torn **post 2006** edition notes)

ACCOMMODATION: *(shared 2 Man Dome tents with shared facilities)*

TRANSPORT: Minibus. Maximum group size: 12 passengers

BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent pre-departure information and related documents. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving full details of your joining point. Johannesburg and Livingstone are well served by a variety of airlines. Your travel agent can advise on flights to and from the start and finish of your tour.

JOINING INFORMATION

Meeting point in **Johannesburg:** **MoAfrika Lodge**
Address: 120 Sandham Rd,
Norton Home Estate, Benoni
Johannesburg
Contact details: Tel. +27 82 506 9641
E-mail: info@moafrika.com
Tour start time: 05:00 on day 1

Tour end point in **Livingstone:** **The Waterfront**
Address: Sichango Road
Livingstone
Tel. + 260 3 320 606/7/8
E-mail: waterfront@safpar.com
Tour end time: After breakfast on Day 7

PRE TOUR ACCOMMODATION

This tour departs Johannesburg early on Day 1; we strongly recommend therefore that you plan to arrive the day before departure to overcome any jet-lag and acclimatise to Africa. We would be happy to book pre-tour accommodation for you – please call or email us (or speak to your agent) with your arrival details and accommodation requirements.

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Okavango Experience - Camping - (ZB07) – Tour Dossier

However please book early to avoid disappointment and the risk of having to find more expensive (or less convenient) lodgings.

If time allows, we also suggest planning a night or two extra (after your tour) to make the most of Livingstone and the surrounding area.

See below for a guide to extra accommodation costs. **These prices are a guide line only and are subject to change so please check with Rush Adventures or your agent for current prices.**

Description	Price (US\$)	Description	Price (US\$)
Johannesburg		Livingstone	
Pre tour accommodation – (Standard Room) twin/double pppn	\$45	Post tour accommodation – Standard chalet Twin pppn 1 st Jan – 30 th Apr	\$70
Pre tour accommodation – (standard room) single pppn	\$70	Post tour accommodation – Standard chalet Single 1 st Jan – 30 th Apr	\$110
Pre tour accommodation – dorm pppn	\$30	Post tour accommodation – Standard chalet Twin pppn 1 st May – 31 st Dec	\$105
pppn = per person per night		Post tour accommodation – standard chalet Single 1 st May – 31 st Dec	\$160

WHAT TO BRING

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum, bearing in mind that most airlines impose a 20kg luggage limit. A large soft holdall or backpack and a smaller day pack is ideal. On this tour you will need a mixture of lightweight cool clothing for the day and warm clothing (i.e fleece, long trousers and hat) for mornings and evenings as it can be cool on game drives. Pack a light rain jacket. It is advisable to bring mosquito spray throughout the year. Bring a towel and a pillow if required. A money belt/pouch that can be worn comfortably beneath your clothing is recommended. Please avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use hotel safe to store your cash, passport and air tickets.

VACCINATIONS / HEALTH

The table below indicates the vaccinations suggested for travel on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. You should seek professional medical advice from your GP or clinic at least six weeks prior to departure. Please note some areas visited are **malarial**. We recommend you speak to your doctor or travel clinic about appropriate anti-malarial tablets.

Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
South Africa	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	R	R
Mozambique	R	R	R	R	R	R	-	R	R	C

C = Compulsory, R = Recommended

NB: To be used as a guide only. Please see your GP or travel clinic for up-to-date medical advice. Alternatively, contact Rush Adventures for any queries or advice regarding vaccination requirements.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

The table below indicates the visas required for travel to the countries on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. At least one month prior to travel seek confirmation from embassies or a visa specialist, that these requirements are still current. For UK citizens

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the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers free up-to-date travel info: www.fco.gov.uk . For other nationalities a number of travel advice websites are listed on the Rush Adventures website.

Nationality	UK	AUS	NZ	USA	CAN	BEL	IRE	NED	DEN	ITA	GER	AUT	SWE	FIN	NOR	MEX	KOR
South Africa	No	Yes	No														
Mozambique	Yes																

NB The above is a guide only. Please check all visa requirements at least one month in advance of travel. Most nationalities do not need to obtain any of the above visas in advance. They are available at the border entry points and payable in US\$ cash.

MONEY MATTERS

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and items of a personal nature. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US\$10-15 per day. It's a good idea to bring along some US\$ cash for any international airport taxes or visas.

-Spending money is best carried as cash in either South Africa Rand cash or US dollars (US Dollars in clean, un-torn post 2006 edition notes), Sterling or Euro which can be exchanged into Rand on arrival and as you travel. Your guide will give general guidance about spending during the tour.

-Currencies are as follows: South Africa – Rand, Mozambique - Metical

-ATM machines are found in are found throughout South Africa and Mozambique. Please note they are sometimes Un-reliable and only dispense local currency so therefore cannot be used to draw your Local Payment.

-Credit cards can be used to pay for larger optional activities although there may be a fee for their use.

-Travellers cheques can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

TIPPING

As in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy it has become customary to offer a small gratuity to local staff at the end of the tour if service has been of a high standard. Naturally this always remains at your discretion.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITES

In order to give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer a number of optional activities on the tour. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (in US\$ unless otherwise stated. All prices subject to change and availability.

Activity	Price (ZAR)	Activity	Price (US\$)
Okavango Experience	Price in USD		
Flight over the delta	90USD		
Helicopter over the delta	140USD		
Horse Riding	85USD		
Open 4x4 game drive - Khama	50USD		
Basket Weaving workshop - Maun	15USD		

INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Rush Adventures that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also

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important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. We can help provide specialist travel insurance for this tour through our local operator. Please contact Rush Adventures for more information.

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

We strongly believe that you get the most out of a journey by respecting the culture and people of the places you visit. On our tours we try to travel in a way that benefits the communities we pass through and minimises negative impact on the environment. This can be from ensuring the campsites we use are clean when we leave and dressing respectfully in conservative areas to getting involved with local charity projects. We ask that you are open to this when you travel with us. Being proactive in responsible travel helps develop cross-cultural understanding and friendships with the local people, and will greatly enhance your experience in Africa.
