

Explore the stunning game parks of Botswana on this 14 day mobile camping safari. Witness the endless expanse of Makgadikgadi, elephants drinking from the Chobe River, search for painted dogs in the vast expanse of Moremi, and explore the watery environment of the Okavango Delta. You'll enjoy comfortable accommodations, excellent food, and an expert safari guide in a remote and wild setting.



Camping in Africa allows you to experience the magic of the bush in a very personal way. Our mobile camping safaris are designed to immerse you deep into the African wilderness. You'll fall asleep to the distant roar of lions under the African stars. Our comfortable mobile camping safaris are the quintessential African experience (and our favorite safari style).



What is a mobile camping safari? It's just that - mobile; a cross country exploration of the African bush. We carry all supplies with us and spend a few days at each site before moving on to the next destination. The flexibility of a mobile safari allows you to spend more time out in the bush and focus on the wildlife. Located in the remote bush, campsites are private, wild, and unfenced. It's not unusual to have wildlife wander through camp. Our camping safaris are a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the daily rhythms and magic of the African wilderness.

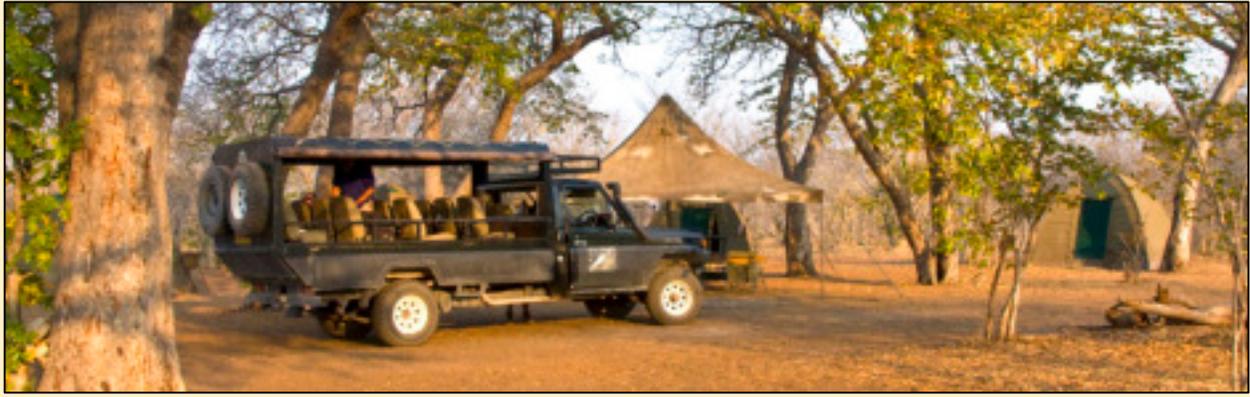


At GrassTrack Safaris we believe a mobile tented safari is *the best way to experience Africa's last unspoiled wilderness!*

~ GrassTrack Safaris ~

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## ABOUT THE SAFARI

“BEST OF BOTSWANA” offers guests the opportunity of experiencing the extraordinary landscapes of northern Botswana. From endless salt flats to lush lagoons and dense woodlands filled with wildlife. This safari starts and ends in proximity to the remarkable Victoria Falls. You'll visit the world's largest salt pans, Makgadikgadi and Sua, a unique wilderness that encompasses Nxai Pan and one of the least visited areas in Botswana. This serviced mobile safari entails a 14-day tour through Botswana's famous wildlife areas: Nxai Pan National Park, Moremi Game Reserve, the pristine wetlands of the Okavango and Chobe National Park. Each has distinct habitats ranging from semi-arid dry-lands to extensive grasslands and riverine forests. Days are spent game-driving across vast areas, in search of the tremendous variety of animals Botswana is well known for: from African wild dogs to huge herds of elephant, the elusive leopard, prides of lion and wide variety of antelope. A total of ten nights are spent inside game reserves and because the number of guests are well-controlled and limited you'll encounter very few vehicles and other signs of civilization. Only private sites are utilized to set up our well-appointed camp.

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## BRIEF ITINERARY

### **2 Nights Mobile Tented Camp – Nxai Pan National Park**

Activity guide: Game drives

### **2 Nights Mobile Tented Camp - Moremi Game Reserve**

Activity guide: Game drives and boating

### **2 Nights Mobile Tented Camp - Khwai Community Area**

Activity guide: Game drives

### **4 Nights Mobile Tented Camp – Chobe National Park**

Activity guide: Game drives

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## **Day 1: Livingstone to Makgadikgadi Salt Pans | Makgadikgadi National Park | 5 hours**

Your adventure begins in Livingstone, Zambia with an early, 7 am departure from your hotel (you'll need to arrive in Livingstone the day before departure). Your road transfer will take across the Zambezi River and into Botswana at Kazungula, where the borders of Zambia, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Botswana meet. After customs and immigration formalities, you will meet your guide before driving south to the village of Nata, situated on the edge of the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, where we will camp for the night.



The Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, covering an area the size of Portugal, are the remnants of a once massive inland lake (pans are shallow depressions in the earth that hold seasonal water). Today they offer spectacular scenery and endless horizons. This is a surreal, harsh, yet abundant ecosystem. During the rainy season when the pans are full countless flamingos and other birds come here to breed. Despite the lack of water for most of the year the Makgadikgadi and Nxai Pans contain a number of diverse habitats including riverine woodland, scrubland, grassland and salt pans. Large areas of the Pans are covered in lush swathes of mixed grasses that offer a banquet for thousands of animals including species like wildebeest, zebra, springbok, oryx, kudu, and steenbok among others. This large population of grazing animals attracts the charismatic predators that Africa is known for including lions, leopards, cheetah, and extremely rare wild dogs have even been recorded from Nxai Pan.

**Accommodation** | Mobile Tented Camp, Nata Sanctuary

**Included Meals** | Lunch, Dinner

**Activities** | Game Drives

## **Day 2 & 3: Nata to Nxai Pan | Nxai Pan National Park | 3 hours**

We leave Makgadikgadi Salt Pans quite early, after a light breakfast. Our journey takes us westwards to Nxai Pan National Park. The area is known for large herds of springbok and gemsbok, species that are not water dependent and not seen in the parks further north. The artificial water-hole at the heart of the pan allows for some remarkable wildlife sightings. Nxai Pan is an ancient lake-bed scattered with islands of Acacia trees. The Pans have changed little in thousands of years and offer a place to totally lose oneself in limitless wilderness. Camping for the next two nights is in Nxai Pan National Park, with afternoon and morning game-drives.



On day 3 we start with a light breakfast in the cool early hours of the morning, heading out at first light. The drive typically lasts until about 10:30 am, with a coffee break mid-way. On return to our private camp a brunch is served, after which there is an opportunity to have a siesta throughout the heat of the day. As the air starts to cool towards late afternoon, we embark on our afternoon game drive.

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One major attraction of Nxai Pan is the Baines' Baobabs. It is a cluster of huge baobab trees, located on the edge of a salt pan just to the south of Nxai Pan itself. The famous explorer Thomas Baines first documented and painted these baobabs during one of his expeditions in the middle of the 19th century. His painting soon became famous and led to the area being used as an important camping sight for many other explorers. While Europeans first found these baobabs only recently, the San Bushmen have been using these trees for thousands of years to access water. The so-called bushman pots are large crevasses in the trees, which hold water from the rainy season for many months. The Bushmen actually carved small steps up some of the larger trees to access the water. These steps can still be seen today.

**Accommodation** | Mobile Tented Camp  
**Included Meals** | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Activities** | Game Drives

#### **Day 4: Nxai Pan to Maun | 2-3 hours**

Today we take a game drive out of Nxai Pan National Park and journey on further west into the frontier town of Maun, to our hotel which has a pleasant eating area with a welcome swimming pool. The afternoon is at leisure at the Hotel, which is situated on the banks of the Thamalakane River. Lunch and Dinner are at guests own expense.



Located just outside of Maun, with grounds that extend to the Thalamakane River, Sedia Riverside Hotel is a spacious and comfortable stay in the Maun area. Air conditioning, private balconies, and hot showers offer a relaxing break from camping and an afternoon to recharge. The friendly staff is also happy to pour you a drink while lounging around the large outdoor swimming pool.

**Accommodation** | Sedia Riverside Hotel  
**Included Meals** | Breakfast  
**Activities** | Game Drives

#### **Day 5 & 6: Xakanaxa & The Okavango Delta | Moremi Game Reserve | 3 hours**

We travel by road to Xakanaxa (*pronounced ka-ka-na-ka*), which is an integral part of the eastern waters of the Okavango Delta. The area is within the Moremi Game Reserve and boasts some of the best game viewing in Africa. The Moremi Reserve has areas of dry land rising between vast wetlands, crystal clear water channels on the edges of mopane and Kalahari Apple-leaf woodlands. Game viewing takes place alongside waterways and floodplains. Species such as giraffe, zebra and wildebeest are but a few that occur here, along with an astonishing variety of birds. Moremi is one of the best places in Africa to see the African wild dog.

On Day 6 we make our way to the banks of the Okavango River along game-drive routes in the early morning. Today we explore the clear channels, lagoons and rivers of the Okavango Delta by motorboat, going upstream through a myriad of crystal clear waterways lined with African Mangosteen and Water Berry Trees, as well as swaying seas of papyrus. We follow the Okavango River through the Lagoons of Xaxanaxa and Gadikwe, deep into the permanent waters of this unique inland delta. Birdlife is prolific with kingfishers, fish eagles, ducks and beautiful Pygmy Geese regularly seen. After a picnic lunch, we make our way back downstream to the mainland

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for a short evening game drive and dinner.

**Accommodation** | Mobile Tented Camp

**Included Meals** | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Activities** | Game Drives and boat excursion

### **Day 7 & 8: Khwai River | Khwai Community Area | 3 hours**

The camp staff breaks camp and we take a leisurely drive to our private campsite in the Khwai River area bordering the Moremi Game Reserve. We'll spend two days exploring the varied habitat searching for the area's abundant game on early morning and afternoon game drives. Your guide will generally spend maximum time on game-drives, depending on what is seen, trying to cover as much area as possible. The result of this is guests are given the best chances of seeing a variety of wildlife-although there is of course, that obligatory siesta during the hottest part of the day! We'll camp at a private site in Khwai.



This region's diversity of animals is truly astounding.

Moremi was proclaimed a conservation area in 1964, created from the traditional hunting grounds of the local BaTswana people and named after Chief Moremi III. Moremi was the first reserve in Africa created by the local people, unlike the early African parks that were set aside by the colonial governments. The result of this foresight is Moremi is quite rightly rated as one of the best game-viewing areas in the world.

The Moremi Game Reserve extends from Chobe's southwest corner into the Okavango Delta. At some 1200 square miles, the reserve protects a great variety of habitats in the Okavango and surrounding areas. Since there are no fences separating Moremi, Chobe, and the Okavango game is free to wander throughout this vast territory. Taken together these areas are essentially one contiguous area designated for wildlife conservation.

**Accommodation** | Mobile Tented Camp

**Included Meals** | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Activities** | Game Drives

### **Days 9 & 10: Savute | Chobe National Park | 4-5 hours**

We leave the Moremi area, crossing the Khwai Bridge to the northern bank of the Khwai River. There is a quick opportunity to buy more drinks in the small village, before making our way to Chobe National Park. Since none of Botswana's wildlife areas are fenced, game can move freely between these two wilderness areas. Hippo, elephant and sometimes lion are often found along this route.

Moving through the Mababe depression through deep, sandy tracks, we relocate to Savute for the next two nights. We will camp in the region of the flowing Savute Channel. Game viewing takes place along the fringes of the Savute Marsh and surrounding water holes. The area is best known for large populations of bull elephants and large prides of lion that patrol the banks of this enigmatic channel. We will have the opportunity to spend

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many hours on morning and afternoon game drives, and time dependent, an opportunity to climb one of the Gubatsa Hills to see San Bushman paintings, an indication that this area has always drawn those who have an affinity to the wilderness. Savute is unique and the special opportunity of exploring this area always remains with our guests for a long time afterward!

Savute has a much different feel than the other sections of the park. Long sand ridges, remnants of an ancient lake, provide elevation in the otherwise flat landscape. The green landscape of the marsh is dotted with skeletons of trees that died when the marsh dried. Savute is famous for its groups of old bull elephants, abundant lions, leopard, and wild dog. Some lion prides are large enough that they hunt elephants. Hyena, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest and warthog are common. A number of larger birds inhabit the plains around Savute, including various bustards and ostriches.



**Accommodation** | Mobile Tented Camp  
**Included Meals** | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Activities** | Game Drives

### **Day 11 & 12: Serondella and the Chobe River | Chobe National Park | 4-5 hours**

We journey north toward the Chobe River, the second biggest river in southern Africa (the Zambezi is the largest). The Chobe River is home to the world's largest elephant herds; large numbers of big game such as buffalo, hippo and lion can be seen here. Our private campsite is on a teak forested dune that overlooks this beautiful river. Game drives are taken in the afternoons and mornings to find the remarkable variety of species that are drawn to this permanent water source. On our early morning game drives, we'll slowly meander along the southern bank of the Chobe River, where we can find Chobe bushbuck and puku antelope. The sheer variety of animals, in abundance, makes this region a must-see for any wildlife enthusiast. In the afternoon, guests might choose to go on an optional afternoon boat cruise (at extra cost) along the Chobe River-perhaps the last river where one has a fair chance to see lion and elephant, leopard or wild dog from the unique viewpoint of a boat.

Serondella, located along the Chobe River front, are the most visited sections of the park. Here the river slowly winds its way toward the Zambezi and marks the border between Botswana and Namibia. The river has created a landscape of vast, open floodplains that remain green throughout the year. Birds are prolific in this section of the park. The islands and floodplains are home to numerous storks, egrets, herons, cormorants, ducks, and geese. Kingfishers, bee-eaters, and hammerkops are abundant as are African Fish Eagles and many raptors. Water loving antelopes like the red lechwe, waterbuck, and reedbuck can be seen grazing on the lush floodplains. It's possible to see herds of sable



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antelope visiting the river. Large numbers of hippos live in the river and crocodiles can be spotted basking in the sun.

**Accommodation** | Mobile Tented Camp  
**Included Meals** | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Activities** | Game Drives

### **Day 13 & 14: Victoria Falls | Livingstone, Zambia | 4 hours**

We have a leisurely start this last camping morning and say fond farewells to our efficient back-up and camp crew after breakfast. We head eastwards on a last game drive to the exit gate at Sedudu Valley. From there it is a short drive to Kazungula Border Post, where your Safari Guide will ensure that your transfer back to Livingstone is seamless, before leaving to lead another safari. This afternoon can be spent exploring one of the truly magnificent sights on earth—the wonderfully beautiful Victoria Falls. Optional activities and Victoria Falls entrance at guests own expense. Your safari officially ends after breakfast on Day 14.

The Victoria Falls is created by the Zambezi River which forms the boundary between Zambia and Zimbabwe. In the local Kololo language it is known as Mosi-oa-Tunya, or “The Smoke that Thunders”. The name says it all for when the river is high the Falls are at their most magnificent as the towering column of spray and thunder of cascading water can be heard miles away. What makes the Falls so stunning is not only the sheer volume of water flowing over it (550,000 cubic meters every minute), but also its incredible breadth. Where the river meets the cliff, the Falls is over a mile wide making it the longest curtain of water on the planet. This water tumbling across such a long expanse falls over 300 feet before crashing into the canyon below, creating what is considered one of the natural wonders of the world. Victoria Falls is a National Park and a World Heritage Site.



Through millions of years of erosion, the Zambezi River has created a series of waterfalls, each slightly upstream of the previous one. The present Victoria Falls will eventually give way to a new waterfall. This process is already starting at the Devil's Cataract on the Zimbabwe side. Evidence of the previous waterfalls can be seen in the zig-zagging gorges downstream of today's Victoria Falls.

Activities in Livingstone include white water rafting down the Zambezi Gorge, canoeing or sunset cruises on the upper Zambezi, elephant rides, and helicopter flights over the Victoria Falls. Or just simply walking along the Falls and enjoying the view! From the Livingstone side of the Falls there's a hiking trail leading down to the Boiling Pot, where the Zambezi exits the gorge at the base of the Falls.

**Accommodation** | Zambezi Waterfront Lodge or similar  
**Included Meals** | Breakfast only Days 13 & 14  
**Activities** | Game Drives on Day 13

**~ End of Services ~**

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## 2018 Rates

(per person sharing)

April-June; Nov-Dec: **\$3380**

July-October: **\$3790**

*Please note this itinerary is subject to availability of all services at time of booking. A 25% non-refundable deposit is required to confirm booking and is due within 14 days of receiving the invoice. Single supplement applicable, contact us for rate.*

### INCLUDED

- Comfortable 3x3 meter dome style tents including sturdy beds, mattresses, fitted sheets, pillow, pillowcases and duvet. En-suite facilities while using private campsites.
- Services of a professional guide, safari chef and camp assistants, complete with a supply vehicle.
- Open vehicle game drives and local transfers in customized safari vehicles.
- Exclusive camping in private campsites within the national parks and reserves.
- Lodge accommodation in Maun (Day 4) and Livingstone (Day 13).
- All entrance fees and camping fees within the national parks and reserves.
- All meals specified in itinerary.
- Local beers, wine & soft drinks while camping.
- All activities as specified in the itinerary.

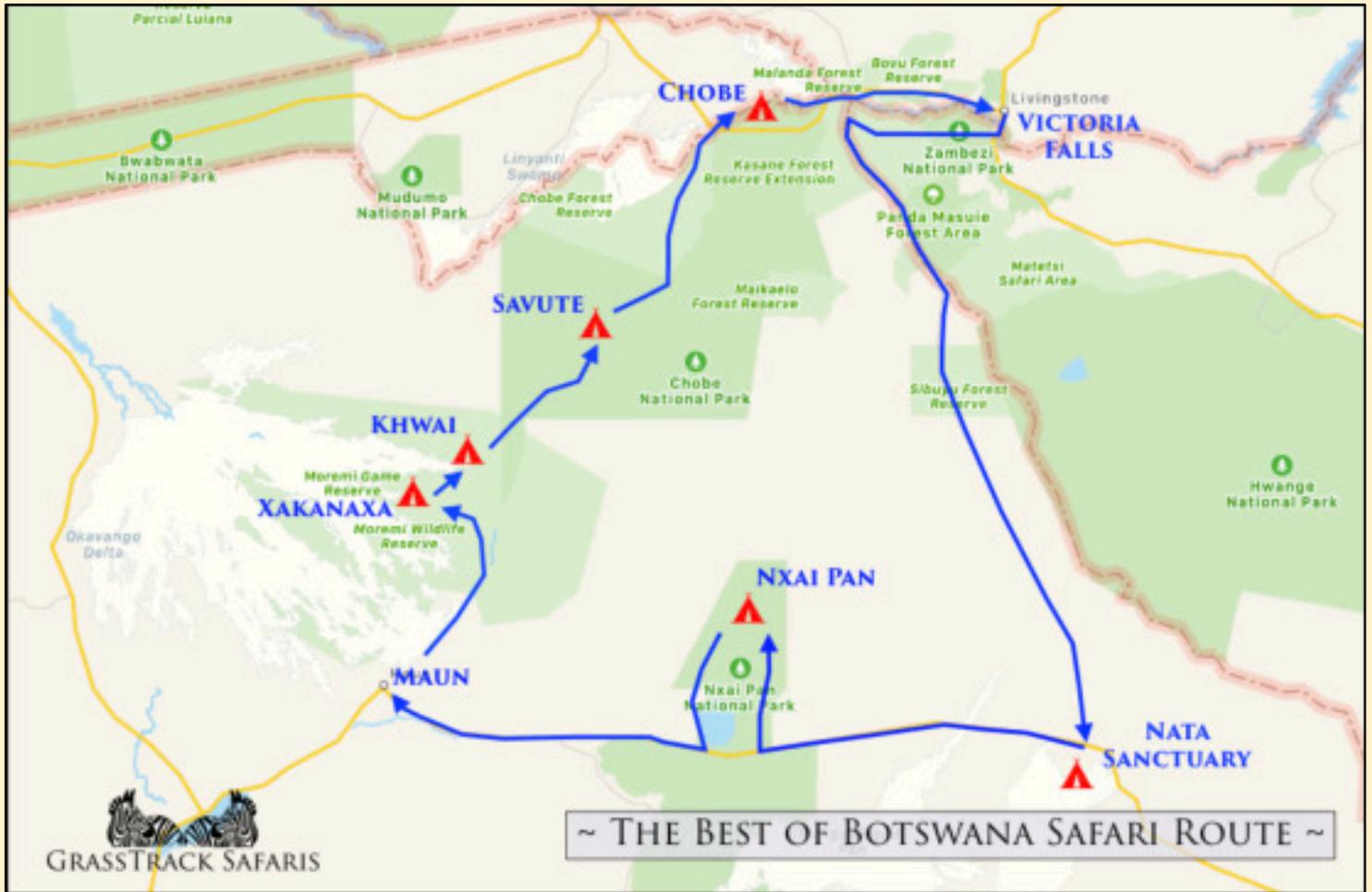
### EXCLUDED

- All international flights and departure taxes.
- Entry visas.
- Travel insurance (required).
- Optional safari extensions or activities in Maun or Livingstone.
- Chobe River boat cruise.
- Victoria Falls entry fee.
- Staff gratuities.
- Pre-/post-safari accommodation.
- Any drinks at lodges or accommodation other than in mobile camps.
- Items of personal nature and toiletries.

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