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## 7 Day Botswana Wilderness Safari



**CUSTOM ITINERARY – YOUR DATES – FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS –**

**7 Day ITINERARY**

**Wilderness Safari in Botswana**

### **Botswana Safari -A 7 Day Safari Program**

Wilderness Safaris believes that in the world's wilderness areas lies the preservation of humankind. They want to make a difference in people's lives by enabling them to find new paths, and by leaving a legacy of conservation for our children.

Since 1983, Wilderness Safaris has specialised in privately hosted safaris and memorable wildlife experiences in the most remote and pristine areas in southern Africa. Our goal is to share these wild areas with guests from all over the world while at the same time making use of the

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**678-500-9548**

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benefits of tourism by contributing to the local communities, helping to ensure the future protection of Africa's spectacular wildlife heritage.

There are many safari companies in Africa and a vast array of areas to choose from so why choose Wilderness?

"These magnificent areas, far off the beaten tourist tracks of Africa, represent for our guests and for ourselves a way of reconnecting with our primeval nature and spirit that often gets trapped in our busy everyday lives. The locations and the feeling of being in true, prime and remote wilderness areas mean everything to us. The way we host our guests enhances the physical beauty and spirit of these pristine areas. Passionate and dedicated people run our camps. Our aim is to share with you all we have learned: on game drives, on foot, by canoe or mokoro. The key to a successful African safari is to ensure that the company you choose is truly capable of providing what you are looking for in terms of the reserves in which the lodges and camps are situated, the wildlife viewing opportunities, the design and style of the camps and most importantly the knowledge and quality of the guides and staff. The reserves we profile are large, exclusive and offer unbeatable experiences. "



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**Inclusions:** Itinerary is subject to availability; please inquire well in advance. Please note that internal airfare quotes cannot be guaranteed until ticketed.

**Exclusions:** International Airfare, Telephone calls, premium brand drinks, gratuities, specialist activities, Items of a personal nature

## 7 Day Itinerary: Botswana – Johannesburg – Jacana – Duma Tau -

### Day 1 Botswana: USA - Johannesburg

Upon arrival into Johannesburg International Airport you will be met and assisted to the Airport Intercontinental Sun for overnight on a bed and breakfast basis.

### Day 2-3 Botswana: Johannesburg - Jacana

Checkout of the Airport Intercontinental Sun and board your scheduled flight to Maun for connection with a shared light aircraft transfer to Jacana for 2 nights.

### Day 4-6 Botswana: Jacana – Duma Tau

Depart Jacana on a shared light aircraft transfer to Duma Tau for 3 nights.

### Day 7 Botswana: Duma Tau - Johannesburg

Depart Duma Tau on a shared light aircraft transfer to Maun for connection with your scheduled flight to JNB and international outbound departure or custom post safari experience.

End of Services.

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## Botswana Safari Accommodations

### Jacana Camp



*Image taken by Dana Allen*

Situated about 25 kilometres west of Mombo, outside the Moremi Game reserve on the Jao flats, Jacana Camp is a truly water-oriented camp and offers mokoro and walking safaris all year round. Game drives are also on offer year round but night drives are only possible from about September to May as water levels restrict this activity when the flood is in.

The camp is set in one of the most densely populated wetland areas for Sitatunga and Red Lechwe. Wildlife concentrations depend on the water flow and volume and thus change from season to season but all the big animals can be found in the area including elephant, lion, leopard and buffalo. Pels Fishing Owl is a favourite amongst birders as well as greater and lesser Jacanas.

Jacana Camp has 5 meru-style tents. Each tent is on a wooden deck overlooking the floodplains and has an en-suite bathroom with flush toilet and shower. The bathroom is enclosed but roofless allowing for showers by starlight. The camp has a plunge pool for cooling off from the midday sun. The main dining area is on an elevated wooden deck between two magnificent sycamore fig trees and surrounded by dense wild date palms. Downstairs, there is a cosy bar and lounge with an area for an open fire under the stars.

### Duma Tau



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*Image taken by Mike Myers*

DumaTau (meaning 'roar of the lion') is a ten-roomed luxury tented camp, in the private 125 000-hectare Linyanti Wildlife Reserve which borders the western boundary of Chobe National Park in northern Botswana. The camp is built on raised boardwalks under a shady grove of mangosteen trees, overlooking a large hippo-filled lagoon on the Linyanti waterways. The source of the Savuti Channel is close to the camp and game drives along

the Savuti are one of the highlights of the camp.

The rooms are spacious, raised off the ground and under thatch with canvas walls - allowing guests to enjoy the night sounds of Africa from the comfort of their rooms. The bathroom facilities are en-suite, with hot and cold running water. Each room has an additional outside shower. There is a dining room, pub, lounge, plunge pool and a special guest toilet with a fantastic view. The region has all the habitat diversity to make it a haven for wildlife.

Activities are diverse and allow guests time on the water, on land and occasionally on foot. Day and night game drives are conducted in open 4x4 vehicles along the Savuti Channel and the banks of the Linyanti River. There are many hides in the area where guests can enjoy wildlife viewing close up and away from a vehicle. One of the best hides is right at the source of the Savuti and many species of game and birdlife can usually be seen from this hide.

The area is famous for its elephant concentrations in our winter months and for the great game viewing all year. Huge herds of elephant congregate in winter along the waterways and lagoons - and at the waterholes that are located along the Savuti Channel. Towards the end of these dry months sable and roan antelope can be seen in the Mopane woodland. All the predators - lion, leopard, cheetah and wild dog - feast on the prey species in the area, including impala, zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, lechwe, tsessebe and other game.

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## FAQs:

### Botswana Safari

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## General Travel Information for your Botswana Experience

### Travel Documents

All visitors to Botswana must have a passport which is valid for at least six months beyond their intended departure date from Botswana. Visitors to southern Africa must ensure they have enough blank pages in their passports bearing in mind they may be visiting several different countries.

Visitors must also be in possession of outward travel documents and have sufficient funds for the duration of their stay.

### Currency

The currency in Botswana is the Pula (P) which is made up of 100 Thebe.

Botswana banks only accept US Dollars, Pound Sterling, Euro and South African Rand in cash. Any cash payments made to camps for curios, or gratuities to guides or staff, need to be in one of these currencies. Travelers' cheques in any of the above currencies are also acceptable.

### Credit Cards

International Visa and MasterCard are usually accepted throughout Botswana but American Express and Diners Club are often not accepted. Please note Wilderness Safaris' camps are unable to accept American Express cards.

### Public Holidays

The dates of certain public holidays change from year to year – refer below. If a public holiday falls on a Sunday, then the Monday is also declared a public holiday

01 January New Year's Day

Varies Good Friday

Varies Easter Monday

01 May Labor Day

25 May Ascension Day

01 July Sir Seretse Khama Day

17 July President's Day

30 September Botswana Day

25 December Christmas Day

26 December Boxing Day

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## Value Added Tax (VAT)

VAT of 10% is levied on all goods and services.

On departing from Botswana, non residents may claim a VAT refund on goods exported as accompanied luggage. In order to claim, the original tax invoice, with passport details reflected thereon, must be presented to the designated Customs Officer together with the VAT 006.1 claim form and the BW500 export declaration form.

The value of the goods must exceed P 5,000 per export and the goods must be available for inspection. Refunds are made by way of a cheque payment which is mailed.

## Duty Free

There is no duty free shopping available at Johannesburg International Airport on flights to Botswana. Please make sure any duty free purchases of camera film, alcohol, etc. are made before arriving in Southern Africa.

## Excess Luggage

The most common mode of transport in Botswana is light aircraft which is usually done on a seat-in-plane shared basis, which has certain luggage restrictions. If you need to bring luggage in excess of your allowance, you may have the option of buying an extra seat which will allow an additional 154 lbs (soft bag only). The additional cost of this varies depending on your flight schedule so please contact your agent for further details.

On arrival in either Maun or Kasane, you also have the option of sending your excess luggage ahead at an additional cost. If the safari begins in Maun, the excess luggage will be forwarded to Kasane and stored. If starting in Kasane, the excess luggage will be forwarded to Maun for storage. You can then collect this excess baggage at the end of your Botswana trip. We need to know in advance if this service is needed so that arrangements can be made and the transfer can be handled smoothly.

Should you be starting and ending your safari in Maun, and do not require the excess luggage to accompany you on your trip, we can store this for you at our office in Maun at no extra charge.

Wilderness Safaris and its staff will not accept responsibility for luggage kept in our office on your behalf. We do not anticipate any problems with stored luggage being damaged or stolen, but you must please ensure that you are in possession of full travel insurance including the luggage cover.

## Laundry

Laundry can be done at most camps. This service is complimentary at Wilderness Safaris'

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managed camps but there may be a nominal charge at other establishments. The camp staff will not wash underwear, due to prevailing local traditions in the country.

## Power at Wilderness Camps

All our camps are situated in remote areas and we have to generate our own electricity. We do so in a number of ways but each camp has a generator which runs for about 6 – 7 hours per day (split between morning and afternoon when guests are out on activities). In most camps, these generators then charge a bank of batteries known as an inverter system which then provides 220v power in each tented room for lighting and ceiling fans.

This excludes:

- Jack's and San camps where no power is received in the tents and paraffin lamps are used;
- Zibalianja where they use solar power to generate electricity
- Our Walking Safaris and Trails Camps where they use rechargeable electricity.

Mombo, Little Mombo, Chitabe, Chitabe Trails, Kings Pool, DumaTau, Jao, Jacana, Kwetsani, Tubu Tree, Duba Plains and Vumbura Plains have 220v plug points in the tents but these can be used for the charging of batteries only.

At Abu's, Jack's, Little Vumbura, San, Savuti, Seba, Selinda, Walking Safari & Trails, Xigera and Zibalianja camps you still need to hand any batteries which need charging to the camp staff who will charge these for you in the bar or office areas while you are out on an activity.

Guests who need to charge their battery should bring a spare one for use while the other is being charged, as well as a power converter if applicable as our power is all 220v. All camps have the following adaptors: 3 prong round, 3 prong square, 2 prong round and 2 prong flat.

It is not possible to use appliances such as hairdryers or electric shavers in the tented rooms at the Wilderness Safaris camps in Botswana as they have low wattage fuses which will trip.

## Drinks Policy

Wilderness Safaris' Botswana managed camps include all local drinks. However drinks policies in other operators' camps, lodges or hotels may differ. Please refer to your itinerary for specific details.

## Language

The National language is Setswana however the official language is English.

## Time

Botswana is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) all year round.



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### Climate

Summer is from November to the end of March and usually brings very high temperatures. It is also the rainy season and cloud coverage and rain can cool things down, although only usually for a short period of time.

The winter season begins in May and ends in August. This is also the dry season when virtually no rainfall occurs. Winter days are invariably sunny and cool to warm; however, evening and night temperatures can drop below freezing point in some areas.

The in-between periods - April/early May and September/October - still tend to be dry, but the days are cooler than in summer and the nights are warmer than in winter.

### Recommended Reading

We recommend the following books specific to the Botswana region. A further list of recommended books is contained in our pre tour information.

- Okavango: Wetland Wilderness - Adrian Bailey
- Okavango: An African Paradise - Daryl Balfour
- Chobe: Africa's Untamed Wilderness - Daryl Balfour
- The Lions and Elephants of the Chobe - Bruce Aitken
- This is Botswana - Daryl Balfour
- The Bushmen - A Changing Way of Life - Anthony Bannister.
- Botswana: A Brush with the Wild - Paul Augustinus.
- The Kalahari, Survival in a Thirstland Wilderness - Nigel Dennis, Dr Michael
- Newman's Birds of Southern Africa and Common Birds of Botswana - Ken Newman.
- Guide to the Trees & Shrubs of the Okavango Delta - Veronica Roodt
- Guide to the Wildflowers of the Okavango Delta - Veronica Roodt
- Botswana Tourist Map & Guide - Veronica Roodt
- Running Wild: Dispelling the Myths of the African Wild Dog - John McNutt, Lesley Boggs, Dave Hamman & Helene Heldring.
- Wild About the Okavango - Duncan Butchart
- Botswana - The Bradt Travel Guide - Chris McIntyre

We carry a set of reference material in all our vehicles. However, if you are a keen birder we recommend that you bring your OWN bird book. Everyone should bring their own pair of BINOCULARS in order to get the most out of the safari.