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# BOTSWANA EXPLORER Johannesburg to Victoria Falls 17 DAY CAMPING TOUR

# 26 Sept - 11 Oct 2024 10 NIGHTS CAMPING / 7 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION

Botswana is a landlocked country in Southern Africa bordered by South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe. Botswana is well known for having some of the best wilderness and wildlife areas on the African continent.

From rich wilderness areas, natural waterways and true inland deltas, to vast open salt pans and the Kalahari desert – Botswana truly has something for everyone and offers such a variety of attractions each unique in its own way.

Experience the stunning beauty, the unimaginable vastness, the isolation and worldliness, the astoundingly prolific wildlife of the best kept African secret - Botswana. Untamed and untameable, Botswana is one of the last great refuges for Nature's magnificent pageantry of life.



#### **ABOUT YOUR HOSTS:**



#### **RICKUS GROENEWALD**

Rickus embarked on his guiding journey 14 years ago, commencing with the successful completion of his FGASA Level 1 and Level 2 certifications. He also accomplished the Trailsguide – Theory and Practical assessments at Entabeni Safari Conservancy. With a Diploma in Nature Guiding under his belt, Rickus commenced his career at Entabeni, working in the lodges. Over time, his exceptional guiding skills led him to the positions of Senior Ranger and eventually

Head Ranger. As Head Ranger, he supervised the operations of Lakeside, Kingfisher (5\*), and Eagles Nest Lodges, overseeing a team of 12 guides.

Subsequently, Rickus transitioned to a full-time Overland Guide role with Drifters Adventours. This role involved conducting extensive overland adventure tours throughout Southern and East Africa, catering to groups ranging from 5 to 24 days and accommodating up to 18 individuals. For Rickus, there is no greater pleasure than venturing into the African bush, setting up camp, and taking enthusiastic visitors on wildlife excursions, culminating in a delightful feast at day's end. In 2012, he discovered his passion for wildlife photography, which soon became a cherished hobby. Since then, his trusty digital SLR camera has remained a constant companion, capturing the remarkable journeys he has embarked on while guiding and traveling.

In 2018, Rickus established Junglers Adventure Tours. This endeavour allows him to share his deepseated passions and knowledge with others, affording visitors the chance to partake in experiences akin to those he has cherished throughout his life. Through Junglers Adventure Tours, Rickus strives to guide and inspire individuals, enabling them to forge their own unforgettable memories.

#### ALISON LEE RUBIE

Alison is a passionate Australian photographer and wildlife advocate. Her deep love for wildlife began in her youth and has since blossomed over the past decade. Inspired by her transformative trip to Africa in 2013, she founded "Lobby for Lions," a social media movement.

Alison's photography journey commenced with a humble Canon 600D, capturing the beauty of Africa. As her skills



evolved, she dedicated more time to immortalizing the natural world's splendour. While she also engages in portrait and wedding photography in Sydney, her heart remains devoted to capturing wildlife moments.

Over the years, Alison has been blessed with opportunities to photograph Africa's renowned Big 5, elusive creatures like pangolins, and the breath-taking landscapes of Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Victoria Falls, Mauritius, and Madagascar. With her passion for conservation and vast knowledge of the continent, Alison is your ultimate host to unlocking the secrets of Africa's most iconic destinations.





## **TOUR INFORMATION**

Clients fly into Johannesburg and out of Victoria Falls. Transfers and pre / post tour nights can be booked through Junglers.

INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS:

- Moremi Gorge
- Khama Rhino Sanctuary and Rhino Tracking
- Makgadikgadi Salt Pans
- Okavango Delta and delta island experience
- Mokorros and island guided walks
- Moremi Game Reserve and extended Delta experience
- Chobe National Park Boat Cruise
- Victoria Falls
- Camping wild under the stars

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Scenic helicopter flights over the Okavango Delta
- Meerkat Experience
- Quad Biking on the salt pans

## ITINERARY

## DAY 1: JOHANNESBURG

Upon arrival in SA you are met by your Local Guide who will transfer you to your hotel to settle in and relax after your journey to SA.

We will take it easy today and check in to our accommodation for the night. One can enjoy a leisurely self-guided walk on the property where one can also see some wildlife in close proximity.

Your guide will also do a full tour briefing over a relaxing dinner at the lodge.



Meals: Lunch and Dinner own expense Distance: +- 100 km Accommodation: Cradle Moon Lakeside Lodge and Spa

Included Highlights/Activity: - Airport pickup and Meet & Greet

Optional Activities: - Johannesburg Half-Day City Tour

- Cradle of Humankind Half-Day Trip

# DAY 2: JOHANNESBURG to MOREMI GORGE (BOTSWANA)

After breakfast this morning, we set off due north for our first destination, leaving behind the hilly terrain of Johannesburg and the Magaliesberg Mountains. Today our adventure begins with a scenic drive on-route to Botswana. Moremi Gorge, which is our final destination for the day, can be compared to an oasis in the middle of the Kalahari Desert and gives a different view of this country known for its aridity and its vast open spaces usually stretching as far as the eye can see.

Today we cross border into Botswana and we will need our passports and any relevant or required travel documentation.

We will spend this first night in Botswana in the comfort of our rooms at the Lodge located near the gorge.

Meals: B D (Lunch Own Expense) Distance: 520 km Accommodation: Moremi Gorge

Included Highlights/Activity: - Scenic drive through to Botswana

Optional Activities: - None, all included



# DAY 3: KHAMA RHINO SANCTUARY

After a good night's rest and a nice breakfast, we will go for a walk in the Moremi Gorge to admire its small waterfalls and natural swimming pool. Do not forget your swimsuit!

After this refreshing morning we will travel the short distance to the Khama Rhino Sanctuary – an area dedicated for the conservation of rhinos in Botswana. The Khama Rhino Sanctuary in Botswana has been established in one of the best areas of Botswana, in order to provide the most optimal conditions for the conservation and preservation of rhinos.

Many other animals such as wildebeest, wild cat, brown hyena, leopard, jackal, antelope and zebra all share the reserve with these rhinos, however the main objective and purpose of the reserve is to conserve and protect rhinos as they are at critical population levels. We will explore this reserve aboard our vehicle but also, we will familiarize ourselves with the tracks and signs and smaller species one mostly finds on a walking safari and rhino tracking experience the following morning.



Meals: B L D Distance: 135 km Accommodation: Khama Rhino Sanctuary

Included Highlights/Activity: - Khama Rhino Sanctuary

Optional Activities: - None, all included

# DAY 4: KHAMA to BOTETI RIVER

Today we wake up with the sounds of the surrounding bush and the animals that inhabit this area.

Today we partake in our Rhino Tracking experience, which will be a walking experience. You will head out with some of the guides in search of fresh rhino tracks after which you will jump down from the vehicle and pursue the rhino tracks further on foot.

Once back from the activity, we pack up camp as today we will travel to the Boteti River; a river flowing out of the Okavango Delta and one that also seasonally flows into the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans. On our way we pass the Sowa, Nwetwe and Nxai – salt pans (combined forming the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans); these salt pans which was separated from each other by the Kalahari Desert.

Upon arrival clients can enjoy a nice refreshing swim as we enjoy the views and sunset setting over the Boteti River.



Meals: B L D Distance: 490 km Accommodation: Boteti River (Drifters Maun Lodge)

Included Highlights/Activity: - Walking Safari & Rhino tracking on foot - Scenic Drive - Sunset on the Boteti River

Optional Activities: - None, all included

# DAY 5, 6, 7 and 8: MOREMI GAME RESERVE

Today we are heading for the eastern part of the famous Okavango Delta, through the Khwai area and Moremi Game Reserve.

Our journey today is at the height of a true exploration expedition, indeed the road leading to our destination will give us an "African massage" but it will quickly be forgotten because once we reach our private camp we will settle in and enjoy the awe-inspiring beauty teaming with wildlife.



Moremi Game Reserve is well known for its prolific wildlife. In fact, on numerous occasions it has been home to National Geographic photographers and videographers filming wildlife in Africa. We will explore Moremi in search of some of the famous Big 5 (elephant, buffalo, lion and leopard) as well as numerous bird species and general plains/wetlands game.

Meals: B L D, B L D, B L D, B L D Distance: 180 km on day 5, roughly 30km on day 6 and again on day 7 and 8 Accommodation: Moremi Camping

Included Highlights/Activity:

- Moremi Game Reserve
- Khwai and Khwai Community
- Open Vehicle Game Drives
- Community visit

Optional Activities: - None, all included

## DAY 9: MAUN



Today we enjoy a relaxing breakfast as we set down camp and make our way further south and back to Maun.

We will do a quick shopping stop before heading back to our accommodation in Maun.

Our afternoon is spent around the pool and relaxing before heading to the Okavango Delta for the next couple of days.

Here we will enjoy a nice cooked meal by the lovely staff and share our stories from Moremi Reserve.

Meals: B D (Lunch own expense in town) Distance: 180 km Accommodation: Maun (Lodge TBC)

Included Highlights/Activity: - Scenic Drive

# DAY 10, 11 and 12: OKAVANGO DELTA

Today we travel north to the edge of the Okavango Delta where we will get into our motorboat and continue our journey into the heart of the Okavango Delta, where we as humans are only one species among many others that can be found on these magical islands.

We will spend two nights in complete wilderness on an island and our days will be spent both by the observation of all the flora and fauna in the area and in the form of a walking safari to soak up the scents and sounds of this place as well mokorro excursions. Our third night will be back on the mainland at the main camp on the edge of a Delta lagoon.

For those who are interested, it is possible to take a helicopter flight to have a breathtaking view of all the meanders that form the Okavango Delta (optional).



Meals: B L D, B L D, B L D Distance: 340 km on day 9, 0 km on day 10 and 11 Accommodation: Okavango Delta Wild Camping, Third night a Guma Lagoon Lodge

Optional Activities: - Scenic Helicopter Flights

## DAY 13 and 14: PLANET BAOBAB AND THE MAKGADIKGADI SALT PANS



Our last morning in the Okavango Delta, we slowly wake up to the sounds of the bush as we enjoy breakfast and start preparing ourselves to exit the park.

Today we head out of the Okavango Delta and on to the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans. Here we will stay at a lodge where we can explore the pans by foot or by quad bikes (own expense). There is also a resident group of Meerkats that live in the area for one to see.

Our next two nights will be spent at the lodge relaxing around the pool, enjoy the pans and refreshing after our camping experience in the parks.

Meals: B D, B L D (lunch on day 12 is own expense in Maun) Distance: 510 km Accommodation: Planet baobab camping

Included Highlights/Activity:

- Makgadikgadi Salt Pans
- Scenic Drive to the pans

**Optional Activities:** 

- Quad Bikes on the Pans
- Meerkat Experience
- Community visit

# DAY 15: ELEPHANT SANDS

On the way up to Victoria Falls, we stop by at this marvelous rest stop. At the lodge, there exists a watering spot where majestic elephants wander freely. It presents a remarkable chance to intimately connect with a wild elephant. If your desire is to experience nature while still having convenient amenities nearby, Elephant Sands emerges as the impeccable destination.

Meals: B, L (Dinner at own expense at Elephant Sands) Distance: 160 km Accommodation: Elephant Sands Camping

Included Highlights/Activity: - Elephant Sands





# DAY 16: KASANE and CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Today we make our way north to Kasane for a leisure Boat Cruise that will take us back into Chobe National Park – this time by boat exploring the river's edge.

Even in the city, you must keep an eye out because it is not uncommon to see baboons, warthogs and even elephants roaming around town amongst the vehicles and people. We will enjoy a substantial afternoon boat cruise on the Chobe River in search of wildlife coming for a drink on the river bank.

After our leisure cruise we head back to our accommodation for the night where we enjoy our last dinner together as a group (own expense).

Meals: B (Lunch and dinner is own expense) Distance: 410 km Accommodation: Kasane – Thebe River Lodge (or similar)

Included Highlights/Activity: - PM boat safari in Chobe National Park - Kasane

Optional Activities: - None – all included

## DAY 17: VICTORIA FALLS

On our way out of Chobe National Park with the vehicle this morning, we will be crossing the border of Zimbabwe into Victoria Falls via the Zambezi National Park. We will take the afternoon tour of the falls before settling in for the night at our lodge.

Even in the city, you must keep an eye out because it is not uncommon to see baboons, warthogs and even elephants roaming around town amongst the vehicles and people. We will have a full day in town to explore the numerous adventure activities on offer. These activities include things such as helicopter flight, rafting, boat ride to name a few (these are all optional activities)

We will spend the next two nights in Victoria Falls after which the tour officially comes to an end on the evening of day 17

Meals: B, B (Lunch and dinner on day 17 and 18 is own expense) Distance: 120 km Accommodation: Vic Falls Accommodation – Shearwater Village or similar

#### Included Highlights/Activity:

- Border crossing into Zimbabwe
- Afternoon visit of the mighty Victoria Falls (entry included)

**Optional Activities:** 

- White water rafting
- Horse Rides
- Bungy Jump
- Helicopter Flights
- Gorge swing and Zip lining, etc etc (please inquire for full list)



#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

This tour is a camping tour and a sleeping bag and pillow is required. Clients will do a fair amount of walking so a small daypack is advisable. Seasonal malaria precautions may be necessary and can be purchased locally.

A valid passport is required by everyone. The tour will visit Botswana. It is the client's responsibility to insure they have the appropriate visas required for this trip. Some nationalities might need to obtain visas before departure as they cannot be obtained at the border.

The price includes all transport, accommodation, meals as per the itinerary, tea and coffee at the lodges, group equipment, permits, entry fees, and professional guides. The price does not include alcohol, bottled water and soft drinks, meals where stipulated, curios, tips and optional excursions. Before departure clients will be required to enter into an agreement pertaining to our booking conditions and general information as defined on our website and in our brochure. Clients are required to have their own comprehensive personal travel insurance which you can also obtain directly from our website.

At time of going to print the above itinerary was correct but we continually strive to offer our clients the best available tour options and as such we reserve the right to change aspects of the itinerary at our discretion. During the validity of the published itinerary conditions will change, roads are improved or deteriorate often opening up new routes, contracted camps and accommodation facilities change standards, optional activities become available or are discontinued, new border posts open and old ones become congested, etc. We are continuously monitoring all of the factors that make up a successful tour and as such will make amendments to the published itineraries if circumstances demand or if we believe that the change will enhance the tour.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Junglers Adventure Tours on <a href="mailto:info@junglers.co.za">info@junglers.co.za</a> Contact Alison Lee Rubie Photography on <a href="mailto:alisonleerubie.photography@gmail.com">alisonleerubie.photography@gmail.com</a>

#### **RATES:**

ZAR 72500\*

\*Booking fee may occur.

\*\* Single Supplement – Our rates are based on shared accommodation, typically in 2-person dome tents and sometimes in twin accommodated rooms. Solo travellers may be asked to share tents or accommodation. However, we do offer a single supplement option at an extra cost. To inquire about this, please get in touch with us.

