

EXPLORER'S PLUS- 2021/22: BWZMANM (Camping / Tented Camps)

From the magnificent floodplains of the Okavango Delta, through to the salt pans of Makgadikgadi and spectacular Victoria Falls, let nature surround you on our 13-day adventure visiting three different African countries; Botswana, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Meet and Greet- Maun Airport

Your Safari Tour Leader will be there to welcome you on arrival at Maun Airport around noon.

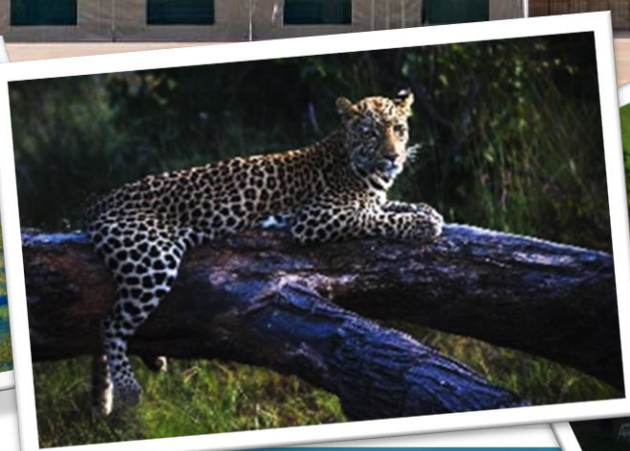
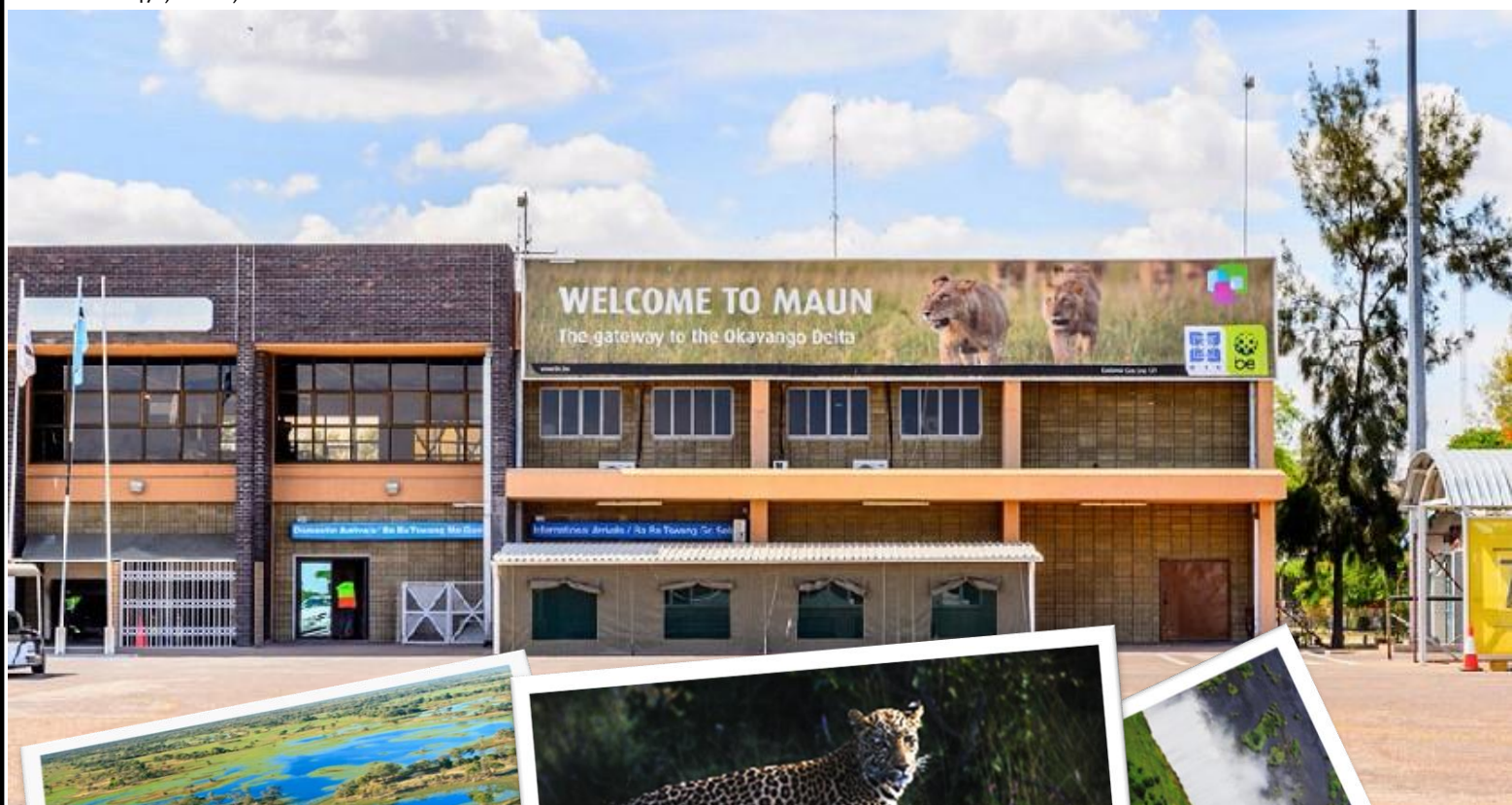
Third Kind Travel & Tours

Tel: +267 6801014/ 74271012

Maun, Botswana

Tour finish/ drop off point -Maun Lodge.

Plot 1471, Maun,



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Duration: 12 Nights / 13 Days

Route: Start and end in Maun, via Kasane, Victoria Falls & Caprivi Zambezi Region

Countries Visited: Botswana, Zimbabwe & Namibia

Accommodation: serviced tented rooms and safari lodge suites

Overview:

- ✎ 2 Nights on a lodge in Maun with a 1 hour scenic flight + 1 night camping in the Xakanaxa / 3rd bridge area of Moremi Game Reserve in the Okavango Delta.
- ✎ 2 Nights in Makgadikgadi's iconic Planet Baobab.
- ✎ 1 night (stopover) at the Elephant' s Paradise Elephant Sands.
- ✎ 2 nights at Kasane's Chobe Safari Lodge exploring Chobe National Park with a day visit to one of the world's largest waterfalls Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.
- ✎ 2 nights at Ngepi Camp in the Okavango delta panhandle in the western Caprivi strip, Kavango region, Namibia.
- ✎ 1 night at Shakawe River Lodge, a small fishing town located in the northwestern corner of Botswana with a day visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site, consisting of rock art, rock shelters, depressions, and caves "Tsodilo Hills".
- ✎ 1 night at a beautiful and relaxing Sitatunga camp just 13km away from Maun.

Tour cost per person sharing: USD2757 per person | Single Supplement: USD3317

15% discount for children 12-17 years inclusive when travelling with parents.

Number of Passengers: Minimum 7 / Maximum 10

What is included:

- ✎ All meals are prepared and served at the accommodation facilities
- ✎ Packed lunch will be served during selected picnic stops
- ✎ All included highlights as per the itinerary
- ✎ Entrance fees to National Parks

What is excluded:

- ✎ Personal items and snacks, alcohol, bottled water, soft drinks, tips
- ✎ Optional activities
- ✎ Entrance fees associated with optional activities
- ✎ International & domestic or charter flights and airport departure taxes other than ones specified
- ✎ Visas
- ✎ Laundry
- ✎ Travel cancellation and medical insurance (essential on all safaris)

Arrival / Departure

Please be sure to arrive one day before your tour is due to depart. This will avoid any unforeseen problems. We also highly recommend that you book your flights to depart the day after the tour officially ends to allow for delays, changes and Covid testing if required.

Pre and Post Tour Accommodation

Let us arrange your accommodation and airport transfers in Maun before and after your tour begins.

After hours emergency contact

We have a mobile number for use only in the event of emergencies or notifications, for example, if you have missed your incoming flight, you cannot find your airport transfer, or are running late for your tour departure, call+ 267 74271012



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Highlights

Maun (Botswana)

Maun is a small town on the Thamalakane River in northern Botswana and has two traffic lights and an international airport! It's the gateway into the lush wetland and wildlife haven of the Okavango Delta and is where our tour begins. We contributed to a magazine article '24-Hours in Maun', so let us put together something interesting for your last day in Maun.

Okavango Delta & Moremi Game Reserve (Botswana)

The unique Okavango ecosystem is the largest inland delta on earth and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of Africa. Its seasonal flood saturates the vast expanse of Kalahari sands it sits on, and creates a wetland oasis, where land and water meet in a mosaic of pans, grasslands, forests, lagoons and channels. It remains one of the world's least spoilt and most beautiful wilderness areas, home to rich and diverse habitats, and a multitude of animals and birds, including unique species, like water-adapted sitatunga antelope and red lechwe. Moremi Game Reserve is in the eastern corner of the Okavango Delta and one of the most beautiful and varied areas of the Okavango, with huge concentrations of wildlife and incredible scenery.

Makgadikgadi Pans National Park (Botswana)

The Makgadikgadi Pans Game Reserve, a salt pan – with an area of 3 900 sq. kms, is situated in the middle of the dry savanna of north-eastern Botswana. It is one of the largest salt flats in the world. The pan is all that remains of the formerly enormous Lake Makgadikgadi. Lying southeast of the Okavango Delta and surrounded by the Kalahari Desert, Makgadikgadi is technically not a single pan but many pans with sandy desert in between, the largest being the Sua (Sowa), Nwetwe and Nxai Pans. Once a year, if the pans fill with rain water, there's a huge, little-known zebra migration, greater in distance than the Serengeti migration.

Chobe National Park (Botswana)

Chobe National Park is one of Africa's finest game sanctuaries. Situated in the far north of Botswana, Chobe encompasses a wide variety of habitats, home to a breath-taking variety of animals and birds. Chobe is renowned for an abundance of elephant – the greatest concentration in the world, often seen in and alongside the river. Chobe is also noted for its huge herds of buffalo, rich birdlife and exquisite sunsets reflected in the ripples of the water. It all adds up to an unmissable wildlife experience.

Victoria Falls/ Mosi-oa-Tunya, "The Smoke That Thunders" (Zimbabwe)

Victoria Falls needs little introduction, as images of the tumbling cascades and spray up to a mile high, created by the mighty Zambezi River, are unmistakable. There are many paths and viewpoints to witness this wondrous spectacle and its awe-inspiring beauty. The Zambezi forms the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe and was described by the Kololo tribe, living in the area in the 1800s, as 'Mosi-oa-Tunya' – 'The Smoke that Thunders'. In more modern terms Victoria Falls is known as the greatest curtain of falling water in the world and is considered to be one of the world's largest waterfalls due to its width of 1,708 meters.

Zambezi Region - formerly called Caprivi (Namibia)

The Zambezi Region is a finger of land in the far north-eastern corner of Namibia, comprising 16 different conservancies, nine tribes and multiple land uses. It's traversed by migrating animals coming and going to and from Botswana in the south, Angola to the north, and Zambia and Zimbabwe to the east. The territory was acquired by German South West Africa (now Namibia), to provide access to the Zambezi River. But, it's the Chobe River that runs through the region (albeit taking several other names along its course, including Kwando and Linyanti). The river gives plenty of opportunities for game viewing, birding and boat trips.

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Shakawe & Tsodilo Hills

Shakawe is a small fishing town in the north-west corner of Botswana, providing easy access to the Okavango Panhandle. It's famous for birding and river fishing, especially catching illusive tiger fish and perhaps some bream for supper. Shakawe is the closest accommodation to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Tsodilo hills, 40km away, which boasts 4,500 impeccably preserved Bushman artworks. The Tsodilo Hills rise suddenly out of the Kalahari Desert and can be seen from a far distance. This "Louvre of the Desert" is revered by local Hambukushu and Bushmen communities as a sacred place.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 – Maun

Dumela / Hello! Welcome to Botswana!" We will be there to give you a warm Botswana welcome when you land at Maun Airport from your respective flight around 1pm. As soon as all clients have arrived you will be transferred to Maun Lodge for check-in and a quick refreshing shower. You'll then be transferred back to the airport just ten minutes away, for a 1-hour afternoon scenic flight at 1600hrs, giving you a fish eagle's eye view of the amazing Okavango Delta. After this incredible experience, you will return to the hotel for the relaxing night before the Okavango Delta adventure the following morning.

Accommodation Maun Lodge

Facilities Two per double chalet

Route Maun – Okavango Delta

Meals Dinner & Breakfast (*Drinks Excluded*)

Included Highlight 1 hour Delta scenic flight.

Option: Cultural dance night available on request



Day 2 – Moremi (Okavango Delta)

The safari departs after breakfast from Maun Lodge at around 0730hrs, passing through the village of Shorobe en-route to South Gate, where we enter the Moremi Game Reserve of the Okavango Delta. We are heading into an area cited as the most beautiful game reserve in Africa and rated as Africa's premier wildlife reserve.

The drive to South Gate normally takes two hours, provided we are not delayed by fortuitous game spotting on the way. The journey continues through the Moremi Game Reserve, game spotting all the way to our designated camping ground, about a two-hour drive from South Gate.

Time to stretch the legs and enjoy a leisurely lunch, followed by a relaxation period, during which the professional guide will deliver a short briefing about the reserve and other information regarding the safari. At around 1530hrs we'll go on an afternoon game drive into areas of interest renowned for excellent game viewing. The Moremi Game Reserve protects around a third of the entire Okavango Delta ecosystem – some 5 000km² (1 930 square miles).

Return to camp for pre-dinner refreshments, followed by a 3-course dinner under a tented canvas gazebo or under the southern, Milky Way. Relaxing for a while in conversation, reflecting on the day's activities and sightings in the warm ambiance of the campfire. Listen to the calls of hyenas and lions before retiring for the night in cosy tents fitted with comfortable beds.

Accommodation: Camping

Facilities: En-suite tents sleeping two, with a traditional hot water safari bucket shower and bush loo

Route: Okavango Delta

Meals: All meals and selected drinks

Included Highlight: Moremi Day Excursion

Optional activity: Boat Cruise



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Day 3 – Moremi - Khwai - Maun

Following an early breakfast, we pack up camp and continue exploring Moremi, later exiting via the northern gate of into Khwai, stopping for a bush picnic lunch en-route. A 2½-hour mokoro trip, discovering channels and lagoons at a relaxed pace in a traditional dug-out canoe is also an available option here in Khwai. The Khwai River forms the boundary between the reserve and the local Khwai Community Area. This transit game drive will continue through the approximately 400 populated BaBukakhwe (River Bushmen) tribe's Khwai village into an 180 000 hectares community managed concession (Managed by Khwai Community Trust). The area is made up of sweeping grasslands, riparian forests, and floodplains. The floodplains are flooded most of the year and there are lagoons covered in blue and white-water lilies and generally good wildlife sightings. There are stable populations of large predators, such as lion, spotted hyena and, if we are lucky, African wild dogs. We may also spot leopards. From Khwai we will head for Maun, a drive of just over 3 hours back to Maun Lodge for the night.

Accommodation Maun Lodge

Facilities Two per double chalet

Route: Okavango Delta - Khwai - Maun

Meals: Dinner & Breakfast (Drinks Excluded)

Included Highlight: bush picnic lunch en-route.

Option: 2 hour late afternoon visit to Elephant Havens, baby elephant orphanage



Day 4 – Makgadikgadi Planet Baobab

Leaving Maun behind us this morning, we will spend about 2-3 hours journeying across the northern reaches of the Makgadikgadi Pans to the village of Gweta. Here, you will experience modern African village culture, learning about the history and traditions of the Batswana from a local guide, who has inherited knowledge from the forefathers. Get a glimpse of rural Botswana life and join your hosts for a traditional Kalanga meal of sorghum, mealie meal, “seswaa” (beef stew), wild spinach, mophane worms (optional!!) and wild beans, followed by a lip-smacking baobab fruit milkshake. The tour takes approximately 3 hours and you will be back in our accommodation at Planet Baobab at around 1230hrs, with time to relax.

Accommodation: Planet Baobab

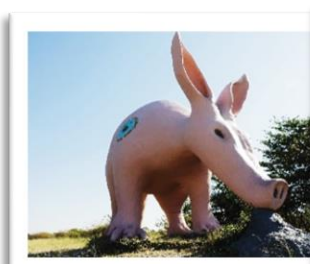
Facilities: Bakalanga Twin Hut (sleeps 2)

Route: Maun- Makgadikgadi (Gweta)

Meals: All meals

Included Highlight: Cattle post visit & village tour

Option: 2 hours evening baobab bush walk



Day 5 – Makgadikgadi Planet Baobab

The early-bird wakeup call invites you to jump on a 4x4 safari vehicle at 0600hrs to visit the delightful meerkats & explore the Ntwetwe Salt Pans. Get up close and personal with a resident gang of habituated meerkats; see how these incredibly social, superbly adapted animals interact with each other and their environment. You also get the chance to view the desert through the eyes of a meerkat – which, even though it is only a foot off the ground, is a spectacular vantage point, and one of the most special and memorable game experiences you will encounter in Botswana. You will explore the vast nothingness of the Makgadikgadi, a place where the expanses of sparkling salt pans extend as far as the eye can see. The tour is 6-7 hours approximately and you will be back at the lodge around noon.

Accommodation: Planet Baobab

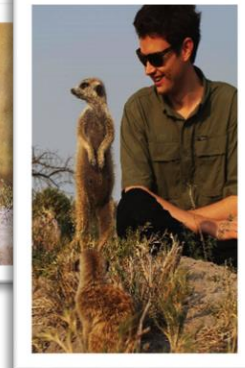
Facilities: Bakalanga Twin Hut (sleeps 2)

Route: Makgadikgadi (Gweta)

Meals: All meals

Included Highlight: Meerkat's visit + Ntwetwe Pan exploration

Option: Ntwetwe pan overnight with quads



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Day 6 – Elephant Sands Bush Lodge

After spending a magical two nights on this fascinating vast saltpan desert, an area that is bigger than Switzerland that was once the largest expanse of fresh water on the planet, we will take a relaxed departure around 1000hrs to Elephant Sands for one night stopover. Driving northwest towards Nata, it takes 3-4 hours before we arrive in Elephant Sands, the lodge set on a private conservancy of 16000 hectare. Since there are no fences, all wildlife can roam freely from one waterhole to another and you can expect to see anything during your stay at Elephant Sands, usually including lots of elephants.

Accommodation: Elephant Sands Bush Lodge
Facilities: Twin chalet (2 S/beds)
Route: Makgadikgadi – Elephant Sands
Meals: Dinner & Breakfast
Option: 2 hours Bush walk



Day 7 – Kasane Chobe Safari Lodge

After an early breakfast, we depart around 0800hrs heading to Kasane 2-3 hours drive. On arrival in Kasane, we check into the famous Chobe Safari Lodge, situated on the banks of the Chobe River. In the late afternoon, we take a 3-6pm game drive with a Safari vehicle into one of Africa's finest game sanctuaries Chobe National Park, popularly known for its abundance of elephant. Buffet dinner offering wide variety of meals from exotic game meats, roasts, barbecues, stir fries and vegetarian dishes, awaits you upon arrival from your evening game drive. Dinner Cruise under the stars aboard a boat in Chobe is an available option.

Accommodation: Chobe Safari Lodge
Facilities: Luxury River Twin Room (sleeps 2)
Route: Elephant Sands- Kasane
Meals: All meals
Included Highlight: 3-6pm Game Drive
Option: Dinner Cruise in Chobe



Day 8 –Chobe Safari Lodge/ Unguided Vic Falls day trip

After breakfast get ready to cross into Zimbabwe to see the magnificent Victoria Falls “Mosi O Tunya”, “smoke that thunders”, one of the seven wonders of the world. This is the largest single curtain of falling water in the world and 70% of the exquisite view can be seen from the Zimbabwe rain forest along the rim of the falls. Victoria Falls offers many activities, such as white water rafting, bungi jumping and aircraft or helicopter flight over the falls. Visa fees, Falls entry fees & lunch excluded in Zimbabwe.

Accommodation: Chobe Safari Lodge
Facilities: Standard Twin Room (sleeps 2)
Route: Kasane- Vic Falls
Meals: Breakfast & Dinner
Included Highlight: 8am -5pm Vic Falls Day Trip
Option: fishing (catch and release)



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Day 9 –Namibia Zambezie Region- Ngepi Camp.

The adventure continues, leaving Kasane after breakfast and driving through Chobe National Park, for a short 1 hour 30 minutes to Ngoma border post, where we cross into Namibia. Crossing the border can take up to 45-mins. A smooth tar road takes us through Katima Mulilo village to Divundu, taking 4-5 hours drive. We will arrive right around lunch time at Ngepi Camp (meaning Hello). After check in and lunch, we can have a relaxing time at the unique floating swimming pool – in the river – world famous “croc and hippo cage dive. Get a true feel of the area as we glide through the quite water on a traditional Mokoro (*canoe*) for 2.5hrs and get the best sunset view on the the Okavango Panhandle. Get back to camp for a home cooked meal, served buffet-style while listening to nature melodies of the banded rubber frogs.

Accommodation: Ngepi Camp

Facilities: Standard Double Tree House (sleeps 2)

Route: Kasane, Botswana to Zambezi Region, Namibia

Meals: Lunch & Dinner

Included Highlight: 2.5 hrs Traditional Mokoro Trip

Option: fishing (catch and release)



Day 10 –Namibia Caprivi Ngepi Camp.

After breakfast get ready as we jump on 4x4 game viewer truck and venture on a 3 hour game drive into Mahango Game Reserve, just about 30 minutes drive from the lodge. This is one of the smallest game reserves in Namibia located in the north east of the country, near the border with Botswana covering 24,462 hectares (60,450 acres) on the banks of the Okavango River. With over 300 species of birds, it has been designated an [Important Bird Area](#) by [BirdLife International](#). About two thirds of the bird species found in Namibia are located here as it includes both wetland and tropical terrestrial species of birds. After about 3 hours of this rich educational adventure you will head back to camp for lunch break and siesta. Around 1600hrs tie your comfortable walking shoes for +-2hrs Guided Walk into Hambukushu and Xwe Bushmen Village.

Accommodation: Ngepi Camp

Facilities: Standard Double Tree House (sleeps 2)

Route: Caprivi Namibia

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Included Highlight: 3 hrs Game Drive & 2hrs Walk.

Option: 1.5 Hours Boat Cruise



Day 11 –Shakawe River Lodge.

Following an early breakfast, we will kiss goodbye to the lovely Ngepi and Zambezi region, as we drive for 10km towards Mohembo Border back into Botswana. Just 4km after crossing into Botswana you will be welcomed by a calm, green village in the north West District of the country. We will take a quick peep at the newly built iconic Mohembo bridge that now connects this area with the rest of the country, which has been for decades separated by the Okavango river. We will then proceed into Shakawe where we will check into Shakawe River Lodge, before continuing with our 1hr 30minutes drive (*gravel road*) to the mystical and spiritual Tsodilo Hills “Louvre of the Desert”, one of the highest concentrations of rock art in the world. The Tsodilo Hills are a [UNESCO](#) World Heritage Site, consisting of rock art, rock shelters, depressions, and caves. It gained its WHS listing in 2001 because of its unique religious and spiritual significance to local peoples, as well as its unique record of human settlement over many millennia. UNESCO estimates there are over 4500 rock paintings at the site. The site consists of a few main hills known as the Child Hill, Female Hill, and Male Hill. We will spend a day learning about this interesting place, packed lunch will be provided here. We will arrive back to Shakawe River Lodge where we will spend a night before proceeding to Maun.

Accommodation: Shakawe River Lodge

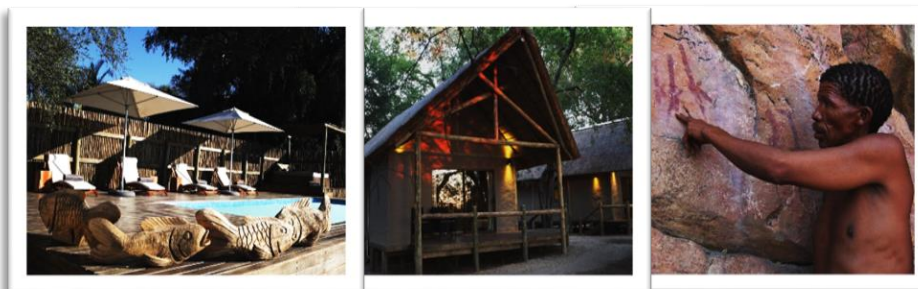
Facilities: Two per Double Chalet

Route: Caprivi Namibia – Shakawe Botswana

Meals: Dinner & Breakfast

Included Highlight: A Day Guided Trip to Tsodilo Hills

Option: Guided birdwatching

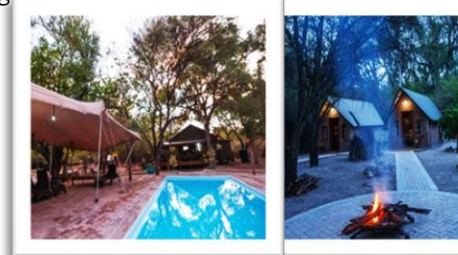


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Day 12 – Sitatunga Camp Maun.

After breakfast we will follow the A5 tar road to Maun through few villages, such as Etsha, Gumare, Nokaneng and Sehithwa into Maun. It's normally a 5-hours drive, but might take longer due to road conditions. A bush picnic lunch will be provided. We will arrive at the beautiful Sitatunga Camp, 13 km out of Maun under the the shady Mosu trees with a massive swimming pool, making this a perfect stop after a long day drive.

Accommodation: Sitatunga Camp
Facilities: Standard Twin Room (sleeps 2)
Route: Shakawe- Maun
Meals: Breakfast & Dinner
Option: Horse Riding on a Game Farm.



Day 13 – Maun Airport.

Following breakfast, your safari ends, and instead of connecting with an international flight normally around lunchtime, we suggest you stay a night in Maun at accommodation we can arrange for you. If pre-departure Covid testing is required, you will need 24-hours to get the test done and we can arrange an optional Maun tour while you wait for results.



General Terms

All information provided in this tour dossier is subject to change without prior notice. Changes would always be in consideration of your safety first and a better quality experience where possible. Overnight accommodation stops can change without prior notification, depending on road or weather conditions or any unforeseen circumstances. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the properties listed in this dossier, these are to be used as a guideline only. We recommend that you download the most up to date version of this tour itinerary one week prior to your tour departure date, however, changes are possible within 7 days prior to your tour departure.

Partaking in any adventure tour in Africa involves covering hundreds if not thousands of kilometers and our tours are as much about this journey as they are about the destinations we visit. Use your time during these drives to talk to your fellow travelers, have a drink and take note of the world passing by your window. Some roads you travel on will be smooth and easy, while others could take up to an hour to cover 1 kilometer. There is just no telling what could happen with road, weather, traffic, animals and other conditions that may exist, that will either increase or decrease the amount of time you spend on the road. So take your watch off, put your iPad away, turn off your phone and just relax. An average day could take anything from 5 to 14 hours, it all depends on the day... and that is only an "average"!

Please ensure that you have downloaded and read a copy of the PRE DEPARTURE INFORMATION booklet as this document contains important information (e.g., travel insurance, visas, your money, health etc.) you need to know Maun Airport before you depart on tour

DISCLAIMER: Although we make every effort to adhere to the details of this itinerary and the listed activities, these are subject to change due to changing local conditions and factors outside of our control such as the weather and the condition of the roads, as well as availability. We reserve the right to substitute a motor boat cruise for the mokoro excursion where necessary. In the event of any necessary changes, we will always keep you informed.



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bookings@thirdkindtours.co.bw



**TRAVEL
MASSIVE**

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The Link between destinations

The Link between destinations