

Africa

Botswana Leopard Safari & Kalahari









trip highlights

- Camp deep in Botswana's wild landscapes, travelling self-sufficiently and sharing the camaraderie of bush camp life
- Walk with a local San tracker and gain insight into traditional survival skills and desert ecology
- Stay on a remote island in the Okavango Delta, exploring by mokoro and on guided bush walks
- Follow the elephant-rich banks of the Chobe River before concluding at Victoria Falls



Trip Duration	17 days	**Trip Code:** BLT
Grade	Adventure touring	
Activities	Wildlife Safari, Adventure Touring	
Summary	17 day trip, 15 nights camping, 1 night lodge	

welcome to World Expeditions

Since 1975 we have run expedition-style adventures for active travellers, from our first trek in Nepal to remote routes on all seven continents.

Our philosophy is simple: take the paths less travelled. That means small groups, local crew, low impact, and routes most travellers never see.

Everything you need to know about the Botswana Leopard Safari & Kalahari is in these notes.

why travel with World Expeditions?

When planning travel to remote and challenging destinations, many factors need to be considered. Our extra attention to detail and seamless operations on the ground ensure that you will have a memorable experience in Africa. We take every precaution to ensure smooth logistics. Most importantly, our adventures have always sought to benefit the local peoples we interact with, safeguard the ecosystems we explore and contribute to the sustainability of travel in the regions we experience. You will be accompanied by a guide whose knowledge and passion for wilderness and wildlife will add a unique dimension to your trip. Their experience and enthusiasm ensures that we maintain the leading edge in adventure travel and therefore providing excellent value for money. Given our local knowledge, experience and excellent leadership, we are quite sure that this tour will be a trip of a lifetime.

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Explore the best of Botswana from the Kalahari to Chobe National Park plus Victoria Falls on a semi-participation safari






Single travellers are required to pay for their own room on this departure operated by our local partner

the trip

Botswana Leopard Trail & Kalahari is a 17 day camping expedition designed for travellers who want to experience Botswana from within its wild landscapes, not from behind lodge walls.

Begin in the remote Central Kalahari, camping under expansive desert skies and exploring alongside a local San tracker who shares traditional knowledge of this harsh and beautiful environment. Continue north through Makgadikgadi and into the Okavango Delta, camping wild on a remote island and exploring by mokoro and on foot. In Moremi and Savuti, extended game drives and self sufficient camps allow you to experience diverse habitats in depth, far from permanent infrastructure.

From the vast Kalahari to the waterways of the Okavango Delta and the elephant-rich plains of Chobe, this journey brings you closer to the landscapes and wildlife. For those open to adventure and authentic bush camping, the rewards are unforgettable.

at a glance

DAY 1	JOIN MAUN, EARLY MORNING DRIVE INTO THE KALAHARI
DAY 2	EXPLORE THE KALAHARI
DAYS 3-5	CENTRAL KALAHARI GAME RESERVE
DAY 6	TO BOTETI RIVER CAMP
DAYS 7-8	OKAVANGO DELTA & MOKORO EXCURSIONS
DAY 9	ON TO MOREMI GAME RESERVE
DAYS 10-12	MOREMI GAME RESERVE
DAYS 13-15	CHOBE NATIONAL PARK
DAY 16	DRIVE TO VICTORIA FALLS ZIMBABWE
DAY 17	IN VICTORIA FALLS ZIMBABWE, TRIP CONCLUDES

what's included

- 16 breakfasts, 15 lunches and 15 dinners
- 1 night lodge on a twinshare basis
- 15 nights camping on a twinshare tent basis
- Group camping equipment including spacious dome tent and mattress (sleeping bag and pillow not included)
- English speaking local guide and camp assistant
- Game drives, walks and river excursions as listed in itinerary
- National Park and conservation fees
- Private transport in specialised safari vehicle

what's not included

- Flights
- Travel insurance
- airport arrival and departure transfers
- Visas
- Sleeping bag
- Meals in Maun and Victoria Falls
- Entrance to Victoria Falls
- Tips
- Items of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, etc.
- Optional excursions eg. activities in Victoria Falls
- Drinks including bottled water and alcoholic drinks

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trip dates

2026
19 Nov - 05 Dec
17 Dec - 02 Jan

2027
07 Jan - 23 Jan
11 Feb - 27 Feb
18 Mar - 03 Apr
15 Apr - 01 May
13 May - 29 May
03 Jun - 19 Jun **P**
10 Jun - 26 Jun **P**
24 Jun - 10 Jul **P**
08 Jul - 24 Jul **P**
21 Jul - 06 Aug **P**
05 Aug - 21 Aug **P**
19 Aug - 04 Sep **P**
02 Sep - 18 Sep **P**
15 Sep - 01 Oct **P**
30 Sep - 16 Oct **P**
14 Oct - 30 Oct **P**
28 Oct - 13 Nov **P**
11 Nov - 27 Nov
25 Nov - 11 Dec

important notes

P - Peak Season Supplement (June - Oct)

Note: - This is a limited participation safari (assisted camping with the participation limited to only helping with the tents)

fast facts

Countries Visited:
Botswana, Zimbabwe

Visas:
Please check visa requirements with your reservations consultant*

Vaccinations:
Please consult a travel vaccination specialist for up to date information

Private Groups:
Available for this trip*

Leader:
Expert local bi-lingual leader

Advice for people with limited mobility
Not suitable

detailed itinerary

DAY 1 Join Maun, early morning drive into the Kalahari

The safari begins in Maun, where your guide will meet you at approximately 7:30 AM at a pre-arranged meeting point. From there, you will travel 120km to a private reserve located on the northern border of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. Upon arrival, you'll set up camp and enjoy a traditional bush lunch.

Spend the afternoon settling into the remote wilderness and soaking up the tranquillity of the Kalahari. As the sun sets, savour your first evening under the stars with a hearty dinner and a briefing about the days ahead.

Drive 120km/4 hours

meals: L,D

DAY 2 Explore the Kalahari

Today is dedicated to exploring the area in depth. Head out on game drives in search of desert-adapted wildlife such as oryx, springbok, eland, and predators including lion, cheetah, and the elusive brown hyena. You'll also take part in a guided nature walk led by a local San tracker, who will share their deep knowledge of the land and offer unique insights into their fascinating culture and survival skills in the Kalahari environment. In the evening, return to camp and enjoy the wide open spaces, clear night skies, and the peaceful beauty of the desert.

meals: B,L,D

DAYS 3-5 Central Kalahari Game Reserve

You will wake up as the sun rises and enter the pristine wilderness of the largest game reserve in Botswana. The next three days will be exploring the undeveloped wilderness of the northern region of the Kalahari, moving from camp to camp. Savour the vast open spaces, clear night skies and uninterrupted beauty on game drives and at camp.

Drive 80km/3-4 hours

meals: B,L,D

DAY 6 To Boteti River Camp

After we break camp, we will drive to the Makgadikgadi area. You will spend the night at a camp on the edge of the Makgadikgadi National Park, overlooking the Boteti River in Khumaga village. Enjoy an afternoon game drive into Makgadikgadi National Park.

Drive 180km/4-5 hours

meals: B,L,D

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thoughtful travel

Every trip runs with local guides and crew, in small groups, using low-impact camping and trekking practices.

Our porter welfare standards are set out in these notes. Our community partnerships and the work of the World Expeditions Foundation are on our website.

trip grading

Adventure touring

Although there is no commitment to extended walking on this journey we nonetheless want to keep the 'accent on the active'. We therefore advise that any physical training you complete before undertaking the trip will be to good effect. This trip is graded introductory to moderate so we recommend you incorporate 2-3 times per week aerobic or physical activity for at least one hour per session. The best exercise to do is the one you are participating in so walking with day packs is a great way to improve your fitness for this adventure. The fitter you are the more this will enhance your experience.

adventure travel

Adventure travel involves the unexpected. In remote regions conditions change, and itineraries may be altered at short notice.

Flexibility gets you far more out of the trip than a fixed plan will.

If you are unsure whether this trip suits you, talk to us before you book.

important note

These notes are current at the date shown on each page and replace any earlier version.

The itinerary is a guide. It may change due to weather, conditions on the ground or other circumstances beyond our control.

DAYS 7-8 Okavango Delta & Mokoro Excursions

After breakfast, we travel via Maun to the Xudum area of the Okavango Delta. On arrival, we meet our local polers and board traditional dugout canoes, known as mekoro, to explore the tranquil waterways of this remarkable wilderness.

Over the next two days, we enjoy peaceful mokoro excursions and guided bush walks, exploring the Delta's diverse landscapes and observing its wildlife. We spend our nights camping in the wild, surrounded by the sights and sounds of the African bush.

An optional 30-minute scenic helicopter flight over the Delta is also available at an additional cost, payable locally in USD cash.

Drive: 190 km / approximately 4 hours

Overnight: Wilderness camping

meals: B,L,D

DAY 9 On to Moremi Game Reserve

Inspired by the beauty of the Okavango, you move on our next camping base located outside Moremi Game Reserve.

Drive 50km/1-2 hours

meals: B,L,D

DAYS 10-12 Moremi Game Reserve

In the early morning, we will drive through to Moremi Game Reserve (100km, 5-7 hrs), one of the best wilderness areas of Botswana which covers swamp and dry areas. The next three days will be spent searching for the wide variety of wildlife and birds that this area is renowned for while absorbing the sounds and beauty of this region. Game drives in the early morning as the sun rises and in the late afternoon as the sun sets will be the norm. After your morning game drive you will return to camp for lunch and a siesta. On Day 12 you will move campsites to explore a different area of this diverse park (2 nights in Western Moremi and 1 night in Eastern Moremi).

meals: B,L,D

DAYS 13-15 Chobe National Park

Chobe National Park, with its diverse and striking landscapes, will be your next destination. As you continue your search for wildlife, you will traverse the drier region of Savuti where bull elephants dot the plains (120km, 7-8 hrs). You will then head northwards to the Chobe River where your game drives will meander along the banks of the river, followed by the call of the majestic African Fish Eagle

Drive 170km/5-6 hrs.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 16 Drive to Victoria Falls Zimbabwe

After a short morning game drive you will then drive to Victoria Falls on the Zimbabwe side (Visa required), where you will spend the night at a comfortable lodge. In the afternoon there will be time to visit the thunderous Victoria Falls and shop for curios. Dinner will be at your own expense at the lodge.

Drive 100km/3 hours

meals: B

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DAY 17 In Victoria Falls Zimbabwe, trip concludes

The safari officially ends at 10:00am today. We are happy to arrange post-tour accommodation, activities and transfers to Victoria Falls Airport or lodges, Livingstone airport or lodges or Kasane, Botswana, at an additional cost.

meals: B

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

country information

Botswana in the centre of Southern Africa, is almost 582,000 sq. kms in area and is largely arid and semi arid, plains, pans and deserts. The Okavango Delta, is a rich and diverse habitat where the Okavango River drains into the sands of the Kalahari Desert. Formerly known as Bechuanaland, the former British protectorate gained independence in 1966. Shortly after independence, the discovery of 3 of the words richest diamond deposits helped in economic development of this stable and democratic African nation. Botswana is considered an African success story, with strong democratic institutions, little corruption, freedom of speech and sustained economic growth. With a population of more than 1.5 million, including many different tribal groups, the majority of people are Tswana, while other groups include the Herero, Mbukushu, Yei, San, Kalanga and Kgalagadi.

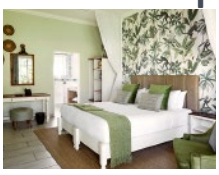
climate

Southern Africa experiences a generally dry climate. There is a summer rainy season from November to March. The dry season from April to October includes the winter, when rain is rare and the nights can be very cold. Days are usually clear, warm and sunny and nights can get frosty in June and July.

dietary requirements

Tell us at least one month before departure and we can cater for vegetarian diets and most medically recommended diets, including allergies and intolerances. Options are limited in remote locations. Some alternatives cost more or are not available, and on some trips you may need to bring your own food. We cannot guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip. Travellers with severe allergies must carry their own medication and be able to self-administer it.

accommodation on the trip



Our spacious tents are 2.1m x 2.1m x 1.75m easy to erect dome tents which have treated mosquito mesh covering all the windows and doors. We provide comfortable 5cm high density foam camping mattresses for each guest. Our bush ablutions are shared and consist of high slung bucket showers and bush toilets with private canvas screens. Whilst in Maun & Victoria Falls, we stay in comfortable lodges on a twin share basis.

what you carry

In your daypack you will need to carry extra warm clothing (depending on the altitude, location and weather), a rainjacket, water bottle, camera gear, valuables and personal items such as sunscreen, lip-eze etc. All group gear and your luggage is moved by our team.

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equipment required

A comprehensive gear list is provided in the pre-departure information provided on booking. You are also required to bring your own sleeping bag.

non exclusive trips

Please note that this trip is not exclusive to World Expeditions clients and is operated by our partners in Southern Africa. You will be joining a group of 8 – 12 adventurers from around the world. You will be joining a group with a mix of participants from different countries and other group participants therefore may not speak English. The guide may speak in English and German/ French to cater to all participants. This adventure is participatory in nature and group members will be expected to participate in helping around the campsite.

wildlife

The wilderness areas of Africa are populated by large numbers of wild and potentially dangerous animals. The trip aims to view these animals in their natural habitat, uncontrolled by fences. Your experienced guides will make every effort to ensure the safety of the group at all times. Please be aware that all safari travel, including vehicle safaris in the proximity of wild animals is never entirely without risk. By travelling into wild areas in search of wild animals, all participants accept that they are choosing an adventure that includes an element of risk and this is an inherent aspect of the enjoyment of this style of travel.

chobe national park

Chobe National Park, in Botswana's northwest, was the country's first official national park. It original inhabitant's were the San bushmen, a nomadic people who moved constantly in search of food. Original San paintings can still be found inside rocky hills of the park. The park is best known for it's number of Kalahari elephant's, over 50,000, which is Africa's largest concentration. Lion, hyena, antelope, wildebeest, warthog, hippopotamus and zebras are also commonly visible. The area's bird life is also prolific with more than 450 species recorded in the park.

okavango delta

The Okavango Delta is the world's largest inland Delta. Today, the Okavango River has no outlet to the sea but instead empties onto the sands of the Kalahari Desert. The Okavango is home to an abundance of wildlife and attracts thousands of visitors each year. Elephants, buffalo, hippopotamus, wildebeest, giraffe, lion, cheetah, and leopard can all be found here. The park is also home to hyena, kudu, antelope, and both black and white rhinoceros, The delta also includes over 400 species of birds, including the African Fish Eagle, the Crested Crane, the Lilac-breasted Roller, and the Sacred Ibis.

vehicles & safety

We use a range of vehicles, each chosen for the route and the conditions.

Transport safety laws differ from those at home. We use vehicles with seatbelts wherever they are available, but some vehicles will not have them fitted.

visas

Botswana

Visas for Botswana are exempt for passport holders from the following countries:-

Australia

New Zealand

Canada

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United States

United Kingdom

All other nationalities should check with your nearest embassy or consulate.

Regulations have been implemented for people travelling with children to/from Botswana. Anyone who is a minor (less than 18 years) must produce an original birth certificate in addition to a valid passport. If the child is not travelling with both parents named on their birth certificate a statutory declaration or affidavit made by the parent/s who are not accompanying the child, declaring that they give consent for the accompanying adult/s to travel with the child. This should be done and signed before a Justice of Peace. If the new requirements are not met, then boarding can be denied by any airline flying to/from Botswana, or travellers may be turned back at the border. If this applies to you, please make enquiries with your respective Botswana consulate/ mission to confirm, as the conditions frequently change. We can assist with contact details of the relevant authorities if required.

Zimbabwe

You will need to complete an Online Declaration before arrival into Zimbabwe: https://evisa.gov.zw/app/index.html#/home

Visas are required for Zimbabwe for all the following nationalities and can be obtained at the border/ on arrival. These visa fees are payable (in cash only) on arrival at port of entry and are subject to change without notice:

United States of America US$ 30 single entry; US$ 45 double entry

United Kingdom US$ 55 single entry; US$ 70 double entry

Canada US$ 75 single entry only; double entry not available

Australia US$ 30 single entry; US$ 45 double entry

New Zealand US$ 30 single entry; US$ 45 double entry

A common tourist visa was recently introduced for Zambia and Zimbabwe known as the (KAZA) UNIVISA. The US$50 Univisa (recommend to pay in cash) is valid for 30 days and allows the bearer to enter both Zambia and Zimbabwe. So if you think you will cross into Zambia even for a short period from Zimbabwe (eg. to look at Victoria Falls from that side), then it is better to purchase the Univisa. Full details including ports of entry issuing the Univisa, the eligible countries and more are available here: https://www.zambiaimmigration.gov.zm/kaza-univisa/

Keep in mind that if you are visiting Botswana for longer than a day trip, you will need to get a single entry visa (for Zambia or Zimbabwe depending on where you land) or a Univisa (if you plan to visit both Zambia and Zimbabwe), then visit Botswana and on return, will need to purchase another single entry visa or Univisa. In other words – if you have a Univisa but leave the joint Zambia/Zimbabwe area, you will have to buy a new visa on re-arrival.

All other nationalities should check with your nearest embassy or consulate.

Visa requirements do change regularly so we suggest you check with your travel agent or reservations consultant.

You may also need visas for countries you transit on the way. Check the requirements for every country on your route.

Visa costs and rules change often, so confirm with your Reservations Consultant or travel agent. Obtaining your visas is your responsibility.

carbon footprint & climate action

We measure the estimated carbon emissions of our trips to better understand their environmental impact and identify opportunities to reduce emissions, rather than relying on carbon offsets.

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Our Carbon Labels, calculated with independent carbon consultancy ecollective, estimate emissions from accommodation, meals, ground transport, activities and guiding. International flights are not included and can represent a significant proportion of your overall travel footprint.

You can help reduce your travel emissions by choosing direct flights where practical, flying economy and taking fewer, longer trips.

Learn more under Climate Action in the Responsible Travel section of our website.

webinars & events

Join a live webinar to hear about a trip from the people who run it, and ask your questions directly. Can't make it live? Watch it on demand.

Upcoming sessions are on our website and in our enewsletter.

private groups

The adventures you see on our website are just the starting point. We can tailor an itinerary around your interests, preferred dates and group.

Whether you're travelling with friends, family, colleagues, a club or community, talk to our team about creating an adventure that's uniquely yours.

subscribe to our e-newsletter

New trips, new departure dates and offers, straight to your inbox. Subscribe free on our website.

social networking

Follow @worldexpeditions on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

Tag #WorldExpeditions on your trip photos and videos to be featured.

trip availability

We run small groups, so places go early. Check availability online, or call our team, who can often find options the website does not show.

Some trips depend on services we cannot confirm until you book, such as internal flights or permits. Booking early is the surest way to get the departure you want.

how to book

Book online, or call or visit one of our offices. You will complete a Booking Form and pay a non-refundable deposit.

Please do not book flights or make any other arrangements until your Reservations Consultant has confirmed every service on your trip.