

# Pride of Africa

## Safaris

### **17 Day Best of Botswana Safari**

Booking Code (BOT 09)

This Safari is for a minimum of four people sharing, valid all year round, and includes:

- Maun International Airport
- Livingstone International Airport
- 1 night Edo's Camp, Kalahari, Botswana
- 4 nights Deception Valley, Central Kalahari Game Reserve, Botswana
- 1 night Thamalakane Lodge, outside Maun en-route to Moremi
  - 2 nights Xaxanaka, Moremi Game Reserve, Botswana
  - 2 nights Khwai, Khwai concession, Botswana
  - 2 nights Savute, Chobe National Park, Botswana
- 2 nights Chobe, Northern Chobe National Park, Botswana
  - 2 nights Livingstone, Zambia (Victoria Falls)

### **Day 1: Ghanzi – Edo's Camp**



Pride of Africa will meet you on arrival at the International Airport of Maun. We depart Maun and head south towards Ghanzi in the Kalahari. Edo's Camp is located in a 300,000 acre private game conservancy in the Kalahari area of Botswana, and we will overnight here on a full board basis for 1 night. The camp itself is set around a rocky watering hole with the tents facing the pan. One of the most impressive, breathtaking experiences you can enjoy at Edo's Camp is sitting outside and watch an endless procession of thirsty animals going to the permanent waterhole.

Moreover, one of the most thrilling adventures at Edo's Camp will be walking with Bushman trackers in search of white rhino. You will be offered bird watching excursions on foot as well, together with

adventurous game drives to observe the great variety of game to the Kalahari host: mongoose, squirrel, hyena, giraffe, zebra and desert antelope. Any one of the following activities will be included during your stay - game drive, rhino trekking or a guided walk.

### **Days 2 to 5: Deception Valley – Central Kalahari Game Reserve**

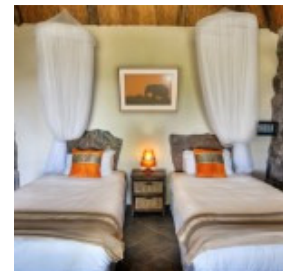


After breakfast we leave for the Central Kalahari Game Reserve and enter the Park via the Kuke gate. The following four nights' stay in the park will solve some of the mysteries surrounding life in this arid region. Larger than Denmark or Switzerland and bigger than Lesotho and Swaziland combined, the 52 800 square kilometre Central Kalahari Game Reserve was set up in 1961. The Kalahari and its adapted game and vegetation have succeeded in surviving the elements and their story is plain for those who wish to understand. Predators such as lion, leopard, cheetah and hyena occur here as well as water independent antelope, such as Oryx and Springbok.

The Kalahari is one of the remotest and most unspoilt areas of Africa. The landscape is characterized by sand dune with different species of trees and shrubs in the north, to flat bushveld in the central area. In the Southern part it is more heavily wooded, with Mopane forests.

The annual rainfall is sporadic and can vary from between 170 – 700 mm per year. The summer rainfall is between November and April. The dry season is during our winter months, which is between May and October. From August, the temperatures start rising making it very hot, dry and dusty. There is little water and limited animals in this area during this time. We will spend 2 nights camping at Piper Pan and another 2 nights camping in Deception under the Majestic African skies on a full board basis.

### **Day 6: Thamalakane Lodge – 20km outside Maun en-route to Moremi**



Thamalakane River Lodge is placed on the banks of the Thamalakane River, just 19km from Maun, and en-route to the famous Moremi Game Reserve. The rambling lodge has an idyllic setting. Their free standing luxury stone and thatch en-suite chalets are nestled in the shade of the majestic trees on the banks of the river. Rooms are equipped with tea and coffee making facilities, ceiling fans and mosquito

nets. Rooms are well ventilated with a unique “skylight type” wall. Each chalet has a private patio with a river view. We will overnight here for 1 night on a full board basis.

### **Days 7 to 10: Xaxanaka – Moremi Game Reserve**



We leave Thamalakane Lodge and head for Moremi Game Reserve where we will spend 2 nights on a full board basis in the Xaxanaka area, and 1 night in the Khwai River area. Most of our day is spent game viewing with lunch en route. We arrive in camp late afternoon with enough time to familiarise yourself with the surroundings and the camp setup before we enjoy a delicious dinner in Camp.

Day 8 a very early start after coffee and biscuits offers better opportunity to predator viewing. We spend the morning on game drive coming back to camp for brunch. The afternoon is spent at your leisure, before we enjoy a late afternoon game drive in search of new sightings.

Day 9 we break up camp and head to the eastern section of Moremi. Our drive takes us through Mopani forests and open plains. We arrive in camp late afternoon after having lunch en route. A short evening game drive rounds off the day.

Day 10 an early start takes us out in search of animals. There is an optional game walk with armed ranger. Due to the different vegetation in this area there is the possibility of seeing a rare sighting, and we are back in camp for a delicious brunch and enough time in the afternoon to catch up on those postcards. There is another afternoon game drive, back in camp for sundowners and dinner. Night game drive after dinner.

The Okavango Delta holds an incredible ninety-five percent of the country’s total surface water in an inland Delta fed by the mighty Okavango River. Unlike every other major river on the planet, the Okavango never reaches the ocean but disappears in an endless web of lagoons and lush wetlands. The pristine landscape and diverse wildlife of this unique territory make it one of Africa’s prime tourist destinations.

### **DAY 11 & 12: Savute – Southern Chobe National Park**



Day 11, this day is one of our longest drives. We leave Moremi Game Reserve via the Mababe Sand Ridge. Lunch will be served en-route. We enter Chobe National Park and carry on to our camp in an area called Savute. Savute is a well-documented area with a lot of National Geographic videos from this area. Arrive in camp late afternoon, where we will spend the night on a full board basis.

Day 12 an early rise takes us in search of Africa's movie stars. Savute used to have no permanent water except that of underground water that is pumped into waterholes – until this year. The Savute Channel is flowing again for the first time since the 1980's! The Channel now teems with wildlife and you can expect to see up to fifty bull elephants queuing to drink. We enjoy another late afternoon game drive before we have dinner in camp.

The Chobe National Park sprawls across 11 700 square km of open grassland, Mopani forests and acacia scrub. The Chobe was once a veritable crossroads for traders and explorers. The indomitable David Livingstone travelled through the Savute marsh in 1851, which he referred to as a "dismal swamp". The marsh was formed by the Savute channel, a watercourse that once flowed out of the Linyanti but dried up in the 1980s. Today the Savute swamp is dry grassland while the channel is a dry fissure carved in the earth.

### **Days 13 & 14: Chobe – Northern Chobe National Park**



Day 13 we leave the dry area of Savute and head north to the perennial Chobe River. This riverfront is well known for its abundance of breeding herds of elephant and buffalo. We have lunch en route and another short afternoon game drive along the Chobe River in search of game. We will again spend one night here on a full board basis in our private camp.

Day 14 we rise early the following morning and after coffee and biscuits go for a game drive. We return to camp for brunch, and get to rest for a bit before going on an afternoon boat cruise on the Chobe River. We enjoy dinner in Camp.

The Chobe Riverfront covers a stretch of only 15km, nevertheless constitutes the most popular part of the park and the well-developed road network allows high volumes of visitors to view the even higher concentrations of game. The Chobe River becomes a vital water supply in the dry season, attracting high concentrations of elephant and buffalo along its banks. The elephant population is legendary, swelling to over 50 000 – equivalent to more than five per square kilometre – a density three times higher than the human population!

## Days 15 & 16: Zambezi Sun Hotel – Livingstone



Day 15 we pack up and leave Chobe National Park to drive a short distance before crossing the Chobe/Zambezi River on the Kazangula ferry. We then head to our lodge on the Zambian side of Victoria Falls, where we will over night on a DBB basis at the Zambezi Sun Hotel. Today is your day of leisure. You can view the Victoria Falls, go shopping, a few adrenalin sports or relax around the swimming pool. Day 16 can be spent at leisure or participating in numerous activities offered in and around Livingstone & Victoria Falls. Please ask you hotel for details & rates.

The Zambezi Sun is located on the edge of the Eastern Cataract of the Victoria Falls. This appealing family hotel is constructed in a series of eight buildings, consisting of the guest rooms, a central pavilion of restaurants and a fabulous convention centre. The hotel features a large variety of amenities amongst them a children's activity centre, Kamp Kwena. Test your spirit with some thrilling, heart stopping adventure challenges.

The great and famous Falls were named by Dr. David Livingstone for his Queen, Victoria, in November of 1855. The Falls are 1690m wide and have a maximum drop of 103m (the average drop is 92m). This immense curtain of water is broken up by small islands, which stand on the lip of the falls, one of which is called Livingstone Island from whence the explorer first viewed the falls.

## Day 17: Flight back home

Your transfer to Livingstone Airport for your onward flight back home. End of Safari.

### **Inclusive:**

- Airport transfer Maun International Airport
- All accommodation as specified in the itinerary
- All meals during the safari **UNLESS otherwise specified**
- Table wines and local beers, mineral water, coffee & tea
- 1 x Activity at Edo's Camp
- Game Drives & Game walks as specified
- 1 x Boat cruise in Xaxanaka for 3 hours
- 1 x Boat cruise on Chobe River for 3 hours
- Service of a professional guide with 4x4 game drive vehicle
- Competent bush chef & camp hands
- Transfer from Kazangula border to Zambezi Sun Hotel
- Transfer from Zambezi Sun Hotel to Livingstone International Airport

**Exclusions:**

- Activities not specified
- Lunches in Zambia
- Airport Tax
- Optional extras/activities/items not specified
- Travel Insurance
- All telephone calls are for your own account
- Laundry
- All drinks not specified
- Visas
- All flights

**General Information:**

**Insurance:** It is compulsory for all clients to be insured for personal accident, medical emergency, travel and rescue expenses, cancellation and curtailment prior to departure from their home country.

**Health requirements:** Malaria occurs in certain areas of Namibia and Botswana. It is recommended that you consult your physician as to the appropriate malaria prophylaxis. All water on safari is safe for drinking.

**Travel documents:** Ensure your passport is valid for at least six months after the end of the safari. The following people DO NOT need a Visa for Namibia and Botswana provided that you have a return airfare as proof: FRG, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Ireland, UK, Austria, Italy, France, USA, Canada, Japan, Scandinavia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Angola, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, Netherlands, and South-Africa.

**Items to bring with:** Light and rugged items like denims/slacks, shorts, cool tops and comfortable hiking shoes as well as sandals (slops, flip-flops) for the warmer days. In winter warm sweaters or jackets are required. Sunburn protection, insect repellent, hat, sunglasses, binoculars, torch and toiletries.

**For wildlife photography a minimum of a 200mm lens is recommended. Zoom lenses can be very useful. Also bring extra memory sticks and batteries. Your camera and batteries can be charged through an inverter which is fitted in our vehicles.**

**Scheduled departures: On request**