

Pride of Africa

Safaris

Central Kalahari 18 Days / 17 Nights

Booking Code (BOT 10)

This tour is for a minimum of 4 persons sharing and includes:

- Maun
- Central Kalahari Game Reserve
 - Grasslands Safari Lodge
 - Kalahari Rest Game Farm
- Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park
 - Namibia, Anib Lodge
 - Windhoek

Days 1 to 4: Central Kalahari Game Reserve



On arrival at Maun Airport you will be met by your guide, and depart from the Airport driving to the Central Kalahari Game Reserve where you will spend the next 4 nights in private campsites. The CKGR is the largest Game Reserve in the world. Its remoteness, unforgiving climate and harsh terrain have kept its pristine and only the self-sufficient traveller would wander into the Reserve alone. The CKGR was originally created as a refuge for the San Bushmen—the inhabitants of the Kalahari for the past 30,000 years. They lived in nomadic hunter-gatherer families groups only taking what they needed to survive—which is an art form in the Kalahari. Their simple lifestyle became anathema to the sophisticated Europeans who colonized Southern Africa and the Bushmen found themselves the hunted rather than the hunter.

After the summer rains arrive in the northern section of CKGR, from Deception Valley to Piper pans, the vast plains burst with sweet grasses and it becomes one of the prime game-viewing areas in Botswana. Not many people seem to be aware of this and visitors are few. The clear blue sky fills with gigantic clouds and the stage is set for an amazing transformation. Into the scene enters thousands of gemsbok, springbok and wildebeest, with plentiful lion, cheetah and jackal in attendance. This gathering of animals is a sight to behold and can be compared with Serengeti/Masai Mara migrations of Tanzania and Kenya.

Our days will consist of exploring the Deception Valley and Passarge Pan in depth with morning and afternoon game drives daily.

Days 5 and 6: Grasslands Safari Lodge



Depart Central Kalahari Game Reserve via Tsau Gate onto main road to Ghanzi. Turn off at D'kar towards Grasslands Safaris Lodge where we will spend the next 2 nights. Grasslands is situated on the western edge of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve.

Enjoy memorable moments in the company of the area's endemic San Bushmen. Learn how they hunt for food including meat, vegetables & nuts and how they make their own medicine. See how they built their houses and even play games together. Grasslands Safaris has a predator protection project where you learn of their rescue work of lions, leopards, cheetahs and wild dogs in the Kalahari region's farmlands. See firsthand how rogue and orphaned animals are saved from almost certain death, before being moved to more suitable locations, thereby protecting them and conserving the future of their species. A traditional dance by the Bushmen will fill up one of our evenings at Grasslands. Morning and afternoon activities as mentioned above.

Day 7: Kalahari Rest Game Farm

We leave Grasslands behind us and drive towards Kang, where we overnight at a Kalahari Rest Game Farm near to the community town en-route to Mabuasehube Pan in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park in Botswana. This lodge is just 25km north west of Kang on your way to Buitepos Border Post to cross into Namibia. This lodge offers excellent food, privacy, game drives, and relaxation in beautiful surroundings. You can sit in the bar overlooking beautiful views of Africa and sip a cold drink before taking a dip in the swimming pool.

Day 8 to 16: Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park



We leave Kang behind us and enter the Park through Mabuasehube Gate. The Gemsbok National Park (Botswana) and the Kalahari Gemsbok Park (South-Africa) have been formed into one unit creating the first of a series of 8 Frontier Parks to be established in Southern Africa—the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. The Botswana

side has the advantage that it is almost totally unspoilt. Most of the roads have only been open since 2000. It consists mainly of white, thick sand dunes covered in vegetation. There are many white salt pans along the road system which attract lots of game, even if they do not have water. The Botswana side is the area north-east of the Nossob River and comprises 28,400km². It stretches from the Namibian boundary to the Mabuasehube Gate. It is very rewarding to see the Kalahari during the wet season as the flowers are in bloom and the herbivores have their young. In the southern part near Bokspits, are large, red dunes which are a spectacle to watch and a challenge to climb. During these 8 days we will overnight as follows:

2 nights at Mabuasehube Pan.

1 night at Matopi

2 nights at Polentswa Pan (North of Nossob Camp)

2 nights at Rooiputs (Close to Twee Rivieren Camp)

1 night at Mata Mata (we will enter Namibia through Mata-Mata border)

Our days will consist of morning and afternoon game drives to explore the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park in depth.

Day 16: Namibia, Kalahari Anib Lodge



We exit the Park at Mata Mata and enter Namibia, driving to the Kalahari Anib Lodge which is situated 30km north-east of Mariental. We overnight at Kalahari Anib Lodge, which is situated in the midst of the red dunes of the Kalahari in Eastern Namibia.

This lodge is a green oasis in the desert; the accommodation facilities are built from red brick and grouped around a large courtyard where palm trees and acacias grow amidst a beautiful garden. There is a swimming pool for you to cool off in the heat of the day, or there are walking trails, and in the evenings you can sit around an open fire after eating dinner in the restaurant.

Day 17: Casa Piccolo Guesthouse, Windhoek



After breakfast we head north towards Windhoek, arriving in time for lunch. The afternoon can be spent at leisure or exploring the city, and we enjoy dinner at the famous Joe's Beer Garden. We will spend the evening at

Casa Piccolo Guesthouse, a small and personal guesthouse in Windhoek that has shuttles to and from town and the Airport. It is also near to the city centre and amenities such as shops and restaurants are easily accessible.

Day 18: Return Home

Depending on the time of your outbound flight, you will be transferred to Windhoek International Airport.

INCLUDED IN YOUR PACKAGE:

- All meals Day 1 to 18
- Game drives/walks as specified
- Travelling costs as per itinerary, game drives, activities, entrance– and park fees
- Accommodation as specified (subject to availability at time of booking)
- Full board, refreshment drinks en route, house wine & local beer whilst camping
- Professional guide with 4x4 safari vehicle
- Backup team putting up camp in advance
- Competent bush chef & camp hands

EXCLUDED FROM YOUR PACKAGE:

- Airport Tax
- Optional extras/activities/items not specified
- Travel Insurance
- All laundry and telephone calls are for your own account
- Visas
- All flights
- Expenses of personal nature, i.e. laundry, telephone, gratuities, souvenirs etc.
- Personal– and medical evacuation insurance
- Additional activities (activities not specified in the itinerary)
- All strong alcoholic beverages

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 batteries.

Scheduled departures: On request