



*Journeys of a lifetime*

## **BOTSWANA IN THE SECRET SEASON (WITH OPTIONAL VICTORIA FALLS ADD ON)**



### **Highlights:**

A classic flying safari visiting the pristine wildlife reserves of Northern Botswana and the Central Kalahari Game Reserve.

This safari starts in Maun and finishes in Livingstone with a few nights at Victoria Falls. Your classic journey through this region visits Nxai Pan National Park, the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, Okavango Delta, the Linyanti Wetlands with a couple of days spent at a luxury island lodge on the Namibian Side of the Chobe River. All transfers are by scenic light aircraft flight and your safari finishes with a few days at the spectacular Victoria Falls.

Most people have a misguided view of Botswana's Secret Season or "Rainy Season". A lesser-known fact is that this region has just about half the amount of rainfall during the same summer period as the Greater Kruger National Park. The rainfall in these areas is typically in the form of quick thunderstorms, which usually occur in the late afternoon and last about an hour or so. The other misconception is that game or wildlife viewing is poor at this time and difficult to see – all these camps and lodges are situated within prime game viewing locations and our expert rangers and trackers go to great lengths to maximise sightings. In the summer months the vegetation is a sea of green, wild flowers can be seen everywhere and all mammals and birds have their young. The bush is alive – Africa is at its most productive!!

The Central Kalahari Game Reserve and Nxai Pan have some of the best game viewing in Botswana at this time of year with large herds of grazers drawn to the area by the fresh grasses and a full range of predators making the most of this time of plenty.

Victoria Falls located on the border of Zimbabwe and Zambia, is known locally as Mosi-

oa-Tunya meaning the 'smoke that thunders' and is the worlds largest curtain of falling water. At 1.7km in width and between 90 and 107 metres in height, Victoria Falls truly deserves its place as one of the 7 natural wonders of the world.

The magnificence of the falls themselves, the wild and beautiful Zambezi River and the huge range of unusual and exciting activities available make this a great stand alone destination as well as an essential add on to a safari in Zambia or Northern Botswana.

### Day 1

You will be met off your flight at Maun Airport and assisted onto your light aircraft flight to Nxai Pan from where you will be transferred to Nxai Pan Camp, your base for the next two nights on a fully inclusive basis. This area is essentially where many animals from the Okavango Delta migrate for the summer grazing on the lush grasses that appear following the first rain. The area and its water filled pans act as a magnet for wildlife and all the big cats, plus endangered wild dog are regularly sighted and found here year round.

**View at** <http://www.kwando.co.za/nxai.html>

### Day 3

Morning activity, then we board our flight to the Central Kalahari Game Reserve where you will be met and transferred by road to the luxury Tau Pan Camp.

This region has a wide variety of habitats and superb summer game viewing when the fresh grasses attract huge herds of grazers and their attendant predators.

Your daily activities here concentrate on game drives in search of the huge black mane lions of the Kalahari as well as Cheetah, which are relatively common and wild dog. All these animals can be found hunting by day making for potentially exciting game viewing.

The game viewing in this area is extremely good during the secret season months from December to March and there are a number of species which are found here which are only found in the desert regions including, brown hyena, gemsbok, Red Hartebeest springbok and meerkat.

**View at** <http://www.kwando.co.za/tau.html>



## **Day 5**

Morning game activity then you will transfer to the airstrip for your light aircraft flight to the Okavango Delta and the private Kwara concession where your accommodation for the next two nights is at the luxury tented Kwara Camp.

Kwara is adjacent to the Moremi Wildlife Reserve and has a wide variety of habitats and superb game viewing with all the big cats and wild Dog regularly sighted and very productive general game viewing, your time here can include twice daily game drives including night drives as well as motor boat and Mokoro rides exploring the lagoons and waterways.

**View at <http://www.kwando.co.za/kwara.html>**

## **Day 7**

After a morning game activity we board our light aircraft flight to the Linyanti Wetlands Area adjacent to the Chobe National Park. Our stay here is at the excellent Lebala Camp in the huge Private Kwando concession, half a million acres of prime African Wilderness with just two camps 30 kilometres apart. The game viewing here is extremely good year round with all the major predators regularly sighted, plentiful elephant and other general game.



Lebala Room



Lebala Lounge Area

The activities here concentrate on morning and evening/night game drives in open 4x4 safari vehicles.

**View at <http://www.kwando.co.za/lebala.html>**

## **Day 9**

You will be transferred to the airstrip for your flight to Kasane and your next stop which is Ntwala Island Lodge. This lodge is situated 70 kilometres upriver from the Victoria Falls on the Namibian side of the river. There are white sand beaches and palm trees which add to the romance at this wonderfully secluded Chobe destination. Ntwala Island Lodge comprises four ultra-luxury styled suites, each inclusive of a private plunge pool and viewing deck; annex bath feature; indoor and outdoor shower; as well as a private sala extending enticingly out over the water. Ntwala also offers exclusivity and intimacy within a complete holistic African experience.

Activities at Ntwala Island Lodge are mainly based on the Chobe River and include game cruises where you can meander along the multiple waterways with your personal guide and private boat, cruise the quiet backwaters or enjoy an exclusive Chobe sunset cruise while viewing a plethora of game. Animals can be approached quite closely from a boat providing excellent photo opportunities.

There is magnificent bird watching with many rare and endemic bird species in the area such as Rock pratincole, Pels fishing owl, Pygmy geese, African Skimmers and Schalows Turaco.

Fishing for the magnificent Tiger fish with spinning tackle as well as fly fishing are popular activities.

Guided walks can also be arranged on Impalila Island including afro-botanical walks, cultural village walks and a walk to a 2000 year old baobab.

**View at <http://www.islandsinafrica.com/ntwala-island-lodge/>**

### **Day 11**

Today you will transfer to Livingstone by road and boat from where you will catch your International flight to Johannesburg and onward flight to UK or elsewhere. Or if you chose to extend your stay to include a couple of days at Victoria Falls, you will transfer to your hotel.

### **Day 11 Cont**

At the end of your Botswana Safari you will fly or drive to Kasane from where you will travel by road and boat to Livingstone (approx 2.5 hours) you will be transferred to your accommodation at the Stanley Safari Lodge, a small boutique lodge with excellent service. You will be staying in an Open fronted or closed cottage on a fully inclusive basis for two nights.



Stanley Safari Lodge



This is a great place to relax at the end or start of your safari or to base yourself whilst trying the superb range of activities available at Victoria Falls.

There are many fascinating activities available in the area, these are listed below and are available at extra cost.

**View at <http://www.stanleysafaris.com/>**

### **Day 13**

You will be transferred to Livingstone Airport for your return flight to Johannesburg.

### **TOTAL PRICE PER PERSON SHARING**

**Full 12 Nights Safari (US\$5553) £3582**

**10 nights excluding Victoria Falls (US\$4836) £3120**

**10 nights excluding Nxai Pan (US\$4650) £3000**

**8 Nights Omitting Tau Pan and Nxai Pan (US\$3590) £2316**

**8 Nights Omitting Ntwala and Nxai Pan (US\$4052) £2700**

**SPECIAL NOTE: No single supplement applies to accommodation although a supplement may be payable for local light aircraft flights.**

**A supplement is payable over the Christmas/New year holiday period**

**What's included:**

All Light aircraft transfers to and from the regional airport, Maun, Kasane, Livingstone  
All meals and snacks  
All beverages including locally branded alcoholic and soft drinks  
Laundry  
All scheduled game activities

**What's not included:**

Visa fees (not required for Botswana, Namibia or South Africa at present, Zambia US\$50 per person)  
Zambia Airport Security Tax (US\$5 per person)  
Tips and gratuities for guides and camp staff  
Purchases of a personal nature  
International Flights

**What's included at Victoria Falls:**

Full Board accommodation at all properties  
All beverages including locally branded alcoholic and soft drinks  
Guided Tour of Victoria Falls, Sunset Cruise on the Zambezi, Cultural Village Visit  
Entry fee for Victoria Falls (US\$20 per person)  
Laundry

**What's not included:**

Visa fees (Currently US\$50 per person for Zambia payable locally)  
Tips and gratuities for guides and camp staff  
Purchases of a personal nature

**Wildlife Sightings**

Africa's wildlife is free ranging and moves according to seasonal availability of food and water therefore no sighting is guaranteed. The following species can be found in the areas visited on this safari and guests can expect to see many of them.

Elephant, Giraffe, Lion, Leopard, Cheetah, Wild Dog, Spotted Hyena, Brown Hyena, Jackal, African Wildcat, Serval, Civet, Chacma baboon, Vervet Monkey, Genet, Mongoose, Porcupine, Aardvark, Cape Buffalo, Zebra, Wildebeest, Sable Antelope, Roan Antelope, Puku, Impala, Bushbuck, Eland, Duiker, Sitatunga, Tsessebe, Waterbuck, Steenbok, Red Lechwe, Red Hartebeest, Greater Kudu, Hippopotamus, Crocodile, Monitor Lizard, Ostrich, Scrub Hare, Bat Eared Fox, Honey Badger, gemsbok, meerkat and the famous Black Maned Kalahari lion, also many bird and reptile species.

**When to go:**

This Safari is available from 1st December 2011 to 31st March 2012 and offers the best value for money, quality safari, in Botswana during the Secret Season.

## **Who should go?**

Perfect for a first safari or first time visitors to Botswana, a wonderful excellent value trip for that once in a lifetime experience or special occasion. This safari will also suit experienced safari travellers including keen birders and those interested in exploring some of the less well known of Botswana's safari areas.

## **We Say:**

A Great Value for money safari with superb wildlife featuring the main highlights of Northern Botswana with a good variety of game activities and very comfortable accommodation. As the safari includes Private concession areas, night drives and off road driving following game tracks into the bush are permitted. There is a realistic chance of seeing all of Africa's big six predators on this safari. The quality of the guiding is excellent with vehicles at most camps having both a tracker and guide on board. The safari is perfectly flexible and additional nights can be added to any of the camps and lodges or new areas included.

If you have the time and money then Victoria Falls should not be missed. Stanley's offers a very attractive, good value, place to stay. Clients who prefer to stay on the river should consider alternative options, please discuss with your consultant.

## **Additional Activities available at Victoria Falls include:**

White water rafting, bungee Jumping, elephant back safari, walking with lions, canoeing above the Falls, high tea on Livingstone Island, micro light and helicopter flights, Golf, steam train ride with dinner.

## **SAFARI CLUB PROMISE**

**Our consultants are dedicated to providing you, our clients, with the safari holiday of your dreams, we will always endeavour to offer you the best value safari and beach holiday in line with the time available and budget guidelines you have supplied.**

**The camps, lodges and hotels included in our trips are regularly vetted by our consultants to ensure the highest standards are maintained and that every safari and associated beach stay is a unique and authentic African experience.**

**Safari Club will never compromise the quality of our safaris by offering a knowingly inferior product in the interests of price.**

***“Our Air Travel Organisers Licence, (ATOL 9991), is issued by the Civil Aviation Authority in the United Kingdom and provides you with the guarantee that your money is safe with us. We are fully bonded to give you the financial security you are entitled to.”***



[www.safari-club.co.uk](http://www.safari-club.co.uk)

Safari Club Ltd • The Old Post Office • The Green • Wingrave • Buckinghamshire • HP22 4PD

Tel: +44 845 0545 889 • Fax: +44 560 0752 031 • Web: [www.safari-club.co.uk](http://www.safari-club.co.uk)

Safari Club Ltd. Registered in England. Company Registration No. 6393732