

Macatoo, Botswana

Itinerary

You can arrive and depart on any day. Itineraries are dependent on the season and levels of the Okavango flood. Boat and mokoro trips are only available when the area is flooded. Local weather conditions may also affect game movements.

Upon arrival in Maun, you are met and transferred via light aircraft into the Delta. At the airstrip, your guide will greet you and drive you to the Horseback Safari base camp which overlooks a seasonally flooded lagoon. On arrival in camp an introductory talk will be given on all aspects of the safari before an evening ride to familiarise yourself with the horses and the area. You return, as every evening, to a candle-lit dinner.

The following times are approximate, but the daily pattern is normally a wake-up call to your tent at sun rise (c. 05:30 in summer and c. 06:30 in winter). In the hotter summer days you would ride from about 07:00 through to 11:00, and in winter from about 08:00 through to 12:00. Lunch is back at camp and the afternoons are for resting and relaxing in your tent or by the pool. On a hot summer afternoon tea will be about 16:30 before the afternoon ride from 17:00 to 19:00. In winter tea would be at c. 15:30 and you normally ride from about 16:00 to 18:00.

Each day you ride out in different directions.

You might follow elephant trails from island to island through a sea of grass into the back country. Canter across open plains maybe in sight of herds of zebra and wildebeest. During the morning ride you will have a short break to rest before meandering back to camp. After lunch and a siesta, you may choose to take a boat trip and spot lechwe and elephant grazing the edges of the islands, whilst the sun sets across the water.



On another morning you might ride through clouds of bushman hair grass onto plains with huge fig trees. You might encounter giraffe or shy antelope while passing through mopane woodlands. The pace increases as you break out onto the flood plains, perhaps disturbing a troop of baboons.



On some days you may splash through water on the vast open plains, home to wildebeest and zebra. The riding may be fast as you approach deep reedy areas full of bird life. After lunch you may choose to ride again, being met by the grooms as you pass the main tent and enjoying sundowners whilst the grooms take the horses back to the stables.

An example of a 7 night itinerary might be as follows:

Day Two

Take morning tea or coffee in bed as the sun rises at your feet. After a light breakfast, you ride westwards following elephant trails from island to island, through a sea of grass into the back country. You may canter across open plains with herds of zebra and wildebeest. Relax on a lush date palm island before meandering back to camp. After lunch and a siesta, you may choose to take a boat trip and spot lechwe and elephant grazing the edges of the islands, whilst the sun sets across the water

Day Three

Leave camp early to investigate the fresh game tracks visible on the ground. Join the semi aquatic red lechwe as they thunder through the water meadows. A champagne breakfast is waiting for you under a large baobab tree. This evening is spent exploring the area on a mokoro, gliding silently through the reeds. As dusk closes in have drinks around the campfire.

Day Four

Ride through different country, making your way through clouds of bushman hair grass to plains with fig trees. You might encounter giraffe or shy antelope while passing through mopane woodlands. The pace increases as you break out onto the flood plains, often disturbing troops of baboons.

Day Five

Your morning ride takes you through the mopane woodland looking for elephant. If you fancy it then there may be a few branches across the path to jump on the way. After watching these magnificent animals feasting on one of their favourite foods you continue onto an island where you enjoy lunch on the Treehouse Platform above the ground. Return to camp by boat and then join an afternoon ride as the game is starting to wake after snoozing through the midday sun.

Day Six

The next morning your ride takes you splashing through water on the vast open plains, home to wildebeest and zebra. The riding may be fast as you approach deep reedy areas full of bird life. After lunch you may choose to ride again, being met by the grooms as you pass the main tent and enjoying sundowners whilst the grooms take the horses back to the stables.

Day Seven

Today's ride takes you along a myriad of waterways which are lined with large trees. Ahead you may see smaller herds of game moving away to join others, as they jostle in front. This in turn drives the large colourful water fowl, such as the majestic wattle crane and clouds of open billed storks, into the air. In these huge seasonal water meadows you canter through the shallows avoiding the deeper pools of lilies. Here the buffalo may gather in numbers and you have to creep

up to them using the islands for cover. The evening offers a chance to go fishing for bream – with luck you may catch something for breakfast!

Day Eight

For your final ride, you will move down to some of the higher palm islands that offer great vistas all around. With vultures circling overhead, you may see lions retreating from a kill that was heard during the night. The bush continually changes with life as you weave your way along the flood plain tributaries. As you approach, the animals bark out their alarm calls and you have a final exhilarating ride running with the game before returning to camp to prepare for your onward journey.

Transfer to the airstrip for your flight to Maun and onward connections.