

For tours departing beyond 2009, itineraries may be subject to change. This will be confirmed by the publication of the 2010 brochure (issued in Oct 09).

2009  
Tour Dossier

# EXPLORE!

WORLDWIDE

BOTSWANA • ZAMBIA • NAMIBIA Dossier Ref. BW

## Botswana Wildlife Safari

Amended 13 Aug 2009. Valid from 01 Aug 2009 to 31 Dec 2009  
Since first issue this dossier has been updated with amendments to the following sections: itinerary, sightseeing & visa

As our itineraries may be amended from time to time, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers, please ensure you have the most up-to-date copy of this dossier immediately before you travel. You can download the dossier from our website, [www.explore.co.uk](http://www.explore.co.uk). Of course we will notify you of any significant changes, but sometimes minor changes may simply be added to the tour dossier.

### JOINING TOUR ABROAD

15 days/14 nights Land Only  
Maun back to Maun

Join Maun (day 1)

End Maun (day 15)

Clients booked on 'Land Only' arrangements should make their own way to the joining point in Maun. Please refer to separate 'Joining Instructions' for name and address of hotel and time of rendezvous with tour leader.

### GROUP TRAVEL FROM LONDON

17 days/16 nights Tour including  
Connecting Group Flights  
London-Maun-London

**Depart from London Heathrow** Airport on overnight flight via Johannesburg (South Africa) to arrive Maun the following day (day 1 of Land Only itinerary). Transfer to hotel.

**Return from Maun** (day 15 of Land Only itinerary) on overnight flight, via Johannesburg, to arrive London Heathrow the following morning.

Passengers with **non-group flights** booked through Explore should refer to their individual confirmation invoice for flight details. Transfers to and from the airport are not included unless purchased in addition to the tour package.

### Earth Matters

- The interpretation centre in Tsodilo Hills was established by San people and revenues go to supporting guide training. Crafts from the surrounding villages can also be purchased here which supports local communities.
- This tour makes use of local Explore tour leaders which generates employment. The time spent with the local guides and crew gives you a unique insight into the local culture.
- The entry fees we pay to the various reserves visited on this tour contribute to the long-term welfare of wildlife in this part of the world.
- For further information on responsible travel go to <http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/>

### SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Among the many highlights featured on this tour, we particularly mention:

- \* **OKAVANGO DELTA PANHANDLE** Three nights stay on our houseboat in one of Africa's most famous areas.
- \* **VICTORIA FALLS** Viewed from Zambian side of Zambezi.
- \* **CHOBE NATIONAL PARK** Huge elephant population.
- \* **MOREMI GAME RESERVE** One of Africa's greatest wildlife sanctuaries.
- \* **OKAVANGO DELTA** Explore by vehicle.

Botswana has been a peaceful, independent nation since 1966 and is one of the few in Africa to enjoy a stable government with regular, multi-party elections. About the size of France and a little smaller than Texas, with a population of scarcely over 1 million, 17% of land-locked Botswana is set aside for the protection of wildlife. It is a land of contrast: the parched desert and green delta, bespeaks the continent of Africa itself. Here we can still find the timeless views of the Africa of old – vast open grassy plains with ancient woodlands where herds of elephant roam, the dry salt pans of the Kalahari Desert where millions of migratory birds flock to nest, and the luxuriant waterways of the Okavango Delta where antelope feed silently at dusk, under a flaming red African sunset. The game parks of Botswana receive fewer tourists than the better known reserves in East Africa so conditions are often less developed. We also take time to explore the world famous Victoria Falls and spend three offbeat nights aboard a houseboat in the Okavango Delta's Panhandle area. On most nights we camp wild in the bush. Travel can be on rough, sandy and potholed roads but the natural wonders we encounter more than compensate for any discomfort for those who really seek adventure. Although we camp wild in the bush the actual camping experience on this safari is quite comfortable. All our camping equipment is taken in with us. Dome tents are provided which sleep a maximum of two people, whilst camp beds with mattresses, fitted sheets, sleeping bags, pillows and blankets are also provided. Individual wash basins and a portable toilet are provided to add extra comfort. Camp assistants take care of all camp chores so no participation is required. Our transport is a specially modified land cruiser that offers excellent game viewing through its open sides. A support vehicle/trailer carries luggage and equipment.

### CO<sub>2</sub> Offsets Included

The biggest environmental impact of your holiday with Explore is the CO<sub>2</sub> generated by your flights. As a responsible tour operator, we have included in our tour prices the costs of offsetting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from all international and domestic flights forming part of the tour. Our chosen offset partner is Climate Care. If you are making independent flight arrangements to join one of our tours, may we urge you to take responsibility for your CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by offsetting through Climate Care, or a similar offsetting scheme.



### LAND ONLY ITINERARY

**Be Prepared:** While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day route printed below, a degree of flexibility is built into the itinerary. Therefore, depending on the season, water levels and game concentrations, overnight stops may vary from those suggested. There are also some long drives on smooth tarmac roads. Early morning game drives in winter can be very cold. Rainwater in the catchment area in western Zambia and Angola only arrives at Victoria Falls early in January after the summer rains that usually start around mid-November and usually end in April. This rainwater increases the waterlevels in the Okavango Delta that may result in strong currents. In these strong currents, our houseboat will moor in a safe sheltered spot and excursions will be made from the houseboat launch. However, the amount of rain that falls in the catchment area can be highly variable though and the houseboat may cruise in the Delta itself.

**Please note:** Participation in canoeing, kayaking, or rafting (including white-water) requires that you are able to swim 25 metres unaided.

**Accommodation and Included Meals:** please find the key to our accommodation ratings overleaf, and note that included meals are indicated in the itinerary below and are shown on the day they are provided (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner).

#### Day 1. Join tour Maun

Arrive Maun and check into hotel. Maun is a dusty frontier town on the southern reaches of the Okavango Delta. Your afternoon here is free to relax or maybe take a stroll around Maun and begin to immerse yourself into the ways of Africa. **Overnight hotel H++.**

#### Days 2 - 4 Drive to houseboat; optional activities

We will have an early start this morning when we drive to the west side of the Okavango Delta Panhandle to meet our specially chartered houseboat. Due to the seasonal variations in the level and strength of the river, fed by rainfall in the Upper Zambezi basin, please be aware that for much of the year the houseboat itself remains securely moored and we explore the river by smaller launches. Our itinerary is very flexible. A typical day involves one or two trips out on the houseboat launch to visit the surrounding area. While you are here, you may also have the opportunity to do some bird watching

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from the houseboat, or maybe try your luck at fishing. Local fishermen are often seen aboard their traditional dugout canoes, known locally as mokoros. We include a days excursion to Tsodilo Hills. You can drive to this intriguing and profound and sacred place. The San Bushmen believe that this was the site of the first creation and as a result it is considered a holy and sacred place. They painted an astonishing 3500 rock paintings here to celebrate this over 350 different sites. There are four rocks that jut out of the expanse of the surrounding land and the San Bushmen believe that the bigger rock, the "male", has a "wife" and "child", but that he left his "wife" for a "younger wife" who now lingers in the background. Those who leave do so with a profound sense of place and power! During our time on the river there may be a good possibility of seeing a variety of game. On our launch, we may cruise past submerging pods of hippos, while crocodiles bask in the shallows and on the riverbanks.. The golden light of late afternoon will also be enjoyed with a traditional 'sundowner'. This is a home away from home where you are encouraged to enjoy this part of Africa. It is not hard to imagine yourself as David Livingstone when he was in Africa all those years ago! **3 nights cabin-share in houseboat (included meals: Bx3, Lx3, Dx3).**

#### Day 5. To Livingstone

An early morning start this morning sees us heading north to Namibia's Caprivi Strip before heading to Livingstone in Zambia. The Caprivi Region has a colourful and interesting history. The Caprivi, known by local tribes as Itenge, was under the rule of the Lozi kings until the end of the 19th century, but it was administered as part of the British protectorate of Bechuanaland, now known as Botswana. As a result of the European superpower political maneuvering, Germany laid claim, in 1890, to the British administered island of Zanzibar to which Britain strenuously objected. The Germans were keen to link their colonies in German East Africa (now Tanzania) with German South West Africa (now Namibia). The dispute was settled by the Berlin Conference in 1890 when Queen Victoria acquired Zanzibar and Germany acquired the territory which became known as the Caprivi Strip. This strip of land was named after German Chancellor General Count Georg Leo von Caprivi di Caprara di Montecuccoli! Say that after a beer! **2 nights lodge H+ (included meals: B, L)**

#### Day 6. In Livingstone

Often referred to as the 'adventure capital' of Zambia, Livingstone is a pleasant town with a variety of land, air and water-based activities on offer in the surrounding area. A short drive can take you to one of the natural wonders of the world – Victoria Falls. We plan a visit to view the falls from the Zambian

side of the river. Here, the Zambezi River plummets over a sheer cliff wall spanning more than 1676m, and drops approximately 100m into the abyss below. Like David Livingstone before us, you become aware of the awesome cataract long before seeing it. Plumes of water vapour rise like smoke into the sky accompanied by a deafening roar: a fact which inspired the natives to call the waterfall, Mosi-oa-Tunya, 'The Smoke that Thunders'. You may choose to take an optional half-day game drive into Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park to search for white rhino. You may also like to take advantage of one of the other many optional activities on offer such as a scenic flight over the falls or white water rafting. **(Included meals: B).**

#### Days 7 to 9. Game viewing in Chobe N.P

We head to Kazungula and back into Botswana via the ferry over the Zambezi River and then drive into the Serondela area of Chobe National Park. A variety of habitats – flooded grassland, thicket, salt pan and particularly the banks of the Chobe River, one of the Zambezi's main tributaries, is home to an abundance of wildlife. The northern Chobe area of Serondela is the heart of elephant country – up to 35,000 elephants live within the park, the largest number in any African park. We'll take the opportunity to spend many hours watching huge trumpeting herds in and around the river. Other mammals to be seen are buffalo, kudu, eland, waterbuck, sable and roan antelope, zebra, lion, cheetah, leopard, impala, reedbuck and the rare Chobe bushbuck. In the river are hippo and crocodile and the waters teem with bream, barbel and tiger fish (freshwater barracuda). The area is also famed for its beautiful scenery and magnificent red and gold sunsets. Next we travel south to the marshes of the Savuti Channel, another area with great concentrations of game – particularly during the dry winter months. Savuti is an excellent place to view lion and other predators plus see some San bushman paintings. **3 nights camping Serondela/Savuti C+ (included meals: Bx3, Lx3, Dx3).**

#### Days 10 & 11. In Moremi Game Reserve

Leaving our Savuti camp we continue over dirt roads into Moremi Game Reserve – one of Botswana's most diversified reserves in terms of scenery and wildlife. Tucked into the north-eastern sector of the Okavango Delta, Moremi is thought to be the country's most beautiful gameland, and is rated as one of Africa's greatest wildlife sanctuaries. It covers an enormous wilderness area composed of permanent swamps, islands, forest and dry land – an ornithologist's paradise. More birdlife and larger mammals may be spotted on the flood plain, including elephant, giraffe, zebra and ostrich, as well as predators like lion, leopard and wild dog. Early mornings and late afternoons are devoted to game viewing. Here in the

Okavango silence reigns, broken only by the roar of a lion or the harsh cry of a fish eagle. **2 nights camping C+ (included meals: Bx2, Lx2, Dx2).**

#### Days 12 & 13. Drive Xaxanaka; in the Okavango Delta

The mighty Okavango is the third largest river in southern Africa and its delta area covers 16,000 square kilometres of crystal clear channels, a myriad of ephemeral lakes and ever changing islands, surviving atop the Kalahari desert. The river flows south east from the Angolan highlands over 1,000 km away, taking up to 6 months to reach the delta area which floods on a perennial annual cycle. We drive into the Delta to our camp at Xaxanaka in Moremi Game Reserve. Exceptional though the geography of the Delta may be, it is the amazing wildlife of the waterways that draws us and we plan to set out game viewing on our arrival and spend the whole of the following in this unspoiled wonderland. Hippo, crocodile, red lechwe, and a great variety of birds are easy to spot, as well as the elusive Sitatunga antelope, whose elongated hooves allow it to walk on the marshy ground without sinking. Bird lovers may spot fish eagle, jacana, kingfisher, heron, stork, egret, weaver and bee-eater – just some of the magnificent species found here. **2 nights camping C+ (included meals: Bx2, Lx2, Dx2).**

#### Day 14. Drive to Maun

We make an early morning game drive then continue eastwards enjoying the emptiness, until we reach Maun. There may be the opportunity of an optional game flight over the Okavango Delta this afternoon and your tour leader will be happy to assist in organising this. **Overnight hotel H++ (included meals: B).**

#### Day 15. Tour ends Maun

**(Included meals: B).**

## PERSONAL EXPENSES

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

### Foreign Exchange

**Local Currency:** Botswana: Pula.

**Zambia:** Kwacha.

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** We suggest you take your spending money as cash in a mixture of sterling and US Dollars. Please note that the banks and Forex Bureaus do not accept US Dollar notes pre-2002. NB: you may find it useful to bring smaller denominations of USD for tips.

**Where to Exchange:** Maun airport and Livingstone.

**ATM Availability:** Cash can be drawn on credit cards from ATM's in Livingstone.

**ACCOMMODATION:** An important feature of many Explore tours is the wide range of accommodation used, and since the beginning our philosophy has been to select accommodation to suit the itinerary - not the other way round. To help gauge the comfort level on your chosen tour, we have graded the accommodation standards at all night-stops using the rating guide below. Please keep in mind however that standards can vary from one trip to the next, and occasionally we may need to change a night-stop without advance warning. Please note descriptions are only intended as guidelines in order to give a flavour of the type of accommodation to expect. We cannot guarantee the use of particular properties. Facilities and characteristics may vary from those described.

### Hotels / lodges / guesthouses - or similar

**H++ :** Comfortable hotels, lodges or guesthouses with twin or single rooms and en suite facilities. With air-conditioning/heating where appropriate and with reliable hot and cold water. Generally good levels of service and often with added amenities such as restaurant, bar, gardens or swimming pool.

**H+ :** Standard hotels, lodges or guesthouses, usually with twin or single rooms and en suite facilities. These are generally standard, no-frills hotels with adequate amenities and service standards. Whilst comfort levels are perfectly acceptable to most, please don't expect too much! These are often small, family run establishments.

### Camping

**C+ :** Standard camping in private or public campsites, usually with WC and washing / showering facilities in a shared ablutions building. Typically in two person tents, and some level of participation is often required. Generally bed linen or sleeping bags are not provided.

This tour uses a great mix of accommodation, affording us a real flavour of one of Africa's most beautiful countries. We start and end our trip in a comfortable, mid-range hotel in Maun. On the Okavango Panhandle we spend three nights on board our houseboat - the boat has a lower deck with en-suite cabins and upper deck with a bar/dining area and an open seating area at the rear. In Livingstone we stay in bungalows on the banks of the Zambezi. In the Okavango Delta and game reserves of Botswana we enjoy the experience of camping under the African sky. Our campsites are simple enough to give the feeling of really camping out in the African bush, yet with the comforts of 'proper' toilets, bucket showers and even camp beds for our two man tents.

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**Credit Card Acceptance:** In major restaurants.

**Travellers Cheques:** Not recommended.

Up-to-date information re: global exchange rates can be obtained at <https://www.currency-express.com/explore/>

## Meal Plan

**Local Food and Drink:** 14 breakfasts, 11 lunches and 11 dinners are included on this trip; please be prepared to pay for all other meals. Houseboat prices may be slightly elevated due to its remote location and limited facilities. Prices quoted are correct as of the date this dossier was originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location and the prices below are given as an average guide only.

	UK	Botswana	Zambia
Coffee/Tea	£1.20	£0.40	£0.70
Soft Drink	0.80	1.00	1.00
Bottle of Beer	2.50	1.00	1.00
Bottle of Water	0.80	0.70	0.75
Bottle of Wine	10.00	11.00	12.00
2 Course Meal*	10.00	8.00	10.00
3 Course Meal**	18.00	15.00	20.00

\*Cheap local fare in a small cafe or restaurant.

\*\*Typical food in a simple, reasonably comfortable mid-range restaurant.

## Tipping

**Local Staff:** Tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of Africa. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly, you should allow US\$30.

**Tour Leader:** At your discretion you might also consider tipping your tour leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

## Other Sightseeing

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date this dossier was originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

The majority of optionals can be paid for by credit card (NOT debit card). Please check with your tour leader for the most up-to-date information in this regard. **Please note that any credit card transactions may attract an approximate rate of 5% per transaction.**

**MAUN** Flight over Okavango Delta (approx. 1 hour) US\$100 depending on numbers booked (must be booked in advance so speak to your tour leader).

**LIVINGSTONE** Whitewater rafting half day \$130, full day \$145; Elephant back trails (must be booked in advance so speak to your tour leader on arrival) afternoon trip with transfer \$150; Upper Zambezi canoeing half day \$95, full day \$120; Zambezi river cruises sunset \$45, sunset & dinner \$50; Helicopter for 30 mins flight \$260pp; Abseiling half day \$95, full day \$115; Game drives \$50pp for 2.5 hours; Livingstone tour \$40; Cultural village tour \$40pp (including transfers).

**CHOBÉ** optional river cruise \$35.

**OKAVANGO PANHANDLE** boat trip \$15.

**Rafting note: River conditions are determined by seasonally predictable fluctuations in water levels. Low water season generally runs from August to January each year – this is when the Zambezi is at its very wildest. High water is from about February to July and there can be a ‘closed season’ between March and June depending on the season’s rains.**

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Seasonal Climate

The main rainy season is from January to March. Rain is widespread and generally falls in the form of a thunderstorm in the late afternoon; grass tends to be long and there is more water about so game is more dispersed. Otherwise it is dry, with low humidity for most of the year. Botswana’s regional characteristics, from fertile areas in the east to waterless desert in the centre and south, and a vast delta in the north-west, make for extremes of temperatures and highly variable rainfall.

**In this region of central Southern Africa, African summer temperatures between September and March can be high as 35°C and as low as 16°C. From April to August, in the African winter, the maximum temperatures can reach 25°C and the minimum can be as low as 5°C.**

Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/> weather. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up-to-date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

### Visa Requirements

**Botswana:** Visas are NOT required by UK, AUS, NZ, CAN and USA citizens.

**Namibia:** Visas are not required by UK, NZ, USA and CAN citizens.

**Zambia:** Most nationalities require a single entry visa to enter Zambia. The foreign office advise it is best to obtain visas prior to travel in order to avoid any potential problems with the airlines or with the Zambian Immigration Authorities. Visas can be obtained through the consular office, your travel agent or through Explore’s recommended Visa Service.

Visas may also be available at all ports of entry, but please contact your consular office for further information.

Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

### Vaccinations & Protection

We recommend protection against malaria, tetanus, typhoid, hepatitis A and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria.

**Special Note:** Vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider.

### Electric Supply and Plugs

For comprehensive information regarding voltages and plug types in use in the countries visited, follow the relevant link at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Traveladvice/> You will need a South Africa 3 round pin plug adaptor.

Please note there are limited opportunities for charging camera batteries so please bring sufficient supplies.

### Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory for all bookings. You must take your policy document with you on tour, as your tour leader will ask to see this at the start of the trip. Your documentation must state in writing that you are the named policyholder and that the cover is valid for your period of travel. Your policy document must also indicate that

you have medical expenses and emergency repatriation cover and a 24-hour contact telephone number for your Insurance Company must be shown on your documentation in case of emergency.

**If you are unable to provide all this information at the start of the trip you will not be allowed to join the trip.** If you have purchased Explore Insurance you should carry the Master Certificate leaflet with you, which outlines the conditions of the policy together with a copy of your Confirmation Invoice, which is your proof of purchase of insurance. Explore Worldwide are an Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services authority.

### Know Before You Go

We strongly recommend that you check your government’s travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs, including advice re: the legality of and local attitudes towards same-sex relationships. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Traveladvice/>

## PACKING FOR YOUR TRIP

A complete list of clothing and personal gear is contained in Explore’s ‘**General Information Booklet**’, available only after a booking has been accepted. Here we make a few specific recommendations with regard to your tour.

**Luggage:** The limit is one barrel bag/holdall/internal frame backpack (suitcases are not permitted) per person and a reasonable amount of photographic equipment. **Total weight allowance 15kgs/33lbs maximum per person.** A day bag is essential for everyday use.

**Clothing:** Pack for ‘**All Tours**’ plus ‘**Hot Conditions**’. Clothing should be lightweight. However, a wind/waterproof jacket, a warm fleece or sweater and thermal underwear for night time are strongly advised, as nights, early morning game drives and longer journeys can be very cold, especially in winter (April to August). We suggest that during the winter months you take a number of layers to combat the cold which can then be removed as the day warms up. Brightly coloured and white clothing is not suitable for game viewing.

**Footwear:** Lightweight trail boots or robust trainers with good traction soles and sandals.

**Equipment:** Please bring a towel with you and also a water bottle, (head) torch and larger torch for toilet visits at night whilst camping, sunhat, sunglasses, insect repellent and sunscreen. Binoculars are essential for game viewing and a 300mm lens is recommended for photography. Tents have sewn-in mosquito screening so nets are not required.

**Personal First Aid Kit:** For an exclusively designed Explore Medical Kit, visit [www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore](http://www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore)

### Need help on clothing or equipment?

Then we suggest you contact Nomad Travel, our equipment partner, who specialise in kitting people out for adventurous travel. You receive a special 10% discount in-store or online. Visit one of their stores, phone 0845 260 0044, or visit their website [www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore](http://www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore) for further information.

## Friends of Conservation

Friends of Conservation runs conservation projects worldwide and is committed to working with local peoples to promote a balance between their needs and those of the wildlife with which they share their natural habitat. See the website for details of the current project in Botswana. [www.foc-uk.com](http://www.foc-uk.com)

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