

# EXPLORE!

## TRIP NOTES



### Comfort Itinerary Version (TMBW1)



TRIPDURATI  
**9**  
DAYS



**Tour Type:** Tailormade

**Trip Code:** TMBW1

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## Trip Highlights - Comfort Itinerary Version

- ✓ ✓ Explore by mokoro (dug-out canoe) on the Okavango's tributaries
  - ✓ ✓ Cruise the Okavango Delta in search of lion, leopard, elephant and hippo
  - ✓ ✓ Day & night game drives through the Moremi and Kalahari Game Reserves
  - ✓ ✓ Excellent game-viewing opportunities by 4WD
  - ✓ ✓ 15-minute scenic flight to the edge of Chief's Island in the Okavango Delta
  - ✓ ✓ Spend time learning about the traditional lifestyles of the Kalahari bushmen
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- ✓ ✓ Explore by mokoro (dug-out canoe) on the Okavango's tributaries
  - ✓ ✓ Spend time learning about the traditional lifestyles of the Kalahari bushmen
  - ✓ ✓ Visit the resident meerkat families in the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans

## Trip Essentials

**Accommodation:** 2 nights Camping  
2 nights Lodge

**Included Meals:** 6 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 6 dinners

**Transport:**

**Countries:** Botswana

# Tailormade Kalahari and Delta Highlights

## Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

## Your trip itinerary

### Tour itinerary notes

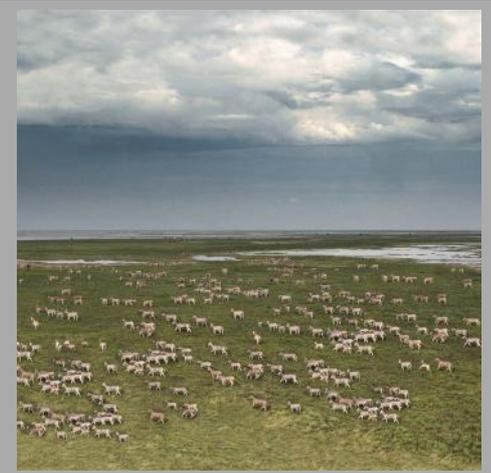
While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

### Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced tour leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others.

## DAY 1 Depart the UK

Depart the UK on your overnight flight to Maun.



 **Included Meals:** None

## DAY 2 Arrive in Maun and fly to the Kalahari

On arrival in Maun you'll transfer by light aircraft to your camp in the Kalahari. Stretching as far as South Africa and covering much of Botswana plus areas of Namibia, the Kalahari Desert is simply vast. Depending on the time of year, these are our favourite hot spots to visit: November – March: Kalahari Salt Pans – The wet season in the salt pans sees the area flourish with nutrient-rich vegetation, becoming a veritable Garden of Eden. Large herds of zebra in the area take advantage of the vast amounts of plant life before migrating south. The mopane woodland areas of Nxai Pan National Park are home to lion, giraffe and kudu, as well as black korhaan, kestrels and goshawks; you will also see Baines baobab, immortalised in paintings by the explorer, these huge, gnarled trees have changed little over the past 150 years. While in the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans you can visit the resident meerkat families. April – June: Central Kalahari Game Reserve – After the rainy season the Central Kalahari Game Reserve teems with wildlife – springbok, wildebeest, hartebeest, eland, zebra, giraffe and kudu can be seen wandering the plains, and carnivores include lion, cheetah, leopard and hyena. The birdlife here is outstanding with lilac-breasted rollers, black and red-crested korhaans, chestnut-vented tit-babblers and rufous-eared warblers, to name but a few. July – October: Makgadikgadi National Park – Between July and October the salt pans to the north and west dry up, bringing huge herds of Burchell's zebra and wildebeest to the permanent water source of the Boteti River. Thousands of zebra come to drink from the river, making this the second largest migration of land mammals after the Serengeti migration. This is also one of the best places to see meerkats in their natural habitat.

Overnight: **Camping**

 **Included Meals:** Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 3 Activities from your camp

Today you have the opportunity to explore the region on a game drive in search of wildlife in the area. Depending on your lodge/camp you may be able to go on a nature walk with the local Bushmen in search of smaller animals and birdlife. Also known as the San, these traditional hunter-gatherers have lived in southern Africa for 20000 years, so know this area like the backs of their hands. Traditionally Bushmen hunt game with bows and arrows, supplementing their diet with plants, nuts and insects, also using plant life for medicinal purposes and finding water deep underground. While few bushman still live this lifestyle they are happy show you the culture and survival skills of their ancestors. Alternatively you may be able to visit the local meerkat residents, searching for scorpions and playfully interacting while the adults stand tall keeping a watchful eye out for predators. In the far western border of the Makgadikgadi National Park, the Boteti River snakes its way across the Kalahari Desert. Until 30000 years ago this area was an enormous inland sea that dried up, but today the Boteti River experiences periods of plentiful water, during the winter months the migration of wildebeest and zebra to the area with the attendant predators such as lion and cheetah create great game-viewing. Please note: The variety of excursions available will vary dependent upon where you are staying. Your Tailormade Regional Specialist will discuss this with you.

Overnight: **Camping**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 4 Fly to the Okavango Delta

Today you will take a short flight to your lodge in the Okavango Delta. The mighty Okavango is the third largest river in Africa and its delta area covers 16000 square kilometres of crystal clear channels, a myriad of ephemeral lakes and ever changing islands. The river flows south-east from the Angolan highlands over 1000km away, taking up to six months to reach the delta area which floods on an annual cycle. Depending on your arrival time you maybe be able to enjoy an afternoon game activity.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 5 Mokoro ride and bush walks

Set off early this morning from your camp on a traditional-style dug-out canoe, known locally as a mokoro. With an experienced 'poler' you will gently punt along the calm waters in search of birdlife, crocodiles and elephants. Thought to be one of the most peaceful ways to enjoy the surroundings, this will be a highlight of your trip to Botswana. You have the opportunity to stop off for a nature walk. In the afternoon and evening enjoy a boat safari in the area where you may see elephant, hippo, vervet monkey, warthog and much more.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 6 Fly to Moremi Game Reserve

Tucked into the north-eastern sector of the Okavango Delta, Moremi is thought to be the country's most beautiful game area 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. Exceptional though the geography of the Delta may be, it is the amazing wildlife that draws many visitors, here

you will find a variety of antelope including tsessebe, impala, reedbuck and kudu, birdlife is prolific everywhere, while 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.

Overnight: **Lodge**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 7 Moremi Game Reserve

Moremi Game Reserve is home to a wide variety of animals including lions, buffaloes, elephants and leopard. The birdlife is vast and varied, and ranges from elegant water birds to a huge variety of ducks, geese, heron, storks, wattled cranes and many species of kingfishers and bee-eaters. There is a variety of activities available from your lodge including game drives boats rides. Depending on your accommodation mokoro rides may be available; perfect for photography you'll quietly float along without the noise of motors to scare off wildlife, allowing you to capture the perfect shot.

Overnight: **Lodge**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 8 Depart Botswana

Today you depart Moremi Game Reserve and return to Maun for your onward flight home.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

## DAY 9 Arrive UK

Arrive in the UK.

 **Included Meals:** None

## Your tour itinerary

### Our Service

We have lots of wonderful ideas about places to visit, where to stay and our personal recommendations of the essential things to see and do. Tailormade holidays are designed around you, allowing you to choose where you want to go, how long you stay and what you would like to see. When you contact us, we will discuss your specific requirements, before sending you a personalised itinerary and quote tailored to you. It's important that we find you the right holiday that matches your expectations as well as your budget.

Our experienced regional specialists will work with you to fine tune and tweak your itinerary until its perfect - bringing your dream adventure to reality. Contact us today to start planning your adventure.

- Expert destination knowledge & regional specialists
- Authentic travel experiences tailored to your requirements
- Itineraries designed specifically for you
- Carefully chosen properties

We pride ourselves around our quality of service, it's our hallmark and we know the importance of providing this in an effective, responsive and highly professional manner. People and all things travel are always at the heart of what we do, so whatever your circumstances, you can be assured that we will work hard to meet your needs.

This suggested itinerary has been created especially for you by our experts. It has been designed around previous customer feedback and personal recommendation by our experienced regional specialists to give you a flavour of what is possible during your stay. However, if you are looking for something completely different or just want to tailor this itinerary to suit your specific requirements please contact our regional sales specialists who are on hand to help piece together your ideal holiday.

## Accommodation and Meals

### Food & Drink

Included meals: 6 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 6 dinners included in the price of this trip. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

## Budgeting for your Trip

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

### Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

#### Botswana

**Lunch £:** 8.00

**Dinner £:** 15.00

### Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

#### Botswana

**Bottle of Beer £:** 1.50

**Water £:** 0.75

## Foreign Exchange

### Botswana

**ATM Availability:** Cash can be drawn out on credit cards from ATM's in Kasane and Maun

**Credit Card Acceptance:** Limited.

**Travellers Cheques:** Not recommended

**Local Currency:** Botswana Pula

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

## Joining your Trip

### Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found on our website at [www.explore.co.uk](http://www.explore.co.uk), in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

### Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

### Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## Important Information

### Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

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The Adventure Travel Experts

CAMPBELL IRVINE  
DIRECT TRAVEL INSURANCE



Travel Insurance is essential. If you have not already arranged cover, please contact our recommended Travel Insurance providers [www.campbellirvinedirect.com/Explore](http://www.campbellirvinedirect.com/Explore) who offer Travel Insurance specifically designed to cover travel with Explore or call **Campbell Irvine Direct** on Tel: 020 7938 1734

Explore Worldwide is an Introducing Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

### Travel Aware

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. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at [www.explore.co.uk/travel-safety](http://www.explore.co.uk/travel-safety)

We strongly advise that you register with the FCO to receive updates to the travel advice for your chosen destination. A hard copy of the current FCO Travel Advice for your chosen destination is available by contacting [cr@explore.co.uk](mailto:cr@explore.co.uk) or 01252 379438.

### Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Vaccinations & Protection

#### Botswana

We do recommend protection against malaria, hepatitis A, tetanus, typhoid and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Travellers may wish to immunise themselves against meningitis. 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. Immigration/Borders in Botswana are requesting a Yellow Fever certificate if you have previously travelled within/via an endemic country. For a list of Yellow Fever affected countries please refer to: <http://www.who.int/ith/2015-ith-annex1.pdf?ua=1> Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure. Please note that any travellers who have visited Ebola affected countries during the last 30 days will be denied entry into Botswana. These countries are: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Liberia

## Preparing for your Trip

### Climate

#### Botswana

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. 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.

Luggage allowance on trip:

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Unfortunately it does occasionally happen that luggage does not always reach its destination on the same flight as its owner, or possibly it may be damaged in transit. If you are unlucky enough for this to occur, it is important that you file a PIR (Property Irregularity Report) with the airline before leaving the airport. This is essential when you come to make a claim either against the airline or from your travel insurance company

## General Information

### Country details

#### Botswana

**Population:** 2,029,307

**Size of Country:** 581,730 sq km

**Major Language:** English, Setswana

**Religion:** Christians. Anglicans, Methodists

**Time Difference to GMT:** +2

### Electric Supply & Plugs

#### Botswana

3 Pin Round

## Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailor-made holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one of the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, or any number of unusual forms of transport. Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

### Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants, allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

### Earth Matters

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people) and have recently supported women's cooperatives in Borneo and Morocco. We are a member of Tourism Concern's Ethical Tour Operator Group ([www.tourismconcern.org.uk](http://www.tourismconcern.org.uk)) and support their campaign for fair and ethical tourism. We also care passionately about the world's wildlife and actively support and promote the Born Free Organisation and Mahouts Elephant Foundation.

## Booking Your Holiday

### Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

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### **Reserving your place**

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

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### **100% No Surcharge Guarantee**

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2016 and 31st December 2017.

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### **Trip Itinerary Versions**

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 1 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 1. 2/ itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2.

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