

THE GREEN DESERT EXPEDITION

An Adventurer Expedition - 7 nights / 8 days
\$3,207 per person sharing



Serviced camping in exclusive camp sites in National Parks combined with luxury Motsentsela Tree Lodge and Xigera Camp.

TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY OPTIONS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON FLEXIBLE DATES, FOR GROUPS OF UP TO EIGHT GUESTS.

THIS SAFARI HAS BEEN CREATED TO MAXIMISE AMAZING WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS OF DESERT SPECIES THAT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SPORADIC RAINS FROM DECEMBER TO MID-MARCH; AS WELL AS A LUXURY LODGE IN THE PERMANENTLY FLOODED REGION OF THE OKAVANGO DELTA.

Experience a nostalgic camping safari that recreates a sense of wildlife viewing adventure reminiscent of the times of the early African explorers.

The style and essence of Wilderness Safaris' Adventurer Safaris takes you back to the bygone days of Africa's exploration. Our 3m x 3m dome tents (Deception Valley), complete with mini-verandas, allow you to feel more connected to nature, accentuating the feeling of the wild and untamed. Pure cotton linen bedrolls (with duvets) on GI stretchers, bedside table with silver lantern and mini luggage benches add to the atmosphere. Shared separate toilet and shower 'bathrooms' with old-style tin bucket showers and basins create simple serviced comfort.

Adventurer camping aims to bring the guest closer to nature, by means of lively campfires, hurricane lanterns, diverse activities and a warm atmosphere permeating the camp and its simple comforts. Adventurer camps are specifically outfitted to create that camping feel with a clear emphasis on essential comforts and pristine wilderness experience.

Safari bathrooms: There are 2 short-drop toilets at Deception. There are also 2 bucket shower enclosures at these campsites.

Guides: The entire safari is guided and hosted by professional guides, who share their in-depth knowledge to present a seamless safari experience.

Exclusive experience: Ensuring privacy and exclusivity, Xigera is a luxury lodge in a private concession within Moremi Game Reserve and Motsensela Tree Lodge is a luxury tented lodge situated on a private game reserve, about 15 km outside Maun. All Explorations camps are private and for the use of Adventurer Exploration guests only.

Routes: This expedition is specifically designed to enjoy the Kalahari Desert at its most productive season, when it receives its low sporadic rains. This small amount of water creates an incredibly prolific wildlife-viewing period with concentrations of desert species and their young in the fertile, ancient river valleys of Deception Valley. The route takes the time to explore the contrasts of some of the major habitat types: the "petrified" river valley of Deception Valley in the Kalahari Desert and the fertile green islands of the Okavango Delta and its crystal-clear waterways.

Time: We have specifically allowed for a 4-night stay in Deception Valley; in a journey of this nature, guests have the time to relax and unwind, at the same time fully appreciating an in-depth introduction to the diversity of the area as well as its activities.

Transfers: To maximise guests' travel time, a variety of transport modes that bring out the best of each area is used: flying in seat on charters and overland transfers provide both a bird's-eye view and an in-depth experience of the contrasting landscapes of Botswana.

4 x 4 Tracks in wilderness areas are not maintained, take time to navigate and may be bumpy. As a result some of the fascinating game/ road transfers can take a full day with lunch en route.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Motsentsela Tree Lodge, 15 km from Maun

Upon arrival in Maun, you will be met by a Wilderness Safaris representative and transferred by 4x4 vehicle to Motsentsela Tree Lodge where we will be spending the first night of the safari.



Motsentsela is a small lodge situated just 15km south of Maun airport on the western border of a farm on the Thamalakane River. It is perfect for travellers on their way to or from the Okavango Delta or the Kalahari. The Lodge consists of 7 large Meru style tents with en suite facilities, catering for a maximum of fourteen guests. All tents are on decks surrounded by trees, and are well spaced for privacy. The main thatched complex consists of a bar, lounge, entrance hall and dining room. There is a large teak deck in front of the lodge

surrounding large Leadwood and Birdplum Trees, the latter giving the Lodge its Setswana name. There is a swimming pool, also with a teak deck.

The lodge is situated on a small 200-hectare game farm with a variety of game including Ostrich, Zebra, Kudu, Duiker, Black Springbok, Blesbok, Jackal and several nocturnal species, one of which is the Aardwolf. A recent bird count tallied over 120 species.

Before dinner, you will be met by your guide, who will, over a relaxed drink give you a briefing of the wonderful adventure that awaits you. He will spend some time answering all your questions and making sure you are fully prepared for the safari.

Days 2, 3, 4 & 5: Deception Valley, Central Kalahari Game Reserve

After an early breakfast, we depart overland to our private Adventurer campsite in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve with lunch en route.



This prehistoric riverbed, flanked by petrified dune lands, is very appealing after brief rains, as it is covered with nutritious grasses that attract herds from all over the enormous reserve. These large congregations of desert wildlife with their young are followed by

predators into the broad riverbed, all of which makes for outstanding viewing. On Day 4 or 5 we enjoy extended wildlife game drives (with picnic lunch), taking in the game-rich Pipers Pans area of the Kalahari, as well as the Letiahau and Deception Valleys.

Suggested further reading on the area is "Cry of the Kalahari", by Mark and Delia Owens.

Days 6 & 7: Xigera Camp, Okavango Delta

After a light breakfast we depart overland to Maun (approximately 6 hours), after which we fly by light aircraft in the afternoon to the water-filled paradise of the private Xigera area, within the Moremi Game Reserve. Xigera is the ultimate Delta experience, with serene waters flowing through innumerable channels around remote islands and a profusion of plant and animal life.

Xigera Camp is a luxury tented camp situated in the heart of the Okavango Delta. It has something for everyone, in an area where there are no other Moremi camps and where permanent water all year round allows for a variety of activities. Enjoy a true Delta experience while you sit back in a mokoro (dugout canoe) and silently glide through the tranquil Okavango waterways or watch the sunset and birds gliding home to roost from a motorboat on the Xigera Lagoon. The more adventurous can enjoy a scenic nature walk.



Nestled in a magnificent riverine forest, Xigera consists of 10 luxuriously furnished tented rooms with en-suite facilities and outdoor shower. Each room is raised off the ground on a wooden deck offering superb views of the seasonal floodplain and waterhole. Meals and drinks are enjoyed under the thatch of the raised lounge, pub and dining area overlooking a permanently flowing channel. A traditional boma offers alternative dining under the African stars. Wooden walkways wind through the forest connecting the rooms to the main area. There is a plunge pool for cooling off and relaxation.

Birding in the area is excellent, with Pel's Fishing Owl, Slaty Egret, Wattled Crane, African Skimmers and a host of eagles, vultures, raptors and kingfishers to be found. The area has the highest density of the rare sitatunga antelope found anywhere in the Okavango Delta.

Day 8: Light aircraft transfer to Maun

After an early morning activity and breakfast, we fly to Maun, where the safari ends.



ADDITIONAL SAFARI NOTES

International air connection onto the safari: If arrival is planned for the day of the safari's departure, please ensure that this arrival is with the earliest possible flight from Johannesburg. Arrival on a later flight may necessitate an additional road transfers (as departure for the first camp will already have taken place), subject to extra cost.

International air connections leaving the safari: Please ensure that your departure flight is booked for after 13h00 from Maun. For earlier international departure flights, an additional air charter will be required to arrive in Maun for this connection. Extra transfers and flights are subject to extra cost.

Bilingual safari dates: This service aims to facilitate a greater level of experience for guests that do not speak English fluently. These safaris will be led by a guide; however there may be a translator to assist the guide. Please note on all bilingual safari dates that the guide or translator's home language is English. This additional free service does not guarantee the level of fluency and depending on group dynamics a varying amount of the foreign language will be spoken.

Flashlights/torches: Please ensure that a minimum 2-D cell flashlight is brought on safari, with spare batteries. Head lamps are also useful. Wilderness Safaris does not supply flashlights.

Camera battery charging facilities: Please note that a 12V cigarette lighter adaptor will be required (that is compatible with camera make) on this safari for charging batteries while on game drive or transfer drives. No 110/ 240V outlets are available, except at the Xigera Camp.

Dietary requirements and special occasions: Due to remote locality of Adventurer camps, please ensure that full dietary requirements and special occasions are advised at the time of your booking confirmation.