



Tracking African Wildlife In Botswana

**Biologists Without Borders
2021**



Introduction

Biologists without Borders is proud to offer our second “Tracking African Wildlife” safari. This time we get to go to **Botswana!!**

Botswana is the pinnacle of African Safari experiences, based on its pristine ecosystems, it's scenic beauty, and abundant of wildlife. Because of this it tends to be a rather a pricey experience as well. However, because of our connections in Botswana, we are lucky to be staying at the professional Okavango Guide Training Camp most of the time located within the heart of Okavango Delta which lowers our costs considerably. The Okavango Delta has been declared a World Heritage site and is one of the most scenically spectacular wildlife areas anywhere in the world. The myriad of crystal-clear channels and wildlife rich islands is a habitat unlike any other. Possibly the most amazing thing about the area is the fact that it is part of a wilderness that stretches unfenced for hundreds of thousands of square kilometers through Moremi Game Reserve, Chobe National Park, the Caprivi Strip of Namibia, southern Angola and southern Zambia.

And the best part of our trip is that we will be guided by one of the best trackers/guides in Southern Africa, Massimo Rebuzzi. Massi was our guide on our first tracking safari and everyone was quite amazed at his extensive knowledge and communication skills. A true delight!

Unlike most safaris where you sit passively in a vehicle, on this safari we will spend most of our time exploring the African bush on foot. We will be guided by our expert trackers who will teach us how to identify and interrupt tracks, signs and behaviour - and of course, keep us safe. Heading out on walking safaris into the heart of the bush in search of wildlife, including leopards, lions, elephants and hippos is truly amazing. This is not your typical safari!

Your small group tour (only 8 guests) will be led by expert wildlife trackers/guides and myself – Sue Orloff – a professional wildlife biologist and president of Biologists without Borders.

Okavango Tented Camp is located along the banks of the Kwapa River, in the southern part of the Okavango Delta. It's one of the only camps in the Delta you can enter by car, not just by plane. That is, if you know your 'way' around.

Maun is a town where we will rest in between our camps for a one-night stay. Maun, the third largest town in Botswana, is an eclectic mix of modern buildings and native huts.

Moremi Crossing is located in the middle of the Okavango Delta and surrounded by water. Moremi Crossing is built on a palm fringed island surrounded by the Moremi's game-rich seasonal floodplains. Here we can enjoy a more upscale experience for a couple of nights and more wildlife sightings while being a little spoiled.

Join us on an unforgettable 12-Day safari experience as we celebrate the magnificent animals that makes Botswana such a must visit destination to wildlife enthusiasts from across the globe.

Your safari at a glance

Tour Dates	May 6 th to May 17 th 2021 (12 Days / 11 Nights)
Tour Price	Cost per person: \$6400.00 (\$500 of which is tax deductible). Single supplement: \$500.00
Tour Size	Not more than 8 Participants plus wildlife guides and tour leaders.

Day 1, 6 th May	Arrival Day in Johannesburg and overnight – City Lodge
Day 2, 7 th May	Fly from Johannesburg to Maun, Botswana and then transfer to the Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp
Day 3, 8 th May	Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp
Day 4, 9 th May	Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp
Day 5, 10 th May	Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp
Day 6, 11 th May	Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp
Day 7, 12 th May	Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp
Day 8, 13 th May	Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp
Day 9, 14 th May	Transfer back to Maun – Island Safari Lodge
Day 10, 15 th May	Okavango Delta – Fly to Moremi Crossing
Day 11, 16 th May	Okavango Delta – Moremi Crossing
Day 12, 17 th May	Fly to Maun Airport and depart for Johannesburg

Your safari in detail

Day 1, 6th May: Arrival day in Johannesburg and overnight.

Upon arrival at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, you will be met by one of our tour guides who will escort you to your overnight accommodation at the comfortable City Lodge, located near the airport terminal building.

If you so desire, dinner at the hotel will be offered the night of your arrival which will afford the opportunity for tour leaders to discuss the tour itinerary with you in more detail.

Overnight City Lodge

Day 2, 7st May: Fly from Johannesburg to Maun, Botswana and then transfer to Okavango Tented Camp.

Today will leave behind the bright city lights and head for the Kwapa area of the Okavango Delta. We will spend 7 nights at our Tented Camp (pictured below) where we will be joined by prize winning wildlife tracker **Massimo Rebuzzi**. Kwapa is the area where the Guide Training Camp is located and has a combination of river channel's, floodplains, lagoons as well as riparian woodland, savannah, mopane scrub, climax mopane woodland and grasslands. Kwapa Camp sits right next to the riverbank, under a few big Mangosteen trees that offer the necessary shade and coolness during the day. The accommodation consists of dome tents with shower amenities and separate bush toilets. Each of our guests will have their own tent.

Kwapa Camp is a Big Five-area covering several hundreds of square miles and has good numbers of elephant, buffalo, giraffe, zebra, kudu, impala, reedbuck and other herbivores. Rhinoceros are making a come-back in the Okavango due to some phenomenal conservation programs. Predators include lion, leopard, cheetah, wild dog, serval, caracal, African wildcat, black-backed jackal, side-striped jackal, spotted hyaena and other smaller predators. The area also has over 300 species of birds and the list is still growing. Some of the highlight birds are wattled crane, lesser jacana, long-crested eagle, saddlebill stork, green-capped eremomela, greater painted snipe, coppery-tailed coucal, luapula cisticola to mention but a few. In short there is pretty much everything the savannah biome has to offer with regards to wildlife. You will be in true wilderness.

Overnight Okavango Tented Camp (room and full meals).





Day 3 -8, 8th - 13th May: Six full days walking and tracking in the Okavango Delta.

Over the next six days we will be sharpening our observation skills and learning to identify tracks and scat and interpret a variety of animal behavioral signs.

On foot and in open-aired safari vehicles we will explore the trails, dirt roads, and waterholes found in this game rich area. Our focus will be widespread, from the largest of Africa's land mammals, the African Elephant, to the dainty Steenbok, one of Africa's smallest antelope. Also, high on our list will be the incredible birdlife that is found here.

Our days will start at the crack of dawn, armed with your binoculars, cameras and flasks of hot coffee. We will return for breakfast and rest and then head out again in the late afternoon. We also have an opportunity to enjoy night drives and river canoe explorations.

Nights at Okavango Tented Camp.







Day 9, 14th May: Transfer back to Maun

After a final early morning game drive/walk and breakfast, we will depart for a couple hour drive to Maun where we will stay for one night. Maun was made famous by the novel, *No 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* and the later TV series. We can relax at our lodge located along the Thamalakane River, reminisce on our adventures, and visit the town's many attractions.

As the first hotel established in Maun, and a landmark since the early 1900s, Cresta Riley's Hotel has a long history of meeting the needs of travelers seeking authentic African experiences as well as modern comforts. The hotel facilities include comfortable accommodation, a swimming pool, fitness center, Internet, satellite television, and a selection of fine dining.

Overnight Island Safari Lodge

Day 10, 15th May: Moremi Crossing

Today will be travel deeper into the Okavango Delta which will be our base for the next 2 nights. We will depart from the airport on a private plane and fly over the Delta to our camp. The Okavango Delta from the air is a truly magical sight. It takes less than one hour and we will arrive at the Lodge by mid-morning.

Moremi Crossing camp is located on the small, idyllic island of Ntswi, within the diverse confines of the Moremi Game Reserve. This relatively new and completely eco-friendly camp is surrounded on all sides by the Okavango Delta's seasonal floodplains and looks onto Chief's Island, the biggest island in the delta and well-known for its excellent game-viewing.

Each luxury safari tent has its own private wooden deck and magical views over the Boro River. All meru tents are large and airy with en suite. The crescent-shaped main building consists of a large open plan deck that has a spectacular view over the Boro River onto Chief's Island. Moremi Crossing provides both water and land activities. Explore the

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wilderness with their guided bush walks or explore the narrow channels by mokoro (traditional canoe). Another great way to explore the crystal-clear channels of the Boro River is by motorboat. Watch the sun set while drifting along a lagoon and sipping on sundowners.

Overnight: Moremi Crossing





Day 11, 16th May: Moremi Crossing

Another full day of activities including walking, canoeing, and boating safaris.

In contrast to the northern Okavango Delta where the waters are fast-flowing and the view from the channels is restricted by high reeds and papyrus, the channels around Moremi Crossing offers more expansive views. Guests have the chance to experience the Okavango Delta and its game from a very different slower and closer perspective - whilst on foot or being poled by mokoro through the Delta's waterways. Activities on offer are half or full day mokoro trips with game walks, bush walks with picnic lunch, wilderness camping and sunset motorboat cruises.

A prime location for birdwatching, rare sightings have included Pel's Fishing Owl and the Ground Hornbill. When you're not cruising around the waterways of the delta, animal spotting can take place from the camp's shaded deck overlooking the Boro River. The deck leads into a swimming pool while the camp itself is nestled among leafy palms and an assortment of ancient ebony, mangosteen, sausage and giant sycamore fig trees.

Overnight Moremi Crossing





Day 12, 17th May: Departure Day

Following breakfast and we will leave Moremi and fly to the Maun airport for your departure flight back to Johannesburg, where sadly this tour will come to an end. We wish you a safe journey to your destination. We thank you for your participation in this very memorable tour.

Financial Arrangements

The fee for this 12-day **Tracking Safari** is:

- \$6400.00 (\$500 of which is tax deductible).
- Everyone will get a single room at the Okavango Tented Camp but if you would like a single room at the Moremi Crossing and in Maun there will be a single supplement of \$500. There are only three available for singles at Moremi Crossing.

THE TOUR FEE INCLUDES:

- All accommodation as mentioned in the itinerary;
- All meals from Dinner on Day 1 to Breakfast on Day 12;
- Internal flight from Johannesburg to Maun;
- All activities as mentioned in the itinerary;
- Bottled water and snacks on activities;
- Teas and coffees on activities;
- All transfers as per the itinerary;
- All park fees and entrance fees as specified in the itinerary; and
- Guiding services of a professional tour leader and/or guide.

THE TOUR FEE EXCLUDES:

- All international flights;
- Travel Insurance and Visa fees;
- Gratuities;
- All beverages except bottled still water and teas and coffees during activities;
- Telephone calls, curio purchases and items of a personal nature; and
- Any item which is not included in the inclusive list above.

PASSPORT & VISAS:

- All visitors to southern Africa require a valid passport together with onward travel documents and sufficient funds for the duration of your stay. Please ensure you have sufficient blank VISA pages (not endorsement pages) in your passport, with at least two consecutive/side by side blank pages. Our recommendation is **3 pages (or even 4 if you are travelling through more than one country on your journey)**. If there is insufficient space in the passport then entry into a country could be denied.
- All passport holders should verify with their travel agent or relevant consulate concerning visa entry requirements. All US citizens can get your visa at the Johannesburg Airport upon arrival. If you are extending your journey to other countries, please establish entry requirements for those countries as well. Applications, costs and relevant documentation are the responsibility of the traveller.

TIPPING:

Tipping (drivers, guides, hotel staff, porters and restaurants) is NOT included on this tour. Therefore, if you feel that he/she and / or any other staff have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DETAILS:

This tour **does not** include any international airfares. The tour will start with your arrival in Johannesburg on day 1. Further details will be forwarded to you closer to the departure date.

FLIGHTS:

Please **DO NOT** book your international flights until you have consulted with us for confirmation on the status of the tour.

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Comments on First Tour

Africa wasn't even on my bucket list! But Sue Orloff, my good friend and founder of Biologists Without Borders, organized this trip to raise awareness of conservation projects that BWB and her sister organization (Wild Tomorrow Fund) are conducting in South Africa. I signed on. It was a life changer. I was captivated. I remain captivated. The biodiversity of these reserves is unparalleled anywhere in the world. It is an immense thrill to see all these profoundly physically different creatures cavorting in a landscape you are also temporarily occupying. This trip opened my heart to a treasure trove of potential positivity on this glorious but beleaguered planet of ours, at a time when "positive" is in short supply. It touched me deeply. And I learned so much my head still hurts.

Anne Dorsey, Asian Art Expert

While this was my third time to South Africa, Sue Orloff with BWB put together an awesome trip that was second to none. Spectacular wildlife viewing, varied habitats, very knowledgeable guides, and lovely accommodations. Tours and lectures from very passionate researchers and conservationists added to this incredible experience and provided a bonus you will not get from other tours. BWB and Wildlife Tomorrow Fund are dedicated to funding studies and purchasing critical conservation lands. Going on this tour also gives you a personal, up-close view to the implementation of these efforts. You become a part of it and will feel empowered by it.

Linda Spiegel - Assistant Director of Public Interest Energy Research and Wildlife Biologist

Traveling to South Africa with Sue Orloff and Biologists Without Borders has been an experience of a lifetime. It was an adventure that exceeded all expectations for me. The guides, the biologists, and all those who are part of this wonderful conservation movement gave me so much insight. They shared vast knowledge of wildlife, insects, plants and African history with our group and showed us the importance of conserving the land saving the lives of all these beautiful magnificent animals. For me the highlight of the trip was being involved in the tracking, anesthetizing, examining and re-collaring a female elephant. I got the chance to feel her pulse and touch her tongue. It is something I will always treasure. Some of the other highlights were tracking a lion while she was tracking her prey and waking up to a giraffe just outside my tent door. I hope this way of life can be preserved in the years to come.

Donna Hawkins, Nurse

On my recent trip with "Biologists without Borders" we had a behind the scenes look at wildlife parks and management in amazing areas of South Africa. The trip changed my perspective and focus on the need for more help to conserve wildlife and habitat in Africa. I shared several experiences I had on the trip on the radio including monitoring the breathing of a sleeping elephant. What an experience! I can't wait to go back and am determined to stay involved in this important work.

Dale Steele, Retired Wildlife biologist

Being on safari with Biologists Without Borders is remarkably different than going on safari. Sue Orloff invites guests to immerse themselves a world where passion, science and adventure coalesce to promote conservation. Her unique background as a wildlife biologist, curious world traveler and ardent advocate of African wildlife elevates the entire experience from just going on safari to one of being a fellow traveler. BWB succeeds beyond

expectations in providing realistic experiences, comfortable accommodations, knowledgeable guides, and excellent researchers sharing their expertise.

Carol Cole, Educator

All good tours of African reserves will allow you to see elephants, lions and other wild animals. What was unique about our tour is that it allowed us to see biologists studying wild animals close-up.

Matt Fink, Retired Washington Trade Association CEO

The entire trip was fantastic with great local guides, excellent food, plenty of wildlife and good camaraderie. But I especially enjoyed our stay in Phinda whose guides took us up close to lions, leopard and cheetahs. It was a thrill of a lifetime to quietly watch these magnificent animals in their environment.

John Sterling, Wildlife Biologist, International Birding Expert

Traveling with Biologists Without Borders on our wildlife safari was my door into learning about different animal species and their behaviors, and the challenges of wildlife habitat management in Africa. Our guides were very knowledgeable folks! Riding in the sand veld in open-air jeeps and seeing all the animals up close was a life-changing experience!

Amanda Stennick, Retired

The Biologists Without Borders tour was an exceptional behind the scenes experience. We were in the field with the biologists, learned about the management of the wildlife, and the land. Superb historical and current context. We were well cared for, comfortable, and the food was excellent - including some unique tasting opportunities.

Sally M Walters, Retired Wildlife Biologist