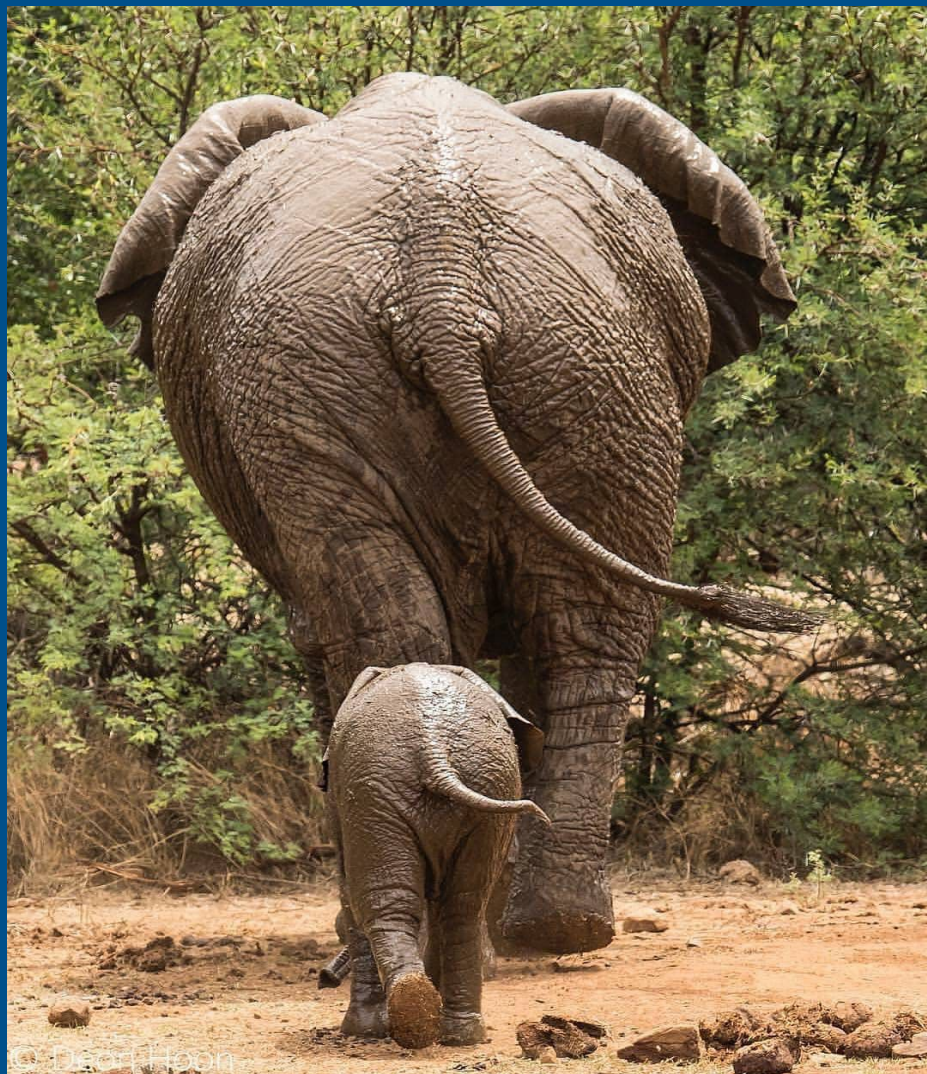




African Walking Safari Botswana

Biologists Without Borders

June 5th to June 17th, 2024 (13 Days / 12 Nights)



Introduction

Explore amazing Botswana while supporting African wildlife conservation

Botswana is the pinnacle of African Safari experiences, based on its pristine ecosystems, its scenic beauty, and abundance of wildlife. The Okavango Delta has been declared a World Heritage site and is one of the most scenically spectacular wildlife areas anywhere in the world. It's a birding paradise in the heart of the Kalahari Desert. 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 miles.

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 three of our tracking safaris and everyone has been 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 African 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 Sue Orloff – a professional wildlife biologist and director of Biologists without Borders (BWB). BWB is a charity that supports African wildlife conservation.

Okavango Tented Camp is our first stop, located along the banks of the Kwapa River in the southern part of the Okavango Delta. This is a true wilderness camp but with comfortable accommodations.

Setari Camp is our second spot - located in the northern part of the Okavango Delta and is surrounded by water. Tucked deep within the main 'artery' of the Okavango on a picture-perfect palm island, it's an ideal spot to explore and marvel at all this watery wonderland it has on offer. Here we can enjoy a more upscale experience and more wildlife sightings while being a little spoiled.

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

Join us on an unforgettable 13-Day safari experience as we celebrate the magnificent animals that make Botswana such a must visit destination to wildlife enthusiasts from across the globe.

100% of trip proceeds go towards African wildlife conservation.

Your safari at a glance

Tour Dates	June 5 – June 17, 2024 (13 Days / 12 Nights)
Tour Price	Cost per person: \$8200.00 (\$500 of which is tax deductible). Single supplement: \$600.00
Tour Size	Not more than 8 Participants plus wildlife guides and tour leaders.

Day 1, 5 th June	Arrival Day in Johannesburg and overnight – City Lodge
Day 2, 6 th June	Fly from Johannesburg to Maun, Botswana and then transfer to the Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp
Day 3, 7 th June	Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp
Day 4, 8 th June	Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp
Day 5, 9 th June	Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp
Day 6, 10 th June	Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp
Day 7, 11 th June	Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp
Day 8, 12 th June	Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp
Day 9, 13 th June	Transfer back to Maun – Cresta Maun
Day 10, 14 th June	Okavango Delta – Fly to Setari Camp
Day 11, 15 th June	Okavango Delta – Setari Camp
Day 12, 16 th June	Fly back to Maun – Cresta Maun
Day 13, 17 th June	Fly to Johannesburg

Your safari in detail

Day 1, 5th June: 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 within the airport complex.

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

Overnight City Lodge

Day 2, June 6th June: 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 where we will be joined by prize winning wildlife tracker *Massimo Rebutti*. Kwapa is the area where the African 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. The accommodation consists of dome tents with shower amenities and separate toilets.

Kwapa Camp is a Big Five-area covering several hundreds of square miles and has good numbers of elephant, lions, buffalo, giraffe, zebra, kudu, impala, waterbuck and other herbivores. 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 abundant bird life includes, wattled crane, lesser jacana, long-crested eagle, ground hornbills, saddlebill stork, green-capped eremomela, greater painted snipe, secretary birds, 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



Aerial View of Delta

Day 3-8, 7th to 12th June: Six full days walking and tracking in the Okavango Delta.

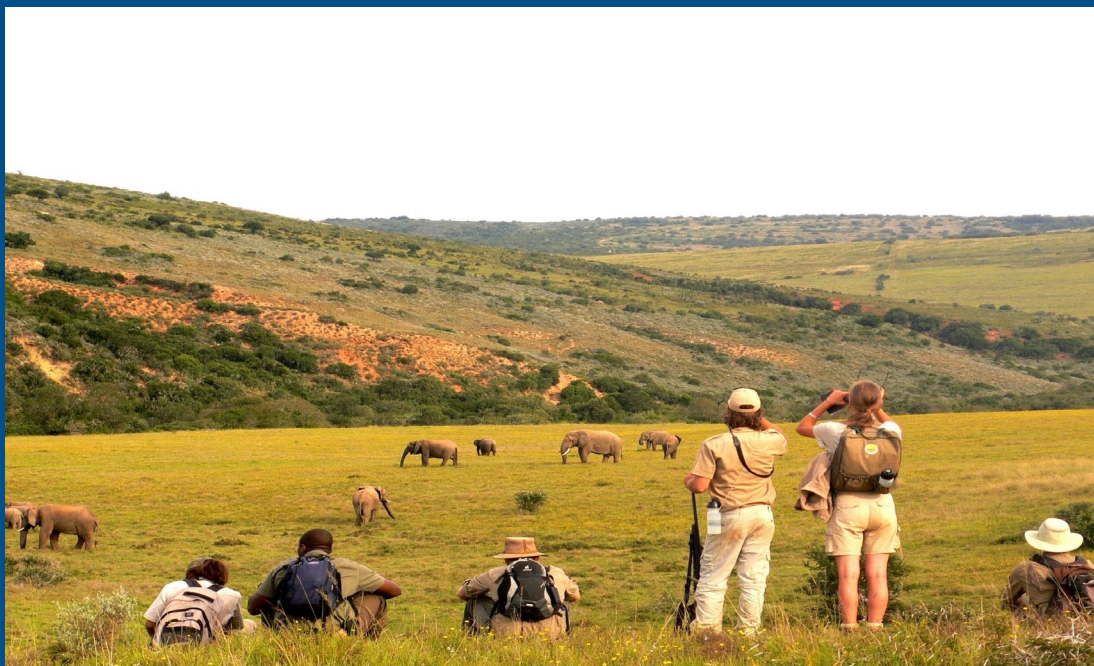
Over the next six days we will be sharpening our observation skills and learning to identify tracks and scat and interpret a variety of animal behavioral signs.

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. In 2023, we had the privilege of having a pack of wild dogs join us on our morning walk.

(<https://www.facebook.com/reel/817497556031690>)

Nights at Okavango Tented Camp







Day 9, 13th 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.

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 Cresta Riley's

Day 11, June 14th June: Setari Camp

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.

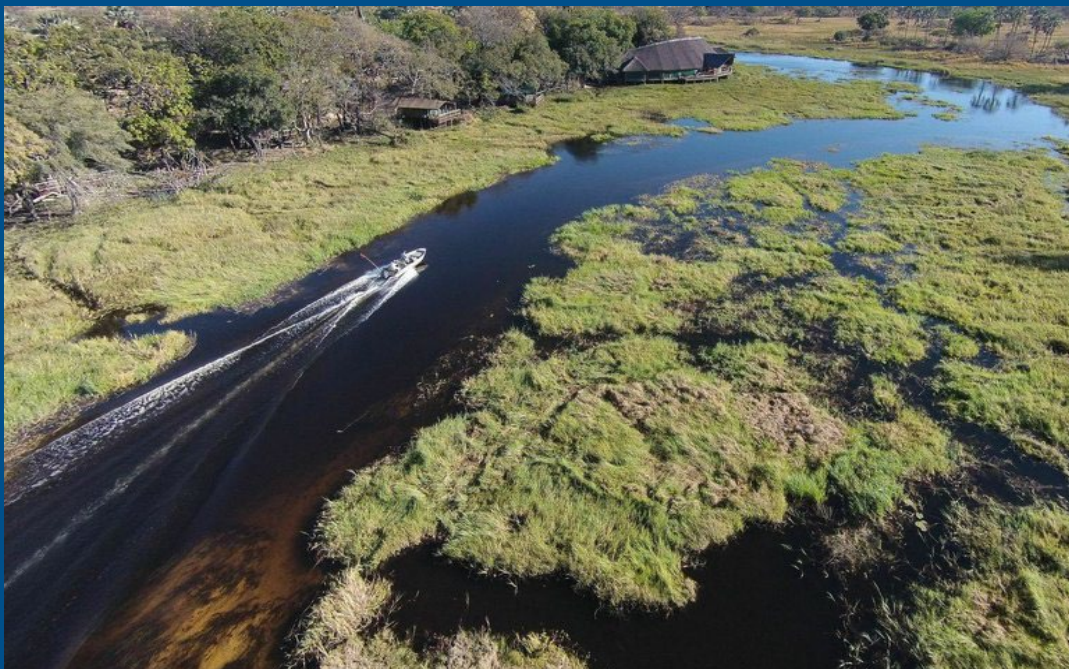
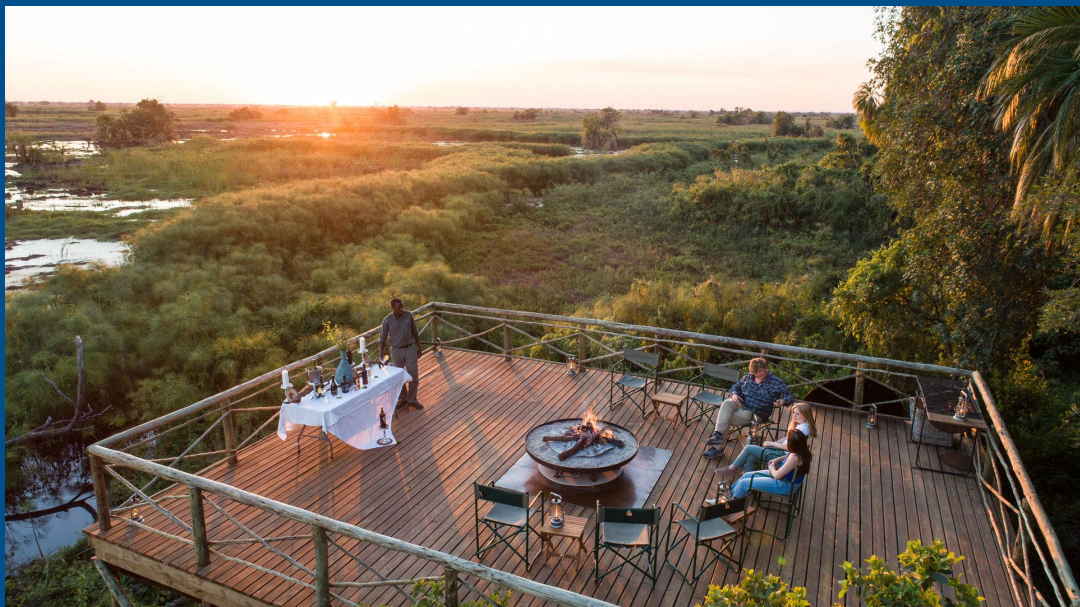
Setari Camp has been lovingly designed to integrate the giant riverine forest and palms trees which dominate the island. Winding walkways, high above the ground, interlink the tents, dining/sitting room, pool and gym, creating a massive tree-house from which to marvel at the panoramic views over the crystal-clear channels and papyrus beds beyond.

Situated within a pristine watery wilderness, exclusivity and seclusion are guaranteed. Enjoy a Delta experience, inhabited by a myriad of birdlife and wildlife unique to this exceptional ecosystem. The area is a birder's paradise, boasting a huge number of migrant birds, aquatic birds, raptors, and to top it all, the beautiful Pel's Fishing Owl.

Setari Camp tents are elegantly furnished with comfort in mind and each have extra length beds, super-sized mosquito net, desk, sofa, fan, lights and handy plug points. The bathrooms are extremely spacious and enjoy a free-standing bath, separate shower and toilet and an outside shower-with-a-view. To make the most of the views, they have added private decks which each enjoy spectacular views over the Delta.

Overnight: Setari Camp





Day 11, 15th June: Setari Camp

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

In contrast to some regions of the Okavango Delta where the waters are fast-flowing and the view from the channels is restricted by high reeds and papyrus, the channels around Setari Camp 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 Setari Camp

Day 12, 16th June: Fly back to Maun

Following breakfast we will leave Setari and fly back to Maun for an overnight stay.

Overnight Cresta Riley's

Day 13, 17th June: Fly to Johannesburg

We depart Maun and fly 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 13-day Tracking Safari is:

- \$8200.00 (\$600 of which is tax deductible).
- If you would like a single room at Okavango Camp, Setari Camp and in Maun there will be a single supplement of \$600.

THE TOUR FEE INCLUDES:

- All accommodation as mentioned in the itinerary;
- All meals from Dinner on Day 1 to Breakfast on Day 13;
- Internal flight from Johannesburg to Maun;
- All activities as mentioned in the itinerary;
- Bottled water, beer and wine;
- Tea and coffee;
- 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;
- Telephone calls, curio purchases and items of a personal nature; and
- Any item which is not included in the inclusive list above.

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.

Other Arrangements

PASSPORT & VISAS:

- All visitors to South Africa and Botswana 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 and Maun 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.

COVID CONSIDERATIONS

At the moment, you do not need to have proof of vaccinations upon entry to both South Africa and Botswana. The USA does not require a negative Covid test to get back into the country. These requirements may change depending on conditions but we are taking a conservative approach and allowing time for tests.

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 Botswana Tour

A visit to the Okavango Delta has always been a bucket-list trip of mine and experiencing it with Biologists without Borders and our guide, Massimo Rebuzzi of the African Bush Company, far exceeded any expectations I could have ever imagined. It was truly magical! We were able to experience both the dry conditions of the southern delta and the wetter habitats along the river in the north, with radically different wildlife experiences in each. Learning basic, large-animal tracking techniques with Massi was truly fascinating and watching life unfold at the waterholes was awe inspiring. I would recommend this trip to anyone who wants to fully immerse in a unique wildlife experience. Thanks Sue and BwB!!!!

Bruce Barnett, Ph.D, Barnett Environmental

As a retired wildlife biologist I was tempted by this adventure; although I had already experienced a safari in Kenya and Tanzania, I decided to experience Botswana. I was wonderfully surprised by this exceptional trip which far exceeded my safari in Kenya and Tanzania. Sue Orloff's program was well organized and went off without a hitch, and I greatly valued the small size of our group. We explored both the southern (dry) delta and the northern (flooded) delta. In the southern portion we lodged in a camp used for the training of young field guides and as a base for safaris. We had an outstanding field guide, Massimo Rebuzzi, known throughout southern Africa for his knowledge of wildlife biology and ecology as well as track

identification and interpretation. Exploring for wildlife on foot and by jeep was exhilarating and what we experienced was magical. The second half of the trip, in the upper delta, was within a flooded landscape which required exploring by boat which offered a different and unique experience. Lodging facilities were excellent, staff were always friendly and helpful ensuring that our trip was most memorable. I highly recommend Biologists Without Borders to anyone with an adventuresome spirit and interested in a deeply immersive experience - - you will have the trip of a lifetime.

Carl Benz, retired wildlife biologist

What an extraordinary experience this is! Typical safaris in Africa mean chasing game in vehicles with lots of other tourists around, staying in fancy camps and isolated from the actual reality of Africa. This walking safari, however, is very different, putting you on the ground traversing the woodlands and savanna of the Okavango Delta with one of the most knowledgeable and experienced guides in Africa. Except for a few camp employees, and your travel mates, you won't see another soul. Imagine being in a landscape that is exactly as it wants to be, unsullied by the hand of man. Imagine being among the flora (everywhere is the scent of sage) and fauna of the delta living exactly as they were meant to live. Prepare to see hundreds of elephants and scores of other animals: lions, leopards, Cape buffalo, giraffes and antelope of all kinds. But don't worry. You'll be in the safe hands of "Massi," your guide, who will introduce you to the many wonders of the Okavango. His knowledge of each plant, bird and animal is extraordinary; his kindness and patience is amazing. If you want an immersive and thrilling adventure in Africa (and who doesn't?), Biologists without Borders' Walking Safari is unrivaled. Do yourself a favor, go!

Brent Evans, retired international sales