



African Walking Safari Botswana

Biologists Without Borders

May 31st to June 12th, 2023 (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, it's scenic beauty, and abundant 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 Rebutti. Massimo was our guide on our first two tracking safaris 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 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 myself – Sue Orloff – a professional wildlife biologist and president of Biologists without Borders.

Okavango Tented Camp is our first stop, 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.

Setari Camp is our second spot and is located in the northern part of the Okavango Delta and 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 for a couple of nights and more wildlife sightings while being a little spoiled.

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.

Join us on an unforgettable 13-Day safari experience as we celebrate the magnificent animals that makes 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

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| Tour Dates | May 31 – June 12, 2023 (13 Days / 12 Nights) |
| Tour Price | Cost per person: \$7900.00 (\$500 of which is tax deductible). Single supplement: \$800.00 |
| Tour Size | Not more than 8 Participants plus wildlife guides and tour leaders. |

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| Day 1, 31 st May | Arrival Day in Johannesburg and overnight – City Lodge |
| Day 2, 1 st June | Fly from Johannesburg to Maun, Botswana and then transfer to the Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp |
| Day 3, 2 nd June | Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp |
| Day 4, 3 rd June | Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp |
| Day 5, 4 th June | Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp |
| Day 6, 5 th June | Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp |
| Day 7, 6 th June | Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp |
| Day 8, 7 th June | Okavango Delta – Okavango Tented Camp |
| Day 9, 8 th June | Transfer back to Maun – Cresta Maun |
| Day 10, 9 th June | Okavango Delta – Fly to Setari Camp |
| Day 11, 10 th June | Okavango Delta – Setari Camp |
| Day 12, 11 th June | Fly back to Maun – Cresta Maun |
| Day 13, 12 th June | Fly to Johannesburg |

Your safari in detail

Day 1, 31st 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, 1st 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 (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 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, lions, 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





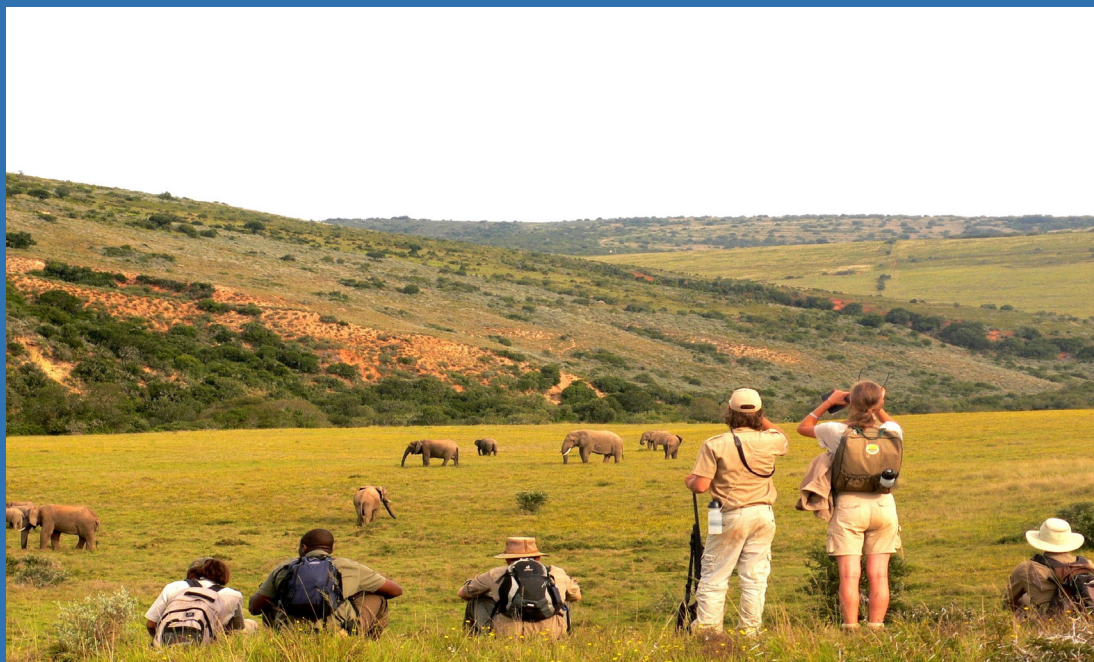
Day 3-8, 2nd to 8th June: Six full days walking and tracking in the Okavango Delta.

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-aiored 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.

Nights at Okavango Tented Camp







Day 10, 6th 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 10, 9th 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.

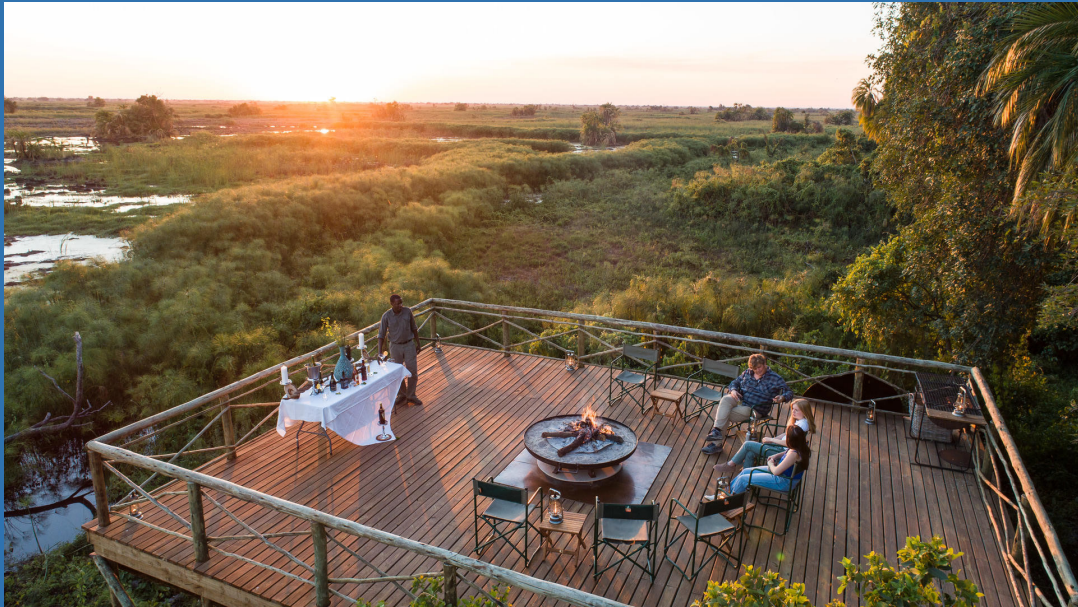
Setari Camp has been lovingly designed to integrate the giant riverine forest and palms trees which dominate the island. Winding walkways, high above the ground, interlink the tents, dining/sitting room, pool and gym, creating a massive tree-house from which to marvel at the panoramic views over the 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, we have added private decks which each enjoy spectacular views over the Delta.

Overnight: Setari Camp





Day 11, 10th 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, 11th June: Fly back to Maun

Following breakfast and we will leave Moremi and fly back to Maun where we will get our Covid tests for our entry back to the US.

Overnight Cresta Riley's

Day 13, 12th 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:

- \$7900.00 (\$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 Setari Camp and in Maun there will be a single supplement of \$800.

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 and liquor (at Setari Camp).
- 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;
- Cost of Covid testing;
- 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 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.

COVID CONSIDERATIONS

At the moment, you do need to have proof of vaccinations upon entry to both South Africa and Botswana but testing is not required. The USA does 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.

Biologists without Borders

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Comments on First Tour

Africa wasn't even on my bucket list! But 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.

Anne Dorsey, Asian Art Expert

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 is dedicated to funding studies and purchasing critical conservation lands. 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 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 and ardent advocate of African wildlife elevates the experience from just going on safari to one of being a fellow traveler. BWB succeeds beyond expectations in providing realistic experiences, knowledgeable guides, and excellent researchers sharing their expertise.

Carol Cole, Educator

To be able to explore such an extraordinarily rich wildlife area through a thoughtfully planned program and an expert guide is to have the opportunity for profound experience. I appreciated the effort to leave as little footprint as possible. It was clear effort was made to enhance our comfort (hot water for bathing, warm blankets, and great food) while keeping us safe and close to the natural environment of the area. I will never forget the thrill of being so close to so many wild creatures living in a free habitat.

Janet Kasameyer, Retired Social Worker

The walking safari was fantastic. Walking with Massi and deciphering tracks gave us a glimpse into the lives of the animals, like doing a homestay in a foreign country. I really appreciated the respect Massi and the other guides had for the animals and the landscape. Walking also provided some exercise, sorely needed because the food was great. The night sky alone was worth the trip. The accommodations were comfortable. Africa never disappoints.

Jean Apapoff, Resource Economist

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