

Private 'Migration Routes' Camping Safari South Africa, Zambia and Botswana July 2013

Please consult your international air itineraries for flight details which are subject to change.

Your itinerary includes detailed descriptions and information pertinent to your tour and safari.
Guide, bird and wildlife books and maps may be consulted to enhance your experience.

*The lodge, hotel and camp descriptions are those of the owners.
Next Adventure cannot verify the accuracy of the descriptions or images used.*

Important Notes Regarding Passports & Visas for US Passport holders:

Visas for South Africa and Botswana are both easily obtained on arrival at no cost. A single-entry visa for Zambia may be obtained on arrival for US \$50 per person (subject to change, payable in cash only). *Important:* Please be sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months after your travel dates. Also, you will need *at least 4-6 blank pages* in your passport for visas and entry & exit stamps.

Luggage Restrictions: 44 lbs per person

As you will be travelling in small aircraft with limited luggage capacity while travelling in Botswana, your luggage is required to be packed in a *soft bag* (no hard or wheeled suitcases allowed) weighing a maximum of **44 lbs** including all carry-on items and camera equipment as well.

BOTSWANA

With an area of almost 600 000 square kilometres, Botswana is virtually the same size as France or Texas. Situated in the centre of southern Africa, it is a landlocked country, with Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe as its immediate neighbours. Botswana lies an average of 950 metres above sea level and is more than 600 kilometres from the nearest coast. The Tropic of Capricorn bisects Botswana.

The most striking features of the country are its flatness and aridity. With the exception of the eastern part of Botswana where the great majority of Botswana live and where the summer rainfall is slightly higher, three-quarters of Botswana is technically a desert. This is what makes the Okavango Delta even more remarkable. It is a wonderful wetland within a desert, getting its waters from rain falling in central Africa, 1000km away.

Photo by Mike Myers



Botswana is one of Africa's success stories. Prior to independence in 1966, it was one of the world's poorest countries. When we started to work in Botswana in the 1970s, very few people who lived outside Botswana had even heard of the Okavango. It was undiscovered, only visited by a few hardy adventurers. But South Africa's first democratic elections began a change in the area. Within Botswana, there were big changes, too. Diamonds were discovered in the Kalahari shortly after independence and this kick-started the economy. Sir Seretse Khama was the country's first post-

independence president. He was a wonderful leader and one of the most pragmatic and far-thinking presidents any country could ever hope for. Seretse laid the foundations that Botswana needed to propel itself forward, without compromising democracy; the result is a booming economy in a stable country. On the wildlife front, Seretse's son, Ian, is one of the country's unsung conservation heroes. When he became head of the military, he positioned his troops to secure Botswana's borders from poachers. The game concentrations within the country multiplied overnight. Many people owe their jobs and careers to his actions.

The country abandoned mass tourism and focused on high quality / low volume tourism as the best way to create a sustainable industry that would employ a large percentage of its people, while still preserving the environment. Today wildlife and tourism employs about 45% of all the people who live in northern Botswana.

Ecology & Wildlife

Situated in the centre of southern Africa and more than 600 kilometres from the nearest ocean, Botswana is surrounded with Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe as its immediate neighbours. With the exception of the eastern part of Botswana, where the great majority of the Botswana people live and where the summer rainfall is slightly higher, the majority of Botswana is desert.

Each year floodwater flows into the Okavango from its source in the moist central African highlands over a thousand kilometres away. These floodwaters flow from their catchments southwards and into the Kalahari Desert to create a unique wetland that supports and sustains a huge diversity of wildlife. Apart from year round excellent game viewing, the beauty of this water wonderland is awe inspiring. To the north-east of the Okavango Delta are the Chobe and Linyanti Game Reserves. The many varied habitats within the Chobe and Linyanti parks - such as marshes, waterways, riverine forests, dry woodlands and the world-famous Savute Channel - have created an area renowned for its predators and large concentrations of game, particularly elephant. The grasslands of the Kalahari together with the lunar expanse of the Makgadikgadi salt pans complement and are in total contrast to the verdant, game-rich Okavango and Linyanti regions.

Photos by Kili McGowan

While the emphasis of a Botswana safari is often on large mammals - and there are plenty of these - there are many other specialised creatures to be seen and enjoyed. As many as 580 bird species have been recorded in Botswana with 75 larger mammal species known to occur and more than 80 fish species identified in the Okavango. But overall it is often the sense of wilderness and pristine functioning ecosystems that has the most significant impact on visitors. Nearly 40% of the country has been set aside as private reserves and national parks!



The importance of visitors and tourism to the sustainability of these areas cannot be overstated. Approximately 60% of all the people who live in northern Botswana are employed in some aspect of the wildlife and tourism industry, an industry which is now the second largest contributor to the GDP of the country. The presence of camps such as our own and the protection afforded by the concessions in which we operate, has had a spectacular impact on the sustainable conservation of all the animals and plants that live here. A case in point: white and black rhino, poached to extinction in Botswana some time ago have, thanks to a joint project between the Botswana government and Wilderness Safaris, been returned to their integral place in the hierarchy of wild Botswana.



July 17, 2013

Arrive in Johannesburg, South Africa

In accordance with your international air itineraries, arrive in Johannesburg at 17:40 this evening on South African Airways 208 from Washington DC. Clear immigration and customs, and exit to the International Arrivals area. Here, you are met by a representative of Wilderness Safaris holding a sign with your names on it. You are assisted with connecting to the shuttle bus that takes you to the **Southern Sun Hotel**. Check in for your overnight stay in three standard rooms on an accommodation and breakfast basis. Dinner, if desired, is on your own this evening.

Southern Sun O.R. Tambo Hotel

This hotel has a superb location, and is a mere 500 meters from South Africa's busiest airport, making it an ideal choice for business and leisure travellers. It is a landmark hotel in the area and as a Southern Sun hotel, has garnered an excellent reputation over the years, making it a firm favourite amongst local businesses. While this may be a bustling area, the hotel offers a relaxed setting but with all the modern technology business travellers require.

The 366 guest rooms are spacious and offer a haven of comfort for travellers. The popular Bernoulli's Restaurant is renowned for its good food and diners have a choice of a delicious buffet and a la carte menu, while the attractive wine bar with its 24-hour buzz is the perfect setting for a pre-dinner drink. Business travellers can also enjoy the convenience of the International Business Centre with its state-of-the-art services and equipment, which sets Southern Sun OR Tambo apart.



Complimentary Airport Shuttle

We operate a free shuttle service to and from the Airport. This service is available 24/7 and the shuttle runs every 15 minutes. The pick-up point is situated behind the InterContinental Hotel at the bus / shuttle terminal. From the International / Domestic Arrivals terminals in the Airport, simply follow the "Public Transport" signage which will take you past the Car Hire section and onto the shuttle terminal.

July 18

Livingstone, Zambia

After breakfast and check-out, take the courtesy shuttle back to the airport for your flight to Livingstone, Zambia (SA 48 departs 10:40, arrives 12:30). On arrival, obtain an entry visa for US \$50 per person (not included and payable in cash only). Collect your luggage and clear customs. In the arrivals area, you are met by a representative of Wilderness Safaris and transferred to the **Zambezi Sun Hotel** where your overnight stay in three standard rooms includes breakfast and entrance into the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park with its spectacular views of Victoria Falls. Lunch and dinner are on your own.

Zambezi Sun Hotel

The Zambezi Sun Hotel offers distinguished yet affordable accommodation in warm elegant surroundings. The decor evokes an era of early adventure and the quest for discovery in Africa. The Zambezi Sun is ideally situated being the closest to the mighty Victoria Falls as well as the town centre. The Victoria Falls National Park borders the front of the property and wild animals often graze on the hotel lawns, with the spray of the falls in the background.

The Zambezi Sun brings you excellent service at excellent value on the doorstep of a world of adventure. This 3-star Victoria Falls hotel has a choice of 212 en-suite rooms where you can relax in a cool, uncomplicated setting. Each room has a view of either the lush African bush or the large landscaped swimming pool that lies at the heart of the hotel. And the rich, earthy colour of the rooms is a constant reminder that you're in the vibrant heart of Africa. The Zambezi Sun Hotel has a variety of dining facilities available which includes a buffet restaurant, steakhouse, poolside grill and bar as well as an open-air cafe. The

Activity Centre is also packed with information on everything from jet boat rides to abseiling, bridge swings, microlight flights, river cruises, elephant safaris, helicopter flips, and so much more. One of the popular attractions at the Zambezi Sun is the nature walk, offering a choice of three trails throughout the entire Falls Resort. And as a guest of the hotel you also have free and unlimited access to the falls.



July 19

Livingstone, Zambia

After breakfast and check-out, your naturalist guide, Francis Kudumo meets you to begin our private “**Migration Routes Safari**”! Together, you can decide on a schedule for your activities and perhaps make your way directly to drop your bags at **The River Club** where your overnight stay is fully inclusive of all meals and local drinks (alcoholic and soft) as well as one activity.

The River Club

Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, Livingstone, Zambia

Set in manicured lawns overlooking the mighty Zambezi, The River Club depicts the grand old European lifestyle of croquet and high tea. Ten luxury chalets are spread out amongst the lush vegetation and from your bed and bathtub you will have uninterrupted views of the shining Zambezi and stunning African sunsets. What’s more, a dip in our swimming pool could give you an impression of floating in the river itself while a secluded deck with hammocks and loungers provides respite. Meals and drinks are served in the lounge, dining room, library and veranda. Or, choose to dine in the privacy of the gardens or the Summer House.



- Giving back to the community, The River Club has carried out a range of projects since 2000 in a nearby village funded by the generous donations of guests.
- Victoria Falls sets the scene for the broad, picturesque course of the Zambezi River upstream, the rainforest adjacent and the stark jagged gorge downstream.
- From tours of Victoria Fall, sundowner cruises and tiger fishing to cultural visits and game drives – just a taste of what is on offer – you will keep yourself thoroughly entertained.
- Hippo, crocodile and elephant are seen often. Further wildlife can be viewed at Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park with a chance of seeing white rhino, buffalo, zebra and wildebeest.



Flora & Fauna At 1708 metres (5604 ft.) wide, Victoria Falls is the most expansive curtain of water in the world and drops more than 100 metres (338 ft.) into the sheer Zambezi Gorge. Located in the south-west corner of Zambia, these Falls and the Zambezi River are the central points in an area of spectacular scenic beauty: from the Falls themselves to the broad, picturesque course of the Zambezi River upstream, the rainforest adjacent and the stark jagged gorge downstream, the power and timelessness of nature's forces are evident throughout.

The Tonga and Makalolo peoples lived here for centuries before the Falls were 'discovered' by David Livingstone in 1855. He gave it the highest honour he could think of: naming it after his Queen. Its local name, Mosi-Oa-Tunya - "the Smoke that Thunders" - more accurately defines the essence of the place: the rising, shining spray that can be seen 30km away. This vapour has the effect of adding moisture in the form of humidity to the air in the "splash zone", so that a unique, small rainforest ecosystem clings to the edge of the Falls, providing a toehold for no less than 70 shrub and 150 herbaceous species, as well as trees such as pod and Natal mahogany, ebony, Cape and strangler fig and Transvaal red milkwood. Further away from the constant spray, the surrounding area comprises mopane and teak woodlands with luxuriant riverine forest along the banks of the Zambezi River. The presence of several protected areas in the vicinity, from the Zambezi National Park in Zimbabwe to the Mosi-oa-Tunya Zoological Park in Zambia, means that herds of big game such as elephant and buffalo, as well as smaller species and even predators such as lion persist in the area.



As mesmerising as the Falls are, the paths through the rainforest at their edge allow one to catch a glimpse of some of the mammals that live here: bushbuck stare shyly from behind a bush, banded mongoose scurry through the undergrowth, and vervet monkey and baboon flit through the trees; wailing Trumpeter Hornbills sail past in their characteristically undulating flight and the crimson-blazoned wings of the Schalow's Turaco can be seen by patient birders. Interestingly, there is a distinct difference in the fish species above and below the Falls, which clearly form a comprehensive barrier to fish movements upstream: 39 species are recorded from below and 84 above the Falls. Nile crocodile and hippo are common above the Falls. Vic Falls, as it is affectionately known, straddles the border between

Zimbabwe and Zambia, and both countries share its World Heritage Site status.

PRIVATE MIGRATION ROUTES SAFARI

An Adventurer Exploration - 9 nights / 10 days from Livingstone to Maun, with The River Club

Your route: To partake in a Migration Route is to experience a nostalgic camping safari through private nature areas off the beaten path that recreates a sense of wildlife viewing adventure reminiscent of the times of the early African explorers. This exciting route takes the time to explore the changing areas, stunning beauty and continually moving game of northern Botswana: from walking on islands in the jewel of the Kalahari, the Okavango Delta, to the diverse, wildlife-filled Linyanti concession, with its seasonal elephant herds. The camps are located in a range of different habitats to maximise the best possible game viewing through all times of the year. Accommodation varies with a combination of serviced camping in private concession areas and a Wilderness Safaris camp in Zambia.

Your guide: Explorations are led by highly skilled and qualified professional guides with an incredible passion for the natural regions they work in. Sharing the adventure and guiding you on this journey of discovery combined with their vast knowledge of the natural world, history and culture are their professions and personal hobby. Many of our guides are also skilled photographers

and can assist you in taking away amazing wildlife photographs. Your guide will host you for the duration of safari, providing you with a consistent, detailed interpretation that is shaped to your specific interests. *Note: You will find a bio of your guide, Francis Kudumo, in your dossier.*

- The journey is specifically tailored for you to enjoy varied species of the Okavango Delta (both permanently and seasonally flooded), Linyanti savannah and Chobe, in areas mainly exclusive to Wilderness Safaris guests.
- Activities include day and night game drives, walking and mokoro.
- Air transfers showcase the vast wilderness and denizens of Botswana and enhance the beauty and magnitude of your journey.

Note: All Exploration photographs provided by Wilderness Safaris.

July 20, 21 & 22	Linyanti Adventurer Camp, Linyanti Concession, Botswana
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After a full breakfast and checking out of **The River Club**, we travel by road to Chobe National Park in Botswana. We enter Botswana at the Kazungula border, a point where the four countries of Botswana, Zambia, Namibia and Zimbabwe meet, and then we enjoy a cruise on the Chobe River.

This area is famous for its vast herds of elephants in the dry season and other unique species such as the elusive puku and Chobe bushbuck that move to the river in the hottest hours of the day. Enjoy a leisurely shaded boat cruise along the Chobe River, with a light lunch, offering a unique opportunity to observe puku, enormous herds of elephant, numerous pods of hippo and large crocodiles as well as other general game and diverse birdlife.

After the cruise, we depart by light aircraft transfer for the Linyanti region, arriving at our camp in the late afternoon. The varied habitats in this area are ideal for a high diversity of wildlife and bird species. The landscape of the Linyanti varies from floodplains to open dry land savannah and forest with sweeping views, creating a paradise for a high diversity of wildlife and bird species. Activities include game drives in the private northern sector of the concession, exploring a range of habitats, from riverbanks to scrub and forest, which reveal a myriad wildlife en route to slake their thirst from the river. Full-day excursions with lunch at a scenic setting are a possibility. The seldom-seen sitatunga may also be spotted in the waterways, as well as rare roan and sable antelope, plains game and of course, their predators, the lion and leopard – with the endangered wild dog as an incredible bonus.



Linyanti Adventurer Camp, Linyanti Concession

The pre-erected Linyanti Adventurer Camp is situated in the Linyanti Concession bordering the Chobe National Park. The Linyanti region's life-giving perennial waters attract herds of wildlife that walk well-worn game paths to slake their thirst in the dry season. Predators follow in their footsteps and, coupled with the area's diversity of habitat, make for exciting game viewing.

Your home will be in 4m x4m (13ft x 13ft) Meru-style tents, complete with hanging room and clothes storage, a hammock and an extended shade area at the entrance with comfortable safari chairs in which to relax and reminisce over the day's adventures. Inside are wooden-frame beds covered in pure cotton linen

(with duvets) and bedside tables with lamps. The en-suite bathroom comprises a serviced tin bucket shower – with hot water available whenever guests require it – and a short-drop toilet. The entrance to the en-suite, canvas-wrap open-air bathroom is via a zip door through the rear of tent. A separate toilet is discreetly placed near the main area for use during the day. Evening campfires are the norm and hurricane lanterns add to that iconic Explorations atmosphere

- This part of the Linyanti is famed for its myriad of changing landscapes, from riverine to savannah and forest to plains.
- Activities include game drives exploring a range of habitats, from riverbanks to scrub and forest. Full-day excursions with a picnic lunch at a remote scenic setting are also a possibility.



July 23, 24 & 25	Khwai Adventurer Camp, Okavango Delta, Botswana
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Transfer by light aircraft from the Linyanti to the Khwai Concession and discover the varying habitats and wildlife of this area. Our accommodation here is in our serviced mobile camp.

Khwai Adventurer Camp is located in a private concession just north of the Khwai River above the Moremi Game Reserve. The Khwai Concession is one of the most diverse areas in northern Botswana which seldom disappoints when it comes to producing extraordinary wildlife experiences. The life source for this area is the Khwai River – the northernmost “finger” of the Okavango Delta alluvial fan, which provides vital sustenance to numerous animals.

Over time, the Khwai area has metamorphosed into a wide range of exciting wildlife habitats – some of the most varied to be found in the entire Okavango Delta: a blend of forests, floodplain, wetland and grasslands. The narrow Khwai Channel is home to large mammals such as hippo and crocodile with buffalo and red lechwe often seen grazing along the fringe. The beautiful gallery riverine woodland found along the river provides further sanctuary to birds, primates and leopard. Elusive roan antelope often come to the river to drink. Activities focus around day and night game drives, nature walks and seasonal mokoro excursions.

Away from the river there is a wonderful mix of acacia and leadwood trees of varying sizes that abuts into mopane woodland. The latter, together with the permanent presence of water, attracts large numbers of elephant to the area. Larger predators include lion, wild dog and spotted hyaena, while birdlife found here is just as varied thanks to the colourful palette of habitats.

Khwai Adventurer Camp – Khwai Concession

Khwai Adventurer Camp is located in a private concession just north of the Khwai River above the Moremi Game Reserve. The Khwai Concession is one of the most diverse areas in northern Botswana which seldom disappoints when it comes to producing fascinating wildlife experiences.

Your home will be in 4m x4m (13ft x 13ft) Meru-style tents, complete with hanging room and clothes storage, a hammock and an extended shade area at the entrance with comfortable safari chairs in which to relax and reminisce over the day's adventures. Inside are wooden-frame beds covered in pure cotton linen (with duvets) and bedside tables with lamps. The en-suite bathroom comprises a serviced tin bucket shower – with hot water available whenever guests require it – and a short-drop toilet. The entrance to the en-suite, canvas-wrap open-air bathroom is via a zip door through the rear of tent. A separate toilet is discreetly placed near the main area for use during the day. Evening campfires are the norm and hurricane lanterns add to that iconic Explorations atmosphere

- Activities focus around day and night game drives, nature walks and seasonal canoe excursions.
- The permanent presence of water – in the form of channels diverting off the larger Khwai River – attracts large mammals such as elephant, buffalo, red lechwe and elusive roan antelope. Predators include lion, wild dog and spotted hyaena.
- Thanks to its diversity, the area is a bird-lover's paradise including Verreaux's Eagle-owl, Senegal Coucal, Long-toed Lapwing and Arnot's Chat.



July 27 & 28

Xigera Mokoro Trails Camp, Okavango Delta, Botswana

After breakfast we fly by light aircraft over the Okavango Delta to the water-filled paradise of the remote Xigera Concession, within the Moremi Game Reserve, where we explore the Okavango Delta by mokoro and camp on a remote island.



Xigera is the ultimate Okavango Delta experience, with serene waters flowing through innumerable channels around remote islands and a profusion of plant and animal birdlife. There is no better way to experience the Okavango than to travel through it by mokoro, walking and camping out on a vegetated island – all essential elements of the Xigera Mokoro Trails. The experience is aimed at highlighting the permanently flooded inner Delta, in the serene waterways and on the islands of trees and bush.

Activities include mokoro and walking safaris on remote islands, which enable up-close encounters with an excellent diversity of birdlife (including Pel's Fishing-Owl), frogs and some game species, some specially adapted to water, such as the familiar red lechwe. Walking activities vary in length and duration depending on the season, especially in the months when the Okavango is at peak flood (June, July and August) where walks become shorter as more islands are flooded.

Xigera Mokoro Trails – Xigera Concession, Moremi Game Reserve

There is no better way to experience the Okavango than to travel through it in mokoro by day, and camp out on a vegetated island at night – all essential elements of Xigera Mokoro Trails Camp. The experience is aimed at exposing the permanently flooded inner Delta via its serene waterways and islands of trees and bush.



Your accommodation will be in 3 metre x 3 metre (9.84 feet x 9.84 feet) dome tents, complete with mini-verandas looking out across the waters. Pure cotton linen (with duvets) on GI stretchers, a bedside table with solar light, and mini luggage benches complete the interior. The bathrooms are en-suite, canvas-wraparound and open-air, with the entrance via a zip door at the rear of tent. In addition to the eco-toilet, your bathroom sports an old-style tin bucket shower – with hot water available whenever you should require it. There is a separate toilet near the main area available for use during the day. In the main area, evening campfires and meals made over an open fire are the norm, while hurricane lanterns add to the evocative atmosphere.

- Xigera is the ultimate Okavango Delta experience, with serene waters flowing through innumerable channels around remote islands and a profusion of plant, animal and bird life.
- Activities focus on gliding by mokoro around the remote islands.
- Excellent diversity of birdlife (including Pel's Fishing-Owl), frogs and game, some specially adapted to water, such as the red lechwe, are the order of the day.

July 29	Departure
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After breakfast, we take a final light aircraft transfer to Maun. Say farewell to your guide, Francis, and board your flight back to Johannesburg in accordance with your international air itinerary. There connect with your flight back the US, departing with many wonderful memories and eager for your *Next Adventure!*



Kili & Louise McGowan
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We take safaris personally!

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