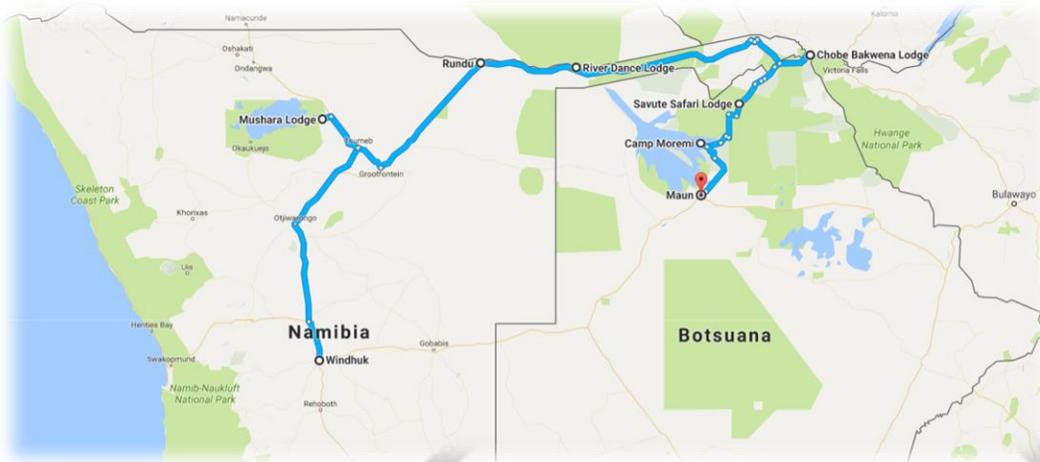




Namibia und Botswana – The King Fisher



The focus of this spectacular trip lies on the northern parts of Namibia as well as the adventures Okavango Delta in Botswana. Thus you will have many great animal encounters on this tour.

Day 1: Airport - Windhoek

Arrive in Windhoek. Spend the day at leisure. Windhoek is the capital and largest city of the Republic of Namibia. It is located in central Namibia in the Khomas Highland plateau area, at around 1 700 metres above sea level. The population of Windhoek in 2011 was 322 500 and grows continually due to an influx from all over Namibia. The town developed at the site of a permanent spring known to the indigenous pastoral communities. It developed rapidly after Jonker Afrikaner, Captain of the Orlam, settled here in 1840 and built a stone church for his community. However, in the decades thereafter multiple wars and hostilities led to the neglect and destruction of the new settlement such that Windhoek was founded a second time in 1890 by Imperial German army Major Curt von François. Windhoek is the social, economic, and cultural centre of the country. Nearly every Namibian national enterprise, governmental body, educational and cultural institution is headquartered here.

Notable landmarks are: Parliament Gardens, Christ Church (lutheran church opened in 1910, built in the gothic revival style with Art Nouveau elements.), Tintenpalast (Ink Palace -within Parliament Gardens, the seat of both chambers of the Parliament of Namibia. Built between 1912 and 1913 and situated just north of Robert Mugabe Avenue), Alte Feste (built in 1890 and houses the National Museum), Reiterdenkmal (Equestrian Monument - a statue celebrating the victory of the German Empire over the Herero and Nama in the Herero and Namaqua War of 1904–1907), Supreme Court of Namibia Built between 1994 and 1996 it is Windhoek's only building erected post-independence in an African style of architecture.

Overnight at the Olive Grove Guesthouse

Accommodation:	Olive Grove Guesthouse
Room type:	Luxury
Meals included:	Breakfast
Description:	Olive Grove is a small upmarket accommodation establishment situated close to Windhoek city centre in a quiet, peaceful area. Big Sky's first

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property in Windhoek and bordering The Olive Exclusive, the guesthouse takes homely atmosphere to a different level. Recently completely refurbished, each room has been decorated and painted with new colour schemes allowing a different feel, but with the same elegant and simplistic emphasis on décor. The newly renovated, open-plan kitchen allows guests to see how meals are prepared, while they enjoy a drink in the lounge. The menu was also reinvented and is now fully a la carte, quite unique for a guesthouse. Home-style food is rounded off with great presentation, pushing up the level of the guesthouse dining experience. The upper deck has been revamped into a private dining corner, with two Moroccan-style sections, for guests to get comfy on the large pillows and enjoy the ambience and view from the top. The on-site Wellness Room offers a selection of professional services, to assist guests on their journey towards inner and outer well-being. Whilst each of the ten rooms and one suite cater for every need of the most discerning traveller, the emphasis remains one of simplicity and elegance.

Other:

Swimming pool, restaurant, WiFi, laundry service, air-condition, safe, TV, VISA and MASTER



Day 2: Windhoek – Mushara Outpost

You will depart for the Etosha National Park after breakfast and drive via Okahandja, Otjiwarongo, Otavi and Tsumeb, a mining town, to the eastern part of the Etosha National Park.

Tsumeb is the largest town in Oshikoto region in northern Namibia. Tsumeb is the "gateway to the north" of Namibia. It is the closest town to the Etosha National Park. Tsumeb used to be the regional capital of Oshikoto until 2008 when Omuthiya was proclaimed a town and the new capital. The town is the site of a deep mine (the lower workings now closed), that in its heyday was known simply as "The Tsumeb Mine" but has since been renamed the Ongopolo mine. The name Tsumeb is generally pronounced "SOO-meb". The name is not a derivative of German, Afrikaans, or English. It has been suggested that it comes from Nama and means either "Place of the moss" or "Place of the frog". Perhaps this old name had something to do with the huge natural hill of green, oxidized copper ore that existed there before it was mined out. The town was founded in 1905 by the German colonial power and celebrated its 100th year of existence in 2005. On your first game drive, you will get to know some of the abundant wildlife Namibia has to offer. Overnight at the Mushara Outpost

Accommodation:

Mushara Outpost Lodge

Room type:

Safari tents

Meals included:

Breakfast / Dinner

Description:

Mushara Outpost is part of the Mushara Collection –

exquisite accommodation establishments, situated just 10 km from the Von Lindequist Gate of world-famous Etosha National Park. Mushara Outpost accommodates 16 guests in custom-made tent-like wood and canvas structures which are nestled on the banks of an ancient dry riverbed, known as "omuramba" in the Herero language. Mushara Outpost is all about old-fashioned hospitality with warm, friendly and personalized service on the doorstep to the wonders of Etosha National Park. The lodge's main house is styled like an old farm house with high walls, corrugated iron roof and a large wrap-around veranda facing northeast to take advantage of shade. The ambiance is similar to that of a well lived-in house: friendly and extremely comfortable with a light feel to it.

Optional activities:

game drives in a safari vehicle

Other:

Swimming pool, air-condition, laundry service, Wifi, mosquito net, coffee station, VISA und Master Card



Day 3: Etosha National Park

You may want to spend the day with game-viewing in the Etosha National Park.

In the vast arid space of Northern Namibia lies one of Southern Africa's best loved wildlife sanctuaries. Etosha National Park offers excellent game viewing in one of Africa's most accessible venues. Zebra and springbok are scattered across the endless horizon, while the many waterholes attract endangered black rhinoceros, lion, elephant and large numbers of antelope. Etosha, meaning 'place of dry water', is enclosed a huge, flat calcrete depression (or pan) of about 5 000km². The 'Pan' provides a great, parched, silver-white backdrop of shimmering mirages to an area of semi-arid savannah grassland and thorn scrub. The pan itself contains water only after very good rains and sometimes for only a few days each year, but is enough to stimulate the growth of a blue-green algae which lures thousands of flamingos.

Overnight at the Mushara Outpost

Day 4: Etosha Nationalpark – Rundu

Today you will drive through "Africa" – your journey leads you to the northern border of Namibia via the Ovamboland. Here you will drive past many small villages along the road and free roaming cattle will cross the streets. The lodge is situated on the banks of the Kavango river – so you might want to go on a boat cruise in the afternoon.

Ovamboland was the name given by English-speaking visitors to the land inhabited by the Ovambo people in what is now northern Namibia and southern Angola. Before the First World War, some infrastructure in the area was provided by local Finnish missionaries of the Finnish Missionary Society, who established Ovamboland as their first mission field in 1870, the first mission being at Omandongo. Finnish scholars have studied Ovamboland quite extensively, mainly from the point of view of their own missionary work. During the First World War South African troops conquered

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the German colony of South West Africa in 1915, and took control of Ovamboland in 1917, though it still lay outside the "police zone". Following the Odendaal Commission in the 1950s the South African government decided to apply the apartheid policy in South West Africa, which South Africa continued to rule in terms of a League of Nations mandate, and continued to do so after the mandate was revoked in 1968. Ovamboland then became a bantustan called Owambo, intended by the apartheid government to be a self-governing "homeland" for the Ovambo people. It was set up in 1968 and self-government was granted in 1973. Owambo was the setting of a protracted counter-insurgency war that formed part of the Namibian War of Independence in Namibia, or South African Border War in South Africa. Owambo, like other homelands in South West Africa, was abolished in May 1989 at the start of the transition to independence. The region is now commonly referred to as The North but the term Ovamboland is still in use. More than half of the entire population lives here on just 6% of the Namibian territory.

Overnight at the Hakusembe River Lodge

Accommodation:

Hakusembe River Lodge

Room type:

Standard

Meals included:

Breakfast / Dinner

Description:

A lucky find along the Okavango River. Nestled in the vegetation close to the riverbank, the Hakusembe River Campsite offers four private oases from which to enjoy the abundant riches of the river. Each of the sites has its own bathroom facilities and can host eight people. Explore this lush water world with family and friends. It's a short stroll to the lodge to sit on the wide wooden deck, sip on a drink and take a sunset cruise on the Hakusembe River Queen. Unwind to the rhythm of the river and cherish the unspoiled Kavango character from around the crackling camp fire.

Optional activities:

Sundowner boat cruise

Others:

Restaurant, swimming pool, laundry service, air-condition, mosquito net, coffee station, safe, VISA und Master card



Day 5: Rundu – Divundu

After enjoying your breakfast on the river bank, you will drive along the Trans-Caprivi-Highway to the lodge near Divundu. You might want to visit the Popa Falls today or just relax at the lodge.

Near the little town of Divundu, some 200 kilometres east of Rundu, lies one of the highlights of the western Caprivi, the Popa Falls. They are actually rapids rather than waterfalls. Here the Okavango River breaks through a 4m high rock reef in its riverbed, which stretches over more than a kilometre in width. The reef consists of dark quartzite. The rapids are particularly impressive in the dry season at lower water levels. The Popa Falls are surrounded by enchantingly beautiful nature.



Overnight at the RiverDance Lodge

Accommodation:	RiverDance Lodge
Room type:	Standard
Meals included:	Breakfast / Dinner
Description:	Captivated by the river and the people whose lives depending upon, Tino & Karin Punzul turned their dream of a lodge on the Okavango into a reality. Working with local craftsman, Tino built the lodge from the ground up. The traditional owners of the land and the community have shared in the process and will share in the future of the lodge's proceeds. Your hosts at River Dance, Tino & Karin, share their passion for the magic of the river, their knowledge of the bush, and the spirit of generosity, an essential part of life in Namibia, with their guests. The RiverDance Lodge offers luxurious, spacious, private water front units, nestled under beautiful age-old trees. A short private wooden path will lead you to your own holistic experience . . . a 'mokoro' inspired bath, bio-degradable rooibos, rosemary and spring water toiletries, a luxurious bathrobe and a shower. The call of birds, frogs and little creatures that we came to love, will serve as back ground music.
Optional activities:	Fishing trips, stargazing, bird watching, game drive to the Mahango National Park
Others:	Swimming pool, restaurant, WiFi, laundry service, safe, air-condition, coffee station, mosquito net, VISA und Master card



Day 6: Divundu

Explore the Mahango National Park which is characterised by its forests, a broad flood plain, magnificent baobab trees and the great variety of animals.

The Mahango Game Park (also known as the Mahango Game Reserve) is a protected area in Namibia within Bwabwata National Park. It is situated at the country's eastern border with Botswana in the flood plains of the Okavango River basin, close to the Popa Falls on the river. The Caprivi Strip encloses the western part of the park. It was established in 1986 and covers an area of 24,462 hectares (60,450 acres). With over 300 species of birds, it has been designated an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International. About two thirds of the bird species found in Namibia are located here as it includes both wetland and tropical terrestrial species of birds. The park forms part of the large flood plains of the Okavango River basin in north-eastern Namibia between Andara Mission bordering Botswana. Topography of the park is in the elevation range of 500 - 1,000m. The Okavango Swamps starts from this park area and is known as the panhandle region. The Okavango River flows into Botswana forming the Okavango Delta in that country. The Mahango Park is subject to two climatic conditions - the dry season lasting from April to November



and the rainy season from mid-November to April. The annual rainfall incidence varies between 550 and 600 mm and 80% of it occurs during the rainy season. The monthly average maximum temperature is reported as 30°C.

The vegetation consists of 38% shrubland and 62 % grass land. Riparian forests are an important form of dense vegetation against the dry woodlands in the higher reaches of the river valley and reed beds, swamps, and open flooded grasslands of the flood plains. In view of this varying vegetational pattern, the park is rich in flora; with a reported 869 species from 88 families. The important riparian woodland species are *Garcinia*, *Sclerocarya*, *Diospyros*, *Acacia* and *Grewia*. The species reported from the desert areas are *Pterocarpus*, *Ricinodendron*, *Ziziphus*, *Baikiaea* and shrubs of *Baphia*. The flood plains have Phoenix and baobab *Adansonia*; the baobab trees in the park are very large. One of the more commonly found trees in the park is the Baobab.

It has very rich diversity of mammal species; 99 species are reported, including elephants, lions, leopards, cheetahs, and hippopotami. Some of the key species which are under the threatened list are *Lycaon pictus* (EN), *Loxodonta africana* (EN), *Kobus leche*, and *Lutra maculicollis* (VU) found mostly in aquatic environment; *Loxodonta africana* and *Kobus leche* also migrate to neighboring countries. There are 71 aqua faunal species and five species of amphibians such as *Phrynomantis affinis*.

Overnight at the RiverDance Lodge

Day 7: Divundu - Kasane

You should depart rather early today whilst driving via Kongola to Katima Mulilo, passing through the Caprivi Game Park which is a generally flat landscape except for some dunes covered with vegetation. Then you continue via the Ngoma Bridge boarder post to Botswana and drive to Kasane. Already in the afternoon you can join one of the activities the lodge has to offer.

Overnight at the Chobe Bakwena Lodge

Accommodation:	Chobe Bakwena Lodge
Room type:	River View Chalet
Meals included:	Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner
Description:	Bakwena translated from Setswana, means people of the crocodile, this refers not only to the lodges situation, but is also one of the largest tribes in Botswana. Owners Jenny and Adam Young have worked throughout Botswana, managing bush camps and lodges and running their own safari company. "Having spent so much our time working in luxury lodges, we wanted our guests to enjoy similar levels of comfort at a reasonable rate and more importantly be able to take comfort that in choosing Bakwena as their destination, they have also made the right choice for the environment. We acquired our land in 2000 and since then we have been growing our dream and planting the seeds of the indigenous riverine woodland that guests will find here today. What started out as a barren soccer pitch has become what you see today, a refuge for our guests and any wildlife that chooses to share our sanctuary." All ten of our River View Chalets are nestled in an indigenous riverine forest, overlooking the magnificent Chobe River. Wake up to the sound of a fish eagle and fall asleep to the comforting grunt of a hippo! Relax in the privacy of your own veranda and enjoy the beauty of Africa.
Activities include:	2 per day: Game drives, fishing trips, boat cruises, guided walks on the lodges premises, excursion to the Victoria Falls (this is a full day excursion and this is exchangeable to the two activities per day)
Others:	Swimming pool, restaurant, WiFi, laundry service, air-



condition, mosquito net, VISA und MASTER



Day 8 und 9: Chobe Bakwena Lodge

Enjoy exploring the Chobe National Park or visit the famous Victoria Falls on a day trip.

Chobe National Park, in northern Botswana, has one of the largest concentrations of game in Africa. By size, it is the third largest park of the country, after the Central Kalahari Game Reserve and the Gemsbok National Park, and is the most diverse. It is also the country's first national park. The idea of a national park to protect the varied wildlife found here as well as promote tourism first appeared in 1931. The following year, 24,000 km² around Chobe district were officially declared non-hunting area; this area was expanded to 31,600 km² two years later. The park is widely known for its spectacular elephant population: It contains an estimated 50 000 elephants, perhaps the highest elephant concentration of Africa, and part of the largest continuous surviving elephant population.

Victoria Falls, or Mosi-oa-Tunya (Tokaleya Tonga: the Smoke that Thunders), is a waterfall in southern Africa on the Zambezi River at the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe. David Livingstone, the Scottish missionary and explorer, is believed to have been the first European to view Victoria Falls on 16 November 1855 from what is now known as Livingstone Island, one of two land masses in the middle of the river, immediately upstream from the falls on the Zambian side. Livingstone named his discovery in honour of Queen Victoria, but the indigenous name, Mosi-oa-Tunya—"the smoke that thunders"—continues in common usage as well. While it is neither the highest nor the widest waterfall in the world, it is classified as the largest, based on its width of 1,708 metres (5,604 ft) and height of 108 metres (354 ft), resulting in the world's largest sheet of falling water. Overnight at the Chobe Bakwena Lodge

Day 10: Chobe – Savute Safari Lodge

As from today you will go on an unforgettable fly in safari to explore the vast areas of the Okavango Delta. You will fly from Kasane to the Savute Safari Lodge. Already in the afternoon you will join on of the great activities offered by the lodge.

The Okavango Delta in Botswana is a very large, swampy inland delta formed where the Okavango River reaches a tectonic trough in the central part of the endorheic basin of the Kalahari. All the water reaching the Delta is ultimately evaporated and transpired, and does not flow into any sea or ocean. Each year approximately 11 cubic kilometres of water spreads over the 6,000-15,000 km² area. Some flood-waters drain into Lake Ngami. The Moremi Game Reserve, a National Park, is on the eastern side of the Delta. The scale and magnificence of the Okavango Delta helped it secure a position as one of the Seven Natural Wonders of Africa, which were officially declared on February 11, 2013 in Arusha, Tanzania. On 22 June 2014, the Okavango Delta became the 1000th site to be officially inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Okavango is produced by seasonal flooding. The Okavango River drains the summer (January–February)



rainfall from the Angola highlands and the surge flows 1,200 kilometres in approximately one month. The waters then spread over the 250 km by 150 km area of the delta over the next four months (March–June). The high temperature of the delta causes rapid transpiration and evaporation, resulting in a cycle of rising and falling water level that was not fully understood until the early 20th century. The flood peaks between June and August, during Botswana’s dry winter months, when the delta swells to three times its permanent size, attracting animals from kilometres around and creating one of Africa’s greatest concentrations of wildlife.

Overnight in the Savute Safari Lodge

Accommodation:	Savute Safari Lodge
Room type:	Suite
Meals included:	Fully inclusive
Description:	In the heart of Chobe National Park, Savute Safari Lodge peers out from ancient Camel thorn trees on the shore of the Savute channel, Botswana’s fabled ‘stolen river’ which dried out more than 20 years ago, but now flows once again. The Savute channel forms part of the dynamic Savute eco system renowned for its large concentration of elephant and lion and their extraordinary relationship. The lodge has twelve tastefully furnished twin-bedded suites, with spacious interiors offering a lounge area, en-suite bathrooms, private decks and large glass sliding doors and windows, which set the lodge apart from typical safari accommodation. The lounge, library and cocktail bar are situated in the thatch and timber main building overlooking the channel as well as a viewing deck, outdoor dining area and swimming pool. Activities focus on game drives in open 4x4 safari vehicles in the Savute area including the Savute Marsh and the ancient San rock paintings at Gubatsa Hills. Being situated in the National Park, no night activities are permitted, with the afternoon drive returning just after sunset. The dry winter months offer incredible game viewing as the parched wildlife congregates at the water holes and river to drink – here you may witness the famed elephant-hunting lions in action. The summer rains in Savute bring a fresh feast for lion, hyena and cheetah as thousands of migrating zebra and wildebeest arrive in search of the rain rich grasslands of the Savute Marsh.
Activities include:	Game drives
Others:	Fan, hairdryer, coffee station, flashlight, safe, laundry service, mosquito net, VISA and MasterCard



Day 11: Savute Safari Lodge

Enjoy the day at the lodge and partake on the activities offered.

The delta is very flat, with less than 2 metres variation in height across its 15,000 km². Approximately 60% is consumed through transpiration by plants, 36% by evaporation, 2% percolates into the aquifer system; and 2% flows into Lake Ngami. This turgid outflow means that



the delta is unable to flush out the minerals carried by the river and is liable to become increasingly salty and uninhabitable. Water salinity is reduced by salt collecting around plant roots as most of the incoming water is transpired by plants. Peat fires might contribute to deposit salt into layers below the surface. The low salinity of the water also means that the floods do not greatly enrich the floodplain with nutrients. The Okavango delta is both a permanent and seasonal home to a wide variety of wildlife which is now a popular tourist attraction.

Species include African bush elephant, African buffalo, hippopotamus, lechwe, tsessebe, sitatunga, blue wildebeest, South African giraffe, Nile crocodile, Southwest African lion, South African cheetah, African leopard, brown hyena, spotted hyena, springbok, greater kudu, sable antelope, impala, south-central black rhinoceros, southern white rhinoceros, Burchell's zebra, common warthog, chacma baboon and vervet monkey. Notably the endangered Cape wild dog survives within the Okavango Delta, exhibiting one of the richest pack densities in Africa. The delta also includes over 400 species of birds, including African fish eagle, Pel's fishing owl, crested crane, lilac-breasted roller, hammerkop, South African ostrich, and sacred ibis.

Overnight at the Savute Safari Lodge

Day 12: Savute Safari Lodge – Camp Moremi

During the day, you will get a flight transfer from one camp to next. Also, there, you will join many exiting activities offered.

Moremi Game Reserve is a Game Reserve in Botswana. It rests on the eastern side of the Okavango Delta and was named after Chief Moremi of the BaTawana tribe. Moremi was designated as a Game Reserve, and not a National Park, when it was created. This designation meant local people, the BaSarwa or Bushmen that lived there were allowed to stay in the reserve. The Moremi Game Reserve covers much of the eastern side of the Okavango Delta and combines permanent water with drier areas, which create some startling and unexpected contrasts. Some prominent geographical features of the Reserve are Chiefs Island and the Moremi Tongue. In the Moremi Reserve, one can experience excellent views of Savannah game as well as bird-watching on the lagoons. There are also thickly wooded areas, which are home to the Cape wild dog and leopard. To the northeast lies the Chobe National Park which borders the Moremi Game Reserve. Although just under 5,000 square kilometres (1,900 sq mi) in extent, it is a surprisingly diverse Reserve, combining mopane woodland and acacia forests, floodplains and lagoons. Only about 30% of the Reserve is mainland, with the bulk being within the Okavango Delta itself.

Overnight at the Camp Moremi

Accommodation:	Camp Moremi
Room type:	Safari tents
Meals included:	Fully inclusive
Description:	Camp Moremi is situated on the picturesque Xakanaxa Lagoon in the eastern extremity of the Okavango Delta, within the Moremi Game Reserve. The area is a wildlife haven with incredible game viewing opportunities year-round. Camp Moremi accommodates twenty-two safari guests in beautifully furnished East African style safari tents with private facilities, each tent with a private deck. The elevated Moremi Tree Lodge is the dazzling central point of the camp and houses the luxurious main lounge, a wildlife reference library, dining room and cocktail bar, shaded by giant Ebony trees and overlooking the Okavango Delta's Xakanaxa Lagoon. Facilities in the camp include a curio shop, swimming pool, shaded boma and elevated observation platform. Activities offered are game drives in open safari vehicles exploring the diverse range of habitats within the reserve – from open floodplains to belts of

mopane woodland. Guests can also venture out onto the open waters of the Okavango by motorboat, visiting the Xakanaxa Lagoon and beyond up to the seasonal heronry at Gadikwe.

Activities included:

Game drives, boat cruises, visit the Xakanaxa Lagoon

Others:

Swimming pool, mosquito net, safe, VISA und Master Card



Day 13: Camp Moremi

This day is filled with activities, but you can also relax at the camp.

The Moremi Game Reserve, although not one of the largest parks, presents insights and views even for the most experienced of travellers. It is home to nearly 500 species of bird (from water birds to forest dwellers), and a vast array of other species of wildlife including Cape buffalo, Angolan giraffe, black rhinoceros, Southwest African lion, elephant, hippopotamus, zebra, South African cheetah, hyena, jackal, impala, and red lechwe. Cape wild dogs (*Lycaon pictus pictus*) inhabit this reserve and has been the subject of a project run in the area since 1989; thus this species is often seen wearing collars emplaced by researchers. The Moremi area contains one of the most significant extant habitat areas for *L. pictus*. The Reserve offers the opportunity to explore not only in 4x4's but on foot and by mokoro—a dug-out canoe, hewn from either ebony or sausage-tree, and poled by your personal guide. Although, today most of the mekoro (plural of mokoro), are made from fibreglass, thus helping to preserve the magnificent, and old, trees of the area.

Game viewing is at its peak from July to October, when seasonal pans dry up and the wildlife concentrates on the permanent water. From October until the start of the rains in late November or early December, the weather can be extremely hot.

Overnight in the Camp Moremi

Day 14: Camp Moremi - Maun

After enjoying another good breakfast under the African trees, you will be transferred by flight to Maun, from where you will depart back home.

*** Hope to see you again soon ***