

G A M E P L A N A F R I C A  
*Journeys of a Lifetime*



**THE GREAT WILDERNESS  
JOURNEY**  
*A Discoverer Exploration*

**10 nights/11days**

## **The Great Wilderness Journey**

### ***A Discoverer Exploration***

**10 nights/11 days**

#### **Two Options:**

**Low Season Itinerary – All Classic Camps**

**High Season Itinerary – Discoverer Camps/Classic Camps**

Tour direction: Maun to Zambia  
(Zambia to Maun also available)

This Journey takes the time to explore Botswana's contrasts and extremes in prime areas where few people travel. Experience a nostalgic safari that recreates the sense of a game-viewing adventure reminiscent of the times of the great African explorers. The Great Wilderness Journey takes time to experience and explore Botswana's scenic northern areas: from the blue-green wetlands of the Okavango Delta to the diverse and wildlife-rich Linyanti and Chobe River systems, ending with the world-famous Victoria Falls on the Zambian side of the Zambezi River. Accommodation includes a combination of Wilderness Safaris camps, all in private concession areas. When travelling during the low season, all camps are upgraded to Classic safari camps.



Explorations are led by highly skilled and qualified professional guides with an incredible passion for the natural regions in which they work. 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. Years of experience in the field and a depth of understanding of animal behavior and the environment will leave you with a sense of complete wonder.

Many of our guides are also skilled photographers and can assist you in taking away amazing wildlife photographs. They are also available to lead private safaris and specialist trips.

#### **ITINERARY**

##### **Days 1, 2 & 3: Okavango Delta**

After arrival in Maun, you will be met by your guide or our representative and fly by light aircraft over the shimmering water world of the Okavango Delta, which represents life at its most fertile.

**High Season and Low Season Camps: Jacana Camp or Xigera Camp, both Classic safari camps**

Lush **Jacana Camp** is situated in a permanently flooded region of the private Jao Concession of the Okavango Delta. A true water camp, it represents the essence of the Delta, with year-round mokoro safaris as well as island bush walks and, water level permitting, motorboat cruises. In fact, when the flood levels are at their peak we are able to motorboat from the airstrip to the camp, a truly surreal camp arrival! On one of the full days, we will also enjoy game drives around the productive Jao Flats region to the north of camp.



Jacana Camp is set in one of the wetland areas most densely populated with sitatunga and red lechwe. Wildlife concentrations depend on the water flow and volume, thus changing from season to season, but all the large animals can be found in the area including elephant, lion, leopard and buffalo. Pel's Fishing Owl, Lesser Jacana, Western Banded Snake-Eagle and Coppery-tailed Coucal are just some of the birding delights.

Jacana Camp has 5 Meru-style tents. Each tent is on a wooden deck overlooking the floodplains and has an en-suite bathroom with flush toilet and shower. The bathroom is enclosed but roofless, allowing for showers by starlight. The camp has a plunge pool and the main dining area is on an elevated wooden deck between two magnificent sycamore fig trees and surrounded by dense wild date palms. Downstairs, there is an intimate pub and lounge with an area perfect for campfires under the stars.

**Xigera Camp** (pronounced Keejera) is a luxury tented camp situated in the Moremi Game Reserve in the heart of the Okavango Delta. Xigera has something for everyone, in an area where there are no other Moremi camps and where permanent water all year round allows one to enjoy a variety of activities. Enjoy a true Delta experience while you sit back in a mokoro (dugout canoe) and silently glide through the tranquil Okavango waterways or watch the sunset and birds gliding home to roost from a motorboat on the Xigera Lagoon. When water levels permit, game drives (usually September to May) allow the opportunity to observe wildlife and the unique Delta scenery from the comfort of a Land Rover.

Nestled in a magnificent riverine forest, Xigera consists of 10 luxuriously furnished tented rooms with en-suite facilities and outdoor shower. Each



room is raised off the ground on a wooden deck offering superb views of the seasonal floodplain and waterhole. Meals and drinks are enjoyed under the thatch of the raised lounge, pub and dining area overlooking a permanently flowing channel. A traditional boma offers alternative dining under the African stars. Wooden walkways wind through the forest connecting the rooms to the main area. There is a plunge pool for cooling off and relaxation. The wooden footbridge, a unique feature to Xigera, connects Xigera Island to the next one and is often used by Lion and Leopard moving between the islands allowing guests great viewing opportunities. Birding in the area is excellent, with Pel's Fishing Owl, Slaty Egret, Wattled Crane, African Skimmers and a host of eagles, vultures, raptors and kingfishers to be found. The area has the highest density of the rare Sitatunga antelope found anywhere in the Okavango Delta.

#### **Days 4, 5 & 6: Okavango Delta**

Depart by light aircraft to Tubu Tree Camp or Khwai Discoverer Camp.

#### **Low Season Camp: Tubu Tree Camp, a Classic safari camp**

**Tubu Tree Camp** is situated in the 60,000 hectare Jao Reserve which borders the Moremi Game Reserve in Botswana's Okavango Delta. The camp is a traditional style tented safari camp built



on raised wooden platforms to take best advantage of the beautiful view over the floodplains. Tubu Tree camp accommodates guests in 5 large, comfortable tents, each with a small, private deck in front. The tents each have en suite bathroom facilities as well as a private outdoor shower. The main dining and lounge areas are also large tents on raised platforms, with an outdoor bar area built under the

canopy of a large Marula tree and a plunge pool built on a raised deck.

Activities at Tubu Tree Camp include day and night game drives in open 4 x 4 vehicles. Walking with an armed guide is available on request prior to arrival. When the Okavango's annual flood is at its highest (normally May to late September), boating, fishing and mokoro trips are also offered. A variety of habitats ensures diverse and interesting wildlife viewing. Wildlife seen here includes elephant, lion, zebra, red lechwe, giraffe, tsessebe, wildebeest as well as kudu, impala, leopard and bushbuck.

#### **High Season Camp: Khwai Discoverer Camp, a Discoverer safari camp**

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.

### **Days 7, 8 & 9: Linyanti Concession**

After a light breakfast, we fly north-east to the private Linyanti Concession. After a short game drive we arrive at Duma Tau Camp or Linyanti Discoverer Camp.

#### **Low Season Camp: Duma Tau Camp, a Classic safari camp**

**DumaTau Camp** is a 10-roomed tented camp located in the private 125 000 hectare Linyanti Wildlife Reserve which borders onto the western boundary of Chobe National Park in northern Botswana. The camp is built on raised boardwalks under a shady grove of mangosteen trees, overlooking a large hippo-filled lagoon on the Linyanti waterways. The source of the Savute Channel is close to the camp and game drives along the Savute are one of the highlights. The rooms are spacious, raised off the ground and under thatch with canvas walls allowing guests to enjoy the night sounds of Africa from the comfort of their beds. The bathroom facilities are en-suite and each room also has an outside shower. The main areas include a dining room, bar, lounge, curio shop, plunge pool and a special guest toilet with a fantastic view.



The region has all the habitat diversity to make it a haven for wildlife. Activities are diverse and allow guests to spend time on the water (if water levels permit this), on land and occasionally on foot. Day and night game drives are conducted in open 4x4 vehicles along the Savute Channel and the banks of Linyanti River. There are many hides in the area where guests can enjoy wildlife

viewing up close and away from a vehicle. One of the best hides is right at the source of the Savute and many species of wildlife and birdlife can usually be enjoyed from this hide.

The area is famous for its elephant concentrations in the winter months and for the great general game viewing all year. Huge herds of elephant congregate in winter along the waterways and lagoons and at waterholes that are located along the Savute channel. All the predators such as lion, leopard, cheetah, hyena and wild dog feast on the prey species in the area including impala, zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, lechwe and tsessebe.

### **High Season Camp: Linyanti Discoverer Camp, a Discoverer safari camp**

The **private Discoverer camp** is elegantly set up under African ebony and knobthorn acacia trees overlooking panoramic vistas of the Linyanti Swamps.

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 of wildlife en route to slake their thirst from the river. The seldom-seen sitatunga can 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.



To complete the experience, it is possible to enjoy a full-day excursion to the Savute Channel, with lunch at a scenic setting. This spectacular day gives guests a real

understanding of the geology of Northern Botswana, the relationship with the Great African Rift Valley and the chink in the faultline, where the Savute Channel begins. This channel, now flowing for the first time in three decades has resulted in water reaching into the heart of Chobe national Park and the Linyanti Reserve and game viewing is as a result both diverse and abundant.

### **Day 10: Chobe River boat cruise, Chobe National Park and Toka Leya Camp (Low Season and High Season Camp), Zambia**

After a short morning drive and breakfast, we depart by light aircraft to the northern Chobe region of Chobe National Park. 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 light lunch on the boat cruise in a catamaran-style shaded boat.

We leave Botswana and fly to Livingstone International Airport, arriving at Toka Leya Camp in the late afternoon. On leaving Botswana, we fly over the Kazangula border, a point where the four countries of Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia meet.

Toka Leya Camp is situated on the banks of the Zambezi River in the eastern sector of the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, some 7.46 miles up from the Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural



Wonders of the World. The camp consists of 12 safari-style tents, each en-suite with a view of the magnificent Zambezi River and some of its islands. The camp's dining and bar area is set beneath a shaded canopy of trees overlooking the River and a swimming pool.

**Day 11: Victoria Falls, transfer to Livingstone Airport**



The grand finale is a guided tour of the Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. At 5,604 feet (1708 metres) wide, it is the largest curtain of water in the world and drops more than 328 feet (103 metres) into the sheer Zambezi Gorge.

Transfer to Livingstone Airport immediately after the tour of the Victoria Falls and bid farewell to the adventure.

The Great Wilderness Journey operates with a maximum of 8 guests on each safari.

**Land Cost – Low Season**

**Prices for travel January 21 – May 31 and  
November 1 – December 27, 2012**

**US\$7,890.00 per person sharing  
US\$1,135.00 single supplement**

**Land Cost – High Season**

**Prices for travel June 1 – October 31, 2012**

**US\$8,400.00 per person sharing  
US\$1,185.00 single supplement**

**Both Low Season and High Season includes/excludes are as follows:**

**SAFARI INCLUDES:**

- Accommodation on a per person sharing basis
- All meals from dinner on Day 1
- All soft drinks, beer, fruit juice, mineral water and house wine, as well as a small selection of local liquors (except premium brands)
- National Park fees
- Laundry
- Twice daily activities
- All internal charters on a seat-rate basis

**SAFARI EXCLUDES:**

- Flights (other than specified in the detailed safari itinerary)
- Visas
- Compulsory fully comprehensive travel insurance
- All relevant entry and departure government taxes
- All personal purchases (including curios, spirit liquors, telephone calls etc.),
- Gratuities
- Optional extra activities
- All travel arrangements before or after the safari
- Any new Government taxes, levies, fuel or industry increases which are beyond our control.

**Low Season Accommodations in Classic Camps**

Classic Safari Camps for the Low Season Itinerary of the Great Wilderness Journey include Jacana Camp, Tubu Tree Camp and Duma Tau Camp. The picture at the right is an example of a Classic safari camp tented room.



**High Season Accommodations in Classic Camps/Discoverer Camps**

**Discoverer Camp Description**

Discoverer Explorations are fully serviced deluxe mobile safaris, with accommodation alternating between permanent camping sites within private concessions and Wilderness camps, all with superb views. Accommodation in these exclusive camping areas is in specially designed walk-in Meru-style tents with en-suite toilet, shower and basin that allow for greater comfort.

