

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



**THE GREEN DESERT EXPEDITION**  
*An Adventurer Exploration*

6 nights/7 days

## The Green Desert Expedition

### An Adventurer Exploration

#### 6 nights/7 days

Tour direction: Maun to Maun

The route takes the time to explore the stunning contrasts of two habitat types: the "petrified" river valley of Deception Valley in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve and the fertile green islands of the Okavango Delta and its crystal-clear waterways – all the while enjoying spectacular summer congregations of wildlife. Accommodation includes serviced camping in exclusive sites in Central Kalahari Game Reserve combined with Deception Valley Lodge and Xigera Camp.

This Exploration is specifically designed around the Kalahari Desert at its most productive, when sporadic summer rains cause wildlife to migrate into the desert valleys in large numbers. This precious water creates a short yet incredibly prolific wildlife-viewing period with high concentrations of desert species and their young. In addition, the fertile islands and waterways of the Okavango Delta add another exciting dimension.

To partake in a Green Desert Expedition is to experience a nostalgic camping safari that recreates a sense of wildlife viewing adventure reminiscent of the times of the early African explorers.

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 behaviour and the environment will leave you with a sense of complete wonder.

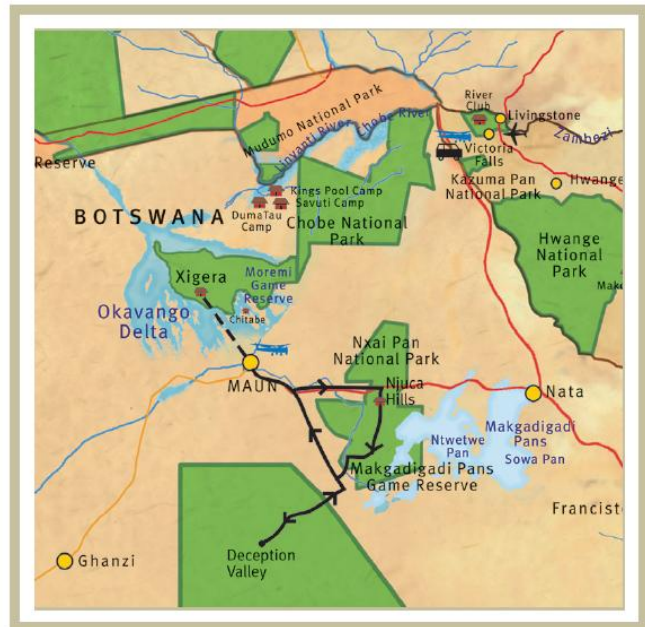
Many of our guides are also skilled photographers and can assist you in taking away amazing wildlife photographs. They are also available to lead private safaris and specialist trips

#### **ITINERARY**

##### **Day 1: Deception Valley Lodge, Central Kalahari Game Reserve**

Upon arrival in Maun we depart by road to Deception Valley Lodge.

Deception Valley Lodge is located approximately 55 miles from Deception Pan bordering the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. The lodge accommodates 16 guests in private chalets, each



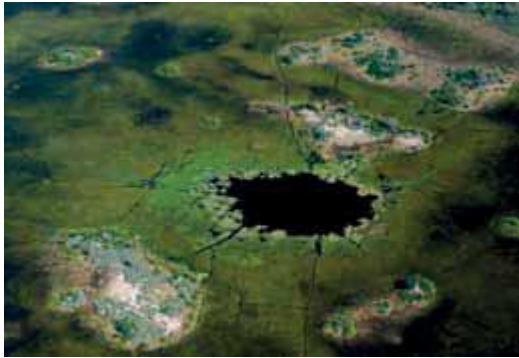
with a spacious lounge, en-suite Victorian-style bathroom, outdoor shower and veranda. The main area, connected to the units by elevated wooden walkways, boasts dining, lounge and bar areas. From the deck wildlife can be seen at the nearby waterhole and there is a curio shop, small library, swimming pool and boma for evening meals.

A cultural highlight here is fascinating interaction, through an interpreter, with San Bushmen who will explain their traditions, hunting methods and natural medicines. Added to this is a short game drive en route to the nature walk with an experienced Bushman guide. We also enjoy a night drive on the reserve.

#### **Days 2, 3 & 4: Deception Valley, Central Kalahari Game Reserve**

After an early breakfast, we depart overland to our private Adventurer campsite in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve with lunch en route.

Deception Valley – a prehistoric riverbed, flanked by petrified dune lands – is very appealing after brief rains, when it is covered with nutritious grasses that attract vast animal herds from all over



the enormous reserve. These large congregations of desert wildlife with their young are followed by opportunistic predators (including populations of lion, cheetah, black backed jackal, bat eared fox and African Wild cat), all of which makes for outstanding viewing. The rare and seldom seen brown hyena is also sighted from time to time! Bird life is prolific, with over 400 species in the region.

We have specifically allowed for a 3-night stay in Deception Valley; in a journey of this nature and at this time, it is vital to travel so guests have the time to relax and unwind, at the same time extended day trips, which affords the opportunity to explore the further reaches of the park not normally accessed and ensuring the best possible wildlife experience.

We enjoy extended wildlife game drives (with picnic lunch), taking in the game-rich Pipers Pans area of the Kalahari, as well as the Letiahau and Deception Valleys.

#### **Days 5 & 6: Xigera Camp, Okavango Delta**

After a light breakfast we depart overland to Maun (approximately 6 hours), after which we fly by light aircraft in the afternoon to the water-filled paradise of the private Xigera area, within the Moremi Game Reserve. Xigera is the Delta personified, with serene waters flowing through innumerable channels around remote islands and a profusion of plant and animal life.

Xigera Camp is a luxury tented camp situated in the heart of the Okavango Delta. It has something for everyone, in an area where there are no other camps and where year-round water allows for 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.



Nestled in a soothing riverine forest, Xigera Camp 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 area has the highest density of the rare sitatunga antelope found anywhere in the Okavango Delta and wildlife is often seen on boating trips. Possibilities include spotted-necked otter, elephant, red lechwe and even leopard on occasion. Birding in the area is phenomenal, with Pel's Fishing-Owl, Slaty Egret, Wattled Crane, Swamp Boubou, African Pygmy Goose and Chirping Cisticola some of the sought-after specials. Learn about the ecology of the Delta, find a painted reed frog – Xigera certainly offers a holistic experience of this wonderland.

#### **Day 7: Light aircraft transfer to Maun**

After an early morning activity and breakfast, we fly back to Maun, where the safari ends.

### **2012 Costs**

#### **Land Cost**

The Green Desert Expedition operates with a maximum of 8 guests per safari.

January 8 – May 27 and

December 2, 2011 – January 4, 2012

US\$3,480.00 per person sharing

US\$442.00 single supplement

#### **SAFARI INCLUDES:**

- Accommodation on a per person sharing basis
- All meals from dinner on Day 1 to the end of the scheduled safari
- A reasonable amount of soft drinks, wine, beer, teas & coffees and bottled water while on safari within Botswana
- National Park fees
- Twice daily scheduled activities
- All internal charters on a seat rate basis

#### **SAFARI EXCLUDES:**

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

### **Adventurer Camp Description**

(Deception Valley): 3m x 3m (9.84 ft x 9.84 ft) dome tents, complete with mini-verandas. Pure cotton linen (with duvets) on GI stretchers, bedside table with silver lantern and mini luggage benches finish the interior. Evening campfires are the norm and hurricane lanterns add to the atmosphere. The bathrooms are en-suite with the entrance to the canvas-wrap open air bathroom (zip door) through the rear of tent. There is a serviced en-suite tin bucket shower – with hot water available whenever guests require it. The bathroom in each tent has a short-drop toilet, with a separate toilet near the main area available for use during the day.



Travel by road is in 4x4 vehicles specifically modified for the Explorations safaris such as the Green Desert Expedition safari.

