

BEST OF BOTSWANA

(Cape Town, Botswana & Victoria Falls)

Tour & Safari Highlights:

Cape Town, South Africa:

- Explore the Cape Peninsula/Cape Point and see African Penguins
- Visit Kirstenbosch Gardens
- Ride the cable car to the top of Table Mountain, Cape Town
- Explore the Cape Winelands

Botswana (on safari):

- Okavango Delta
- Moremi Game Reserve
- Savute Channel
- Northern Chobe National Park

Zambia:

- Victoria Falls, Zambia

DETAILED ITINERARY FOR BEST BOTSWANA TOUR & SAFARI

(16 nights / 17 days)

Day 1 – Arrive Cape Town, South Africa

Arrive Cape Town, South Africa and transfer to our centrally-situated hotel. Check into the hotel and spend the rest of the day at leisure resting up after the long flight. Lunch and dinner on own account; there are a number of good restaurants within easy reach of the hotel. **Overnight: Commodore Hotel / Cape Grace Hotel in the Waterfront Complex or similar**

Africa Easy 4 star option - **The Commodore Hotel** is located in the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront and boasts a certain quaint Victorian charm. Its prime location ensures that its guests will never be bored. The Commodore is ideally situated near the bustling centre of Cape Town and close to the Atlantic coastline. The commodore has beautiful views of a rocky coastline and the majestic Table Mountain.

Africa Easy 5 star option – **The Cape Grace Hotel** - With a classically inspired exterior and elegant interior, the internationally award-winning Cape Grace is situated on a private quay on Cape Town's vibrant Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. Cape Grace's charm lies in its intimate atmosphere, contemporary classic décor and unique personalised hospitality, you will find staff warm and accommodating with a spirit of unrivalled generosity.

Day 2 - Cape Town / Cape Peninsula

Depart the hotel after breakfast on a guided tour around the Cape Peninsula traveling via the scenic Atlantic coastline, Hout Bay and over Chapman's Peak Drive (if conditions permit) and on to the Cape Point Nature Reserve. Enjoy a group lunch at Two Oceans Restaurant at Cape Point, taking in fabulous views. Visit the African (Jackass) Penguin Colony at Boulders Beach and return to the hotel for overnight. Dinner on own account this evening.

Overnight: Commodore Hotel / Cape Grace Hotel or similar

Day 3 - Table Mountain / Kirstenbosch Gardens

After breakfast the group will be picked up by vehicle and transferred to the lower Table Mountain cable station. Take the cable car (weather permitting) to the top of Table Mountain and spend about an hour or so on top taking in spectacular views around the Cape Peninsula. Travel to the Waterfront Complex where you are free to enjoy lunch on your own. This afternoon we visit the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, situated on the eastern slopes of Table Mountain, and internationally acclaimed as one of the seven most magnificent botanical gardens in the world. Dinner on own account this evening.

Overnight: Commodore Hotel / Cape Grace Hotel or similar

Day 4 – Cape Winelands Tour

This morning the group will embark on a full day tour to the scenic Winelands. Stellenbosch lies just 50 kilometers from Cape Town, in the wine zone of the Cape Winelands. The areas of Stellenbosch, Paarl and Franschhoek form the district of the

Cape Winelands, the main wine region of South Africa. The wine industry is one of the main industries of the country, with more than a billion liters of wine produced each year.

Stellenbosch is in the heart of this industry, and it's found on the popular Wine Route. Group dinner this evening back at the Commodore Hotel.

Overnight: Commodore Hotel / Cape Grace Hotel or similar

Day 5 – Cape Town / Botswana

Check-out of the hotel early this morning and transfer to Cape Town International Airport for a scheduled 2 hour flight to Johannesburg and connect on another scheduled flight to Maun, Botswana. After clearance formalities, depart Maun Airport on light aircraft for a short lodge hopper flight to our first safari camp. Time to freshen up before departing on an afternoon game viewing activity. **Overnight: Group safari lodge**

Days 6 to 14– On Safari in Botswana

Spend the next nine days exploring the African wildlife paradise that is Botswana. The safari experience will take place in three distinct regions of the area: the **Okavango Delta, Moremi Game Reserve, the Savute Channel & Northern Chobe National Park**. Morning and afternoon game drives will reveal a landscape of amazing contrasts and exceptional game viewing with chances to see big game such as lion, leopard, elephant and buffalo, plains game, and a colorful array of bird species. **Overnight: Group safari lodges** (dependent on your choice of the *Africa Easy 4* or *5* star property options – see details below)

OKAVANGO DELTA (Accommodation: Xugana Island Lodge or Eagle Island Lodge or similar)

The Okavango Delta is one of the world's largest inland water systems. It's headwaters start in Angola's western highlands, with numerous tributaries joining to form the Cubango River, which then flows through Namibia (called the Kavango) and finally enters Botswana, where it is then called the Okavango. The delta environment has large numbers of animal populations that are otherwise rare, such as crocodile, red lechwe, sitatunga, elephant, wild dogs, buffalo, wattled crane as well as the other more common mammals and bird life. The Okavango, Moremi Game Reserve and neighboring private reserves create an enormous wildlife sanctuary with some of the most magnificent game viewing in Africa.

Africa Easy 4 star option - Xugana Island Lodge is situated on Xugana Lagoon, a permanent water area allowing year-round water based safari activities. Xugana ("kneel down to drink") is one of Africa's most unique wildlife and wilderness sanctuaries. Xugana Island Lodge comprises of eight large raised reed and thatch chalets situated on the shaded fringe of the Island, each with a lagoon view through the vegetation. The recently refurbished chalets have twin beds, en-suite facilities, with walk in showers, overhead fans and a private deck.

Africa Easy 5 star option - Eagle Island Lodge - Hidden from the world, deep within Botswana's Okavango Delta, is the paradise we call Eagle Island Camp. Situated on the island of Xaxaba and surrounded by Illala Palms, the camp overlooks a lagoon fed by the tranquil waterways of the Delta. The area offers exceptionally high quality wildlife viewing with prolific birdlife and mammal sightings. It is also the site of one of the most romantic bars in the world, the Fish Eagle Bar, as voted by New York Times. The camp offers a cool retreat from the African sun and is shaded by a canopy of indigenous trees.

MOREMI GAME RESERVE (Accommodation: Camp Moremi or Khwai River Lodge or similar)

Moremi Game Reserve (named after Chief Moremi) was set aside in 1963 by the local community and covers much of the eastern side of the Okavango Delta. Although just under 5,000 square kilometers, it is a surprisingly diverse reserve, combining permanent waterways with drier areas. Home to nearly 500 species of birds, and a vast array of other species of wildlife, Moremi never fails to impress even the most experienced of travelers.

Africa Easy 4 star - Camp Moremi, situated on the beautiful Xakanaxa Lagoon within the Moremi Game Reserve, offers an unsurpassed African Safari experience. Camp Moremi accommodates

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only 22 guests in intimate exclusivity in walk-through East African style safari tents with hot showers and toilets. Activities include morning and afternoon game drives by open 4x4 safari vehicle, excellent bird watching, exploring the Xakanaxa Lagoon and surrounding Okavango channels by powerboat. Trained resident naturalist guides will share their knowledge and deep love of Botswana's wilderness with you on game drives where sightings of wild dog, cheetah, leopard, lion, elephants and buffalo are regular occurrences.

Africa Easy 5 star - Khwai River Lodge - Nestled on the edge of a leadwood and fig tree forest, overlooking the vast Khwai River floodplains and beyond into the Moremi Wildlife Reserve, sits the luxurious Khwai River Lodge. Khwai is renowned for its large concentrations of mammals and it is not unusual to see many different types of wildlife from the comfort of your own private deck. As a year round destination for wildlife, predators can regularly be seen in the area, rated as one of the most prolific in Botswana for viewing wildlife. The exceptional location of Khwai makes it a regular host to Elephant, Buffalo, Lion, Leopard, Cheetah and Wild Dogs. Birdlife can also be viewed in abundance with exceptional sightings of wildfowl and raptors near the lodge.

SAVUTE CHANNEL, CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

(Accommodation: Savute Safari Lodge & Savute Elephant Camp or similar)

The Savute area is a prime game viewing destination and covers almost 5,000 square km in the southwest of the Chobe National Park. Good sightings of cheetah and leopard are possible and the endangered wild dog also occurs here. Savute, however is famous for its large concentrations of elephants that congregate around the waterholes at sunset. This makes for exceptional observation of the interaction of Africa's wildlife. Birdlife is also excellent and a spectacular sight is the redbilled queleas that gather in their thousands.

Africa Easy 4 star option - Savute Safari Lodge peers out from ancient Camelthorn trees on the banks of the Savute channel, part of the dynamic Savute eco system - known for its large concentration of Elephant and large Lion prides. Accommodation is in twelve tastefully furnished twin bedded Safari Suites for a maximum of 24 guests. The unique design of the suites with their spacious interior and large glass sliding doors which give the feeling of being part of the bush, sets the Savute Safari Lodge apart from typical safari accommodation.

Africa Easy 5 star option - Savute Elephant Camp - In the heart of the Chobe National Park, sometimes referred to as the elephant capital of the world, is the Savute - an area that personifies the eternal contrast of Africa. Where our other two camps celebrate water and lush vegetation, Savute is an objective lesson in aridity. Rain is rare and water is precious. You will find yourself in harmony with a unique timeless place, removed from city life. In Savute, you realise that previous little has changed on these dry plains since time began. The realisation dawns that you are fortunate and privileged to be in one of the last corners of the planet governed by nature.

Chobe National Park, which is the second largest national park in Botswana and covers 10,566 square kilometers, it has one of the greatest concentrations of game found on the African continent. Its uniqueness in the abundance of wildlife and the true African nature of the region, offers a safari experience of a lifetime. A major feature of **Chobe National Park** is its elephant population, which comprises part of what is probably the largest surviving continuous elephant population. This population covers most of northern Botswana plus northwestern Zimbabwe. Botswana's elephant population is currently estimated at around 120,000. This elephant population has built up steadily from a few thousand since the early 1900s and has escaped the massive illegal offtake that has decimated other populations in the 1970s and 1980s

Africa Easy 4 star option - Chobe Game Lodge is the only safari lodge actually situated in Chobe National Park. This 46 room luxury safari lodge overlooks the perennial Chobe River and Caprivi floodplains and offers every luxury and comfort for your sojourn in the wilds. The architecture is Moorish and graceful - high arches, barrel-vault ceilings and tiled floors create an atmosphere of spaciousness and tranquility. All 46 rooms are tastefully furnished; each room with hand crafted, Rhodesian teak furniture and walls decorated with original African carvings and paintings.

Africa Easy 5 star option - Chobe Chilwero Lodge - Deep in the heart of the Botswana wilderness lies Chobe Chilwero Lodge, one of the most enchanting places on earth. With gorgeous, breathtaking vistas as a backdrop, you'll come face-to-face with the abundant creatures of the bush, and some of the most spectacular sunsets Mother Nature bestows. You will enjoy creature comforts - elegantly appointed accommodations, silver service, gourmet meals and fine wines. Relax in our luxurious thatched cottages, with ensuite, sunken handcrafted baths, indoor and outdoor showers, terrace and private garden with hammock overlooking the magnificent Chobe River. There is also a library, curio shop and a communications centre.

Day 15 – Botswana / Livingstone, Zambia

After a final early morning game drive and brunch, we leave Chobe and transfer first by road, and then ferry boat across the river from Botswana into Zambia where we will ultimately end up at Victoria Falls' elegant Royal Livingstone Hotel. Check in and relax for the rest of the afternoon. Lunch and dinner on own account today.

Overnight: Royal Livingstone Hotel

[Africa Easy 4 & 5 star option](#) - **The Royal Livingstone Hotel**, stretches luxuriously along the banks of the Zambezi River. The Hotel consists of a series of 17 colonial-style buildings, with deep verandas, set amidst indigenous trees and plants. The main hotel is a sequence of thatch-roofed buildings, most African in their influence, and incorporates the lounge, restaurant and bar. A classic swimming pool visually links the waters of the river with the terraces of the hotel, with a sweeping timber deck planted in the swirling water of the Zambezi. Only footsteps from the Zambezi River, the rooms and suites offer a tranquil retreat from the unconstrained beauty of their surroundings. Natural light invades the bathrooms, as the luxurious sized showers allow natural light to filter through a milk-glass window. The rooms are two-story clusters and each cluster comprises approximately 10 en-suite air-conditioned rooms, offering private balconies or terraces. Interior furnishings accentuate the influences of Africa translated into a cultured sumptuousness that reflects the essence of African Bush life.

Day 16 – Victoria Falls, Zambia

You have a full day at leisure today to enjoy the mighty Victoria Falls at your own pace. The Royal Livingstone Hotel is within a very short shuttle ride from the Victoria Falls National Park entrance where you can spend a few hours viewing / walking along the Zambian side of the Falls and or hire a local guide to escort you over to the Zimbabwe side to view Victoria Falls (extra fees apply). There are many other activities available in and around Livingstone. Victoria Falls is known as the adventure capital of Southern Africa. Breakfast included, Lunch and dinner on own account today. **Overnight: Royal Livingstone Hotel**

Day 17 – Victoria Falls, Zambia / Johannesburg / Home

After breakfast, morning at leisure at the hotel, check-out and transfer by vehicle to the Livingstone Airport, Zambia. Fly on a scheduled 2 hour flight from Livingstone to Johannesburg. Connect with flights home.

We hope you will join us for this amazing Best of Botswana Tour & Safari!

**Please call Africa Easy – Nadia Eckhardt
at 1-800-617-2319 / 1-206-284-2319**

We will be more than happy to answer your questions