



NXAI TRAVEL

Tailored safaris. Timeless landscapes.

Desert & Migration Mobile Safari - 12 Nights

13 Day Mobile Camping Safari through Botswana's Great Wilderness

This is a safari for those drawn to wide horizons and ancient rhythms; a journey into Botswana's most elemental landscapes, where the desert blooms, herds move with the seasons, and silence itself becomes part of the experience.

Over thirteen unforgettable days, you will travel deep into three of Botswana's great wilderness strongholds: the haunting vastness of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, the shimmering salt flats of the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, and the open grasslands of the Nxai Pan National Park.

This expedition follows one of Africa's great natural events; the second-largest zebra migration on Earth. As the rains breathe life into the pans, tens of thousands of zebras and wildebeest sweep across the plains in search of fresh grass. Where the herds go, predators follow. Lions, cheetahs, hyenas, and leopards patrol the fringes, while birds gather in dazzling numbers around newly formed wetlands.

Travelling with a fully serviced mobile camp, you move with the land rather than against it. Each night, camp rises in remote, unfenced wilderness, offering front-row seats to the drama of nature and skies so vast they seem to pull you inward.

Tour details:

Tour duration: 13 days

Accommodation: Serviced mobile safari tents

Tour Type: Serviced Mobile Safari

Dates: All year round

Please note: Weather conditions during the rainy season may require adjustments to the itinerary.

TRIP SUMMARY

Day 1: Maun

Day 2,3 ,4, 5,6 & 7: Central Kalahari Game Reserve

Day 7& 8: Makgadikgadi Pans National Park & Boteti River Front

Day 9 ,10 & 11: Nxai Pans National Park

Day 12: Maun

Day 13: (Departure)

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- **Desert & Salt Pan Landscapes**
Immense, open spaces that shift from arid deserts to reflective wetlands as the seasons change.
- **Seasonal Zebra Migration**
Vast herds of zebra and wildebeest moving across the plains in one of Africa's most dramatic spectacles.



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- **Predator Encounters**
Lions, cheetahs, leopards, spotted hyena, and brown hyena shadow the herds, creating powerful wildlife viewing opportunities.
- **Birding Bonanza**
Flamingos, pelicans, bustards, and migratory species fill the skies and shallow pans, especially during the green season.
- **Cultural & Historic Landmarks**
Visits to ancient baobabs, including Baines' Baobabs, once used as navigation markers by early explorers.
- **The Boteti Lifeline**
A permanent river drawing elephants, buffalo, hippos, and predators to its banks in the dry months.

DAY-TO-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1: Maun (1 night)

On arrival at Maun International Airport, you are met by our representative and assisted with your transfer vehicle.

Maun is Botswana's vibrant safari gateway - a frontier town poised between everyday life and true wilderness, and the jumping-off point for journeys into the Okavango and beyond. After checking in to your lodge, the afternoon is yours to settle in and explore.

Wander into town, browse local craft shops, or enjoy a relaxed meal at one of Maun's welcoming restaurants (own expense), sampling Botswana's flavours as the excitement of the days ahead begins to build.

Standard Accommodation: Thamalakane River Lodge

Day 2,3,4,5,6 & 7: Central Kalahari Game Reserve (6 nights)

Your guide meets you at 9:00 AM, and the real adventure begins as you leave Maun behind in an open game-drive vehicle, heading into the heart of the Kalahari.

The journey carries you toward Deception Valley - a place of vast skies and whispered history. The drive takes approximately five to six hours, with a picnic lunch enjoyed en route. Gradually, the landscape opens: dense bush softens into low grasslands, and ancient valleys emerge - once riverbeds, now dry and still, holding the memory of flowing water.

Deception Valley, along with nearby Passarge Valley, Sundays Pan, and Letiahau, forms part of a prehistoric drainage system that vanished thousands of years ago. When the first rains fall, the short grasses turn green, drawing springbok, gemsbok, wildebeest, and giraffe - and with them, lions, cheetahs, and bat-eared foxes.

This is a land of restraint and revelation. Its beauty is not loud, but enduring. Days are spent on game drives across sweeping pans and valleys, learning to read tracks in the sand and to appreciate the subtle movements of life adapted to harsh conditions. Nights bring firelight, jackal calls, and skies thick with stars.



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Fierce, haunting, and unforgettable, the Kalahari leaves its mark quietly. Many travellers find themselves longing for it long after they have left.

Camping Accommodation: 2 Nights Sunday Pan | 2 Nights Pipper Pan | 2 Nights Passarge Pan

Day 8 & 9: Makgadikgadi Pans National Park & Boteti River Front
(2 nights)

Leaving the Kalahari behind, your journey continues toward the great salt flats of Makgadikgadi - a land defined by space, light, and movement.

These two days are dedicated to tracking the roaming zebra herds. Each year, tens of thousands of zebras migrate south to the Makgadikgadi and Nxai plains in search of fresh grazing. Their movements are fluid and unpredictable, guided by rain and instinct.

Where zebras gather, predators follow. Lions, cheetahs, leopards, spotted hyena, and brown hyena patrol the plains, while vultures trace wide circles overhead. Despite the sheer numbers involved, finding the herds is never guaranteed - and that uncertainty is part of the thrill.

Along the Boteti River, permanent water transforms the desert into a ribbon of life. Elephants gather to drink, buffalo graze nearby, and hippos churn the shallows as birds line the banks in brilliant colour.

Zebra Migration: April - October

Camping Accommodation: Kumaga Campsites

Day 10,11 & 12: Nxai Pan

(3 nights)

Departing at first light, you travel in the cool of the morning, arriving at Nxai Pan by mid-morning.

Nxai Pan is one of Botswana's largest salt pans, a wide-open amphitheatre where wildlife congregates around waterholes and seasonal grasses. Elephant, giraffe, ostrich, springbok, and general plains game are regularly seen, while lions and cheetahs patrol the edges of the pan.

During the rainy season, Nxai becomes a green stage for the zebra migration. In the dry months, the focus shifts to resilient species: gemsbok, wildebeest, hartebeest, bat-eared fox, wild dog, and brown hyena.

Birdlife flourishes with the seasons, adding flashes of movement and colour to the open plains. The scale of the landscape creates striking photographic compositions - animals reduced to silhouettes against the vastness of sky and salt.

Zebra Migration November-March

Camping Accommodation: Nxai Pan Campsites

Day 13: Maun
(1 night)

You return to Maun for your final night, travelling approximately 140 kilometres (around 3.5 to 4.5 hours depending on conditions).



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This final evening is a gentle landing after days spent in open wilderness. Time to reflect, to sort through photographs, and to relive moments of dust, light, and moving herds.

Standard Accommodation: Maun Studios

Day 14: Maun

(Departure / End of Tour)

Today your safari comes to an end as you depart from Maun Airport.

If your flight leaves around midday, there may be time for one final activity or an early-morning outing before departure.

Well, it has indeed been an adventure.

Go home.

Tell the stories.

And begin planning your return.