



NXAI TRAVEL

Tailored safaris. Timeless landscapes.

1. Nxai Pan - Nata Bird Sanctuary Birding & Photographic Safari

Explore the Makgadikgadi at its most vibrant.

There is something quietly miraculous about the pans during the green season. From November to April, the dusty browns of the dry months give way to sweeping fields of green, shallow waters shimmering across the salt flats, and skies alive with wings. This is "Pula" - the rainy season - a word that means rain, blessing, and abundance. It is a time when the land breathes deeply and life responds in chorus.

Across the Makgadikgadi Pans, temporary wetlands form where only salt once lay, drawing birds from across the continent. Lesser and Greater Flamingos arrive in elegant waves, turning the shallow waters into moving paintings of pink and white. The air hums with calls, courtship displays, and the rustle of wings - a constant reminder that the rains have awakened the wilderness.

For photographers and birdwatchers, this is the pans at their most expressive. Reflections ripple across mirror-like waters, breeding plumage glows in the soft light, and every horizon feels newly washed and alive. Green season is not simply a change in weather - it is a transformation of mood, colour, and movement.

Tour details:

Tour duration: 7 days

Accommodation: Serviced Basarwa Huts (Dome): Camping Style

Tour Type: Serviced Mobile Safari

Dates: All Year Round: Best time November to April

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

See route map

TRIP SUMMARY

Day 1,2 & 3: Nxai Pans National Park

Day 4 & 5: Ntwetwe Pan & Nata Bird Sanctuary

Day 6: Maun

Day 7: (Departure)

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- **Dramatic Landscapes**
Vast salt flats transformed by rain into shimmering wetlands alive with birds and reflections.
- **Iconic Wildlife**
Close encounters with habituated meerkats, along with brown hyena, springbok, gemsbok, and red hartebeest.



NXAI TRAVEL

Tailored safaris. Timeless landscapes.

- **Seasonal Migrations**
The wet season brings thousands of zebras and wildebeest to the grasslands, creating sweeping scenes of movement across the plains.
- **Exceptional Birding**
Flamingos, pelicans, plovers, and countless migratory species gather in spectacular numbers, particularly at Sua Pan and the Nata River delta.
- **Unique Experiences**
Quad biking across the pans, sleeping beneath open skies, and walking with San Bushmen to learn ancient survival skills.
- **Cultural & Historic Landmarks**
Visits to ancient baobabs, including the famous Baines' Baobabs, once used as navigation points by early explorers.

DAY-TO-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 & 2: Ntwetwe Pan & Nata Bird Sanctuary (2 nights)

Situated on the northeastern edge of the great salt pans, the Nata Bird Sanctuary is one of Botswana's most important birding destinations. During and after the rains, vast numbers of waterbirds gather in the Nata River delta and surrounding pans, drawn by nutrient-rich waters and abundant food.

Here, hundreds of thousands of globally threatened Lesser Flamingos join Greater Flamingos, Chestnut-banded Plovers, Great White Pelicans, Pink-backed Pelicans, and a remarkable diversity of other species. As the waters begin to recede, the sanctuary hosts the largest congregation of Lesser Flamingos in southern Africa - a flamboyant, living mosaic of colour and sound.

Your journey begins with a scenic road transfer from Maun to Zoroga Expedition Camp, serving as your base for exploring the sanctuary and surrounding pans. Days are spent quietly observing and photographing birds in their natural rhythms, with time to linger in the best light and return again and again to productive viewing areas.

Camping Accommodation: Zoroga Expedition Camp

Day 3,4 & 5: Nxai Pans National Park (3 nights)

Explore The Pans' Rich Bird Life

Upon arrival in Maun, you are met by our representative and guided to your safari vehicle for the onward journey to Nxai Pan National Park.

Nxai Pan is a rich destination for birding, with more than 200 recorded species. Its mosaic of habitats; acacia scrub, grasslands, and mopane woodland supports a wide variety of birdlife throughout the year. During the wet months, the open pans attract kori bustards, secretary birds, and visiting storks, while smaller species fill the shrubs and grasslands with movement and song.



NXAI TRAVEL

Tailored safaris. Timeless landscapes.

With ecological links to the wider Makgadikgadi system, birdwatching here can be excellent year-round, but it reaches its peak during the rains when breeding activity is at its height and migratory species swell the numbers.

Game drives across the park offer both birding and general wildlife encounters, with open plains allowing for wide, uninterrupted views and striking photographic compositions.

Camping Accommodation: Nxai Pan Campsites

Day 6: Maun (1 night)

You return to Maun for your final night, travelling approximately 140 kilometres; a journey of about 3.5 to 4.5 hours depending on sand conditions and park exits.

After days immersed in open landscapes and birdsong, Maun offers a gentle transition back to town life. Time permitting, you may relax, sort through photographs, or enjoy a final evening meal reflecting on the week's sightings and moments of stillness.

Standard Accommodation: Maun Studios

Day 7: Maun (Departure / End of Tour)

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

Well, it has indeed been an adventure.
Go home.
Share your memories.
And quietly begin planning your return.