



JACK'S CAMP • SAN CAMP • SAFARIS & EXPEDITIONS  
PLANET BAOBAB • CAMP KALAHARI

# BOTSWANA SAFARI

## ITINERARY



3 NIGHTS AT JACK'S CAMP IN THE WET SEASON INCLUDING  
WALKING WITH THE BUSHMEN



# SAND & STARS...

3 NIGHTS IN THE **MAKGADIKGADI PANS** & THE **KALAHARI DESERT** - WET SEASON

## DAY 1

Arrive at Jack's Camp, pitched on a low grassland knoll amongst an oasis of dignified desert palms and Kalahari acacia.

The camp's hub is a romantic canvas pavilion of low spires and finials with a fluttering valance beneath its eaves and could be the site for a medieval jousting tourney were it not a deciduous green. Three poles support the main chamber where everyone meets for meals at a long communal dining table.

Ten green roomy and stylish canvas tents with en-suite bathrooms, indoor and outdoor showers (for those who want to feel the Kalahari breeze on their skin) have been fashioned in classical 1940's style creating an oasis of civilization in what can be the harshest of stark environments...

Persian rugs underfoot, cool cotton sheets and mahogany and brass campaign-style kit from the family safari stores form a striking contrast with the rugged wilderness viewed from the comfort of one's own veranda.





DUE TO AN ONGOING HABITUATION PROGRAMME, IT'S POSSIBLE FOR GUESTS TO **GET UP CLOSE & PERSONAL** WITH THESE **CAPTIVATING** CREATURES!



After settling in to your tent, join your Guide for tea before driving into the grasslands and the beautiful evening light.

Stop to watch the sun set and listen to an explanation of how the Makgadikgadi pans, the remnants of the world's largest ever super lake, were formed.

Return to camp for a lavish dinner in the elegant mess tent, a designated national museum of Botswana.

## DAY 2

Set off in the morning to visit some of the Kalahari's sexiest meerkats. ('Suricate' to science-minded people and 'Timon' to Lion King fans.) Get up close and personal with these captivating creatures.

On chilly mornings, you might well find a meerkat snuggling up to you for warmth.

Or, in the absence of a termite mound or tree, using your head as a sentry lookout post. By spending quality time with these incredibly social, superbly adapted animals, you will be able to see how they interact with each other and their environment.

You also get the chance to see the desert through the eyes of a meerkat – which, despite the fact that it's only a foot off the ground, is a pretty spectacular vantage point, and definitely one of the most special and memorable game experiences you will encounter in Botswana.

After a picnic breakfast, visit a remote cattle-post to learn about the traditional culture of the Batswana people.

Close by is the famous Chapman's Baobab (Also known as the Seven Sisters) which is acknowledged to be the third largest tree in Africa, and was the campsite of early explorers like Livingstone and Selous when they pioneered the area.

This gives you an opportunity to gain a fascinating insight into the history of the early explorers.

Return to camp for lunch and siesta.



## SEE THE **AWE-INSPIRING** SPECTACLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA'S **LAST SURVIVING ANNUAL MIGRATION**



After tea, head off in search of some unique desert species such as armadillo, bat eared foxes, armadillos, and the elusive brown hyaena, which is the third rarest large carnivore in Africa, with only about 8,000 in the wild.

Brown Hyaenas are the consummate desert specialists, surviving in arid areas where both food and water are scarce. A timid, nocturnal species rarely seen by humans, but in spite of being solitary foragers; they are very social animals, living in clans of up to 10-12 hyaenas.

Enjoy an evening game drive back to camp for a lavish dinner.

### **DAY 3**

Wake up to a delicious breakfast and head off for a full day in the Makgadikgadi National Park to see the zebra and wildebeest migration.

In the Kalahari Desert rain is the 'currency of life' and it is incredible to see how, as soon as the rains arrive, the desert transforms into a green oasis teeming with life. Within days of the first rain, thousands of Burchell's zebra and blue wildebeest make their way across the Makgadikgadi National Park to feed on the sweet summer grasses, and benefit from the high mineral content found in the salt pans.

Until recently it was thought that the zebra and wildebeest came from the Boteti River, but new research has shown that some of the zebras come from as far away as the Southern parts of the Okavango Delta. The route to the Makgadikgadi from the southern delta is no easy trot and this new data has emphasised just how incredibly important the Makgadikgadi area is to these animals.

While enjoying a picnic lunch in the shade of a grove of trees, you will see the awe-inspiring spectacle of the last surviving zebra and wildebeest migration in Southern Africa.

This is the second largest migration of African ungulates, with an estimated 30,000 animals, the majority being zebra, participating each year.

Close behind the zebra and wildebeest are the predators, and it is during the rainy season that you might encounter lion, cheetah and, sometimes, even leopard or wild dog. Resident all year round are the rare brown hyaena, which do not hunt, but mainly scavenge, these fascinating and somewhat misunderstood animals benefit hugely from the arrival of the migration. Also benefiting from this influx of life are the many birds of prey and vultures.



## THE KALAHARI: THE DESERT WITH THE **GREATEST** **SPECIES** **DIVERSITY** IN THE WORLD!

The bird life in the Makgadikgadi is as fascinating as the animals and you are sure to spot some unique desert birds, such as ostrich and sand grouse as well as the water birds, which arrive with the rains.

Waders, ibis, ducks, geese, storks, as well as the rare wattled crane can be seen during this time, and towards the end of the season, flamingos, can be seen resting on the pans before continuing on their migration.

Your Guide will explain in great detail how mammals evolved; this process having been shaped by the complex but, fascinating relationship between predator and prey.

The origins of hunting and water sourcing and its influence on man's development will also be explained. Our Guides are specialists, and are able to convey all the nuances of the desert and the clever adaptations of its inhabitants that we consider one of the most interesting features of the environment.

Return to camp after a jam packed day for hot showers, and a delicious dinner.





UNCHARTED AFRICA HAS PIONEERED AND **PASSIONATELY SUPPORTED CULTURAL TOURISM** IN BOTSWANA SINCE THE COMPANY'S INCEPTION IN 1993.

**DAY 4**

Spend the morning walking with Zu/'hoasi Bushmen Trackers.

Uncharted Africa has pioneered and passionately supported cultural tourism in Botswana since the company's inception in 1993. It has long been our belief that it is a vitally important tool in terms of preserving this unique, but sadly fast-vanishing, culture.

We have been working closely with the Zu/'hoasi people of the Western Kalahari for many years and are privileged to have a small group of these extraordinary men at our service to guide our guests on a morning's walking safari.

Offering a window into the past, they teach us how they have survived in this harshest of environments, using their vast and ancient knowledge of plants, animal behaviour and survival skills.

Time for one more Jack's Camp lunch before you bid farewell to the camp in preparation for your onward journey.



“MORE SUITED, I WOULD SAY, FOR THE BETTER CLASS OF MAHARAJAH.”  
THOMAS PAKENHAM

