



## **Best of Botswana**

### **Introduction:**

This route focusses on the beautiful wildlife rich areas of Northern Botswana region which is ideal 4WD country, the area consists of some of the best and wildest game reserves in Africa.

### **Day 1: Johannesburg – Martins Drift Border / Lephalale -Camp at Kwa Nokeng Lodge / Camp Sites 430 km**

From the Zebra Offices take the N12 towards OR Tambo Airport, then the R21 towards Pretoria then Take N1 to Polokwane and take Matlala Rd to N11, 52 min (74.2 km) Turn right onto N11 and arrive at Martins Drift.

Kwa Nokeng offers a good overnight rest stop and is located alongside the Limpopo River. There is a small restaurant and shops and fuel station nearby

### **Day 2: Kharma Rhino Sanctuary: Serowe Botswana 156 km Approx. 2 hours**

Continue on the A1 and onto A14 direct to the Sanctuary

The Kharma Rhino Sanctuary Trust is a community based wildlife project, established in 1992 to assist in saving the vanishing rhino, restore an area formerly teeming with wildlife to its previous natural state and provide economic benefits to the local Botswana community through tourism and the sustainable use of natural resources.

The camping and chalet facilities at Mokongwa Camp are a short drive from the Entrance Gate and are accessible without four-wheel drive. There are 13 campsites, including sites for large groups. The central feature of each site is a large Mokongwa tree which provides both character and shade. There is also a fireplace, braai stand with grill, and tap with birdbath. The campsites are served by two communal ablution blocks.

### **Day 3 & 4: Central Kalahari Game Reserve: Deception and Letihua Valley 380 kms Approx. 7 hours**

Take the A 14 to Central Kalahari Reserve

CKGR is the second largest game reserve in the world. Larger than Denmark or Switzerland, and bigger than Lesotho and Swaziland combined, the 52,800 km is situated right in the centre of Botswana, this reserve is characterised by saltpans and ancient riverbeds.

Varying from sand dunes with many species of trees and shrubs in the north, to flat bushveld in the central area, the reserve is more heavily wooded in the south, with mopane forests to the south and east.

The CKGR was originally created as a refuge for the San Bushmen - the inhabitants of the Kalahari for the past 30,000 years. They lived in nomadic hunter-gatherer family groups only taking what they needed to survive - which is an art form in the Kalahari.

#### **Day 5: South Camp, Nxai Pan National Park, 200 kms, approx. 5 hours**

Continue onto the A 3

In the wet season the pans come alive with the plains game attracted by the nutritious grasses. Closely following are the predators. In the season large herds are drawn to the only water supply in hundreds of kms. Makgadikgadi and Nxai Pans National Parks offer the openness and seasonal migration of zebras from Chobe towards Central Kalahari and abundance of exotic birds. The desert environment which makes up the CKGR with vast grassland stretches of savannah and thorny scrubs.

It covers 2500km<sup>2</sup> and was proclaimed in 1970, later extended to its present size including Baines baobab. Nxai National Park is located on the Northern fringe of the Makgadikgadi basin and includes Nxai pan, an ancient lake bed that was once part of ancient Lake Makgadikgadi. Nxai Pan National Park Consists of series of fossils pans acacia tress on islands that form shady spots for the animals to rest during hot weather. South Camp Campsite is situated not far from the second entrance gate in a well shaded area.

#### **Day 6: Maun Okavango Delta: Audi Tented Camp 199 kms Approx. 4 hours**

Take the A 3 to Maun and stay at Audi Camp is 12 kms north of Maun, on the road toward the Moremi Game Reserve, located on the banks of the Thamalakane River – the southernmost tributary of the Okavango Delta. We have luxury en-suite tents on raised wooden decking overlooking the river, mini-meru tents with beds, lights their own fire places and cooking area. Large dome tents with stretcher beds. There are many shaded camping areas and some of the sites have power points. There is a bar and a la carte restaurant. Maun offers good shops and facility to stock up and prepare for the following days of remote camping and no facilities.

#### **Day 7 & 8: Moremi Game Reserve: Third Bridge Camp 250 kms Approx. 5 hours**

The Okavango Delta is one of the world's largest inland water systems. Its 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.

Third Bridge camp site is located on the Western side of Moremi Game Reserve along the off stream of Moanachira River. Third Bridge camp site can be accessed along a 58km route North Westley direction through some diverse scenery across first and second bridge. Another route from the South gate goes through the Mophane forest 60km long via Xakanaka. Third Bridge area that borders on the delta and Mboma Island enjoy heavy concentration of wildlife in the dry season. Third Bridge offers

much more of the wilderness experience than most of Southern African camping grounds with unspoiled wilderness and top destination. Wild camping with ablution facilities and excellent positioning

### **Day 9: Moremi Game Reserve: Khwai Community Camp 100km Approx. 3 hours**

Moremi, hunted by the Bushman as long as 10,000 years ago, was initiated by the Batswana tribe and covers some 4,871 km<sup>2</sup>, as the eastern section of the Okavango Delta. Moremi is mostly described as one of the most beautiful wildlife reserves in Africa. It combines mopane woodland and *acacia* forests, floodplains and lagoons. It is the great diversity of plant and animal life that makes Moremi so well known. The Khwai River is well known for wildlife and offers some of the best viewing in Southern Africa.

### **Day 10: Chobe National Park: Savuti Camp 190 km Approx. 5 hours**

Savuti Camp lies on the Savute Channel in northern Botswana, a famous waterway in a thrilling state of flux. For a quarter of a century, the Savute Channel was dry, creating wide-open grassland, home to both quantities and varieties of wildlife and a legendary predator's enclave. In 2008, the waters returned, and Savuti Camp now has front-row seats to view the abundant game that has congregated and adapted in its wake.

Game concentrations here are high, particularly in the winter dry season, and apart from abundant plains game, species such as Roan and sable antelope, southern giraffe, lion, leopard, cheetah, spotted hyena, black-backed jackal and wild dog may also be encountered. In winter, this area can also be excellent for the sought-after aardvark and aardwolf, which are big ticks on anyone's mammal lists!

### **Day 11: Chobe National Park: Ihaha Camp 200 km Approx. 6 hours**

The Chobe National Park, which is the second largest national park in Botswana and covers 10,566 square kms, 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. Game viewing is exceptional this is a relatively new camping ground with modern facilities, an attractive reception office and is more remote in nature than most far. It is one of the two newest campsites in Botswana and is further upstream than the old Serondella.

IHAHA 17° 50.484'S; 24° 52.748'E –. Ihaha is the only place you can camp on the Chobe river front in the Chobe National Park. You can also camp in Kasane at the Chobe Safari Lodge campsite, which is a very different experience.

### **Day 12: Chobe National Park: Chobe Safari Lodge Camping**

Chobe Safari Lodge is situated in Kasane on the banks of the Chobe River and shares a border with Chobe National Park. It is the place where four African Countries meet: Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Zambia. Kasane is also perfect for doing a day trip to Victoria Falls. Only 70km from the Kazengula Border Post

The Famous Safari Lodge campsite offers individual sites scattered amongst the Riverine forest close to the Chobe River. Each Site has its own power point and is close to one of the modern ablution facilities. The Sedudu Bar Overlooks the river and floodplains, and is well known as “the” sundowner spot in the region. The boat trip is worthwhile. Accommodation – lodge on the river

**Day 13: Nata Lodge Camping 380 kms Approx. 5 hours**

Take the A 33 to Nata, this is tarred but there are sections undergoing maintenance. There is usually great elephant viewing along the road as it borders Chobe.

An oasis set among the Mokolwane palms on the edge of the pans. It is ideally situated close to the entrance to the Nata Sanctuary and is just off the main road, 10 km from Nata village. This is the junction to the Okavango, Chobe and Francistown areas.

This area incorporates a multitude of salt pans and vast grass plains dotted by palm islands and forms the Great Makgadikagidi which comprise the largest area of salt pans in the world covering some 37 000 sq km in overall extent. It is the last vestiges of Africa's largest inland sea and exudes an atmosphere of antiquity and mystery

The Nata River delta feeds the Sua Pan in the Nata sanctuary and forms the breeding ground for a host of water birds including pelicans and flamingo in their thousands, transforming the shore line into a pink haze blending into the western sky. Nata Lodge offers guided tours in open safari vehicles into the sanctuary, not to be missed .The campsite surroundings offer peace and tranquillity with backdrop being that of the Botswana night sky. The lodge's campsite is able to accommodate 150 pax and the ablution areas are stylish with semi open showers offering hot and cold water for that true African feeling. The campsite, however, does not have electricity points.

**Day 14: Kwa Nokeng Lodge Martins Drift 450 kms Approx. 6 hours**

An easy drive along the A3 and A1 back to the Limpopo River at Martins Drift.

**Day 15: Martins Drift to JHB 430 kms Approx. 6 hours**

Cross the border back into South Africa and reverse your steps back to JHB via Polokwane and take the N 11 and N 1