



Botswana Classic Safari

Photographic tour with tour leader Mark Sisson

5th - 19th July 2027

Trip Overview

Group size:

The trip accommodates a maximum of 6 guests.

Due to the nature of the trip we will have to take an interim payment of £1500 on the 30th October 2026 and the amount will be deducted off the final balance.

Cost includes:

Transfers from the airport, accommodation, ground transportation, all meals, drives, scenic flight, boat trips and park fees.

Cost excludes:

International flights to Maun and from Kasane, visas, sundry items, non-local alcohol (ie spirits) in camp, and tips/gratuities for camp staff and drivers and personal travel insurance.

Accommodation:

We will be using our own mobile camp throughout the trip with our final night in a boutique hotel in the town of Kasane. Camp accommodation consists of walk-in tents with mosquito proofing and sewn in groundsheets, with your own stretcher bed, foam mattress, towels, pillows, sheets and blankets and private outdoor bathroom area, so although we will be mobile and moving camp every few days (we will not have to help in this process) it is comfortable and very much part of the traditional safari experience. Each tent has its own en-suite area attached.

Costs are based on a shared basis as the cost of a single supplement is high given the logistics involved: do enquire though if interested as it can be arranged.

Trip Overview



Level of fitness:

In a physical sense this is not an especially hard trip but there will be early morning and late afternoon/evening drives (but offset by rest periods during the day) and we will be camping and moving as we progress through the trip too so it can be cumulatively tiring.

LEVEL 3

This trip offers not only the opportunity to visit one of the jewels in Africa's wildlife photography crowns in the form of Botswana, but also the chance to experience it in the traditional way of a mobile safari: we will be moving camp as we travel from the Khwai/Moremi region on the edge of the magnificent Okavango Delta through iconic places such as Savuti and Chobe National parks and ending up on the shores of the mighty Chobe River itself.

It's a trip that offers an amazing variety of habitats from dry mopane forests and riverbeds, to lush wet swamplands and waterways. We'll explore by our own 4WD vehicles throughout, enjoy a boat trip on the Chobe River, have the opportunity for some night drives in one area and all the time be camping under the stars as we go in our comfortable tents with good home cooking and support throughout.

With iconic prides of lion, packs of wild dogs, excellent cheetah country, good cover for a healthy leopard population, hyenas, elephants, giraffe, specialist antelope including red lechwe, sable and roan and over 500 species of bird that we may encounter this really is a classic mobile safari in a fantastic corner of the continent.

Itinerary



Day 1: We will look to catch our overnight flights to Johannesburg – full details/recommendations will be advised nearer the time.

Day 2: On our early morning arrival in Johannesburg, we will look to catch our short connecting flight to Maun, Botswana. We plan to then head to the fringe of the magnificent Okavango Delta area on a short chartered scenic flight as this will give the best possible views of the amazing habitat as well as the chance to take some dramatic aerial images as well. Our initial base will be on the border of the Kwai community area and Moremi Game Reserve, and we will be based here for 4 nights, so after a busy day's travel and no doubt some additional photography as we drive to our base, we will be ready for the first night in our mobile camp setup.

Days 3 – 5: We will spend 3 full days in and around the Khwai/Moremi area. It's one that is particularly good for leopard as well as painted dogs and boasts good numbers of lion prides. When outside the park it is also an area where we can stay out in our vehicles after which provides additional opportunities for dusk and night photography. Elephants come from miles around to drink at pools here and pods of hippos are common too, the latter at the magnificent Dombo Hippo Pools in particular.

The pattern of our days will be similar throughout the whole trip, with early morning wake-up followed by a morning game drive and returning to camp for a late breakfast, rest in the middle of the day and then an afternoon drive through to sunset and night drives on our return to camp.

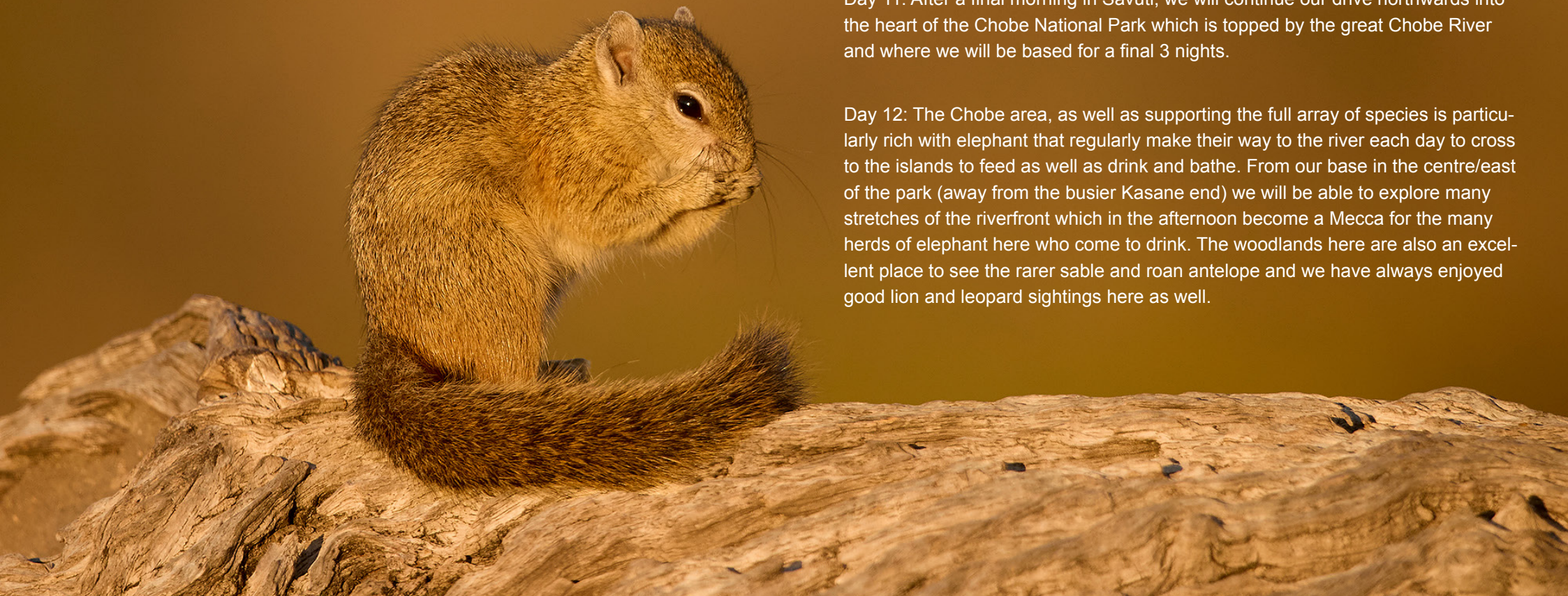
Day 6: After our morning drive we will again break camp and head slightly further north into the justifiably renowned Savuti region of Chobe National Park and where we will base ourselves here for 5 nights with the first two in the marsh area to the south of Savuti and the latter three more centrally, allowing us time to work the whole region well. It will be immediately apparent that the habitat has changed as this is a much more arid area without the waterways of the delta, but it is an excellent area for game generally with an array of different antelope species and an equally good density of all the big cats and predators.

Itinerary

Days 7 – 10: The Savuti Marsh and Savuti Channel areas were an integral part of the BBC's Planet Earth series with particular focus on the lion prides here who have learned to hunt elephant, and along with the high densities of hyena to be found here these will almost certainly form a large part of our attention when out on our morning and afternoon game drives, along with cheetah once again as this is prime habitat for them as well. It is also an excellent area for wild dogs and the chances of finding a den are as high here at this time of the year as anywhere we know.

Day 11: After a final morning in Savuti, we will continue our drive northwards into the heart of the Chobe National Park which is topped by the great Chobe River and where we will be based for a final 3 nights.

Day 12: The Chobe area, as well as supporting the full array of species is particularly rich with elephant that regularly make their way to the river each day to cross to the islands to feed as well as drink and bathe. From our base in the centre/east of the park (away from the busier Kasane end) we will be able to explore many stretches of the riverfront which in the afternoon become a Mecca for the many herds of elephant here who come to drink. The woodlands here are also an excellent place to see the rarer sable and roan antelope and we have always enjoyed good lion and leopard sightings here as well.



Itinerary

Day 13: A final mornings drive in the area near our camp and we will then head west through the park and on to the town of Kasane from where we will have a private boat trip on the river to see the elephant, buffalo and array of bird species from a different perspective before settling into our small and comfortable boutique hotel to fully freshen up at the end of the trip and before the journey home.

Day 14: On our final morning, we will return for our flights from Kasane to Johannesburg and from where we will catch our overnight flights back to Europe.

Day 15: Arrive back in the UK/Europe.



Things to bring

Our accommodation is what is described as semi-luxury walk-in tents with mosquito proofing and sewn in groundsheets. They are clean and comfortable with a stretcher bed, foam mattress, towels, pillows, sheets, and blankets so although we will be mobile and moving our entire camp on with us every few days it is nevertheless comfortable if simple all-round. Each tent will have its own attached en-suite long-drop toilet and a bucket shower as well. If you have any special dietary requirements do, please let us know in advance as we will be in very remote areas, and it will need planning in advance. Bottled water is always provided in the camp, and wine, local spirits, beers, and soft drinks are included for mealtimes etc. The daytime temperature is typically around the low – mid 20 degrees Celsius so in terms of clothing you'll obviously need lightweight but also potentially shower-proof clothing with a fleece or warm outer layer for the early morning drives and evenings around the campfire. Footwear needs to be just of the sensible outdoor variety. Sun cream, a hat, lip moisturiser and sunglasses are also recommended, as we will be exposed to the sun for long periods. Please liaise with your doctor as to which medication to bring. Insect repellent is useful as they can occasionally be a nuisance.

It is particularly important that your insurance for this trip covers any emergency evacuations as we will be in particularly remote locations throughout the trip.



Camera equipment

A photograph of a lemur, possibly a Red Ruffed Lemur, walking through tall, dry grass in a savanna-like environment. The lemur is dark brown with a lighter-colored face and chest. The background is a soft-focus landscape with more grass and trees under warm, golden light.

In terms of camera gear then the longest lens you have will be needed (300mm with converter as a minimum really and 500mm is ideal). You may also consider some shorter lenses for the array of environmental opportunities (70-200mm and 24-70mm say). You will need storage devices for the array of images you'll build up and a laptop for viewing these on the evenings can be both sociable and good for critiquing purposes. A beanbag is ideal for supporting lenses and cameras on the side of the vehicles.

Useful Contact Information

My contact number for the build up to and for the duration of the trip is:

Mark: +44 (0) 7905 569685



Please don't hesitate to contact me even if you think it is a minor question, I am here to help.



Address

4 Deer Park Drive, Newport, Shropshire TF10 7HB

Tel: 01952 411436

Email: mark@natures-images.co.uk

Web: www.natures-images.co.uk

Registered in England and Wales No: 6635478
Natures Images is the Trading Name of Natures Images Ltd