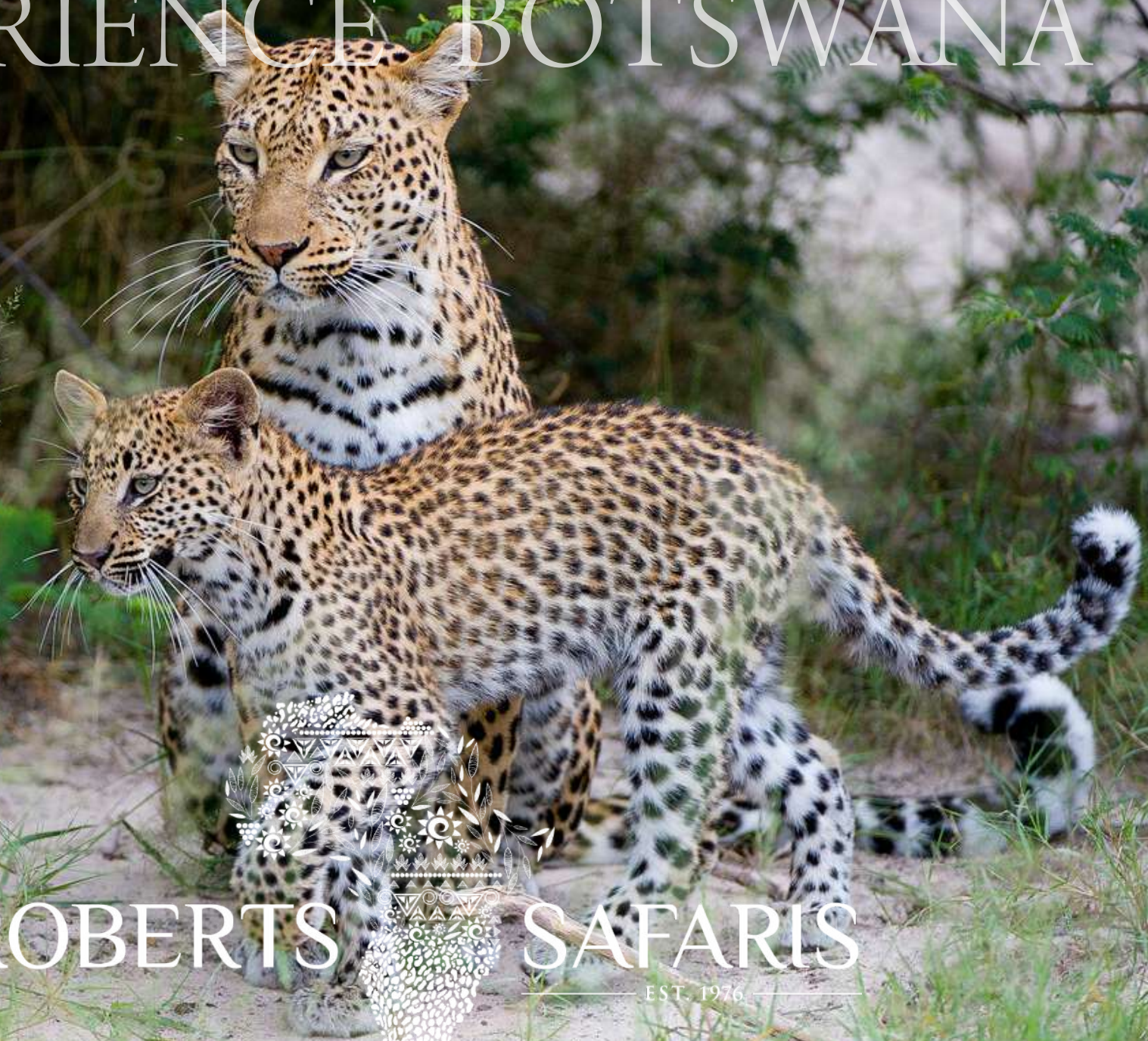


EXPERIENCE BOTSWANA



ROBERTS

SAFARIS

EST. 1976

ITINERARY BOTSWANA

DAYS 1-3: JACKS CAMP, Makgadikgadi Pans National Park

Arriving at Maun Airport you will be met by representatives from Roberts Safaris and assisted through the airport to your flight to the endless skyline of the Makgadikgadi Pans and the wonders of Jacks Camp. Totally rebuilt in 2020, this promises to overdeliver in all areas.

Activities at Jacks Camp are wide and diverse and in our opinion, like nothing else you will find on Earth. The habituated meerkats are frequently a highlight - often sitting on your head to gain a height advantage of this lunar landscape. Walking with the Zu'hoasi Bushmen allows guests to gain an insight into their ancient cultures and step out of the hustle and bustle of modern life. During the dry season, quad biking is also offered over the pans and during the rains the annual migrations can be seen threading over the pans in search of fresh grass and water.

Desert adapted wildlife that may be seen here year round include ostrich, springbok, steenbok, black-backed jackal, while nocturnal creatures such as brown hyaena, aardwolf, porcupine, bat-eared fox, honey badger and scrub hare can make for interesting sightings. Kalahari lion, cheetah and leopard also roam the area and though they are more elusive, they are heard often and seen occasionally.

DAYS 4 - 6: JAO, Jao Conservancy

The game viewing at Jao is superb. Huge herds of red lechwe can be seen, followed by their primary predator – prides of lion. Other game typical of the area includes elephant, buffalo, leopard, tsessebe, zebra, hippo and crocodile as well as the uncommon sitatunga and spotted-necked otter. Many bird species are resident such as Meyer's parrot, African harrier hawk, black heron, coppery-tailed coucal, and black crane being some of the avian treasures found at Jao.

On the activities front, Jao Camp comes into its own with some fantastic water-based options such as mokoro trips and motorboat cruises. There's also catch-and-release fishing on a seasonal basis.

Back on land, there are day and night 4WD safari drives. We have been astounded by the tremendous numbers of red lechwe grazing on a very pretty part of the Jao Flats (seasonal floodplains). For the best game viewing, we'd advise joining an excursion to Hunda Island (you take a boat to the island and then hop into a 4WD vehicle). The largest swathe of dry land in the area, the island is home to giraffe, zebra, wildebeest and kudu, which in turn attract a variety of predators.



ITINERARY BOTSWANA

DAYS 7 - 9: VUMBURA PLAINS, Vumbura Conservancy

On finishing the canoe safari you will be met by the helicopters for your flight to Vumbura Plains in the Northern region of the Okavango Delta. North of Botswana's Moremi National Park is a series of large floodplains dotted with small palm islands and interspersed with large forested areas.

Here, the Vumbura Reserve – known for wonderfully varied and high densities of game – is home to the two adjacent camps that make up Vumbura Plains. Imagine a luxury hotel of contemporary, minimalist design, deep in the Delta and you're nearly there. Vumbura Plains offers a wide choice of activities, including day and night 4WD game drives, mokoro trips and sometimes short walks – although because of the density of big game, walks are always at the discretion of the guides and managers. When water levels are high enough, the nearby channel is also used for motorboat trips – and on our most recent visit we were offered the opportunity to do a spot of catch-and-release fishing.

Vumbura has been beautifully designed with all of the accommodation looking over the expansive wet lands to the front of camp. Frequent visitors are large breeding herds of elephants moving through the area, often with many young at foot, buffalo herds that number into the thousands and the rare sable and roan antelopes that are found in pockets throughout the area, their numbers are increasing and their presence in the area is a success story for conservation in Botswana.

DAYS 10 - 12: MOMBO, Moremi Game Reserve

And as if that was not an action packed itinerary - ending on a high with the magnificent Mombo. Long known as “the Place of Plenty,” Mombo boasts enormous concentrations of plains game and predators and is considered to be one of the best areas for game viewing in Botswana. Rebuilt in 2018, Mombo aims to maintain the traditions and history of the camp, one of their greatest conservation successes was taking part in the reintroduction of black and white rhino into the wilds of Botswana.

The eight spacious tents afford sweeping views over a floodplain teeming with wildlife. The sitting room, separate bedroom and bathroom, indoor and outdoor showers and bathtub with copper and brass fittings comprise of the guest rooms.

The main area of Mombo Camp is very large indeed with a couple of beautifully furnished seating areas and a library with a good selection of reference and fiction. At one end is a well-stocked bar, open throughout the day and where pre-dinner drinks are served. The deck in front of this main area incorporates an alfresco dining area and Pizza oven, where brunch and dinner can be served. A second covered dining area lies off to one side. Tea and coffee are available here all day. Dividing the bar and main indoor dining areas there is tall double sided fireplace which will come in useful during the winter months.

DAYS 13: Departure, fly to Maun Airport for International connection

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JACKS CAMP

MAKGADIKGADI PANS





JACKS CAMP

MAKGADIKGADI PANS

JACKS CAMP

MAKGADIKGADI PANS



Jack's Camp is spread out beneath a grove of mokolwane palm trees with vast views across open expanses of Botswana's immense Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, complete with patches of grassy Savannah and photogenic palm islands.

The camp has ten spacious en-suite tents with inside and outside bathrooms all designed in a 1940's exploration style. Each tent has uninterrupted views out over the Pans offering beautiful accommodation and an oasis of civilization in what can be the harshest of stark environments. The main area consists of an elegant mess tent and swimming pool as well as a number of artifacts and small library making Jacks Camp a designated 'National Museum of Botswana'.

Nature drives as well as extensive walking, night drives and quad biking are all possible from camp. The guides here are exceptional, aiming to give guests an understanding of the Makgadikgadi's history as well as the area's geology and archaeology.



JAO CAMP
OKAVANGO DELTA

JAO CAMP

OKAVANGO DELTA



JAO CAMP

OKAVANGO DELTA



Jao's central area is arranged over two levels. The lower level features an intimate and tucked away sitting area, a small library, entertainment lounge and a richly stocked curio shop, many of whose items are made by the camp's staff. This opens out onto a large deck surrounding the firepit – a traditional gathering spot to swap stories after dinner – and decorated with probably the biggest wind chimes we've seen. From here, wooden walkways lead to not one but two separate plunge pools.

From this lower level, a polished rosewood staircase leads to the upper deck, whose original artworks and African wood sculptures (some by local carvers) are a real feature. This is the hub of the central area, with a large bar and lounge, and a dining area complete with cappuccino machine. For the most part, guests dine around one central table, but they have the option to dine individually if preferred.

A winding wooden walkway about 3m off the ground, connects to Jao's nine luxury suites, which are spread out on either side of the main building. Built of canvas and thatch, these extensive suites are tastefully decorated and very well appointed. One suite is a smaller self contained en-suite room sharing its platform, making it ideal for families. Running the length of each suite is an outside deck with a hammock and chairs – and a private sala where, weather permitting, you can organise a sleep-out.

VUMBURA PLAINS

OKAVANGO DELTA



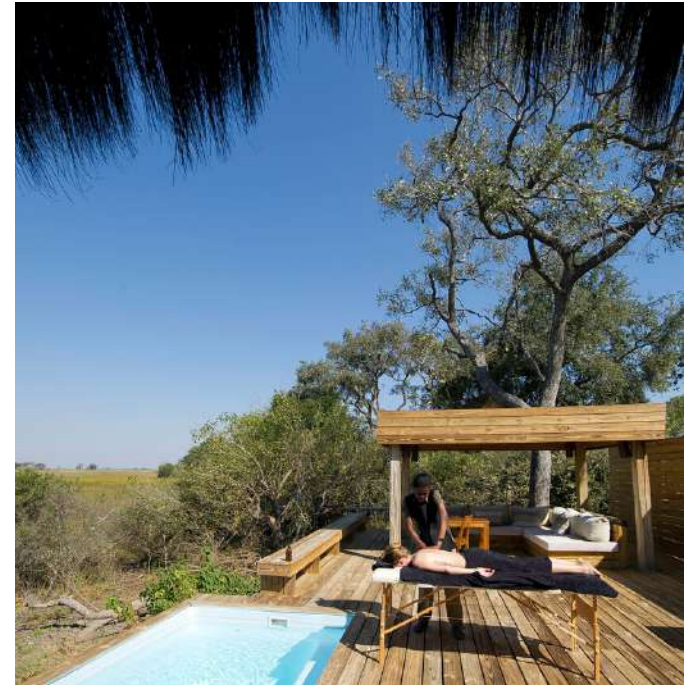
VUMBURA PLAINS

OKAVANGO DELTA



VUMBURA PLAINS

OKAVANGO DELTA - BOTSWANA



Vumbura Plains is a luxury camp situated in a private concession bordering the Moremi Game Reserve in the far north of the Okavango Delta. The lodge has two 14-bedded camps (north and south) linked by raised boardwalks. Each camp has its own sumptuous raised lounge, dining and bar area with magnificent vistas across the Okavango Delta. Each large luxurious room is raised off the ground, with indoor and outdoor showers and an en-suite bathroom.

A step down is the lounge area, open on three sides for that iconic view of the floodplains. Additional room features include a private plunge pool and 'sala' - a place from which to watch the passing parade of wildlife or indulge in a soothing massage.

Vumbura Plains Camp offers both land and water activities, principally nature viewing in varied habitats in open 4x4 vehicles, nature walks, mokoro trips and boat excursions.

MOMBO

MOREMI



MOMBO

MOREMI



MOMBO

MOREMI



Mombo's activities focus solely on morning and afternoon 4WD game drives and the guiding which, from our experience, is superb. The camp lies in one of the most fertile sections of the Okavango Delta, where the high nutrient content in the soil supports a vast food web which in turn leads to great game densities. Game viewing is from exceptionally comfortable and spacious 4x4 game drive vehicles. As the camp is situated with the Moremi Game Reserve, the activities must adhere to the national parks regulations, which includes the inability to drive off road, walking and night drives.

Mombo Camp itself is a beautiful balance between the original concept but updated and executed to the highest of standards. Each room has a private plunge pool and there is a centrally located gym for those who would like some fitness in the wild. All dietary requirements can be catered for and the dining experience tends to be interactive with the chefs. There are also interactive film and conservation presentation evenings where guests can learn more about the area and the work that has been carried out here since the camp's initial conception.



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