

35TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

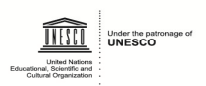
27 AUGUST - 4 SEPTEMBER 2016 | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA



ExSA-Pre 8

Botswana Okavango Delta

TRIP LEADER: Piotr Wolski



INTRODUCTION

The Okavango Delta, a tectonically bound alluvial fan, supports a large freshwater wetland recognized as a World Heritage Site and one of the world's largest Ramsar sites. It is also a prime tourism destination, priding itself in large numbers of charismatic wildlife, unspoiled environment and exclusivity. The excursion will offer a glimpse into unique hydrological, geological, geomorphological, and ecological features of the southern part of that system, as well as ample opportunities for viewing famed Okavango wild- and bird-life.

During the excursion we will visit the Okavango Research Institute, dedicated to studying the Okavango, where we will learn about current knowledge, main research directions and challenges faced in understanding of this complex socio-ecological system.

We will conduct field trips, during which we will visit and learn about the hydrological, ecological and socio-economic role of the main geomorphological features of the southern part of the system – such as the Thamalakane fault, Kunyere faultline basin, fossil dune system, and floodplain-island complex.

We will witness the nature of sediment transport and deposition processes first hand during a trip by mokoros (dug-out canoes) or a boat through a system of floodplains, channels, and lagoons. Finally, we will visit Lake Ngami, which offers an opportunity to learn about the time scales of variability experienced by the geological and hydrological system of the Okavango, and their ecological and social implications.

The participants in this 6-day (4-nights) excursion will stay in chalets and tents in Sitatunga and Kazikini Camps near Maun, and will be transported by open safari vehicles.

Group size:	10-24 travellers
Travel through:	Botswana
Length of travel:	5 days

DATE: 22-27 August 2016

Highlights

- * Okavango Delta – Mokoro excursion
- * Moremi game drive
- * Discovery Metals Boseto Copper Mine excursion

Overnight 3 night on safari we stay at designated campsites in national parks and towns. Formal campsites have hot and cold showers, laundry facilities & telephones.

2 nights we “camp wild” without fences in the wilderness areas. On these nights the crew will erect a bucket shower (with hot water off the fire) and a pit latrine (with seat!).

Meals 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinners will be provided, prepared at the vehicle and eaten around the camp fire.

Transport for the majority of this safari you travel in a custom-built 4WD Land Cruiser with 12 forward facing seats (of which 8 are “window” seats). Roll up canvas sides allow you to feel part of the bush.

Limited participation An essential part of your safari is some participation. From putting up your tent to packing the truck in the morning – it's all part of your adventure and when everyone puts in a little effort the trip will run smoothly. Your tour leaders will do all the meal preparation but we do ask for help (on rotation) with the washing up.

ITINERARY

Day 1 MAUN

Arrive at Maun Airport, the gateway to the Okavango Delta. Situated on the banks of the Thamalakane River, Maun is a bustling frontier town where we prepare for the delta excursion. After setting up camp we have a relaxing afternoon at the swimming pool. We have time for an optional (own expense) game flight over the Okavango, which will reveal a different aspect of the delta

Day 1: Breakfast is not included

Day 1: Lunch is not included

Day 1: Dinner will be an own expense meal at a local restaurant

Includes:	-
Overnight:	Campsite - good ablution facilities with hot showers, swimming pool, restaurant & bar
Distance/time:	450km, ± 6½ hours, excluding stops for sightseeing
Optional Activities:	Scenic flight over the Okavango Delta (+/-USD95-120) pp depending on number of people in each aircraft)

Day 2-3 OKAVANGO DELTA [camping Bx2, Lx2, Dx2]

Our local guides will take us deep into the heart of the Okavango Delta on mekoro (dugout canoes). The delta forms as water flows from the Angolan highlands out over the Botswanan flat Kalahari Desert sands creating a delicate, green oasis for birds & wildlife. We will camp wild on remote islands in this amazingly dynamic environment & enjoy bush walks, bird watching & swimming in the clear water. Camping with our local guides we learn more about their lifestyle & culture.

Day 2: Breakfast provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 2: Lunch provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 2: Dinner will be an own expense meal at a local restaurant

Day 3: Breakfast provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 3: Lunch provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 3: Dinner provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Includes:	Discussion on Okavango Delta Faults, Island formation. Entrance to Okavango Delta, mokoro excursion, morning and afternoon game walks with local guides
Overnight:	Day 2 & 3: Wild camping – basic facilities with bucket shower
Distance/time:	2 hour 4WD transfer into the Delta,
Optional Activities:	Scenic flight over the Okavango Delta (+/-USD95-120) pp depending on number of people in each aircraft)

Day 4 MAUN [camping BL-]

After packing up camp we embark on the mokoro back to the polling station. We load up the vehicles before heading to the Moremi Game Reserve and the wildlife concession for an afternoon game drive before we head back to Maun in the late afternoon.

Day 4: Breakfast provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 4: Lunch provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 4: Dinner provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Includes:	Entrance to Okavango Delta, mokoro excursion, morning and afternoon game walks with local guides
Overnight:	Campsite - good ablution facilities with hot showers, swimming pool, restaurant & bar
Distance/time:	2 hour 4WD transfer out of the Delta,

Optional Activities: N/A

Day 5 **MAUN** [camping BLD]

After a leisurely breakfast we depart for the Discovery Metals Copper Mine Project in Boseto, about 100 km from Maun. We will stop at Lake Ngami to explore the region further on our way back to Maun in the late afternoon.

Day 5: Breakfast provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 5 Lunch provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 5: Dinner provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Includes: Full Day visit to Discovery Metals Boseto Copper Project.

Overnight: Campsite - good ablution facilities with hot showers, swimming pool, restaurant & bar

Distance/time: 200km +/- 3hrs driving excluding stops.

Optional Activities: N/A

Day 6 **MAUN** [- B-]

After a leisurely breakfast the tour ends with transfers to the Maun airport to catch the flights back to Johannesburg.

Day 6: Breakfast provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Includes: N/A.

Overnight: N/A

Distance/time: 20km 45 min airport transfer

Optional Activities: N/A

Please Note: The distance and travel times quoted above are an estimate only, and subject to local road conditions and animal sightings. In the unlikely event that road conditions in the parks prevent us visiting Savuti, then the alternative route will be run via Nxai pan (It is possible that this may happen between January – April, but it is subject to rainfall, so only in special circumstances).

Minimum Persons 10

Maximum Persons 24

COSTS INCLUDE:

- Transport as mentioned in itinerary.
- Fuel, Tolls, Transit, all Transport Permits & R10 million Passenger Liability.
- Accommodation as indicated.
- All meals, beverages, and activities as indicated in itinerary.

COSTS EXCLUDE:

- All services except those listed above.
- Flights, Airport taxes, Visas,
- Sleeping bags,
- Porterage,
- Tips and gratuities,
- Anything of personal nature

Accommodation

- **Camping** - for 3 nights on safari we stay at designated campsites in national parks, on private land and in towns. Campsite facilities are generally very good but in places can be basic. There are hot and cold showers, restaurants, washing facilities and telephones available at most of the campsites. Sunway supplies all the camping equipment with the exception of your sleeping bag and pillow. The dome tents we use are 2.2 x 2.2 x 1.8 meters and putting them up or down takes only 5 minutes. Tents have built-in insect nets. We supply mattresses, which are about 5 cm thick, warm and comfortable. The camp chairs have a backrest.
- **Wild camping** - for 2 nights while in the Okavango Delta we camp wild. Wild camps have no facilities; we will need to take our own water and all equipment. Wild camping can be very enjoyable but please remember that we leave no trace of our stay and take all rubbish away with us. Toilets will be of the "dig and bury" variety and a simple bucket bush shower will be provided.

Food

- We pride ourselves on giving very good healthy meals to our clients and will provide three meals per day.
- The tour leaders do the shopping and meal planning for each group. He/she will always try to obtain fresh produce wherever possible. A rough idea of what these will consist of is: Breakfast - cereals or coffee and toast or the occasional fried breakfast, Lunch - cheese, cold meats, salads on bread or rolls, Dinner - braais (local barbecue), potjies (stews), stir fries etc. We use regular plates, cups and cutlery. All cooking and eating utensils will also be provided.
- We do cater for special dietary requirements (e.g. vegetarian or allergies.)
- We will supply fruit squash served with breakfast and tea or coffee served with breakfast and dinner. All other beverages will be for your own expense. We will not supply bottled drinking water although it is available at many shops on tour.

Additional:

- Tour includes park entrances, game drives and the Okavango Delta excursion.
- As this tour spends most of the time in wilderness areas it is essential that clients adhere to the tour leaders (and local guides) instructions regarding interaction with wildlife, camp safety and game walk/drive rules.
- You will need a valid passport and visas for entry into Botswana and re-entering South Africa.
- Luggage, please pack to a limit of 12kgs in a soft sports tog bag. Also bring daypack for walks and keeping in the vehicle.
- We recommend that you bring Euro, US\$ or South African Rand for personal expenses on this trip but please note that foreign currency will need to be changed into Botswana Pula as shops, restaurants and market vendors only accept BWP. Zambia requires that all services are paid in local currency (Zambian Kwacha), however major credit cards (Mastercard / Visa) can also be used for optional activities in Livingstone and elsewhere on tour. See the Sunway tour dossier for approximate costs of drinks and meals etc.