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OKAVANGO TRAILS EXPEDITION 2022

Last Chance Safaris is excited to announce the departure of its inaugural Okavango Trails Expedition in 2022. The Jewel of the Kalahari, with its open spaces and varied wildlife is surely the premier walking safari destination in Africa.

This remarkable expedition into the remote wilderness of the Okavango Delta allows an adventurous soul the chance to marvel at Botswana's most iconic wildlife in one of the wildest and most pristine corners of the continent. As the 1000th UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Okavango Delta offers up a unique wildlife phenomenon. Sitting in the middle of the 'great thirstland' known as The Kalahari, this watery Eden draws an astounding amount of biodiversity to its cool clear waters and fertile grasslands. Join Last Chance Safaris' own safari adventurer, Phil Zappala, on a trail of discovery across the floodplains of the Okavango's Kweene River, tracking the resident Big Game and learning about the interconnectedness of all things natural. Then knock the dust off your boots and enjoy some pampering (and incredible wildlife viewing) in one of the Delta's premier safari lodges.



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Days 1, 2 & 3 (3 nights) South Kweene, Kweene River Camp

On arrival in Maun, Botswana you will be welcomed by your safari specialist Phil Zappala.... and your helicopter pilot! A breathtaking helicopter flight over the Okavango Delta brings you right to the doorstep of your wild playground—the Kweene River in the southern Okavango. Your host and wildlife guide extraordinaire, Simon Byron, will introduce you to his expedition team and get you settled into your own private camp. Over the next three days you will explore the dry floodplains of the Kweene River system. There is a much more arid feel to this landscape as the floodplains are less frequently inundated by the annual floodwaters. However, the grass species that dominate these plains support large herds of grazers and of course the predators that follow.

Days 4, 5 & 6 (3 nights) North Kweene, Magwegwe Camp

On Day 4 your journey moves further north up the Kweene River system to Magwegwe Camp. Situated in the seasonal swamp habitat, this camp usually receives water on a yearly basis with the inundation of the annual Okavango flood dynamic. Experience endless floodplains with well-wooded islands dotting the plains and year round surface water drawing in an abundance of wildlife. In order to get there, you will pack our backpack and a picnic lunch and set out for a full day of adventure. Distance and mode of travel is water level dependant, but one or all of foot, mekoro (traditional canoes) and vehicle may be employed to get to camp.



OKAVANGO TRAILS EXPEDITION 2022



A Day on the Trail

The daily routine for your Trail Expedition is anything but routine! The safari schedule has a fluid structure, wholly dependent and dictated by the wildlife around you, what is happening in the area, the ever fluctuating water levels, the time of year, and of course the mood and capabilities of the group. Typically the expedition would begin with a game drive to get a sense of the wilderness and a feel for what the resident wildlife is up to, thus setting the scene for the days ahead. Each morning breaks with a strong cup of fire-percolated coffee, or brew of your choice, and a light but wholesome breakfast before you head out on the trail. Because walking through pristine wilderness remains one of the expedition's key ingredients, a vast portion of the area is inaccessible to any motorized transport. Here, it is back to the safari experience of old: walking through wildest Africa. Each morning's trail can be as long or as short, as intense or as modest, as your ability allows; they are tailor made to you. When water levels permit we have the luxury of 'mekoro' access where the shallow waters bring the delta to life and the peace is only broken by the gentle splash of the poler's *ngashe* as he propels you through acres of water lilies. Normally we head back to the comfort of camp for lunch and a well-deserved rest. This down time is generally filled with the precious moments of camp life: enjoying a bucket shower in the heat of the day, general chit chat with the expedition team, playing boules or cards, and watching birds and wildlife pass by camp. After the siesta, you may head out for an afternoon drive, either into the drier backcountry exploring the larger islands and the seasonal pans, or following the elephant *gwasbas* (trails) from seep to seep in search of the predators that favour these wild highways. Like the waters of the Okavango, the ebb and flow of each day is determined by you. How much, or how little, you want to do. What animals you would like to search for and what habitats you would like to explore.



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Day 7, 8 & 9 (3 nights)

Today you say goodbye to the trails of Kweene, and head to the north eastern Okavango and one of the delta's most productive habitats—the plains of the Gomoti River. A short helicopter flight will give you a bird's eye view of the land that you have become intimately acquainted with over the past week before setting down at Gomoti Plains Camp.

The Gomoti plains represents every habitat and environment that is to be found within the Okavango in one private concession. Sandy plains, riverine forests, papyrus lined channels and floodplain savannahs characterise this private wildlife reserve – with the languid Gomoti River snaking its way across the landscape. The lodge has a long standing reputation for its hospitality and for being one of the best possible places to maximise an Okavango wilderness experience. The accommodations are best described as 'tented luxury'. 8 expansive ensuite tents with private decks provide a haven for relaxation and rejuvenation, with an unparalleled view and only the sounds of the wild to intrude. At Gomoti you can enjoy daily game drives with expert guides through these beautiful and game rich areas that attract every predator, large and small.

Day 10

After a leisurely breakfast it is time to bid farewell to the Okavango...for now. A twenty minute flight on a scheduled charter will bring you back to Maun in time to connect with your flight to Johannesburg and your international flight home. *Tsmaya sentle* (travel well).



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Max 6 sharing, Min 4 sharing, 1 single
Cost from — US\$11,660 pp sharing (US\$13,120 single)

Includes:

- All accommodations in mobile safari camps with full en-suite facilities (bucket shower & 'bush loo'); luxury tented camp with full en-suite facilities;
- All activities unless otherwise specified;
- All meals unless otherwise specified;
- All refreshments, local spirits, house wines, beer & soft drinks
- All local and regional air and land transfers;
- All taxes, permits and tourism related fees;
- The services of Phil Zappala as safari specialist and tour leader.

Excludes:

- Visa entry fees
- Travel & medical insurance (compulsory)
- Gratuities for local guides and lodge staff
- Costs of a personal nature
- Champagne, cellar wines & imported spirits
- International flights
- Unforeseen price increases for air travel and government taxes/levies
- Covid related testing

Extras:

- Walking is an integral part of the expedition. Although not overly strenuous, a reasonable level of fitness is required to enjoy tracking wildlife on foot.