

Trip Dossier for Botswana – Young Explorers

Trip Code: FBYE Issue date: 02 January 2009 Valid from: 02 January 2009

Day 1 Fly to Maun

Fly to Maun from London via Johannesburg.

Day 2 Arrive in Maun, fly to the Shinde Private Concession

On arrival in Maun our local representative will meet you. You'll then take a light aircraft transfer to the Shinde airstrip. The flight is approximately 1 hour 25 minutes and you will be amazed as the desert transforms to delta before your eyes. At the airstrip, you'll be driven in a 4WD safari vehicle to Footsteps Camp where Young Explorer's takes place. Over a refreshing drink and light lunch, you will be briefed on activities and safety during your stay, then it is time to settle into camp. This is a comfortable private camp with twin beds in insect-proof tents with sewn-in floors, en-suite dugout toilet and an adjacent open-air bucket shower. There is no electricity at camp, it is run as an eco-friendly operation with cooking over the fire, solar panels, and low voltage battery operated lamps. Don't forget to fully charge all camera batteries before you come.

Later in the afternoon it is time to begin your first lesson in bush craft and some rules regarding animal behaviour and respect for all the inhabitants of the wilderness. We set out on a short walk, allowing you to become accustomed to some of the sights sounds and smells that make up the language of the African Bush.

We return to camp for a piping hot bucket shower under the stars followed by a delicious dinner. Around the campfire we discuss the lessons of the day and learn more about Botswana; the history of the country and its people. We'll take a look into the heavens and identify some of the amazing star constellations in the African sky. Away from the city lights, you'll be amazed how clear the night sky is - keep your eyes peeled for shooting stars and satellites orbiting the Earth.

Camp (lunch and dinner including drinks)

Day 3 – 4 Explore the Okavango Delta

It's an early start for the next two days, as we rise before sunrise with coffee around the fire and a light breakfast. Then we head out for an early morning game drive and watch the sunrise over the delta while listening to the calls of the wild. On foot we will quietly follow the water's edge, examining tracks left by overnight visitors. You'll travel by canoe on the Okavango waterways in a traditional dugout 'mokoro', and perhaps catch some fish in the traditional way – to release or bring back to camp to cook for dinner over an open fire. Our game drives are in open 4WD vehicles and you may learn the basic principles of driving in a wildlife area, in addition to bush mechanics basics – changing a tyre in thick sand for example! The Delta is a home to the 'Big Five' (lion, elephant, buffalo, rhino and the elusive leopard) so keep a close look out for these, as well as, graceful giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, and numerous antelope including impala and eland. In the afternoon, there will even be an opportunity to learn about the rules and skills involved in handling a rifle safely. If you wish you'll be taught how to shoot with a pellet gun on our bush range - a necessary skill in the conservation of the habitat to fire a warning shot to keep poachers away! During your time spent in camp, adults have a chance for a siesta whilst the young cubs are watched over by their guides, recording observations in their Bush Journals as well as learning some traditional bush skills from bush cooking over an open fire to basket weaving and learning to carve a palm nut into a pendant for mum! **Camp (breakfast, lunch and dinner including drinks)**

Day 5 – 6 Drive to Camp Okuti, Moremi Game Reserve

This morning you will say goodbye to your friends at Footsteps and transfer to Okuti, which lies alongside the Maunachira river that flows through the Xakanaxa Lagoon, within the world renowned Moremi Game Reserve. Offering a welcome touch of comfort, Okuti's beautiful thatched chalets are set on lush green lawns, amidst the wilderness of one of Botswana's prime game viewing regions. Accommodation is in family units with two rooms sharing a bathroom, all en suite. The park is rich in wildlife and game viewing is consistent year round. You should see lions and even leopards if you are lucky. Game drives are in specially designed safari vehicles, allowing unhindered views for game viewing and photography. You will also be able to explore the Delta waterways by motorboat, travelling across open lagoons and through winding channels. It is a birder's paradise, especially for herons and storks in the breeding season.

Day 7 Fly to Maun

This morning is spent reflecting on your stay in the bush; your guides test your knowledge of your bush experiences. After this evaluation you'll be presented with your 'Young Explorers Certificate' as you are now one of a truly select group of bushrangers! Sadly, it's time to say your farewells to the camp staff and your guides. You'll be transferred to the airstrip take a light aircraft to Maun Airport for your onward return flight to London

Day 8 Arrive London

Arrive in London in the early morning.



This itinerary includes our group flights from London. If you are making other flight arrangements, please refer to your Confirmation Invoice and Joining Instructions for details of the start or end of the trip. Please remember international flights and trip dates do occasionally change, so please always purchase flexible tickets.

Each itinerary is planned many months in advance and although it is our intention to operate the itinerary as printed in the brochure and detailed here, it may be necessary to make some changes as a result of alterations to flight schedules, climatic conditions, limitations of infrastructure or other operational factors which are beyond our control. As a consequence, the order or location of overnight stops may vary from those outlined but we will always endeavour to keep you informed of any such changes. Included meals are indicated in the daily itinerary.

Is this right for your family? Suitable for children 7 and up, the Young Explorers programme is designed especially for families. This trip provides a genuine insight into the landscapes, wildlife and people of Botswana. Accommodation is in luxury camps and chalets. You'll take part in a variety of activities. Travel times are short as we use light aircraft and 4WD vehicles to move between camps. Please note the maximum luggage limit is 12 kg per person in soft-sided duffel-style bags.

This holiday is operated in conjunction with Ker & Downey Young Explorers.

Lone Parents Single parents or other adults travelling alone with children should be aware that some countries, including the UK, require documentation confirming that the individual has authority to travel with the minor. It is crucial that you contact the relevant country embassy for further information on exactly what may be required. These details can be found on the Foreign & Commonwealth Website under the appropriate country www.fco.gov.uk/travel

Climate Botswana has a sub-tropical and semi-arid climate. It receives a great deal of sunshine and very little rainfall. Most of the country is semi-arid, with fluctuations in temperature from day to night, so do remember to pack a warm jumper for the cooler evenings. The summer rainy seasons runs from November to March and rain is rare between the months of May and August.

Average climate in Maun

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Max °C	31	30	29	28	26	23	24	26	30	32	32	31
Min °C	18	18	16	13	9	5	5	7	12	16	18	18
Rainfall (mm)	107	79	71	18	5	3	0	0	0	23	56	86

Accommodation and meals At Footsteps, you'll stay in a rustic style camp with twin beds, en-suite dugout toilet and an adjacent open-air bucket shower. There is no electricity at camp and it is run as an eco-friendly operation with cooking over the fire, solar panels and low voltage battery operated lamps. However, there is a laundry service. At Okuti Lodge you will stay in a family unit consisting of two rooms sharing a bathroom with en suite bathroom and hot and cold running water with flush toilets. Meals and drinks are included, these are prepared and served at the camps. Menus are varied and are a fusion of African and international flavours. In addition to the main meals, afternoon tea is served before the afternoon activity, sundowner 'snacks' on the afternoon activity and a pre-dinner aperitif around the campfire. The indication of a swimming pool at a hotel should not be taken as a guarantee but rather an indication. You should also be aware that swimming pools at the hotels are often unheated and so can be cold in the winter months or even closed.

Vaccinations and Malaria Prophylaxis Please check with your local GP or a local Travel Clinic prior to travel for up to date information. Current recommendations are as follows: Malaria (Malarone, Doxycycline or Lariam are recommended for all areas), Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Polio, Tetanus – Diphtheria, Rabies – for travellers who may have direct contact with animals and may not have access to medical care. Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) – Recommend for all travellers.

Currency The unit of currency is the Botswana Pula (BWP). At the time of writing (Jan 2009) the exchange rate is UK£1 00 = 10.55 BWP / US\$1.00 = 7.54 BWP. Sterling Travellers' Cheques are accepted in banks. We recommend that you change money at the airport.

Tippling is a recognised part of life and although at your discretion you will be expected to reward service. It should be remembered, however, that over-generosity could lead to jealousy in poor countries. Please remember that all tips should be a way for individuals to thank staff for good service. As a guideline each person should allow £2-3 per day to cover tips for local staff.

Language The national language in Botswana is Setswana but English is widely spoken.

Time The time difference in Botswana is GMT +2 hours



Security Whilst the vast majority of travellers never experience anything untoward it is worth taking precautions particularly in urban areas. You should take sensible precautions in crowded areas such as street markets and airports, where pick-pocketing is common, and keep clear of any street disturbances. Don't wear expensive jewellery, never leave your bags unattended, keep large amounts of money, cameras and mobile phones out of sight when walking in town centres, and avoid walking in city centres after dark. Keep copies of important documents, including passports, in a separate place to the documents themselves, together with details of credit cards. Leave copies at home with a friend too. Safeguard valuables, important documents and cash and deposit them in hotel safes, where practicable.

Packing List Please refer to our separate "packing list"



Clothing & Equipment List for Botswana – Young Explorers

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The following list of clothing and equipment is intended to be fairly comprehensive and experienced travellers may well take a good deal less luggage than we recommend. It is a good idea to wear muted colours while on safari as bright colours can be seen by animals and birds from a long way off. Don't forget it is the winter season and although the days will be warm it can be quite chilly in the early morning/evenings.

Please pack lightly - the light aircraft flights strictly **limit checked baggage to 12kgs per person**, in a soft-sided, duffel-bag style luggage, no hard suitcases please.

CLOTHING	NUMBER PER PERSON	Check	EQUIPMENT	Check
Trainers or strong sandals	1 pair – all purpose wear		Soft-sided duffel bag/kit bag – 12 kg	
Socks	4+		Lightweight Daypack – 15 litres	
Wind proof jacket	1 lightweight		Sunglasses	
T-Shirts / Polo shirts	3+		Personal First Aid Kit	
Long trousers or skirt	2		Water bottle	
Shorts	2		Insect repellent with a high DEET content	
Long sleeve shirt	2		Sunscreen	
Track suit bottoms or similar	Optional		Torch and batteries	
Sunhat / baseball cap	Essential (styled to shade face, ears and neck)		Camera, film and accessories	
Fleece or sweatshirt for early mornings and evenings	2		Guide book & map	
Swimwear	1		Binoculars – optional	

ITEM	Check	ITEM	Check
Passport/ Visa		Universal travelling adapter	
Air Tickets		Small sewing kit & safety pins	
Cash / Travellers Cheques		Washing & shaving kit - wet wipes are refreshing	
Credit Cards		Small presents for local kids – biros, balloons, books, colouring pencils	
Insurance Documents			
Trip Information and itinerary			
Money Security Belt/Pouch			

For details regarding **hand luggage restrictions** please visit www.baa.com