



# Okavango, Savute & Chobe

2024

Photo Safari

# Letter From the Team

At Tusk Photo, we pride ourselves on providing exceptional safari experiences, where every detail is carefully curated to ensure your journey is nothing short of extraordinary. Our team of expert guides, who possess an intimate knowledge of the local wildlife and ecosystems, will be by your side, ready to share their insights and help you capture unbelievable photos.

Imagine exploring the vast savannahs, witnessing the majestic herds of elephants in Amboseli, or immersing yourself in the remarkable biodiversity of the Serengeti. Picture yourself standing in awe as you witness the raw power of lions on the hunt, or capturing the elegance of a leopard as it prowls through the golden grasslands. With Tusk Photo, these extraordinary moments will become a reality.

We understand that photography is more than just a hobby for you; it's a way to express your creativity and preserve memories that will last a lifetime. That's why we go the extra mile to ensure that you have the best opportunities to capture those unique shots. From providing expert guidance on camera settings and composition to positioning our vehicles strategically for the perfect angle, we are dedicated to helping you achieve your photography goals.

But a Tusk Safari is not just about wildlife and photography; it's about creating cherished memories and forging lifelong connections. Our team is committed to providing you with personalized attention, exceptional service, and a warm and welcoming atmosphere throughout your journey. We want you to feel like part of our Tusk family, sharing laughter, stories, and the sheer joy of exploring the best that nature has to offer.

Allow us to take you on a journey of discovery, where you will witness nature's wonders, capture breathtaking photographs, and create memories that will stay with you forever.

Please feel free to reach out to our friendly team for any further information or to discuss your specific requirements. We are here to assist you every step of the way. We can't wait to welcome you to the Tusk Photo family and share this incredible experience with you.



The Tusk Team



# Overview

On our Okavango, Savute, and Chobe photo tour, you can expect a remarkable adventure immersed in the diverse and captivating landscapes of Botswana.

Prepare to be amazed as you witness the unique beauty of the Okavango Delta, a pristine wetland teeming with wildlife.

Continue your journey to the untamed wilderness of Savute, where predators roam freely and dramatic wildlife encounters unfold before your lens. Capture the raw power and grace of lions, leopards, and cheetahs in their natural habitat. Finally, explore the world-renowned Chobe National Park, renowned for its massive elephant herds and spectacular sunsets over the Chobe River.

As you navigate the park's vast landscapes and waterways, seize the opportunity to photograph a

diverse range of wildlife, from elegant antelopes to crocodiles and countless bird species.

Throughout the tour, our expert guides will share their extensive knowledge, helping you refine your photography skills and offering insights into the region's rich biodiversity.

With stunning accommodations, exceptional wildlife sightings, and unparalleled photographic opportunities, this tour promises an unforgettable experience in the heart of Botswana's wilderness.



# What You Can Expect

Embark on an extraordinary wildlife photography expedition that will take you on an immersive journey through the pristine landscapes and iconic destinations of Botswana. Prepare to be captivated by the raw beauty of nature as you visit the renowned Eagle Island Lodge, Savute Elephant Camp, and Pangolin Chobe Lodge. This exceptional tour promises an unrivaled fusion of luxury, exclusivity, and remarkable wildlife encounters that will elevate your photography skills to new heights.

Begin your adventure at the prestigious Eagle Island Lodge. This enchanting sanctuary offers the epitome of luxury, boasting world-class amenities and air-conditioned rooms that provide a comfortable respite amidst the wild. As you venture into the wilderness, be prepared to capture images of packs of Wild Dogs, lions, leopards, hyenas, elephants, and a diverse array of herbivores that roam the area.

Continue your safari at the renowned Savute Elephant Lodge, where the beauty of nature and exceptional wildlife encounters await. Nestled in the heart of the Savute region, this 5-star sanctuary offers unparalleled comfort and a front-row seat to witness nature's most captivating dramas. Prepare your camera to capture remarkable sightings of wild dogs on the hunt, lions basking in the sunlight, leopards prowling through the shadows, and the legendary elephant bulls that frequent the area. The Savute region, a subject of internationally acclaimed documentaries, will provide you with awe-inspiring moments as predator and prey engage in their age-old dance.

Concluding your extraordinary journey, Pangolin Chobe Lodge beckons with its magnificent location atop a hill, offering breathtaking vistas of the expansive Chobe floodplains. Prepare to

be spellbound as you witness the mesmerizing spectacle of massive elephant herds gracefully traversing the floodplains, while buffalo graze alongside lechwe and impala.

Throughout this safari, expect a plethora of exceptional photographic opportunities from both land and water, ensuring a diverse and captivating portfolio that tells the story of your exploration. Benefit from the exclusivity of private open game viewers, limited to just four people per vehicle, guaranteeing an intimate and personalized experience as you traverse the untamed wilderness.

Join us on this remarkable journey that will immerse you in the wonders of Botswana's wildlife, allowing you to capture awe-inspiring images that will leave an indelible mark on your soul.



# Where You Will Stay

## EAGLE ISLAND LODGE

Eagle Island Lodge in Botswana offers a truly unforgettable experience, combining luxury accommodation with breathtaking natural surroundings. Nestled within the Okavango Delta, the lodge provides guests with comfortable and stylish rooms, delectable dining options, and a range of amenities. From indulging in rejuvenating spa treatments to embarking on thrilling wildlife excursions, guests can immerse themselves in the beauty and serenity of the Delta. With its unparalleled setting and exceptional service, Eagle Island Lodge promises an extraordinary stay for nature enthusiasts and discerning travelers alike.



## SAVUTIE ELEPHANT LODGE

Indulge in unparalleled luxury at Savute Elephant Lodge, a five-star oasis in the heart of the renowned Savute area. The lodge features elegant and spacious suites that exude comfort and sophistication. Each suite is thoughtfully designed with air conditioning, comfortable seating areas, en-suite bathrooms, and private decks overlooking the magnificent landscapes. Immerse yourself in the tranquility of the surroundings and unwind in the lap of luxury after a day of thrilling wildlife encounters.

## PANGOLIN CHOBE LODGE

Perched atop a hill with panoramic views of the Chobe floodplains, Pangolin Chobe Lodge offers a charming and comfortable stay. The lodge provides cozy and well-appointed rooms, blending modern amenities with a touch of rustic elegance. Enjoy the comfort of air-conditioned rooms with en-suite bathrooms, plush bedding, and private balconies or verandas where you can relax and soak in the breathtaking vistas. The lodge's intimate atmosphere and personalized service ensure a memorable and relaxing stay.



# Dates | Costs | Prices

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Spaces</u>	<u>Nights</u>
4 – 14 October 2024	US\$ 12990	8	10

## Cost:

Our safari experience is priced at US\$ 12990 per person sharing. US\$ 4400 Single Supplement. Please note that any bank charges incurred during the payment process are not covered by Tusk Photo. We kindly request the full amount indicated on the invoice, including any fees imposed by Paypal if you choose to use this payment method.

## Deposit:

To secure your reservation, a 50% deposit of the full price is required within 14 days of making your booking. Once we receive your deposit, your booking will be confirmed. Please make sure to complete this step within the given timeframe to secure your spot.

## Balance:

The remaining balance is due at least 9 weeks prior to the safari. If you are making a booking within 9 weeks of the safari, the full price will be payable at the time of booking.

## Cancellation Policy:

We understand that plans can change, and in the event of a cancellation, the following fees will apply unless Tusk Photo is able to fill your safari space:

- Cancellation more than 120 days prior to departure: 10% of the full price
- Cancellation 90 - 119 days prior to departure: 40% of the full price
- Cancellation 60 - 89 days prior to departure: 70% of the full price
- Cancellation less than 60 days prior to departure: 100% of the full price

Please note: Your travel plans are made entirely at your own risk, and Tusk Photo cannot be held responsible for any flight cancellations, disruptions, or delays that may occur. We recommend considering travel insurance to protect your investment and provide peace of mind.

# Itinerary

## DAY 1

- Meet at Maun Airport and take a 45-minute flight to Eagle Island Lodge.
- Enjoy a briefing and afternoon tea, followed by a game drive.

## DAYS 2-4

- Experience early morning and late afternoon/evening game drives on open vehicles.

## DAY 5

- After a morning game drive, enjoy brunch and transfer to the airstrip for a 45-minute flight to Savuti.
- Check-in and embark on an afternoon game drive.

## DAYS 6-8

- Engage in early morning and late afternoon game drives on open vehicles.

## DAY 9

- After a morning game drive, have brunch and transfer to the airstrip for a 1-hour flight to Kasane.
- Upon arrival in Kasane, check-in and depart for an afternoon boat cruise.

## DAY 10

- Spend the morning and afternoon on the Chobe River, enjoying a private photographic boat equipped with swivel chairs and camera mounts.

## DAY 11

- After a morning boat activity, have breakfast, check out, and transfer to Kasane Airport in time for your return flights.
- End of the tour.



# What You Get

## **INCLUDED:**

- Full board accommodation at Eagle Island Lodge, Savute Elephant Lodge, and Pangolin Chobe Lodge
- All meals
- Alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks included
- Services of Tusk Photo hosts to assist and guide you
- Game Drives and Boat Activities
- Domestic Flights: All domestic flights included, covering Maun Airport to Eagle Island, Eagle Island to Savute, and Savute to Kasane (Chobe)
- Free Wi-Fi
- Additional Luggage Allowance: Extra freight seats on flights to accommodate photographers, with up to 30kg luggage per person

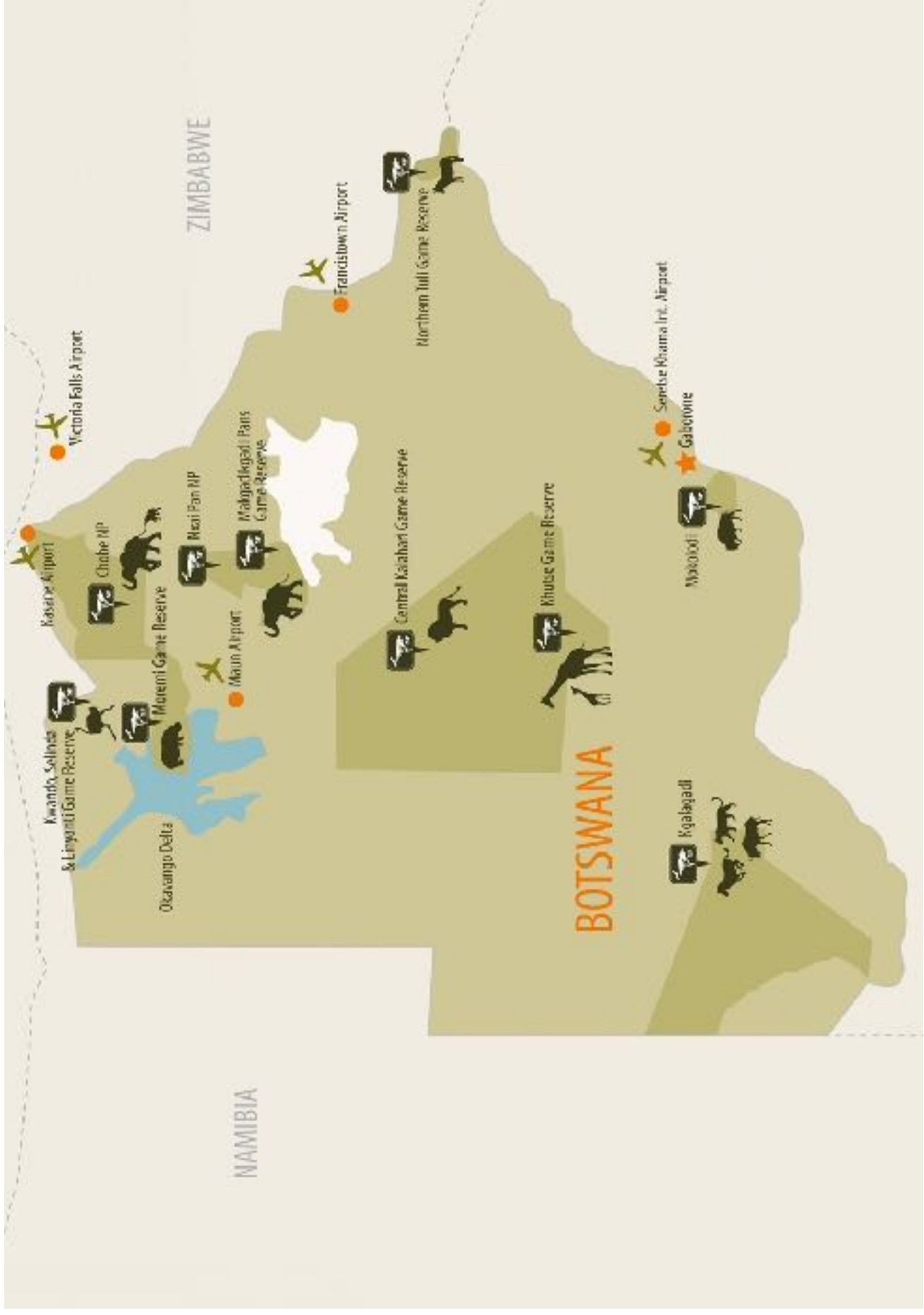
## **EXCLUDED:**

- Visas
- Telephone calls
- Gratuities
- Purchases of a personal nature
- International Flights

# Flights and Transport

- Travellers wanting to fly into Maun from OR Tambo International South Africa should book online with Botswana air: [www.airbotswana.co.bw](http://www.airbotswana.co.bw) or SA Airlink: <http://www.flyairlink.com/botswana/>.
- Check-in is one hour prior for domestic departures and two hours prior for international departures.
- The flight to/from JHB to Maun is +/- 1hr 45 min
- The flight to/from Maun to Eagle Island is +/- 45min.
- The flight to/from Eagle Island to Savute or is +/- 45min.





ZIMBABWE

NAMIBIA

**BOTSWANA**

Victoria Falls Airport

Kasane Airport

Chobe NP

Moremi Game Reserve

Maun Airport

Mosi Pan NP

Madagadagadi Pans Game Reserve

Northern Tuli Game Reserve

Francistown Airport

Central Kalahari Game Reserve

Khutse Game Reserve

Kgalegadi

Molepolole

Serebe Khama Int. Airport

Gaborone

# Photography and Gear

It is not advisable to take photographs of border posts or military/ police posts. Doing so can lead to an unpleasant situation and even arrest. Always ask permission before taking a photograph of the any local East African residents; it is a sign of respect. In most cases a small payment is expected. However some cultures believe that the camera steals their soul and we request that you respect and understand their beliefs.

It is advisable to bring the following camera equipment:

- 2x Camera bodies (a backup will mean peace of mind)
- Spare memory cards and batteries
- Long telephoto lens 400/500/600
- Medium telephoto lens 70-200 or equivalent
- Wide angle lens(es) for landscapes
- Flash and battery pack is advisable although optional
- Notebook or additional storage device

Please remember that it is very likely that you could possibly photograph thousands of images over the 7 day period. We therefore strongly advise you to have sufficient storage and battery arrangements in place. If you are unsure of anything please contact us for more details



# Tour Info

## INSURANCE

- **Travel Insurance:**

While it is highly unlikely, there is a possibility of scheduled flights in and out of your destination being delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. To provide peace of mind and cover any potential flight disruptions or missed connections, we strongly recommend purchasing additional travel insurance.

- **Medical Insurance:**

For your safety and well-being, we highly recommend having medical insurance that covers unforeseen medical emergencies and evacuation. Please let us know in your booking form whether you have taken out any medical insurance for this safari.

Travellers 83 years and older will need to arrange their own comprehensive travel insurance.

## PASSPORTS AND CUSTOMS

- Passports are required by all foreign visitors and must be valid for 6 months after the intended length of stay. Please ensure that there are two blank pages per country to be visited.
- South African citizens require no visas to enter Botswana.
- If driving to Maun / Savute from South Africa you will need to pay additional road taxes and insurance. This can only be paid in Pula and should cost around P150 depending on vehicle and trailers etc.
- If driving to Botswana remember your vehicle, insurance and bank cross-border documentation.
- It is advisable to declare any cameras, lenses, laptops and other valuable items when leaving South Africa. We normally recommend keeping a detailed list of all items including serial numbers and descriptions. This makes the customs process that much quicker as all that is generally required is for the customs official to stamp the document

## MONEY AND CURRENCY

- The currencies accepted in Botswana are Botswana Pula (BWP), US Dollars (USD) and South African Rands (ZAR). ZAR and USD will need to be exchanged in some instances at local rates.
- Banks and foreign exchange bureaux are available at all international airports and in all main towns.
- Credit card payments can be processed at the camps.
- US dollars are widely accepted; however, notes dated before 2003 are no longer accepted. Also, high denomination notes may not be accepted.
- The Botswana Pula does fluctuate against the ZAR: Rates are generally 1.1 to 1.35 to the BWP.

## HEALTH

- The Okavango is a low risk Malaria area.
- Please consult your physician before you travel for advice on precautions against malaria.
- Should you require additional advice, we suggest you contact your local travel clinic in South Africa for consultations regarding Malaria and the Immunizations required for travel to Botswana

## LANGUAGES

- Although a lot of the locals speak Tswana or Kalanga, English is the national language of Botswana.

## DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

We understand the importance of accommodating diverse dietary needs, and our team is dedicated to ensuring that we can cater to most dietary requirements. Please provide us with any specific dietary needs in your booking form.

## POWER AND ELECTRICITY

220v battery power (charged by the generator) is used for lighting and air-conditioning in guest tents 24hrs a day. 220v plugs available in each tent for the charging of batteries only. Hence bring spare battery, charging unit and adaptors.



## CLIMATE

Botswana experiences a warm to hot climate throughout the year. The country's temperatures range from a mean monthly maximum of 29.5°C to 35°C in summer, and 19.8°C to 28.9°C in winter. Summer nights are generally mild, with mean monthly minimum temperatures ranging from 14.6°C to 20.8°C. In winter, nights can be cooler, with temperatures ranging from 2.9°C to 11.6°C.

Rainfall patterns in Botswana exhibit significant regional variation. The northeastern part of the country receives the highest precipitation, with over 650 mm of rainfall annually.

The majority of the rainfall occurs between October and April, which corresponds to Botswana's summer months. Rainfall is typically in the form of localized showers or thunderstorms.

In summary, Botswana's climate is characterized by warm to hot temperatures and a distinct rainy season. The country experiences higher temperatures and greater rainfall in the summer months, whereas winter brings relatively cooler temperatures.



## CLOTHING AND WHAT TO PACK

For a memorable safari experience, we suggest opting for comfortable, casual wash-and-wear attire. To enhance your game-viewing experience, it is advisable to choose muted colors. Keep

in mind that game-drives are typically conducted during the early morning and late afternoon, which can be quite cold, particularly in winter.

To ensure you are well-prepared, we recommend packing the following practical items for your safari:

- Comfortable, casual wash-and-wear clothes in muted colors.
- Long-sleeved shirts for sun and mosquito protection.
- T-shirts for layering.
- Shorts or light skirt for warmer days.
- Jeans or safari trousers for cooler evenings.
- Bring a jacket and sweater for chilly morning and evening game drives.
- Pack a lightweight, waterproof jacket for potential afternoon showers.
- Wear comfortable walking shoes.
- Essential items: sunblock, sunglasses, hat, insect repellent, moisturizer, lip balm.
- binoculars and camera equipment.
- Good quality safari clothing (we opt for Craghoppers Nosilife)

### **GRATUITIES**

Please note that the following gratuity amounts are provided as a minimum guideline, and you are welcome to increase them if you wish:

- Ranger / Guide USD 20 per person per day
- Camp staff USD 10 per person per day

### **CONNECTIVITY & EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS**

There is no Cellular and Data connectivity in the Eagle Island area. There is no Cellular and data connectivity in Savute.

Both Eagle Island and Savute lodge have free Wi-Fi areas in the lodge.

Belmond Safaris Office (Orient Express)

Tel: +27 21 483 1600 (Office Hours)

Tusk Photo Safaris PTA Office

Tel: +27 12 761 3737 (Office Hours)



# Indemnity

Tusk Photo and its staff prioritize your safety and wellbeing during your safari; however, please be aware that we cannot accept liability for any incidents, including but not limited to accidents, loss, or property damage. By completing the Safari Booking form, you acknowledge the inherent risks associated with travel and agree to indemnify Tusk Photo against any claims or liabilities that may arise.

While this document provides comprehensive information, it is not exhaustive. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office. Please note that the information contained herein is correct at the time of compilation to the best of our knowledge.



**We Are Excited To Host You on Your  
Dream Photographic Safari!**

