

# THE DHOW SUITE AT ZARAFSA

SELINDA RESERVE | NORTHERN BOTSWANA

GREAT PLAINS

CONSERVING AND EXPANDING NATURAL HABITATS

ESTABLISHED IN 1991

**The Dhow Suite at Zarafa is an exquisite two-bedroom tented suite located on the private 130,000-hectare Selinda Reserve in northern Botswana, an area linking the Okavango Delta and the Chobe/Savute corridors.**

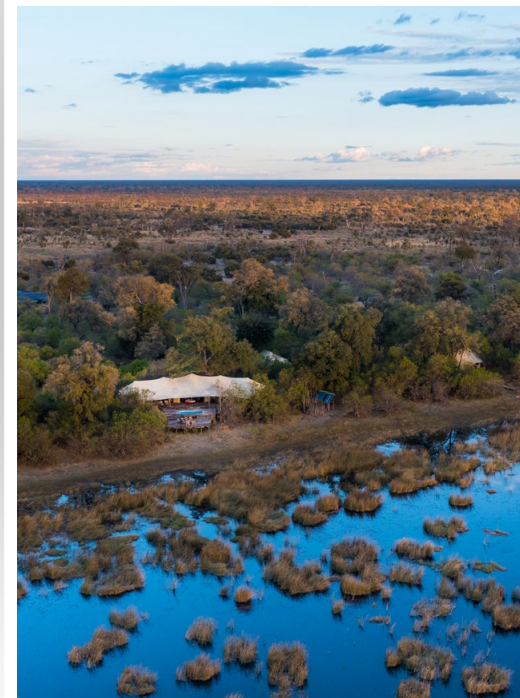
Few properties rival the location of this little gem built entirely under canvas, as one of the largest suites ever built on the continent. The Dhow Suite is located adjacent to Zarafa Camp which, together with Duba Plains and Selinda Camps, is one of only three Relais & Châteaux properties in Botswana. Overlooking the crystal waters of Zibadianja Lagoon, the source of the famous Savute Channel, every area of the suite has a magnificent view. The lagoon is also the water source for a tremendous population of wildlife – dry season sightings boast buffalo and elephant by the hundreds.

Zarafa Camp is the brainchild of the founders of Great Plains Conservation, who pooled their collective experience on safari to create what they deemed to be the best and most environmentally innovative camp. Zarafa means “the beloved one” or “the lovely one” in Arabic. The name comes from a giraffe, which was presented to Charles X of France in 1826 by the Viceroy of Egypt. She travelled from Africa in a traditional Dhow boat, and it was on this journey that she was given her name reflecting her true elegance and splendor.

The suite, 210 square metre (2,260 sq ft) in extent, is under beige, flowing canvas, with canopy ceilings and completely open (yet netted) sides. Entering through the heavy wood Lamu door transports guests to a lavish space of deep reds, browns, brass and copper, evoking richness and beauty.

The Dhow Suite at Zarafa successfully retains a clearly African feel, while balancing that delicate relationship between personal and informal and romance and adventure. There is no equal in terms of its environmental credentials and its careful appointments.

Selinda Reserve, at the crossroads of some of northern Botswana’s most prolific wildlife areas, boasts staggering wildlife populations year-round. Home to some of the classic species, such as leopard, lion, elephant, buffalo, Red lechwe, zebra and giraffe, it is also a refuge for some of the more uncommon species such as African wild dog (which usually den each dry season near camp), cheetah, roan and sable. And for birders, it will not disappoint. Our nearby African skimmer colony is a highlight, as are the antics of the Black egret on the shores of Zibadianja Lagoon.



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From the Dhow Suite, hippos are visible in the Lagoon and elephant wander through regularly. Night noises will either lull you to sleep or wake you from a deep slumber. It is an exciting area, and guests are in the heart of a wilderness wonderland.

## CAMP FEATURES:

### Total Number of Bedrooms:

The Dhow Suite at Zarafa can cater for a maximum of four adults sharing or two adults and up to three children sharing, in two separate en-suite bedrooms

### Type of Lodge

Réserve Collection Safari Camp

### Lodge Season & Opening

Year Round

### Ideal length of stay

3 - 4 Nights

## CAMP CO-ORDINATES

18°35'14.0"S 23°31'55.7"E

## ACCESS DIRECTIONS

- Light aircraft transfers from Kasane (55 mins) and Maun (45 min) airports;
- Private Air charter access available;
- The Dhow Suite at Zarafa is a 45-minute drive from its airstrip;
- Airstrip Co-ordinates: 18°34'41.9"S 23°29'16.8"E;
- Airstrip length: 1000m.



## ACTIVITIES

The Dhow Suite at Zarafa offer complete flexibility with your own private guide and vehicle.

### Safari drives

Early morning, late afternoon/ evening or even full-day safari drives occur in some of the most luxurious wildlife-viewing vehicles. Each Toyota Land Cruiser is open-sided, canopied, and customised for photographers with fold-down screens, raised roofs, photographic bars, and multi-plug invertors, all in keeping with the origins of Dereck & Beverly Joubert as National Geographic photographers. Our vehicles also have fridges stocked with drinks and snacks, ready for longer days out if the wildlife viewing is exciting and just too hard to leave.

Every day is different on safari. Safari Drives often start at sunrise, returning to camp for a late breakfast and departing again mid-afternoon after tea before returning just after sunset. However, guests can often spend the entire day out in the veld with a packed breakfast, lunch, and beverages if they wish. Our safaris will often continue into the night in search of nocturnal species. Night drives are incredibly prolific, and while they take patience, sightings commonly include lesser-known nocturnal mammals and even lion and hyena hunts.

Our schedule is flexible, and guests are encouraged to create their own itinerary according to their interests with guidance and recommendations from our professional guides.

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## Guided walks

Guided walks can also be arranged and are led by licensed guides with firearm training.

## Photography

- There is a custom-built Land Cruiser specially designed for our conditions and photography (fold-down screens and raised roofs) with four individual bucket seats;
- The Suite has a professional camera set, including two camera bodies with two 100-400mm lenses and one wide angle lens. Photos will be downloaded to a storage device on guest's departure. Each bedroom also comes with a pair of high-quality binoculars for guest use as well.

## Boating

- Zarafa offers guests a unique pontoon experience. The pontoon is known as H.E.S. Zib. The pontoon provides a 275 sq. foot deck complete with couches, a dining area and a bar where guests can comfortably enjoy floating brunch or sundowners while watching hippos and elephants in the water. It is also an exceptional platform for birding;
- There is also a flat-bottomed aluminium power boat to explore the lagoon and channels around the area.

## Fishing

Fly-fishing and rod/reel kit is available between March and December for those who want to try their cast at the local bream on a catch and release basis.

## Private vehicle option

Available as standard.

## Private Guides

Private guides are encouraged and welcomed.

## Scenic Flight and Champagne Stop

Enjoy an aerial viewing experience with great scenery across the Linyanti/Savuti and Selinda Spillway. Add a 15-minute champagne stop on palm island en route. Must be booked in advance and is subject to extra cost and availability.

## CENTRAL FACILITIES

- Central Lounge and dining room with small bar;
- Coffee/tea station;
- Expansive deck with fire pit & seating;
- 5m Swimming pool;
- Private decking leading to a private plunge pool;
- Lounge has couch and two chairs, plus coffee station and dining table;
- A mini bar holds a wide selection of beverages, wine and spirits;

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- Great Plains Safari Boutique (located at Zarafa main Camp) selling locally and regionally produced crafts, many of which support local community projects in the nearby Okavango panhandle. The Boutique also stocks the d&b clothing line: Dereck and Beverly Joubert have inspired this bespoke range of clothing they typically wear, and which is perfect and cool while on safari yet elegant when in the city. All materials are responsibly sourced. Visit

[www.greatplainsconservation.com/safariboutique](http://www.greatplainsconservation.com/safariboutique)

## FOOD AND BEVERAGE

- Our world-class meals are Relais & Châteaux recognised;
- All meals included and prepared by our Executive Chefs and their teams;
- All drinks and beverages are included, including imported spirits and champagnes;
- A la carte dining in the privacy of the Dhow Suite at Zarafa;
- Indoor and outdoor dining locations;
- All dietary requirements are catered for from regular to vegan to children; prior notice required;
- We are extremely flexible on timings. Picnic breakfasts or lunch (or both) are the norm due to very active safari drives, often delivered to the bush!

## ACCOMMODATION DETAILS

### Bedroom features

- Two large bedrooms are connected to either side of the main area;
- 2,260 sq. foot Marquee style tent of canopied beige canvas on raised wood deck of 100-year-old teak railroad ties;
- Mosquito netting on all tented suite sides and over beds;
- Standing fan, and over bed air-conditioner;
- Gas fireplace for winter;
- Either twin or double bed configuration.

### Bathroom features

- Each bedroom in the suite features an en-suite open-air concept bathroom with indoor shower, claw foot deep copper tub and double vanities;
- Outdoor shower;
- Hot and cold running water;
- Separate flush loo room;
- Soap, shampoo, conditioner and lotion and hairdryers provided.

## ACCOMMODATING CHILDREN AND SHARING ACCOMMODATION

- Children are accommodated from a minimum age of 6 years;
- The Dhow Suite at Zarafa can cater for a maximum of four adults sharing or two adults and up to three children (aged 6 – 15), sharing in two separate bedrooms;



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- Child rates and private vehicle requirements do not apply because camp is sold on exclusive use basis only;
- Scheduled wildlife viewing activities, including safari drives, guided walks, and power boating, are available to guests from 6 years when accompanied by their parents or guardians. Canoe activities specifically welcome guests aged 8 years and above;
- Young children must be supervised as the camp is open with high predator densities in and around camp and there is water surrounding camp. The camp also features raised decks and a pool which is not covered;
- Great Plains Young Explorers program - thoughtfully designed to explore a range of experiences and topics from birding to cooking to art to tracking wildlife.

## SPA

Guests staying in the Dhow Suite at Zarafa can make use of The Spa at Zarafa, located between suite 4 and the Dhow Suite. The Spa offers guests two treatment areas and with a range of treatments available. All ingredients used in your spa treatments were personally chosen by Dereck and Beverly Joubert in conjunction with Spacology. Spa treatments are at an additional cost.

## FITNESS

The following exercise equipment is available for guests to enjoy in the privacy of their suite or on the private deck overlooking the lagoon:

- Spinning bike available on request;
- Yoga mats;
- Dumbbells.



The Dhow Suite at Zarafa guest's also have access to the gym area at Zarafa where the following equipment is available:

- Treadmill;
- Spinning bike;
- Rowing machine;
- Orbital walker;
- Yoga mats;
- A selection of various weights and dumbbells.

## LAUNDRY

Included in nightly tariff - next day service, weather permitting;

## POWER AND COMMUNICATION

### Power

- The camp is run by an impressive solar farm of 170 panels with generator back-up;
- This system produces 220V, 24-hour electricity to the suite and main area;
- Universal plug points in the suite.

### Internet & Mobile

- Wi-fi available in suite;
- No mobile signal.

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## HEALTH AND SAFETY

### Health

- Malaria: Minimal exposure risk– Malaria prophylaxis are recommended if guests are concerned; however, this is a remote area with little occurrence;
- Guests must hold comprehensive medical insurance and emergency evacuation insurance;
- Senior staff all has first aid training;
- Nearest decent medical facility is in Maun, and then Johannesburg.

### Possibility of Disabled access

The Dhow Suite at Zarafa layout is not conducive to wheelchair-bound guests due stair access and steps on the main deck.

### Safety

- This remotely located camp is unfenced to wild animals that do move through the property especially at night;
- Four fire extinguishers.

## MONEY MATTERS

### Safes

Provided in every bedroom.

### Accepted Payment on Location

- Staff gratuities can be paid by credit card or in Botswana Pula, South African Rands, US Dollars (2004 bills or later only) or GB Pounds;
- Visa and MasterCard credit cards are accepted (No Amex or Diners).

The Team

Lodge Owners

**Great Plains Conservation**

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## FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

### Great Plains Earth Academy

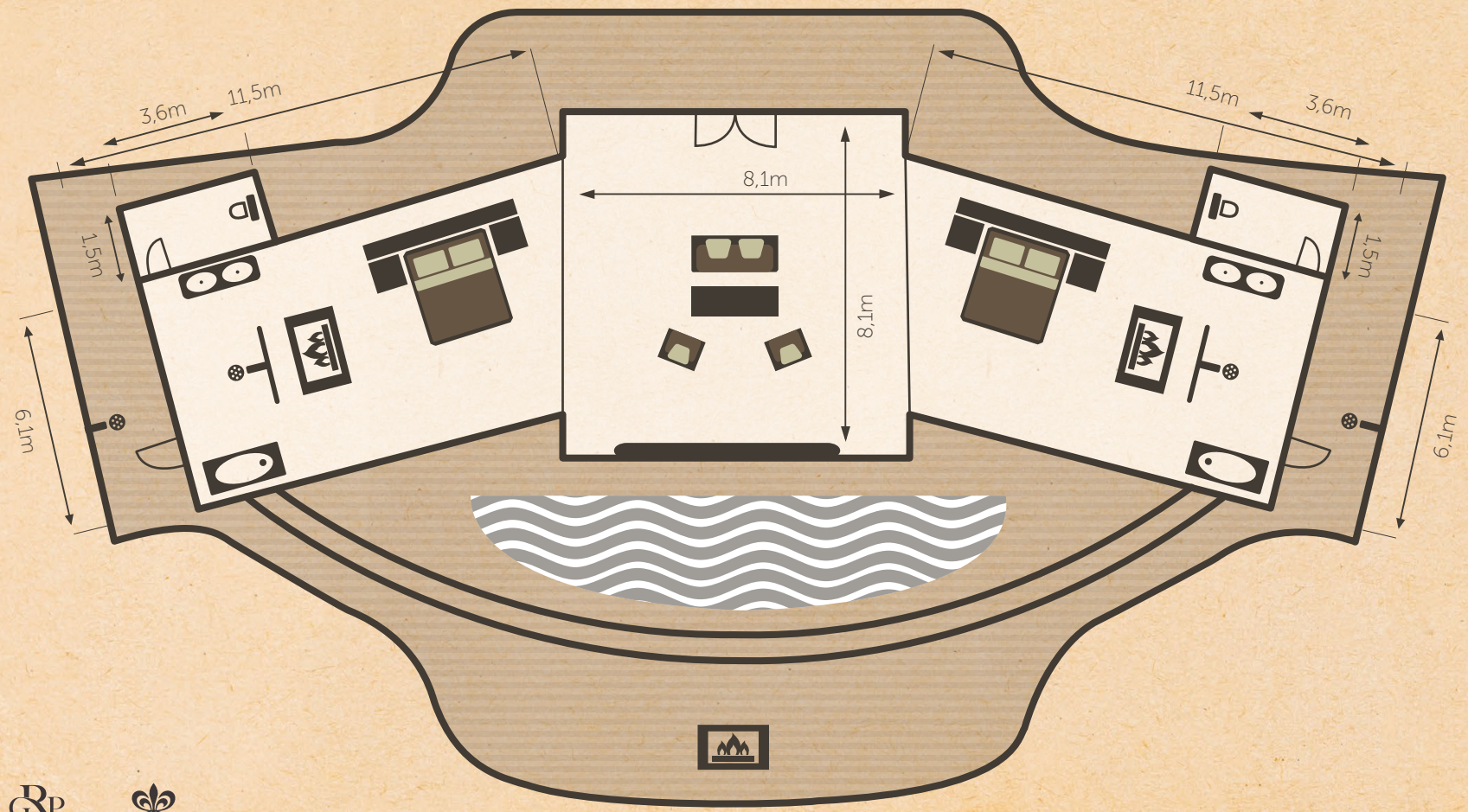
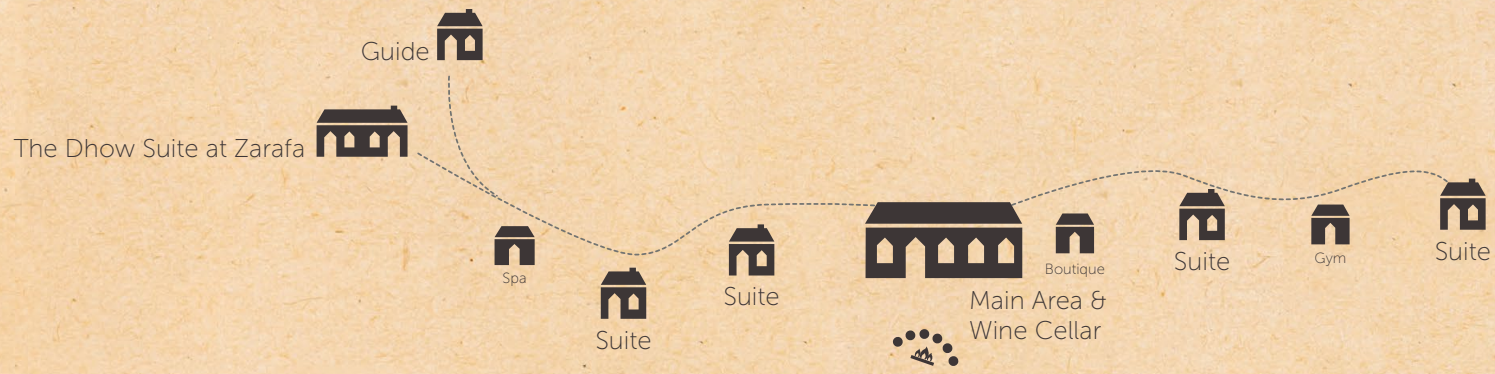
Conservation is only successful when communities living alongside wildlife and protected areas are afforded opportunities to learn, interact, and benefit from these conserved areas.

In Ngamiland, in the upper reaches of the Okavango Delta, there is a community we care deeply about and want to support in their journey to prosperity, with strong links to the environment. In support of that community, the Great Plains Foundation has launched the Great Plains Academy to provide personal and community enrichment opportunities for individuals living alongside wildlife. The goal of the Great Plains Academy is to provide vocational training, supplemental education and scholarships with a conservation and tourism focus to those living alongside Botswana's Okavango Delta. All programs seek to invest in the skill and capacity of the individual while imparting respect for natural heritage and a solid conservation ethic. Learn more at - [www.greatplainsfoundation.com](http://www.greatplainsfoundation.com)

In addition to our own programs Great Plains Foundation keeps a list of school needs in the countries where we work. Needed items can be hand-carried by travelers or we can help purchase them locally. To learn more or to help support students and educators as part of your trip please reach out [info@greatplainsfoundation.com](mailto:info@greatplainsfoundation.com)



**THE DHOW SUITE  
 AT ZARAF A**







*Namibia*

Kasane

*Bwabwata National Park*

*Mudumu National Park*

*Chobe Forest Reserve*

*Chobe National Park*

Selinda Explorers Camp

Selinda Camp & Selinda Suite

Zarafa Camp & The Dhow Suite at Zarafa

Okavango Explorers Camp

Sitatunga Private Island & Suite

Duba Explorers Camp

Duba Plains & Duba Plains Suite

Moremi Game Reserve

*Okavango Delta*

*Botswana*

Maun

*Nxai Pan National Park*

# GREAT PLAINS

CONSERVING AND EXPANDING NATURAL HABITATS



GREAT PLAINS CONSERVATION STRIVES TO FIND THE RIGHT FORMULA OF CONSERVATION, COMMUNITIES AND COMMERCE THAT MAKES A LASTING, SUSTAINABLE DIFFERENCE TO THE WORLD'S ICONIC WILDLIFE AND WILDERNESSES.

# GREAT PLAINS CONSERVATION

## QUICK CAMP FACTS

### BOTSWANA CAMPS

ACTIVITY	ZARAFA CAMP & THE DHOW SUITE AT ZARAFA	SELINDA CAMP & SELINDA SUITE	DUBA PLAINS CAMP & DUBA PLAINS SUITE	SITATUNGA PRIVATE ISLAND & SITATUNGA PRIVATE ISLAND SUITE
Camp Classification	Réserve Collection	Réserve Collection	Réserve Collection	Réserve Collection
Location	Selinda Reserve	Selinda Reserve	Duba Plains Concession	Sitatunga Private Reserve
Size of concession / reserve	130 000 Hectares / 321 237 Acres	130 000 Hectares / 321 237 Acres	33 000 Hectares / 81 500 Acres	Not relevant
Number of Suites / Tents	4 Suites	3 Suites	5 Suites	2 Suites
Family Accommodation	The Dhow Suite at Zarafa	The Selinda Suite	The Duba Plains Suite	The Sitatunga Private Island Suite
Children can be accommodated from:	6 Years	6 Years	6 Years	6 Years
Day and Night Safari Drives	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a
Private Activities (at an additional charge)	Yes (Included for Dhow Suite)	Yes (Included for Selinda Suite)	Yes (Included for Duba Plains Suite)	Private boating
Guided Walks	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Boating (*water level dependent)	*Yes	*Yes	Yes	Yes
Mekoro and/or Canoeing (*water level dependent)	n/a	n/a	Mekoro	*Mekoro
Fishing (Seasonal and *water lever dependent)	*Yes	*Yes	Yes	Yes
Scenic Flights and Champagne Stops	Available at an additional charge	Available at an additional charge	Available at an additional charge	Available at an additional charge
Main Swimming Pool / Private Plunge Pools	Private Plunge Pool	Private Plunge Pool	Private Plunge Pool	Private Plunge Pool
Shower	Indoor & Outdoor	Indoor	Indoor & Outdoor	Indoor
Bath	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hairdryers (low-voltage)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mosquito Nets	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Eco cooling system over bed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wi-Fi – in-room (complimentary)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Safe - In-room	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spa treatments (at an additional charge)	Yes	Yes	Yes (In-room only)	Yes (In-room only)
Fitness	Gym & In-Room Equipment	In-Room Equipment	In-Room Equipment	In-Room Equipment
Boutique on site	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

## BOTSWANA CAMPS

ACTIVITY	SELINDA EXPLORERS CAMP	OKAVANGO EXPLORERS CAMP	DUBA EXPLORERS CAMP
Camp Classification	Explorers Collection	Explorers Collection	Explorers Collection
Location	Selinda Reserve	Selinda Reserve	Duba Plains Concession
Size of concession / reserve	130 000 Hectares / 321 237 Acres	130 000 Hectares / 321 237 Acres	33 000 Hectares / 81 500 Acres
Number of Suites / Tents	3 Tents	6 Tents	5 Tents
Family Accommodation	1 Family Tent	n/a	n/a
Children can be accommodated from:	6 Years	6 Years	6 Years
Day and Night Safari Drives	Yes	Yes	Yes
Private Activities (at an additional charge)	Yes	n/a	Yes
Guided Walks	Yes	Yes	Yes
Boating (water level dependent)	n/a	n/a	Yes
Mekoro and/or Canoeing (water level dependent)	Canoeing	Canoeing	Mekoro
Fishing (Seasonal and water lever dependent)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scenic Flights and Champagne Stops	Available at an additional charge	Available at an additional charge	Available at an additional charge
Main Swimming Pool / Private Plunge Pools	Main Swimming Pool	n/a	Main Swimming Pool
Shower	Indoor	Indoor	Indoor
Bath	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hairdryers (low-voltage)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mosquito Nets	On All Tent Sides	Yes	Yes
Eco cooling system over bed	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fan	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wi-Fi – in-room (complimentary)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Safe - In-room	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spa treatments (at an additional charge)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fitness	Yoga Mats	Yoga Mats	In-Room Equipment
Boutique on site	n/a	n/a	Yes