

NATURAL



SELECTION

SAFARIS OF CHARACTER

# BOTSWANA SAFARI ITINERARY

Brought to you by Uncharted Africa Safari co.



3 NIGHTS AT JACK'S CAMP IN THE DRY SEASON





# SAND & STARS...

THE FOLLOWING ITINERARY IS AN OUTLINE OF THE ACTIVITIES OFFERED DURING YOUR STAY AT JACK'S CAMP. THE ORDER IN WHICH THE ACTIVITIES ARE EXPERIENCED MAY VARY DEPENDING ON WEATHER AND/OR OTHER FACTORS. PLEASE NOTE THAT GUESTS WITH AN EARLY MORNING DEPARTURE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DO THE FINAL MORNING'S ACTIVITY.

## DAY 1

Arrive at Jack's Camp, pitched on a low grassland knoll amongst an oasis of dignified desert palms and Kalahari acacia. The camp's hub is a romantic canvas pavilion of low spires and finials with a fluttering valance beneath its eaves and could be the site for a medieval jousting tourney were it not a deciduous green. Now with more space, unfathomable comfort for desert life, luxury fit for a maharaja and adventure beyond the absurd, you'll be awestruck. The main, now larger, mess tent is where everyone meets for meals along a vintage 36-seater dining table, surrounded by a world of unimaginable style.

Nine green roomy and stylish canvas tents with en-suite bathrooms, indoor and outdoor showers (for those who want to feel the Kalahari breeze on their skin) and private plunge pools have been fashioned in classical 1940's style creating an oasis of civilization in what can be the harshest of stark environments.

Persian and North African rugs underfoot, cool cotton sheets and mahogany and brass campaign-style kit from the family safari stores form a striking contrast with the rugged wilderness viewed from the comfort of one's own veranda.







DUE TO AN ONGOING HABITUATION PROGRAMME, IT'S POSSIBLE FOR GUESTS TO **GET UP CLOSE** & PERSONAL WITH THESE CAPTIVATING CREATURES!



After settling in to your tent, join your Guide for tea before driving into the grasslands and the beautiful evening light. Stop to watch the sun set and listen to an explanation of how the Makgadikgadi pans, the remnants of the world's largest ever super-lake, were formed.

Return to camp for dinner in the elegant mess tent, a designated national museum of Botswana.

#### DAY 2

Set off in the morning to visit some of the Kalahari's most fascinating inhabitants, the meerkats.

As a meerkat's wake up time is weather dependent, breakfast might be enjoyed in camp on cooler and rainy days, or as a picnic on warmer, sunnier days.

Due to an ongoing habituation programme, it's possible for Guests to get up close and personal with these captivating creatures. Remember, they are not tame – just used to our non-threatening presence.

On chilly mornings, you might well find a meerkat snuggling up to you for warmth, or in the absence of a termite mound or tree, using your head as a sentry lookout post... By spending quality time with these incredibly social, superbly adapted animals, you will be able to see how they interact with each other and their environment. You also get the chance to see the desert through the eyes of a meerkat – which, despite the fact that it's only a foot off the ground, is a pretty spectacular vantage point, and definitely one of the most special and memorable game experiences you will encounter in Botswana.

Leave the meerkats as they continue with their eternal foraging and head to the site of the famous Chapman's Baobab (also known as the Seven Sisters) which was acknowledged to be the third largest tree in Africa until it recently fell to the ground.

This was once the campsite of early explorers like Livingstone and Selous when they pioneered the area and a visit here gives you an opportunity to gain a fascinating insight into the history of the early explorers.

Return to camp for a rest and refreshing lunch. Uncharted Africa Safari co. / Natural Selection is renowned throughout the industry for menus that emphasise fresh tastes and originality.



A large baobab tree with its roots exposed, and two people standing on a rock in the background.

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ONE OF THE ONLY PLACES IN THE WORLD WHERE THE **SILENCE IS SO COMPLETE** YOU CAN HEAR THE BLOOD CIRCULATING THROUGH YOUR EARS.

DAY 2 continued...

Three course meals under the stars include such treats as fresh tomato and basil soup, ostrich piccata, roast Botswana beef, delectable orange tarts and impossibly rich, but light, chocolate puddings.

Teas are indulgent affairs with treats like molasses scones with watermelon and rose petal jam & cream, lemon meringue tarts and the best brownies in the bush! All bread is baked daily, and full cooked English breakfasts are on offer every morning.

After tea, travel down to the pans where you will be given a brief safety talk before mounting your trusty quad bike to head off across the pans. Watch the sun set and the stars rise.

This is one of the only places in the world where the silence is so complete you can hear the blood circulating through your ears.

There is not one visual landmark to be seen and one swiftly loses one's sense of perspective - 16,000 square kilometres of baking soda void, are inhabited only by you and a few gazillion invisible brine shrimp!







THE BROWN  
**HYAENA IS  
A TIMID  
NOCTURNAL,**  
SOLITARY FORAGER,  
RARELY SEEN BY  
HUMANS.



DAY 3

Early in the morning comb the edge of the extinct lakeshore to find some of the many stone tools and fossils that litter the pan surface and learn of the origins of early man.

Return to camp for a huge brunch.

After another decadent tea, head off to see some unique desert species such as springbok, gemsbok, red hartebeest and the elusive brown hyaena; these consummate desert specialists survive in arid areas where both food and water are scarce.

The brown hyaena is a timid nocturnal, solitary forager, rarely seen by humans, but in spite of this, are very social animals, living in clans of up to 10-12 hyaenas.



Enjoy a night game drive back to camp, and with the aid of a spot light, look for nocturnal desert inhabitants such as aardvark, bat eared foxes, aardwolves, porcupine, honey badgers and perhaps even a black maned Kalahari Lion.

Arrive at Jack's Camp in time for dinner.





#### DAY 4

Spend the morning walking with the Zu/'hoasi Bushmen.

We passionately support cultural tourism in Botswana. It has long been our belief that it is a vitally important tool in terms of preserving this unique, but sadly fast-vanishing, culture.

We work closely with the Zu/'hoasi people of the Western Kalahari for many years and are privileged to have Bushmen women, men and pre-school children comprised of four generations, living at Jack's Camp in the Makgadikgadi.

Offering a window into the past, they teach us how they have survived in this harshest of environments, using their vast and ancient knowledge of plants, animal behaviour and survival skills.

The Zu/'hoasi lead a semi-traditional lifestyle, and share their traditional hunting and food-gathering skills as well as how they make jewellery and hunting equipment, it is a glimpse into their fast-vanishing, traditional way of life, but by no means an attempt to keep them frozen in time.

Through our initiative, a community is able to work together and share their knowledge with each other and our Guests, allowing the older generation to pass the knowledge on to the next generation. The young children are the future and we hope that they carry the knowledge and traditions of their incredible ancient culture into the modern world with a sense of pride and personal empowerment.







“MEETING THE **BUSHMEN** IS LIKE FINDING OUT WHO YOU REALLY ARE. AND, IT'S A **WONDERFUL DISCOVERY**, BECAUSE THEY'RE SUCH LOVELY, GENTLE PEOPLE.”

Alex Shoumatoff, Vanity Fair



After breakfast, walk through the bush to the traditionally built Bushmen village, where the community gathers during the day. The huts provide shelter from the harsh Kalahari environment, but are not the community's permanent accommodation.

On arrival, the elders of the community will meet you in a traditional manner after which you will walk out into the bush with the men, women and children.

The focus of the walk will be to provide a gentle introduction to the Kalahari and Bushmen way of life. The group will point out the distinct ecological characteristics of this area and its animal and bird species.

Spontaneous gathering and discussions about the uses of plants and wildlife by your Bushmen Guides provide the link between culture and wild environment that we seek to offer our Guests.

For those of you who would prefer to spend a little less time exploring and little more time lounging – Jack's Camp is perfectly adapted...

Time for one more delectable lunch; before you bid farewell to Jack's Camp in preparation for your onward journey.







## 2 HOUR **HORSE** RIDING ACTIVITY

EXPLORE THIS WILD, UNSPOILT AREA IN THE SAME WAY MANY OF THE EARLIEST EXPLORERS, HUNTERS AND MISSIONARIES DID – ON HORSEBACK!

Guests can now enjoy a 2 hour riding activity in either the morning or afternoon through the “land of a thousand islands”. Stranded on the ancient lakebed, these sand dunes covered in palm trees are one of the most beautiful and fascinating areas of the Botswana wilderness.

At the height of the migration season, the islands and adjoining grasslands are awash with zebra, wildebeest, hartebeest and ostrich.

During the Dry Season the white encrusted pans between the islands provides excellent conditions for the horses. Incredible scenery, memorable wildlife encounters and above all superb riding!

**NOTE:** The activity is suited for riders of any ability, for both adults and children of 9 years of age or older. The riding activity is included in the nightly rate for guests staying for 3 - 4 nights. Guests doing this activity will forfeit one of the activities.





“**MORE SUITED**, I WOULD  
SAY, FOR THE BETTER CLASS  
OF **MAHARAJAH.**”  
Thomas Pakenham

