

NATURAL



SELECTION

SAFARIS OF CHARACTER

BOTSWANA SAFARI ITINERARY

Brought to you by Uncharted Africa Safari co.



3 NIGHTS AT JACK'S CAMP IN THE GREEN 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.

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 a lavish 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.



“VISIT THE SITE OF THE **FAMOUS CHAPMAN’S** BAOBAB WHICH WAS ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE THE THIRD **LARGEST TREE IN AFRICA** UNTIL IT RECENTLY FELL TO THE GROUND.”

SEE THE **AWE-INSPIRING SPECTACLE** OF SOUTHERN AFRICA'S LAST SURVIVING **ANNUAL MIGRATION**



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, head off in search of some unique desert species such as armadillo, bat eared foxes, armadillos, and the elusive brown hyena, which is the third rarest large carnivore in Africa, with only about 8,000 in the wild.

Brown Hyenas are the consummate desert specialists, surviving in arid areas where both food and water are scarce.

A timid, nocturnal species rarely seen by humans, but in spite of being solitary foragers, they are very social animals, living in clans of up to 10-12 hyenas.

Enjoy an evening game drive back to camp for a lavish dinner.

DAY 3

Wake up to a delicious breakfast; then head off in search of the zebra and wildebeest migration. As the migration is constantly moving, sometimes you need go no further than the veranda of your very own tent to see hundreds of zebra, and on other days the search could take you into the Makgadikgadi National Park and beyond.

In the Kalahari Desert rain is the 'currency of life' and it is incredible to see how, as soon as the rains arrive, the desert transforms into a green oasis teeming with life. Within days of the first rain, thousands of Burchell's zebra and blue wildebeest make their way across the Makgadikgadi National Park to feed on the sweet summer grasses, and benefit from the high mineral content found in the salt pans.

Until recently it was thought that the zebra and wildebeest came from the Boteti River, but new research has shown that some of the zebras come from as far away as the Southern parts of the Okavango Delta.

The route to the Makgadikgadi from the southern delta is no easy trot and this new data has emphasised just how incredibly important the Makgadikgadi area is to these animals.

While enjoying a picnic lunch in the shade of a grove of trees, you will see the awe-inspiring spectacle of the last surviving zebra and wildebeest migration in Southern Africa.

This is the second largest migration of African ungulates, with an estimated 30,000 animals, the majority being zebra, participating each year.

THE KALAHARI: THE DESERT WITH THE **GREATEST** **SPECIES** DIVERSITY IN THE WORLD!

Close behind the zebra and wildebeest are the predators, and it is during the rainy season that you might encounter lion, cheetah and, sometimes, even leopard or wild dog. Resident all year round are the rare brown hyaena, which do not hunt, but mainly scavenge, these fascinating and somewhat misunderstood animals benefit hugely from the arrival of the migration. Also benefiting from this influx of life are the many birds of prey and vultures.

The bird life in the Makgadikgadi is as fascinating as the animals and you are sure to spot some unique desert birds, such as ostrich and sand grouse as well as the water birds, which arrive with the rains.

Waders, ibis, ducks, geese, storks, as well as the rare wattled crane can be seen during this time, and towards the end of the season, flamingos, can be seen resting on the pans before continuing on their migration. Your Guide will explain in great detail how mammals evolved; this process having been shaped by the complex but, fascinating relationship between predator and prey.

The origins of hunting and water sourcing and its influence on man's development will also be explained. Our Guides are specialists, and are able to convey all the nuances of the desert and the clever adaptations of its inhabitants that we consider one of the most interesting features of the environment.

Return to camp after a jam-packed day for hot showers, and a delicious 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 have been working closely with the Zu'hoasi people of the Western Kalahari for many years and are privileged to have twenty-four 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



DAY 4 continued...

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 staying for 3 nights 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

