



## Botswana Spectacular

This small group, escorted tour looks in-depth at the fantastic safari camps in Botswana. Our longtime, expert safari partner has created this customized tour to maximize wildlife experiences during the “green season” in southern Africa.



YOUR  
ADVENTURE  
AWAITS

## 14 Days/13 Nights

### ITINERARY

- Stay at the Kalahari Plains Lodge and experience traditional San Bushman cultural experiences
- Fly in to Tabu Tree in the lush, oasis of the Okavango Delta
- Savuti Camp, set deep in the wilderness – a refuge for a variety of wildlife
- Elephant, hippos, crocodile, roan, giraffe, lion, leopard, cheetah and wild dog are all species present in this area
- Bird-watcher’s paradise at Savuti

Great Canadian Travel has partnered with this premier safari tour company since 1983 to create exciting travel experiences in Botswana. We concentrate on offering departures in the African “green season”. The green season includes the months of February and March, which is winter in Canada. However, it is summer in southern Africa! The green season offers spectacular savings in Botswana, often referred to as the best safari destination in Africa.

By camps in different ecosystems in Botswana, the safaris provide a real diversity and wilderness experience that one can enjoy in privacy and high comfort. The itinerary includes the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, Okavango Delta and the Linyanti Concessions, a natural oasis in Botswana with an air of untouched beauty teeming with wildlife. These fly in safaris are unsurpassed value as we use luxury camps on private concessions, open vehicles and off-roading, which provide excellent photographic opportunities.

The tour provides the opportunity to extend your stay for a few days in either Johannesburg before the tour begins or in Cape Town at the end of the tour.

### Day 1: Arrive Johannesburg

Upon arrival you will be met at the airport and transferred to The Peech Hotel in central Johannesburg for a two-night stay.

The Peech Hotel is set amongst 2 acres of lush garden setting, located within the residential suburb of Melrose. Our eco-chic boutique hotel has 16 guest rooms, all with private outdoor patios and overlooking our central garden area with pool. Full breakfast and unlimited WiFi access are included. Each of our guest rooms offers modern facilities and well-appointed bathrooms, including rain-dance showers and baths, work desk and casual seating area with coffee table, flat screen TV, wardrobe, air conditioning, laptop safes, Nespresso machines and king sized beds. Our Bistro menu offers fresh, light, seasonal produce throughout the day, with ingredients sourced from leading local suppliers, or from our own organic vegetable garden wherever possible.

The Peech is located near the main shopping and business hubs of Rosebank (3 mins) and Sandton (8 mins), and we



are surrounded by local boutiques, cafés, salons, an art gallery and an adjacent park for walking or running. Guests also have direct access to neighbouring Planet Fitness gym facility and indoor pool.

The Peech is a champion of responsible tourism by blending awareness for the environment and the community, and we are Fair Trade Tourism certified. Described as “Contemporary, edgy and Afrocentric” by Condé Nast Traveller, and awarded ‘Best City Boutique Hotel’ in Africa at the 2014 World Boutique Hotel Awards.

### **Day 2: Johannesburg – Kalahari Plains**

You are collected from the hotel and transferred to Johannesburg’s airport for your flight to Maun. On arrival in Maun you’ll transfer to the light aircraft, circuit flight that will take you to Kalahari Plains.

Kalahari Plains sits on the edge of an immense pan. Large herds of gemsbok (oryx) and springbok arrive in the wake of the summer rains, and attract the attention of cheetah and black-maned Kalahari lions. The annual transformations belie a sense of timelessness, and authentic San Bushman cultural experiences give insights into an ancient yet sustainable way of life.

Eight cool canvas guest units (including a family unit) each feature a rooftop sleep-out platform, with unequalled views of the night sky. A refreshing pool and unique architecture make the desert temperatures much more comfortable.

### **Day 3: Central Kalahari Game Reserve**

Adventurous travellers seeking a truly remote African safari will be thrilled to discover it in central Botswana. The Central Kalahari Game Reserve is the second largest game reserve in the world and one of the least visited, nothing can prepare you for the sheer wonder of exploring this vast reserve with its wild, untouched beauty. The landscape is dominated by sand veld, acacias, and Kalahari apple-leaf, interspersed with grasslands and dotted with occasional sand dunes, pans and fossil river valleys. While the reserve is home to an impressive variety of wildlife, there is one animal that is rather obviously absent, the human being. It is this lack of human traffic, combined with the park’s lack of infrastructure, which makes for a challenging and marvellously authentic African experience. Visitors need to be entirely self-sufficient but those willing to make the effort will be richly rewarded.

### **Day 4, 5 & 6: Kalahari Plains – Tubu Tree Camp**

A light aircraft, circuit flight whisks you from the Kalahari Plains back to Maun airport and on to Tubu Tree Camp, located on the western side of remote Hunda Island in the lush, oasis of the Okavango Delta.

Tubu Tree has easy access to a diverse range of habitats. Day and night game drives explore productive mopane and acacia woodlands, with Tubu Tree being well known for its leopard sightings. Wildlife movements vary with seasonal water levels, meaning that no two Tubu experiences are ever the same – but all are equally wonderful.

Eight guest tents (including one designed for families) offer breath-taking floodplain views from their elevated positions. In addition to the drama and excitement of game drives, seasonally-available water activities facilitate a different pace and perspective. Enjoy a drink at Tubu’s famous open-air bar under the shade of a marula tree.

### **Day 7: Tubu Tree Camp – Savuti Camp**

Another short flight transfers you to Savuti Camp in the Linyanti Concessions.

Savuti Camp is set deep in the wilderness on the productive Savute Channel – a refuge for a variety of wildlife. For many years the channel was dry, before the waters returned in 2008 and abundant game congregated around and adapted to their new surroundings. As part of a natural cycle, the channel is dry once more, resulting in a rich feeding ground and corridor between the surrounding mopane woodlands for both plains game and predators. Savuti is about 17 kilometres “downstream” from the Zibadianja Lagoon – the source of the Channel.

Accommodation comprises seven large en-suite canvas-and-thatch rooms (including a family unit) that are raised off the ground and face onto the Savute Channel. From the thatched dining area, a pool and large viewing area with fire deck extend outwards on raised wooden decks. Activities on offer are day and night game drives, nature walks with a guide (depending on qualified guide availability) and boating (water levels permitting). The log-pile hide, close to camp, and the sunken hide offer unique ways of watching wildlife at the water’s edge. Two Star Beds – Southern Cross and Orion – approximately 20 minutes from camp, are a magical, unique way for guests to experience the African bush.

### **Day 8: Savuti Camp, Linyanti Concessions**

The Kwando-Linyanti river system is home to a series of private game reserves, known for their exotic animal species and luxury safari options. An abundance of wildlife roams freely between the woodland habitats, ancient floodplains and forests that make up these lush, unfenced reserves. The big game in this area increases dramatically during the dry



season when the area hosts large herds of impala, blue wildebeest, giraffe and buffalo as well as the world's highest density of elephant. Several packs of wild dog are found in the area and lion, leopard and cheetah are frequently sighted. Night drives allow for the discovery of nocturnal creatures such as civets, genets, honey badgers and spring hares. This vast, untamed wilderness is the perfect location for those seeking a unique African adventure in an exclusive and remote big game habitat.

The activities on offer include day and night game drives, guided walks (on request) and seasonal boating, depending on water levels. Nearby platforms and hides also present excellent wildlife opportunities.

#### **Day 9: Savuti Camp – Kasane – Victoria Falls**

Time to say good-bye to Savuti Camp and catch your flight via scheduled, light aircraft to Kasane Airport. From here you fly on to Victoria Falls. A transfer is included on to your very comfortable accommodation at Ilala Lodge.

The warmest of welcomes awaits you at Ilala Lodge Hotel, with a gracefully distinguished ambiance and attentive yet discrete service that always comes with a smile. The sublime surroundings of this boutique hotel will reawaken your senses while the power of the majestic Victoria Falls renews your spirit. Relax in luxurious style. Listen to the meditative rhythm of the great Zambezi as you drift off to sleep. As morning comes, gently awake and lift your head to see the spray of the majestic Victoria Falls across the unspoiled horizon – and let your soul sigh.

Feel at ease in elegant and spacious rooms with African Teak furniture, soft, crisp linen – all en-suite facilities, bathroom with separate shower, air conditioning, overhead fan, satellite TV, hair dryer, tea & coffee making facilities, free WiFi and a safe. The view from your room looks across the lawns to the National Parks where elephant, warthog, impala or the occasional buffalo might be passing by or simply grazing on the lawn or in the tree line.

Experience new tastes, indulge in unusual flavours and enjoy delectable dishes at the award winning restaurant “The Palm”; dine in view of the spray of the majestic Victoria Falls! Ilala Lodge also has a spa, where you can spoil yourself after your days on safari!

#### **Day 10: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**

A variety of local activities are available such as river walks, cruises down the Zambezi River, helicopter tours over the falls and for the adventurers zip-lining or bungee-jumping. Or simply choose to sit with a nice, cool drink and take in the spectacular views.

#### **Day 11: Victoria Falls – Cape Town**

Today it's time to bid farewell to Victoria Falls and transfer to the airport for your flight to Cape Town. We'll be driven to the centrally located, historic property, The Victoria and Alfred Hotel.

The Victoria and Alfred Hotel offers charming colonial ambience in a central, prestigious location on the pier-head of the world's most famous working harbour – the famed V&A Waterfront. This exceptionally elegant hotel occupies a converted historic warehouse and boasts 94 exquisitely designed contemporary rooms. If you are seeking luxurious accommodation, world-class hospitality and spectacular views of Table Mountain, look no further than this remarkable, historically rich, landmark hotel.

#### **Day 12: Cape Town**

Today we go on a full day peninsula and Table Mountain tour. The first stop (weather dependent) is Table Mountain Lower Cableway Station, for a 5 minute revolving cable car ride to the top. 1,067m above sea level, Table Mountain affords birds-eye views of both the city and Peninsula, as you explore its summit. Descend and depart the city along the Atlantic seaboard, past the coastal suburbs of Clifton, Camps Bay, Bakoven and Llandudno and on to the fishing village of Hout Bay. Navigate the 114 curves of 600m high Chapmans Peak Drive, one of the world's most spectacular passes, past the Capes longest beach near Noordhoek and the coastal hamlets of Kommetjie and Scarborough with a chance of seeing Southern right whales offshore from June – November! After lunch at a popular coastal restaurant, we enter the Cape of Good Hope section of the Table Mountain National Park with its unique Cape fynbos vegetation and home to birds like African black oystercatchers and Cape sugarbirds as well as to very special fauna including Cape mountain zebra, bontebok (both endemic) and the charismatic Cape baboon.

Climb (or ride the world's first environmentally friendly funicular) to Cape Point Lighthouse, to capture the magical vistas of False Bay, and stop at the south-westernmost point of Africa: breath-taking Cape Point. Drive on to Boulders Beach for a close-up encounter with a colony of African penguins, before heading home through the naval village of Simonstown and over Boyes Drive, taking in views of the fishing harbour at Kalk Bay and the seaside hamlets of St. James and Muizenberg.

#### **Day 13: Winelands**

Depart the city for the Winelands in the nearby Boland Mountains for a leisurely exploration of historic towns, liquid delights, gastronomic wonders and home-grown hospitality. Wine estates visited will vary according to client



preferences, but the tour generally includes the region's major wine producing areas of Stellenbosch, Paarl and Franschhoek, and there are chances aplenty en route for tastings of world-renowned reds and whites, as well as Cap Classiques South Africa's answer to Champagne. Lunch at one of the many classic, award-winning restaurants in the area. Natural and historic heritage abounds in this area and your tour may take in sights like the Afrikaans Language Monument with its panoramic Boland views. Idyllic Franschhoek, nestled in a valley settled by French Huguenots in 1688, is a delight for both antique lovers and gastronomes alike. Stellenbosch, South Africa's second-oldest town, provides another glimpse of classic 17th century Cape style, with a chance to browse quaint Dorp Street and the many museums, galleries and shops of this lovely university town.

#### Day 14: Depart Cape Town

Today, our tour ends with a transfer from the hotel to the Cape Town airport. Should you wish to extend your time in Cape Town you may do so. Please ask us to extend your hotel stay as needed.

### DEPARTURES & PRICING

**Group Size:** Minimum 10

**2018 Dates:**

February, March & April

Group dates are currently being determined and will be posted soon.

#### 2018 Pricing

February and March

From US\$10,709 / CA\$14,115 - twin

April

From US\$11,685 / CA\$15,395 - twin

Prices are shown in US\$ and CA\$, per person based on two people sharing a twin room. Single rates are available on request.

### INCLUDED

- Transfers from Johannesburg airport on arrival to downtown hotel, and return
- One night of accommodation in Johannesburg at The Peech Hotel, or similar
- Scheduled circuit, light aircraft flight from Maun to Kalahari Plains and return
- Two nights of accommodation at Kalahari Plains
- Scheduled circuit, light aircraft flight Kalahari Plains to Maun and on to Tubu Tree Camp, Okavango Delta
- Three nights of accommodation at Tubu Tree
- Scheduled circuit, light aircraft flight from Tubu Tree Camp to Savuti Camp, Linyanti Concessions
- Two nights of accommodation at Tubu Tree Camp
- Accommodation at all camps in tented rooms
- All meals, twice daily scheduled camp activities/drives, park fees, laundry service, all local drinks (excludes premium imported brands and champagne)
- Services of lodge guides and staff
- Scheduled circuit, light aircraft flight from Savuti to Kasane airport and on to Victoria Falls airport
- Transfer from Victoria Falls airport to centrally located hotel, and return
- Two nights of accommodation at Ilala Lodge or similar, in Victoria Falls
- Breakfast at hotel in Victoria Falls
- Transfer from Cape Town airport to downtown hotel
- Three nights of accommodation at Hotel Victoria and Alfred, or similar
- Full-day Peninsula and Table Mountain Tour in Cape Town, including bottled water, lunch, entrance fees and cableway ticket
- Full-day Winelands Tour including bottled water, lunch, entrance fees for wine tastings, cellar tour and museums
- Transfer from Cape Town hotel to the airport for departure



- Accommodation taxes, Tourism Levies, VAT and GST
- Escorted by a Great Canadian Travel Africa Specialist

### NOT INCLUDED

- International flights to Johannesburg, returning from Cape Town
- Flights from Johannesburg to Maun and Victoria Falls to Cape Town
- Meals not specified
- Drinks, park and entrance fees, portorage, extra tours/excursions and transfers not specified
- Guide and camp staff gratuities
- Travel insurance
- Passport and visa fees, as required
- Items of a personal nature
- Optional sightseeing in Victoria Falls
- Airport taxes, payable in US\$, cash only
- Any new government taxes, levies, fuel surcharges or industry increase beyond our control

### TOUR NOTES

Circuit Flights: The light aircraft, circuit flights are subject to weight restrictions based on the aircraft used, weather conditions and season, passenger and luggage weights, routing and fuel required. Some routes may require en-route stops which may involve changing aircraft. Total baggage allowance on these inter-camp flights is 20kg total per person (includes checked bag as well as all carry-on items).

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