



Coates Wildlife Tours

*Specialist in Nature Tours since 1986*

## Trip Dossier

### 12-Day Botswana Wildlife Safari



**Safari Small Group Tour - Max 14 passengers**

**Maun - Victoria Falls 10 - 21 March 2024**

#### **Itinerary Highlights:**

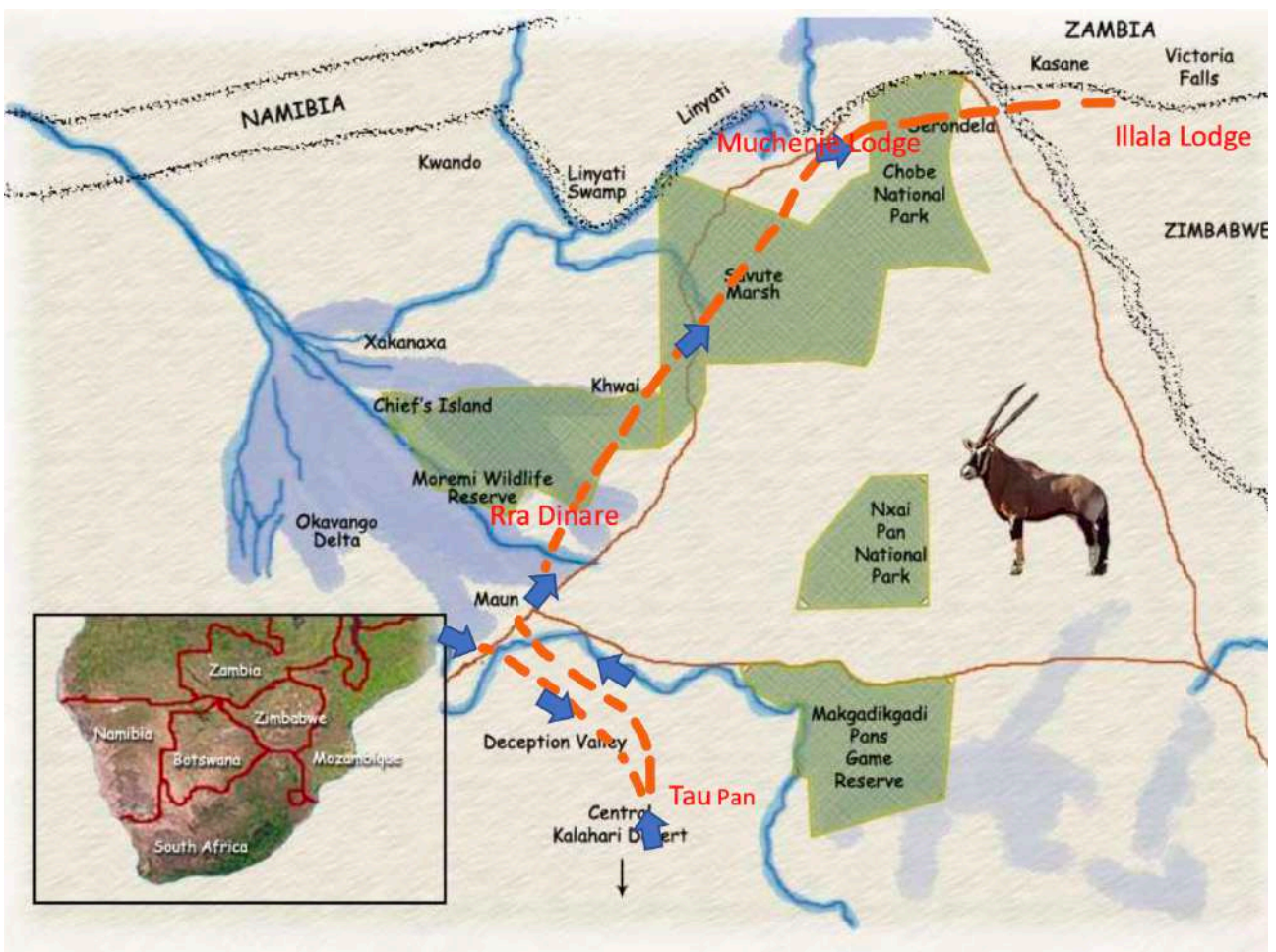
- Twice daily game drives to see the area's prolific wildlife
- Three nights spent in the Central Kalahari desert staying at Tau Pan which sits on top of an ancient dune ridge with views over the Kalahari.
- Fly to the Okavango Delta, where we spend three nights at Rra Dinare.
- Explore the Delta on game drives and depending on water levels from a makoro.
- Three nights in Chobe National Park is Botswana's first national park, and also the most biologically diverse
- Stay at Muchenje Safari Lodge, with beautiful views of the Chobe River, the Caprivi Strip and seasonal flood plains
- Private cruise on the Chobe river, excellent for birding enthusiasts
- Two nights at Victoria Falls

We are going in the green season when the rains change the brown winter landscape into a lush green wonderland. Full-leafed acacia trees cast deep, cool shade over rolling green lawns, flowers leap up out of the sand, and crusty salt pans turn into shimmering wetlands full of honking waterbirds. The clean-washed air makes colours richer and deeper and the cloud-stacked sunsets are more intense.

Wildlife is looking fit and healthy. Young offspring born in November and December are still small and it will be a treat to see this new life especially in the Kalahari and Chobe areas. This is also the best time for photography in the Kalahari, where clouds and rainbows provide dramatic backdrops to your wildlife images.

Bird watching is at its best as migrant species from Europe, Asia and other parts of Africa are in abundance. Even non-birders will get caught up in the excitement. We charter flights between safari locations to maximise your time and comfort by avoiding the long drives over rough dirt roads. The views from the air are also pretty amazing.

You will enjoy traditional safari ambience in classic tented camps and lodges in some of Botswana's remote reserves.



## Itinerary

### Day 1 - Day 3: Maun - Central Kalahari Desert

You will arrive at Maun Airport. Patrick Bates - Operations Manager of Coates Wildlife Tours, along with representatives from LCS and Moremi Air, will meet you at the airport. You will board your flight aircraft and fly to Tau Pan in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. The flight is about 60 minutes depending on the planes used. On arrival at the desert airstrip, your guides will meet you and drive to the desert lodge. After a cool drink and orientation, relax in camp or enjoy a short afternoon game drive and sundowner near Tau Pan. We will give a quick welcome talk and chat about the itinerary in the evening, before you sit down to the first night's dinner in the bush. Tau Pan sits on top of an ancient sand dune ridge and commands fantastic views over the Kalahari. The peace and quiet are astounding. From the camp, you can enjoy game drives morning and afternoon, and a walk with your bushman tracker, who will teach you how the San live off the land and survive in such harsh conditions. Desert species found in the Central Kalahari include oryx, springbok, the elusive brown hyena, bat-eared fox and the black-maned Kalahari lions.

Day 1 - D

Accommodation: Tau Pan Camp <http://www.kwando.co.bw/tau-pan>

Day 2 & 3 - BLD

### Day 4 - Day 6: Central Kalahari Desert - South Eastern Okavango Delta

On Day 4, you will fly to the Santawani airstrip on the southeastern border of the Moremi Game Reserve. You will meet your guides from Rra Dinare camp and drive to your tented camp. After freshening up, lunch and an orientation chat, you can go on an afternoon game drive to explore the new surroundings, or relax and enjoy watching wildlife grazing on the floodplain.

On days 5 and 6, you have two whole days to explore the southeastern Delta. We will follow the Gomoti river and look for animals coming down to drink, as well as grassland and woodland areas. During the heat of the day, you can enjoy lunch and a siesta at camp. It is also possible to enjoy a peaceful mokoro trip on the waterways of the Gomoti if the flood waters have reached the river by Feb/March time; this is dependent on the rainfall and direction that the flood waters take.

Southern Moremi offers a typical wetland system with grassy plains and pans surrounded by well-developed mopane forests and riverine woodland. Large breeding herds of elephants are common, as are lechwe, waterbuck, impala and hippos. One can also hope to see buffalo, giraffes, bushbuck, lions, wild dogs, leopards, cheetahs, black-backed and side-striped jackal, zebra, wildebeest and tsessebe. The birdlife includes water birds as well as dry land birds.

Accommodation: Rra Dinare Camp <https://www.kwando.co.bw/rra-dinare>

BLD

### Day 7 - Day 9: Okavanga Delta - Chobe

On Day 7, you will say goodbye to the Rra Dinare team and fly to Kasane airport (approx. 60-90 min flight). Upon arrival in Kasane, you will be met by representatives from Muchenje Lodge and drive one hour on a tar road through the park to the lodge, arriving in time for lunch and an afternoon activity.

Muchenje Safari Lodge provides some of Botswana's finest safari accommodation in Chobe. Situated on the western edge of Chobe National park, Muchenje offers unique, prolific game experiences. This is one of Botswana's best wildlife viewing areas, if not all of Africa!

Accommodation is in twin/double chalets overlooking the Chobe floodplain, and activities include game drives into Chobe National park, a boat cruise on the Chobe River, and nature walks.

Northern Chobe is famous for its vast elephant & buffalo herds, puku, kudu, Chobe bushbuck, and hippos, as well as diverse bird life. One could also hope to see lions, leopards, wild dogs, giraffes, waterbucks, zebra, and impalas.

On Day 8, you can enjoy a choice of game drives, relax at the lodge or take a visit to a local village.

On Day 9, you will be transferred to Kasane for a 3-hour boat cruise on the Chobe river (packed lunch included). Then take a private tour of the biodiversity centre in Kasane, followed by a lecture on the Chobe area's current conservation and environmental issues. You will arrive back in Muchenje mid to late afternoon.

Accommodation: Muchenje Safari Lodge      <http://www.muchenje.com>      BLD

#### **Day 10 - Day 12:      Chobe - Victoria Falls**

On day 10, you will drive from Muchenje back to Kasane in the morning to meet your road transfer to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The drive from Kasane to Victoria Falls is approx 1 - 1.5 hours (depending on the border crossing). Ilala Lodge is in the heart of town and is within easy walking distance of the Falls. Accommodation is in standard twin ensuite rooms on a B&B basis.

In the morning on Day 11, guests can visit one of the largest, most spectacular waterfalls in the world at their leisure. (Entrance fee currently USD 30 per person payable direct at the park entrance).

Victoria Falls has many activities for the energetic traveller and for those who want to relax, including Helicopter flights over the falls, short game drives and African market shopping. (All activities are at an additional cost and can be organised at the Ilala Lodge activities desk).

In the late afternoon, there will be a sunset cruise on the Upper Zambezi river with drinks and snacks, before a farewell riverside BBQ to celebrate the last night of your safari and reflect on the sightings and experiences in Botswana.

Day 12 – Transfer from Ilala Lodge to Victoria Falls Airport for your onward flight. Time TBC once flight details are confirmed.

Day 10 & 12 - B

Accommodation: Ilala Lodge      <http://www.ilalalodge.com>

Day 11 - BD

*NOTE: the above itinerary may be varied according to conditions and advice.*



## Tour Costs

Cost: USD \$7,995.00 Per Person Twin Share  
USD \$1,070.00 Single Supplement

Departs: Maun - Botswana 10 March 2024  
Finishes: Victoria Falls - Zimbabwe 21 March 2024

Prices have been based on all known costs and current rates of exchange. Any significant changes beyond our control will be passed onto passengers.

## Tour Payments:

Deposit: At the time of booking USD\$1000.00 per person

In order to secure your place, you will need to book and pay your deposit of USD\$1000.00 per person by 10 August 2023.

Final Payment: On or before 10 December 2023

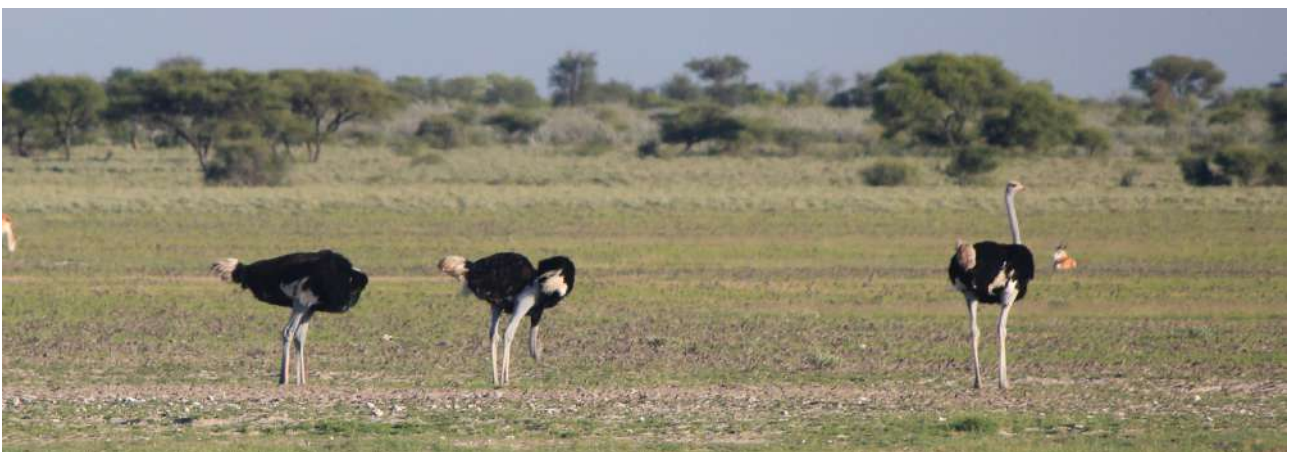
All deposits and payments are non-refundable. Due to the remote location and international medical cost, comprehensive travel Insurance is required to join this tour.

### Included

- Fully escorted tour
- Meals as per itinerary (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)
- Twin share accommodation in camp chalets, safari camp and lodge
- Porterage on arrival
- Meet and greet at Maun Airport
- 9 days with a naturalist guide
- Game viewing & activities as per itinerary
- Tipping on tour
- National Park Fees
- Internal flights and ground transport
- Beverages where indicated in accommodation information
- Complimentary laundry service at Tau Pan Camp & Muchenje Lodge
- Porterage on departure

### Not Included

- International airfares to Maun and from Victoria Falls and accompanying airport and airline taxes
- Any meals not included in the itinerary
- Any required visas
- Personal travel and medical evacuation insurance (compulsory)
- All other personal expenses
- Any pre and post tour accommodation
- Any transit accommodation between Australia and Botswana
- Alcoholic or carbonated drinks unless stated



## Tour Information

Coates Escort: Patrick Bates

Botswana Wildlife Specialist: TBA

### Meals:

Meals, as indicated on the itinerary, are included. Special dietary requirements can usually be catered for. Please advise any special requirements at the time of booking. A surcharge may apply.

### Physical Requirements:

Easy to moderate.

### Weather:

We can expect temperatures to range from 17 - 35 degrees C. Mostly sunny, with moderate humidity and an average rainfall of approx 61mm. There may be some afternoon storms in the Delta.

### Clothing:

A suggested list of items to bring on the tour will be included in our pre-departure information, which will be sent to you six weeks prior to departure. However, comfortable casual clothing is recommended— light shirts and T-shirts during the day and a lightweight rain jacket.

### Travel Insurance:

Personal travel insurance (including medical evacuation) is compulsory for the safari tour.

## Accommodation

### Tau Pan Camp:

Tau Pan Camp is situated inside the world-famous Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) on the edge of the beautiful Tau Pan. Guests are accommodated in 9 rooms under thatch, designed and built to remain cool in the summer months and warm in winter. Each room has an ensuite with a separate flushing toilet, double sinks and an inside and outside shower. The rooms have large double or twin beds, a lounge area and a viewing deck with amazing views.

The main area is an open plan under thatch. The building and décor have been planned and finished to blend into the local landscape. There is a dining area, a lounge/bar, and a curio shop. The main deck houses a plunge pool with views of Tau Pan and beyond and the nearby permanent waterhole where animals come to quench their thirst.



### Rra Dinare:

Rra Dinare is set in a private 272 km<sup>2</sup> concession adjacent to Moremi Game reserve on the southeastern side of the Delta. It overlooks the Gomoti River and its flood plains which attract plentiful game and bird species. Both central areas have been built to keep open, thatched spaces that allow guests to relax and enjoy the natural surroundings whilst watching wildlife and birds from the comfort of an armchair or the bar. The swimming pool and curio shop at each camp complete the luxurious, relaxed feel for which Under One Botswana Sky safaris are known.



### Muchenje Safari Lodge:

This lodge sits on an escarpment within the Chobe Forest Reserve, on the quieter western side of Botswana's Chobe National Park. It has beautiful views of the Chobe River, the Caprivi Strip and seasonal flood plains. Being owner-run, Muchenje Safari Lodge offers a more personalised service and homely atmosphere, with experienced managers and guides looking after you every step of the way. (Laundry and selected beverages included).



### Ilala Lodge Hotel:

Ilala is the perfect base from which to explore one of the World's Seven Natural Wonders, the majestic Victoria Falls. A standout amongst Victoria Falls hotels and lodges, Ilala provides distinguished yet affordable boutique accommodation in gracious and secluded surroundings. With just 56 rooms and suites on the property, guests can look forward to personalised service and world-class hospitality throughout their visit.



For detailed Terms and Conditions, please visit the FAQ page on our website.



To make a booking or further information please contact

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