



## Nature Photography Adventures: Botswana with Diane Kelsay and Bob Harvey

August 19-30 2013

### August 19: Victoria Falls

On arrival at Victoria Falls airport, you will be met and welcomed by our safari guide and transferred by road to the Victoria Falls Hotel. The famous Victoria Falls are just a ten-minute walk away using the hotel's private pathway, and "the smoke that thunders" or "Mosi-O-Tunya" in the local dialect, is clearly audible and visible from this luxurious landmark. Enjoy a welcome dinner with the group on our first evening in Africa.

Waking up to the sound of "the smoke that thunders", seeing the sun rise beneath the mist of one of the seven natural wonders of the world and the lunar rainbow at night, all the while soaking up the history and ambience of a bygone era, is more than unforgettable – it is unique. We will seek out the best possible photo spots by visiting both the Zambian and the Zimbabwe sides of the falls. Overnights Ilala Lodge. Dinner.

### Ilala Lodge

*The lodge is ideally situated being the closest to the mighty Victoria falls as well as the town center. The National Park borders the front of the property and wild animals often graze on the hotel lawns, with the spray of the falls in the background. All of the spacious rooms are decorated with railway teak and have en suite bathrooms. There are French doors in each room that open up to a communal garden. Bottled water is provided for in each of the rooms as well as a kettle for the tea and coffee.*



### August 20: Victoria Falls

Today we arise early to photograph the Falls from Zimbabwe side and in the afternoon we cross over to Zambia to visit and photograph the Falls from the town of Livingstone. The Zimbabwe side offers a view of the entire falls while the Zambia side allows you to get much closer to the rushing waters. Overnight Victoria Falls Hotel. All meals.

### August 21 & 22: Chobe River, Chobe National Park

After breakfast depart Victoria Falls by road transfer into Botswana, and a short distance further to the iconic Chobe National Park, famous for its huge herds of elephant and buffalo. After we arrive at our lodge and settle in, we'll set out on a private sundowner cruise on the magnificent Chobe River; we will be able to photograph the wildlife that congregates at the water's edge with an awe inspiring African sunset.

The Chobe area also is renowned for magnificent star-gazing and our professional guides will show us the African skies and explain local folklore. The following day embark on a morning and afternoon game drive, focusing on elephants and animals drinking from the Chobe River. Chobe Game Lodge game drives are conducted in open sided 4X4 vehicles ensuring maximum visibility, while game viewing on the Chobe River is conducted by small, shallow draft and highly maneuverable boats piloted by expert boatmen. The resident guides offer slide shows, star gazing presentations, garden and river walks as well as walking safaris in the nearby Kasane forests. Overnights Chobe Game Lodge. All meals.

### Chobe Game Lodge

*The lodge overlooks the Chobe River and Caprivi floodplains. The architecture is Moorish and graceful with high arches, barrel-vault ceilings and tiled floors creating an atmosphere of spaciousness and tranquility. All 47 rooms are decorated with original African carvings and paintings. The boma (outdoor eating area enclosed by reed walls) is situated under large Mahogany trees on the banks of the Chobe River. There is also a large swimming pool with a terrace, a riverside boma area where traditional dancers perform, a gym, beauty & spa treatments, and a reference library with a lounge and terrace.*



### August 23 & 24: Savute area, Chobe National Park

After an early wake-up and breakfast, we depart Chobe Game Lodge in our specially equipped safari vehicle for the Savute area of the Chobe National Park. The day is spent traveling to Savute Safari Lodge including a visit to the Nogatsaa area which a great place to see huge herds of buffalo. Stop in the shade of a large tree en route and enjoy lunch. Our safari vehicle is equipped with a fridge to ensure access to a variety of cold drinks, water, fruit juices, beer, wine and local brand spirits throughout your journey.

The area is renowned for its population of lone bull elephants and for the unique interaction of the resident predator species. Game drives reveal animals such as red lechwe, zebra, wildebeest, and giraffe, as well as predators such as lion, cheetah, hyena and rare wild dog. Open 4x4 game drives are conducted in the Savute area, including the famous Savute Marsh, and the ancient San rock paintings at Gubatsa Hills.

The river that our lodge is on is sometimes called the Stolen River. But just as awe-inspiring is the decades old story of how the river was stolen and, in an unexpected twist, how it was given back.

Stretching from the waterways of the Linyanti all the way to Savute Marsh, the winding waterways of Savute Channel have pumped life into the western section of Chobe National Park for many thousands of generations. But this fickle and unpredictable channel has a fascinating history of flooding and drying up independently of good rainy seasons and flood levels elsewhere - a mystery that has intrigued geologists and other researchers for many years.

When David Livingstone discovered the Savute Channel in 1851 it was flowing. Thirty years later the channel had disappeared and the Savute Marsh had dried out, remaining this way for almost 80 years. It flowed again in the late 1950s, continuing until the early 1980s when it again receded, gaining the channel its reputation as 'the river which flows in both directions'. In 2009, after another extended hiatus, the channel began flowing again and by January 2010 had spilled into the Savute Marsh for the first time in three decades. No-one knows how long the water will remain so we'll take full advantage of everything we see here. Overnights Savute Safari Lodge. All meals.

### **Savute Safari Lodge**

*Located on the banks of the Savute channel, Savute Safari Lodge accommodates only 24 guests in cool thatched timber and glass suites. The area is renowned for its population of bull elephant and for the unique interaction of the resident predator species. The close proximity of wildlife translates itself into the recently refurbished, modern African décor. All suites have private decks, combined bedroom and sitting areas and en suite facilities. The sitting area, library and cocktail bar are situated in an exquisite thatch and timber main building. Savute boasts a viewing deck, an al fresco dining area and swimming pool which is the perfect place for watching game at the waterhole.*



### **August 25, 26 & 27: Moremi Game Reserve, Okavango Delta, Botswana**

After an early morning wake up we depart in a south westerly direction traveling through the Mababe depression and enter Moremi Game Reserve, crossing the Khwai River bridge at North Gate. Moremi Game Reserve is world famous for its dramatic scenery and abundant wildlife. We start exploring the park on an extended game drive to Camp Moremi in the Xaxanaka area. Xaxanaka is considered one of the most beautiful areas in the Moremi Game Reserve. Located on the edge of the permanent waters of the Okavango Delta, this area is rich in plant and animal species. We spend two days here searching out the best angles with the vehicles, on motorboats in the Delta waters and on foot. Overnights Camp Moremi. All meals.

**Camp Moremi** is situated on the gorgeous Xakanaxa Lagoon in the eastern extremity of the Okavango Delta, within the Moremi Game Reserve. The elevated Moremi Tree Lodge is the dazzling central point of the camp and houses the luxurious main lounge, a wildlife reference library, dining room and cocktail bar, shaded by giant ebony trees and overlooking the Okavango Delta's Xakanaxa Lagoon. Camp Moremi accommodates only 22 safari guests in beautifully furnished East African style safari tents with en suite bathrooms.



### **August 28 & 29: Nxaragha Island, Central Okavango Delta, Botswana**

Leaving our safari vehicle at Camp Moremi, we depart by charter light aircraft into the heart of the Okavango Delta. For the next two days, we experience the incredible diversity of this aquatic wilderness, exploring the waterways and floodplains by boat and mokoro (traditional style canoes) and the islands on guided walking safaris. Keep your lens ready for a rare sighting of the largely aquatic antelope sitatunga. Other game sightings regularly include elephant, lion, hyena and buffalo. Pels Fishing Owl is a favorite amongst birders, as well as greater and lesser Jacanas. With the aquatic and walking focused activities here, we can quietly get up close to some of the smaller and more seldom seen inhabitants of the Delta. Overnights Camp Okavango. All meals.

### **Camp Okavango**

*To ensure a peaceful and genuine safari experience, the camp accommodates just 24 guests in intimate East African-style safari tents. Each tent is individually situated on a raised teak platform, features en-suite facilities and enjoys sliding glass doors which open on to a private open air viewing deck. Camp Okavango's traditional thatch and lethaka (reed) main lodge features a cocktail bar, lounge and wildlife reference library. The dining room leads onto an expansive open air patio which is perfect for brunch, afternoon tea and tranquil evenings around the fire. Other facilities include a secluded bird-viewing hide and a sundeck with plunge pool for relaxing during the sunny midday hours.*



### **August 30: Depart or Begin Extension**

Enjoy a morning activity before departing on our scheduled charter flight over the Okavango Delta to Maun for homeward flights or to begin our extension to the desert at Makgadikgadi Pan National Park. Breakfast.

**ESTIMATED 2013 TRIP COSTS PER PERSON:**

\$11,184 Nature Photography Adventure: Botswana (8-9 Travelers)  
(Note: prices subject to confirmation for 2013)

**Additional Pricing Information per Person:**

\$1750 Single Supplement  
\$12,146 Nature Photography Adventure: Botswana (6-7 Travelers)  
\$10,596 Nature Photography Adventure: Botswana (10 Travelers)

**Includes**

All guided tours and excursions  
2 English-speaking naturalist guides  
Airport-lodge transfers, land, air and water transportation as noted  
11 nights safari accommodation as indicated  
All meals  
Private activities & specially equipped safari vehicles  
All soft drinks and local brand alcoholic drinks in Botswana  
Laundry services in Botswana  
National Park and Game Reserve fees  
African Safari Company consultation and planning services

**Excludes**

International airfare into Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe and out of Maun, Botswana  
Tips and gratuities  
Visa fees  
Drinks, alcoholic beverages, and meals other than listed above  
Premium brand drinks  
Personal expenses for extra services, optional activities, or changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control  
Travel insurance for trip cancellation, medical services, or evacuation  
Any other items not mentioned above

**Additional Information**

Proof of Yellow Fever Vaccination is currently required for travel between Zambia and South Africa.