

## **BOTSWANA WILDLIFE SAFARI**



**and**

## **HIKING THE DRAKENSBERG**



**19 DAYS/18 NIGHTS**

**17 AUGUST – 04 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**WITH PETER KELLETT AND WALKING MATILDA**

## TOUR OVERVIEW

- Tour grade:** Easy- Moderate: (3 – 5 hours of walking each day in The Drakensberg)
- Tour Style:** This is a participation Safari and we are required to assist our guides and crew in meal preparation and clean up whilst in camp. Transport is in 12 seater minivans and 4WD safari vehicles
- Cost: ex Johannesburg** A\$6,215 twin share      Single supplement: A\$1,760  
Local payment – USD 300 per person
- Accommodation:** Hotels, lodges, cabins, and safari camps.  
Accommodation in Botswana is in small chalets and in Meru tents – rectangular walk in tents, with twin beds and linen. They have chemical toilets and shared bucket showers (hot). Included meals are prepared by your crew or provided by the lodges. Accommodation at the Cavern in the Drakensberg is hotel style on a full board basis.
- Maximum group size:** 12 places
- Highlights:**
- Apartheid Museum and Soweto tour
  - Moremi Game reserve
  - Makgadikgadi Pans
  - Okavango delta
  - Chobe National Park
  - Victoria Falls & Zambezi River Cruise
  - The Drakensberg
  - The Royal Natal National Park

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1: Wednesday 17 August    Johannesburg Arrival

Visit the Apartheid Museum and Soweto Tour.

**Overnight: Peermont Monidor in Johannesburg (or similar)**

(If travelling Qantas arrival needs to be on 16 August). South African Airways arrives very early on the 17<sup>th</sup> in time to do the tour. Extra hotel night - \$130 per person twin share. \$233 single.

### Day 2: Thursday 18 August      Fly to Maun – The Safari begins

We take a flight to Maun in Botswana, this morning at 11.15am.

Maun is an interesting mix of modern buildings and traditional mud huts. We will meet our safari guides this afternoon.

**Overnight: Crocodile Camp, Maun (B&D)**

**Day 3: Friday 19 August****Okavango Delta**

Travel to the Okavango Delta. This inland delta is a huge wetland in the central Kalahari Desert, formed each summer when floodwaters from the Angola highlands surge down the Okavango River. It is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of Africa and a UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site. The area is flat and covered with low grassy islands, floating reed beds and countless channels. At their peak in August (Botswana's driest month) the floodwaters attract one of Africa's largest concentrations of wildlife. We will spend two days exploring the Delta by mokoro (fibre-glass canoe), being poled along by our local guides. We may see both the black and the white rhino, buffalo, hippo, elephant, lion, cheetah, leopard, the endangered African wild dog and small herds of grazing animals such as impala and zebra. Transfer to a mokoro (local dugout canoe) and be poled through the Delta to our camp.

**Overnight: Tented camp (BLD)**

**Day 4: Saturday 20 August****Okavango Delta**

We continue our exploration of the Okavango Delta.

**Overnight: Tented camp (BLD)**

**Day 5: Sunday 21 August****Moremi Game Reserve**

To the East of the Delta is the Moremi Game Reserve where we spend the next four days on game drives. Moremi has many diverse habitats: woodlands, lagoons, acacia forests and flood plains. It is one of the "Big Five" reserves where we can expect to see lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and rhino, as well as hippo, herds of Savannah game and many of the 500 bird species in Botswana are to be found here

**Overnight: Hyena Pan Bush Lodge with en suites (BLD), 3 nights**

**Day 6: Monday 22 August****Moremi Game Reserve**

Game drives in and around Moremi and the surrounding concessions. Chief Island is the largest landmass in Moremi and was the Batswana tribe's hunting ground and was declared a reserve by the tribe.

**Day 7: Tuesday 23 August      Moremi Game Reserve**

Game drives in and around Moremi. The park abounds with wildlife and every day brings new and varied game viewing.

**Day 8: Wednesday 24 August      Moremi - Maun**

A last game drive before returning to Maun: Overnight: Crocodile Camp. (BL)

**Day 9: Thursday 25 August      Makgadikagadi Pans**

Travel to the **Makgadikgadi Pans** for more wildlife viewing. The Pans are a series of shimmering salt plains surrounded by the arid Kalahari Desert. Usually dry, they are seasonally flooded and become rich with large herds of game such as wildebeest and zebra and migratory bird life, including thousands of flamingos.

**Overnight: Nata Tented Lodge or Pelican Lodge (BL)**

**Day 10: Friday 26 August      Chobe National Park**



Travel to **Chobe National Park**; Botswana's first national park, noted for its huge numbers of elephants. There are up to 120,000 in the park and we can expect to see family groups in and along the Chobe River. Game is plentiful - buffalo, hippo and crocodiles and an excellent birding watching as well.

**Overnight: Thebe River Chalets (BL)**

**Day 11: Saturday 27 August      Chobe National Park**

A morning game drive in the park and a sunset cruise on the Chobe River. The latter is especially good for spotting hippos and large herds of elephants:

**Overnight: Thebe River Chalets (BL)**

**Day 12: Sunday 28 August      Chobe – Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)**

This morning we travel into Zimbabwe, heading to **Victoria Falls**. The Falls are one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World and UNESCO World Heritage listed. They are 1.7 kms wide and over 100 metres high. There is plenty of time to do the Fall's walk and other local activities such as the helicopter flight over the Falls, afternoon tea at the legendary Victoria Falls Hotel and for the more adventurous there are rafting and bungee jumping options!

**Overnight: Rainbow Hotel at Victoria Falls (B)**

**Day 13: Monday 29 August      Victoria Falls**

Free day in Victoria Falls: Tonight is our Farewell dinner cruise on the Zambezi River.  
**Overnight: Rainbow Hotel at Victoria Falls (BD)**

**Day 14: Tuesday 30 August                      Victoria Falls / Johannesburg**



Transfer to the airport and fly back to Johannesburg this afternoon.

**Overnight: Hotel in Johannesburg, (B)**

**Day 15: Wednesday 31 August -  
Johannesburg – Drakensberg  
The Amphitheatre; Royal Natal National  
Park**

This morning we travel to the Northern Drakensberg. We spend the next 4 nights at the Cavern Resort & Spa. All

meals are provided and we do day walks each day. **The Royal Natal National Park** has some of the best mountain scenery in Africa. The main feature is the famous Amphitheatre, a great curving rock wall that is 500 metres high and around 5 kms in length. The Amphitheatre is a listed World Heritage site and over its edge comes the slender band of the beautiful Tugela Falls, the second highest in the world. The park is also home to important rock art sites of the Bushmen people and these can become the objective of one of our walks.

We will stay at **The Cavern Drakensberg Resort and Spa**, a small, lovely resort set in a private nature reserve in the Northern Drakensberg. It is a designated *Site of Conservation Significance* adjacent to the Royal Natal National Park (RNNP). It is my favourite, providing full board in a beautiful and peaceful setting. The Cavern management also supports a number of local community education projects. There will be time today for an afternoon hike along The Cavern Nature Trail.

**Overnight: The Cavern Drakensberg Resort & Spa (LD)**

**Day 16: Thursday 01 September                      Drakensberg Hiking**

All walks start from the Cavern. A morning and an optional afternoon hike today.

**Overnight: The Cavern Drakensberg Resort & Spa (BLD)**

**Day 17: Friday 02 September                      Drakensberg Hiking**

A full day walk: Tugela Gorge or The Amphitheatre perhaps

**Overnight: The Cavern Drakensberg Resort & Spa (BLD)**

**Day 18: Saturday 03 September          Drakensberg Hiking**

Royal Drakensberg School visit and a half day walk.

**Overnight: The Cavern Drakensberg Resort & Spa (BLD)**

**Day 19: Sunday 04 September          Drakensberg – Johannesburg - Depart**

We return to Johannesburg this morning, arriving early afternoon. There are afternoon flights to Cape Town and evening flights to Australia. (B)

**END OF ARRANGEMENTS**

**NB: The tour price is based on 10 and a surcharge will apply if the minimum is not met. Currency fluctuations apply and there will be advance warning of any price increase.**

**Inclusions:**

- One night's accommodation in Johannesburg. Complimentary shuttle transfer
- Soweto tour and Apartheid Museum
- Airfare – Johannesburg / Maun and Victoria Falls / Johannesburg
- Arrival transfer Maun
- Thirteen night safari in Botswana and Zimbabwe, including all guiding, travel by mokoro, tour bus and safari vehicle
- All entry fees to national parks, game reserves, Victoria Falls
- All accommodation, twin/sharing in tents, tented lodges, lodges and camping equipment
- Sunset boat cruise on the Chobe River
- Dinner boat cruise on the Zambezi River
- Meals as indicated in the tour itinerary
- One night hotel in Johannesburg between tours
- Four nights at The Cavern Drakensberg Resort and Spa, twin/sharing
- Return transfers from Johannesburg to The Cavern. Local transport in the Drakensberg
- Program of guided walks and visits in The Drakensberg
- Escorted from Johannesburg and return by Peter Kellett

**Not included:**

- Travel to and from Johannesburg at the beginning and end of the tour
- Flights from Johannesburg to Maun, and from Victoria Falls to Johannesburg
- Meals and beverages not listed in the itinerary an alcoholic drinks
- Optional activities (scenic flights, helicopter rides, bungee jumping etc)
- Tips to guides



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