



# **ELEPHANT BACK SAFARIS**

## *"The Ultimate Safari Experience"*

### **THE OKAVANGO DELTA**

The Okavango Delta in Botswana is one of the world's largest inland river systems. The Okavango River, born in the uplands of Angola to the Northwest, flows into and fans out across the Kalahari Desert to form an immense inland delta of lagoons, channels and palm filled islands. This fragile ecosystem remains one of the world's unspoilt and beautiful wildernesses where a vast diversity of animals and birds can be seen.

### **ABU CAMP**

The elephant back safaris are based at Abu Camp on the western side of the Delta. Set in half a million acres of private concession, this tranquil shady corner of heaven is in a pristine wilderness, threaded by crystal waters. Surrounded by open grasslands, island sanctuaries and the papyrus-fringed channels, which make this part of Africa unique, Abu Camp is the perfect spot from which to explore the mysteries and magnificence of this ancient land.

Abu Camp's atmosphere is that of the ultimate house party created each week for ten guests. A ratio of four staff to each guest ensures the best of attention and service. Accommodation is in luxurious custom-designed tents, raised on teak decking and overlooking a lagoon. The tents, described as Bedouin influence meets the African bush, have fully zipped entrances, and roll down canvas on the windows. All the tents are beautifully and individually furnished with mahogany four-poster beds or antique sleigh beds. Each tent has an en-suite bathroom complete with copper or porcelain baths, shower and flush toilet. Every tent has a different style but all reflect the very high standard that defines Abu Camp.

The dining area is set on layered teak decking that winds its way around African Ebony and Sycamore Fig trees. An expert safari chef conjures up magnificent meals, catering to all tastes and dietary requirements. Sundowners are served in the shade of these majestic and ancient trees with abundant cocktails on ice.

The lounge tent is the perfect place to relax in soft and comfortable chairs. A well-stocked library is available to all, with a number of reference books and beautiful coffee table books on Africa displayed. Pictures of Abu and the elephant family abound. In fact elephants are reflected everywhere, from

charming ornaments placed by the baths, to carved elephants walking down the centre of the table at dinner time.

So, whether one wishes to commune quietly with the silence of the bush from the veranda of one's own tent, or exchange stories around the fire at the mess tent, Abu Camp is the perfect hideaway for a safari to remember and savour for ever.

## **THE ELEPHANTS**

The camp is named after Randall Moore's legendary elephant 'Abu', the star of such motion pictures as 'White Hunter Black Heart', and 'The Power of One'. Abu is an Arabic word meaning 'everything to do with elephants'. Abu currently leads a herd of 12 elephants ranging from six months old to 40 years old.

"Elephants are complete hedonists. Their stately being is animated by a streak of pure frivolity. Always unthreatened, except by drought and man, they have been able over aeons to cultivate and polish a daily routine of relaxed enjoyment, eating, bathing, meditating and going for long walks through the bush. And that is exactly what this safari is all about. Abu Camp has elaborated this lifestyle into a series of dreamlike adventures, simple dawn and sunset rambles or daylong outings across the floodplains in the company of Africa's finest travelling companions. There is no better way of interacting with the wilderness and wildlife of the Delta.

At Abu Camp, guests are transported in large comfortable custom-made saddles into the shimmering watercolour of the Delta, on the most effective of all 4x4's. An elephant not only is able to cope in water and sand with equal ease, but can also get really close to other game, which is generally unaware of the human presence aloft. But the real kick lies in the extraordinary experience of the elephant perspective, walking beside them or riding high through the bush, at one with the largest ears, the longest noses in the world. The youngsters cavort and roll in the water, wander off, and come charging back. The adults amble quietly on, browsing, snapping off the odd branch to munch on as they go. Expressive long-lashed eyes reveal patience, mischief and pleasure. The Ultimate Safari."

## **THE SAFARI**

3 night/4 day safari on set arrival and departure dates. There is a maximum of 10 clients per safari.

**Please note that trip cancellation insurance is advisable as all deposits and payments are non-refundable. For further details please refer to our terms and conditions.**

**All clients participating in an elephant back safari are required to sign an indemnity form.**

The rates include:

- Air transfers from Maun to camp and return to Maun.
- Accommodation in luxury custom-built tents, each with own bathroom en-suite.
- All activities - elephant safaris, game drives, night drives, guided walks, mekoro safaris (seasonal)
- All meals, snacks, teas and coffees, soft and alcoholic drinks.
- The services of trained staff, guides and professional elephant handlers.
- Daily laundry service.

### **WHAT TO BRING**

- Muted colours are preferable whilst on safari. Please avoid wearing white.
- The winter months can be cold so it is advisable to bring a sweater or jacket, and long sleeve shirts for the day.
- Short sleeve shirts, and shorts are recommended for the summer months.
- Canvas, suede or leather walking boots are essential, with lighter shoes for the evenings.
- Dinner dress is casual.
- Hats and sunglasses are a must for protection against the strong African sun.
- We recommend bringing a lot of film (and even more!), a good pair of binoculars and sun block.
- Video camera batteries can be re-charged.
- Torches (flashlights) and mosquito repellent are provided.

### **CLIMATE**

The Okavango Delta is formally classified as dry and semi-arid with high temperatures and a pronounced winter dry season. Due to its elevation the climate is more temperate than tropical. It has its annual flood during May-September (varies). During the winter months of June, July, and August the nights and early mornings can be cold. December and January are hot, with the wet season between November and March. Rain comes almost exclusively in the form of thunderstorms that occur in the late afternoon and early evening. The average monthly humidity lies between 30% and 70%.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
<b>Average Monthly Temperature (Celsius)</b>												
<b>Min.</b>	19	19	18	14	9	6	6	9	13	18	19	19
<b>Max.</b>	32	31	31	31	28	25	25	28	33	35	32	33

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<b>Average Monthly Rainfall</b>												
<b>mm.</b>	110	80	70	25	7	3	0	0	0	30	50	95

## HEALTH

- It is recommended that you take a course of anti-malaria prophylactics prior to departure and during and after your trip. Please seek medical advice as to type and duration of prophylactic.
- Please refer to your doctor for any further vaccinations that might be needed.
- Elephant Back Safaris has emergency medical evacuation cover with Europ Assist for all its guests. We do however recommend that you have full medical and travel insurance.

## HOW TO REACH US

Maun is the gateway to the Okavango Delta and is thereafter accessed by light aircraft. You will be met at Maun airport by a member of Elephant Back Safaris staff and transferred to your charter flight to camp - a short 30-minute flight. **There is a luggage restriction on this flight of 10kg (22lbs) per person, soft sided luggage please - no suitcases.** Excess luggage can be stored in our Maun office.

You can fly to Maun on Air Botswana from any of the following airports:

- Johannesburg (South Africa)
- Gaborone (Botswana)
- Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)
- Windhoek (Namibia)
- Private charters from Johannesburg can also be arranged.
- Helicopter game flights can be arranged through our office.

## 2006 DATES

Departures operate every tuesday and Saturday for a 3 night stay. Packages are for minimum 2 guests.

## IMPRESSIONS OF ABU

- 'There I was sweltering beneath the protective might of Abu's tusks, his huge feet by mine, his huge head above mine. Before I knew it I was at one with Abu; it was as if I too were an elephant. Unbidden, a whole new world revealed itself; for all my safari years, I had only ever been an outsider looking in. With the abruptness of the African sunrise, the mist cleared and I glimpsed the bush as "they" knew it - "they" of course being those humble beings I had come to see.' - **Michael Powers**
- 'This must be the greatest camp in all of Africa' - **Jack Lemmon**
- 'One of the 10 things to do before you die!' - **Forbes**
- 'If you only do one safari in your entire lifetime, this is the one' - **CNN**
- 'The Ultimate Safari' - **Laurian Brown, House & Leisure**

## **SUGGESTED READING**

Elephants for Africa	Randall J Moore
Okavango - Jewel of the Kalahari	Dr Karen Ross
Okavango: Africa's Last Eden	Frans Lanting
Sea of Land, Land of Water	Anthony Bannister & Peter Johnson
Okavango: An African Paradise	Daryl & Sharna Balfour
This is Botswana	Daryl & Sharna Balfour
Kalahari, Life on Dune & Delta	Mike Main
The Miracle Rivers	Peter & Beverly Pickford