

Exclusive Photo Safari to Botswana's Okavango Delta



Botswana's Okavango Delta is remarkable because it is a wetland paradise in the middle of the arid Kalahari Desert. Each year floodwater flows into the Okavango from the moist central African highlands over 1000km away, creating a unique wetland that sustains a vast variety of wildlife. Without this water, the area would be as featureless as that of the surrounding Kalahari Desert.

Instead, it is one of the top places in the world for wildlife and nature photographers. It is a shimmering, matchless watery jewel in the midst of inhospitable surroundings. It's flat, wildlife-packed expanses are awash with African colours and vistas – a photographer's paradise.

For most photographers wishing to experience one of nature's "untouched" gems, this part of Africa would be close to the top of their list.

Three accomplished and dedicated wildlife photographers, [Denis Glennon AO](#), [Shem Compion](#), and Jay Collier have combined their commercial expertise, on-ground knowledge, professional photographic and technical capabilities to create this exclusive photo safari. All three will be available in your vehicles to guide and help you, as necessary, to come home with many iconic and unforgettable images and memories that you will revisit time and time again. Perhaps one or more of your images will connect with another like-minded soul to instill a desire to preserve that which you capture on this trip.

This is a safari, custom-made for photographers and partners/spouses having special interests in wildlife, nature, breath-taking landscapes and who wish to experience, in one journey, a number of extraordinary, untamed parts of Africa that are difficult to access for many, in their lifetime.

Each camp/lodge is small, private and exclusive. We have selected each one because we can book the entire camp on a restricted basis, for our group. Participation in this type of photo safari is not inexpensive for Australians. Thus, to maximize out time in Africa and photography opportunities, we will use light aircraft between locations and explore and photograph the uniqueness of the surrounding environment of each camp. The flights alone will give you some special perspectives of the wildness of the Okavango Delta. We will use specially adapted vehicles with a maximum of 4 photographers per vehicle. This arrangement will cater especially well for photographers using larger telephoto lenses and yet allow enough space for "not-so-keen" photography spouses/partners who just wish to come to know the special spirit of this precious piece of Africa.

THIS PHOTO SAFARI IS CONFINED TO A MAXIMUM OF TWELVE PARTICIPANTS. PLACES WILL BE ALLOCATED STRICTLY ON THE BASIS OF RECEIPT OF THE COMPLETED REGISTRATION

FORM TOGETHER WITH PAYMENT OF THE FIRST DEPOSIT AMOUNT (See Section 2 in “Other Important Information” on Page 7, below).

The photography and game viewing should be outstanding and details of what to expect are described below.

With the opportunity of night drives at some of the camps there is the added bonus of seeing a variety of Africa’s elusive nocturnal wildlife, a feature not generally available on other safaris.

A Summary of the Itinerary

Day	Date	Transfer	Accommodation
Day 1	30 Nov	Arrive South Africa- vehicle transfer to Guesthouse	Overnight in Waterkloop Guesthouse Pretoria
Day 2	1 Dec	Flight Transfer from J’burg to Maun & to Kwara Camp	Kwara Camp - 4 nights
Day 6	5 Dec	Flight Transfer to Lebala camp	Lebala camp - 5 nights
Day 11	10 Dec	Vehicle Transfer to Lagoon Camp	Lagoon camp - 4 nights
Day 15	14 Dec	Flight transfer to Savuti	Savuti Lodge - 3 nights
Day 18	17 Dec	Flight transfer to Victoria Falls	Sussi & Chuma Lodge – 1 night
Day 19	18 Dec	Flight transfer to Johannesburg	N/A

Details of the Daily Itinerary

Note, the name of each lodge/camp we have reserved appears underlined below, and has a direct link to the website of that lodge/camp. There you can view images of the type and standard of accommodation to expect and read additional information on each lodge/camp. Just double click on the name to take you to the individual website.

Day 1: Nov 30th

We arrive at Johannesburg International Airport (JHB) and are transferred to Waterkloop Guesthouse, Pretoria, about 35 minutes from the airport. This is a comfortable guesthouse where we can recuperate from the flight from Australia and explore the grounds of the guesthouse, before dinner, followed by an early night. For any early arrivals, there will be opportunity to visit nearby Rietvlei Nature Reserve to test camera equipment. The Reserve is made up of a number of different habitats offering good bird photography. Grassland habitats make up the bulk of the habitats. The two dams on the reserve (with bird hides) provide open water and wetland habitats. Throughout there are clumps of indigenous trees. Just 20 minutes from Pretoria, Rietvlei has grassveld mammals and birds; expect to see and photograph white rhinoceros, eland, black wildebeest, red hartebeest and zebra.

Days 2, 3, 4 & 5: Dec 1st to 4th

From Waterkloop Guesthouse we will transfer to Johannesburg airport for the flight to Maun, Botswana (about 2 hrs). From there we will be transported by light aircraft to Kwara Lodge (about 35 mins). Kwara offers exclusive and private traverse for all its varied activities. The lodge is located in the remote northern fringe of

the actual Okavango Delta within the private Kwara concession. The camp fronts onto a vast floodplain, adjacent to the permanent water of the Delta and is backed by extensive bush. The eight luxury safari-style tents are built on raised decks, within a grove of huge and ancient African Ebony trees. Hippos will generally be seen year round in the water on the floodplain in front of the camp. Each tent has its own viewing deck, private en-suite facilities including hot and cold running showers, and modern amenities. The forested island on which the camp is situated is typical of those encountered throughout the vast 1.6 million hectares of the Okavango Delta. At Kwara, you will discover why the Okavango is considered one of the ecological wonders of Africa and indeed the world. It is mysterious, calming, unpredictable, very wild, and above all else can become a “soul friend”. If this is your first visit to Africa do not be surprised if you promise yourself to return!

At Kwara we will enjoy a diverse wildlife experience, but the focus is definitely on the water. Gliding along in the special silence of a mekoro dugout canoe through crystal-clear waters or visiting the renowned Godikwe lagoon, where you can stand on a boat literally eye to eye with thousands of herons, storks and other nesting birds, is to be found nowhere else in Africa. Kwara is the nearest camp to this famous spectacle in Moremi Game Reserve.

Other species we can encounter through the channels and rivers are kingfishers, pygmy geese, fish eagles, jacanas, darters and if we are really fortunate, the elusive Pels fishing owl.

The Kwara area is also home to a variety of wild animals including, lechwe, sitatunga, reedbuck, bushbuck, hippo, crocodiles, elephant, buffalo, sable, roan, zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, impala and tsessebe. Lion, hyena, wild dog, leopard and cheetah are also abundant in this part of the Delta and regularly seen.

In addition to the predators (there is a coalition of six male lions roaming the concession at present) and large game, December is also the breeding season at the Godikwe Lagoon where the many birds nest in an easily accessible colony, which makes for great action bird photography.

We have arranged that we will have boat access for at least one group of people day per to visit the Godikwe Lagoon.

Days 6, 7, 8, 9, & 10: Dec 5th to 9th

After breakfast we transfer by light aircraft to *Lebala Camp* (about 25 mins) in the Linyanti Swamps. This camp balances understated elegance with untamed Africa, to perfection.

The eight spacious tents are unique and were designed specifically for this camp. Each one is built on a raised teak deck, laid out with maximum comfort and privacy in mind. The tents have an entrance foyer with a reading and writing area, en-suite bathrooms (with Victorian claw foot bathtubs!). Don't ask me why! The bathrooms lead out to a reed enclosed open-air shower. Each secluded tent has its own sundeck, and is set back amongst the trees. The endless vistas from the large windows and decks across the vast plains make Lebala one of the finest private wilderness camps in Africa.

Lebala means wide-open spaces in Setswana and vast plains with scattered palms and tree clumps backed by wooded savannas dominate the scenery. This wild expanse is contrasted with the casual elegance, exclusivity and luxury of the camp itself. Lebala Camp fronts onto the Linyanti wetland swamps, the home of many elephant and hippo, which provide opportunities for some outstanding photography and experiences of the essence of Africa.

Open grasslands scattered with Illala palms stretch to the south and west of Lebala. The perennial and southerly flowing Kwando River disappears into the vast marshes before emerging as the Linyanti River. The landscape is

more open here, allowing easier viewing, exceptional bird photography along the swamp fringes, and first-rate opportunities to obtain close-up shots of elephant, and other large mammals, in particular.

The wetlands and flood plains around Lebala offer an astonishing variety of wildlife with excellent sightings of elephant, hippo, lechwe, zebra, giraffe, impala, wildebeest, kudu, tsessebe, roan, sable, buffalo and the ever present predators: wild dog, lion, cheetah and hyena.

After dark, spotlights are switched on and we can organise optional game drives to experience nocturnal sightings of rare and elusive species such as, leopard, Selous mongoose, small-spotted genet and aardwolf. Nocturnal bird species that are encountered include Natal nightjar, Pennant-winged nightjar and a large variety of owls.

Lebala is also known for high-quality sightings of serval, so we too hope to see and perhaps photograph this rare cat, after dark.

Days 11, 12, 13, & 14: Dec 10th to 14th

We transfer by road to Lagoon Camp (about 2 hrs). This transfer will allow for normal game viewing and photography from the vehicles. Luggage will be delivered in a separate vehicle to the camp. On arrival at Lagoon, we will have brunch on the shady banks of the Kwando River among the tall and ancient African Ebony and Marula trees, under the watchful gaze of the resident hippos. Situated in the Northern section of the delta, Lagoon Camp accommodates only 16 guests in 8 twin bedded luxury safari-style tents. Each tent looks out over the water and has private en-suite facilities, and modern amenities. A family of hippo and elephant are regularly sighted from the tents.

This however, is predator country and they are well represented by lion, hyena, leopard, cheetah and wild dog. These animals are generally very relaxed in the presence of vehicles, thus the opportunities for close range photography are usually excellent.

Lagoon is famous as the best venue in Africa for wild dog photography as two packs of dogs (now listed as an endangered species) have denned near the camp every year of the camp's existence.

This makes it one of the most sought after wild dog photography destinations in Africa. For bird watchers/photographers, a highlight is the breeding colony of Carmine bee-eaters. They breed on a flat piece of ground, making viewing and photography a joy. Watching 200 carmines coming to and from their nests with insects for their young is both a sight to behold and a rare photographic event.

Among the variety of antelope species found at Lagoon, the endangered sable and roan are often seen. Seasonally, large herds of elephant drink almost daily at the riverbank in front of the camp, in full view of the guests. The big herds attract big predators. The lions of Kwando are famous for their elephant, hippo and buffalo kills. Playful Spotted-necked otters are commonly seen performing in the Lagoon right in front of the tents.

Days 15, 16 & 17: Dec 15th to 17th

After breakfast we transfer by light aircraft to Savuti Camp (about 30 mins). Savuti Camp is a comfortable luxury camp which offers intimacy unmatched in the Linyanti Wildlife Reserve. The camp lodge is constructed in a way that night drives and walking safaris are possible. It is well hidden for perfect game viewing and photography. An exquisite thatch and timber main building houses the lounge, library and cocktail bar and in front there is a viewing deck ideally situated for photographing and watching wildlife at the water hole. The

lodge also has a swimming pool on a raised wooden teak deck overlooking the channel, affording guests the opportunity to watch game while swimming!

The Linyanti WR is widely regarded by professional wildlife photographers as a predator's commune with all the cats on show and big diversity of overall game. It offers one of Africa's most exhilarating wildlife photo safari experiences. It extends up to 125,000 hectares of prime wildlife country lying between the Chobe and Okavango vicinities. The reserve is comparable in size to twice South Africa's famous Sabi Sands Reserve. The large concentration of elephants is one of the reserve's major attractions. Several thousand elephants roam around the waterholes and waterways when they are forced to gather there for water especially after it has rained. Generally the rains start in mid-November which is one of the main reasons for the timing of this trip. Other animals common in Linyanti Game Reserve are the red lechwe, zebra, wildebeest, impala, waterbuck, sable, roan, eland, giraffe, baboon, monkey, warthog, crocodile and buffaloes, as well as the predators: lion, leopard, cheetah, wild dog and hyena. Savute is also known for its very large and quite relaxed elephant bulls as well as its large lion prides. The phenomenon of lions actively hunting elephants occurs in the Savuti during the dry season. This was recently documented in the BBC production, "Planet Earth: The Great Plains".

Bird life is brilliant in Linyanti WR. Some of the common bird species found here include the slaty egret, white-rumped babbler, wattled cranes and the bushveld species.

Situated in the central region of the Chobe game reserve, the Savute was a seasonal river that stopped flowing in 1982. This was caused by tectonic shifting in the earth; preventing the inflow of water from the Linyanti River. What remained was a dry channel with waterholes that attracted large amounts of game animals.

A major reason for including time here is ***that the Savuti channel is now flowing again, the first time since 1982***. This has changed the whole ecosystem dynamics of the area, attracting many more animals to what has for 30 years been a parched wilderness. Savuti offers an open expanse of dry marsh and woodland. This offers excellent elephant viewing at waterholes with large lion prides. The open marsh area is an excellent hunting spot for cheetah. If any rain has fallen, (which it should have when we are there) the marsh attracts large herds of zebra and wildebeest, which in fact form part of a mini migration.

When the first rains arrive, the Savuti becomes a lush carpet of green. The shortness of the grass makes photography easier, but also provides a nice backdrop to subjects. The baby impala and wildebeest are also easier to photograph in the short grass. The channel will attract many more animal species back to the area - it being the only permanent water source for 50km. We should experience a higher concentration of animals around the channel and a huge influx of water birds. This increases the photographic potential of the Savuti considerably.

The camp and the drives are conducted within the Linyanti WR. This means off-road driving is prohibited and we have to adhere to sunset and sunrise times for vehicle usage. This time constraint is seen by some to be limiting, but the Savuti Camp and its surrounds does offer very special photography and viewing opportunities that outweigh these limitations.

Day 18: Dec 17th

We transfer by air to Sussi & Chuma Lodge (about 30 mins) on the Zambezi River in Zambia; named after David Livingstone's two faithful friends and pall bearers.

Accommodation consists of 10 luxury tree-houses, built into the living canopy of giant ebony trees lining the bank of the river. Each lodge unit has private Zambezi views from the outdoor deck among the branches. Sussi & Chumba main lodge building features a spectacular raised bar/lounge deck, open air dining area, swimming pool and lawns sweeping down to the water's edge.

Because Sussi & Chumba Lodge is within the Mosi-oi-Tunya National Park there is an abundance of wildlife that comes into the camp area, and the wildlife viewing from the common areas overlooking the upper Zambezi River are outstanding. The sunsets on the upper Zambezi River could be some of the most stunning you will ever see (even for Australians!)

While at Sussi & Chumba Lodge a trip to photograph the world famous Victoria Falls has been arranged and we begin to wind down. On this our last evening of the photo safari we finish with a relaxing riverboat cruise on the Zambezi River where, for those still wishing to photograph, there will be lots to frame in birds, hippos and crocs. Optional extras whilst here include flights over the falls by helicopter and micro-light. More information will be provided on these at a later date.

Day 19: Dec 18th

After breakfast on the banks of the Zambezi, we will take the morning flight back to Johannesburg. This is unfortunately where the safari ends as we catch our international flight back to Australia.

This Photo Safari Includes:

- Pickup and transport for the entire safari and drop off at your destination.
- Pickup at, and return to Johannesburg International Airport
- Entrance and accommodation (2 persons per chalet/safari tent) to all reserves.
- All meals, snacks, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages in Botswana. *[Please note premium brands and "favourite drops" are not included]*
- Game activities, drives and walks.
- The services of our guides/drivers.
- Gratuities to staff, rangers, drivers and trackers.
- A maximum of four (4) photographers per vehicle when viewing/photographing

This Photo Safari Does Not Include:

- Extra/optional activities not included.
- Expenses associated with personal options selected during the photo safari
- Premium brand alcoholic drinks
- Personal Travel/Medical Insurance
- Travel Visas
- Airport taxes
- Other expenses of a personal nature
- International airfares from Australia to Johannesburg return
- Any credit card surcharges associated with payments for the safari and purchase of airline tickets

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. Iconic Images International & Sole Booking Agent

Iconic Images International Pty Ltd (“Iconic Images International”) is a company registered in Western Australia. Iconic Images International will be your guide during the land package segment of the safari. Iconic Images International is not a travel agent or travel service provider.

The sole booking agent for this photo safari is Harvey World Travel East Perth, Licence Number LTA 00049, and who may be contacted at:

Harvey World Travel East Perth
Shop 1/113, Royal Street, East Perth,
Western Australia 6004.

Telephone: +61 8 9221 9977

Contact: Mr. Nick Missikos.

Email: eastperth@harveyworld.com.au

Harvey World Travel East Perth is also available to assist you with flights to/from Africa &/or with any private extensions to the safari you may wish to make either before the safari commences or after it finishes.

2. Costs & Terms of Payment

The safari starts in Johannesburg on 30th November and finishes in Johannesburg on 18 December 2011.

The cost is AUD\$14,950.00 per person, twin share.

Terms of Payment are as follows:

- A non-refundable 25% deposit together with the signed **Registration Form, no later than 31 December 2010. Places will be allocated strictly on the basis of receipt of the completed Registration Form together with payment of the first deposit.**
- A second non-refundable payment of 25% no later than 30 April 2011.
- A final payment of the remaining 50% no later than 31 July 2011

3. Cancellation Policy & Fees

Harvey World Travel East Perth must receive written notice of any cancellation at which time, the following cancellation fees will apply:

- If cancelled 90 days or more before departure a fee equal to 50% of the safari cost will be payable.
- If cancelled 60 days or less before departure, or in the case of a “no show” on the date of departure, a fee equal to 100% of the safari cost will be payable.
- Failure to pay by the due dates will be deemed to be a cancellation of the booking.
- Bookings made within 60 days of the departure date must be paid in full on booking.

No refunds will be made for unused portions or services of the safari for any reason. The safari is sold as a land package only. Cancellation fees are not transferable.

Credit card surcharges will apply if the fees are paid by credit card. Current surcharges are 2% for payments by Visa or MasterCard and 3.5% for other types of credit cards. Direct deposit facilities are available and details may be obtained from Harvey World Travel East Perth.

Iconic Images International reserves the right to cancel this safari. In the event of this happening, all payments received for the land package will be refunded, but the participant shall have no further claim, of any nature whatsoever, against Iconic Images International, arising out of such cancellation. Any such refund will not include payments or cancellation charges for any bookings for private or additional services made in addition to the itinerary outlined above. Responsibility for such bookings lies solely with the participant.

4. Insurance is Compulsory

Due to the relative remote destinations in this safari, participants are required to purchase emergency evacuation insurance coverage. To emphasize, emergency evacuation insurance is *MANDATORY* for this safari.

If needed, Harvey World Travel East Perth can assist you with information on the required insurance.

Participants are strongly urged to purchase travel protection insurance at time of paying the first deposit.

5. Health Considerations

This safari is designed to be within the capabilities of average people in good health. Some of the time participants may be required to walk over uneven terrain or trails, stepping into an out of Land Cruiser type vehicles, occasionally hiking -- while carrying an assortment of sometimes heavy camera equipment. If you have concerns about your own capabilities and/or fitness as it relates to this trip, please enquire with Denis Glennon AO at denis@denisglennon.com or Jay Collier, at fleshmechanic2001@hotmail.com before reserving a space. By forwarding a signed Registration Form and paying the initial non-refundable 25% deposit, you warrant that, to the best of your knowledge, you do not have any physical or other disability that would create a risk for you or other trip participants. Iconic Images International reserves the right to request a medical certificate from a participant at any time before departure or during the safari. The safari leader's judgment will provide the ultimate determination of an individual's ability to embark upon or to continue the safari. Once booking has been accepted by Iconic Images International, medical circumstances will not be considered as exceptions to the cancellation policy. Iconic Images International assumes no responsibility for medical care or for special dietary requirements. Due to the remote destinations of some parts of this safari, participants are required to purchase emergency evacuation insurance coverage (see above, Section 4 headed "Insurance is Compulsory"). If you sustain an injury or become ill on the safari, Iconic Images International reserves the right to continue the safari for the benefit of other participants. Iconic Images International will make every effort to assist you while at the same time trying to minimize interruption to the safari.

6. Responsibility

Iconic Images International and/or its agents act only as agents for the participants in this safari, in regard to travel arrangements including, but not limited to, sightseeing, meals, lodging and transportation, whether by railroad, vehicle, motor coach, boat, ship or aircraft. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Iconic Images International disclaims liability for injury, damage, loss, or delay which may be occasioned by reason of a defect in any vehicle or for any other reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the participant or in carrying out the arrangements of the safari.

Iconic Images International accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine or other causes. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the participant, as the safari costs provide for arrangements only for the times and locations stated. Baggage is at the participant's risk entirely.

The right is reserved to (i) substitute hotels/lodges/tents/camps of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary or transport where deemed necessary or caused by changes in schedules or equipment substitution; (ii) cancel the safari prior to departure, in which case a refund of all payments received for the land package will be given. However, in such event Iconic Images International will not be, responsible for any other trip preparation expenses such as penalized or non-refundable air tickets, visa fees and medical related expenses; (iii) substitute the safari leader(s) for the leader(s) originally specified, in which case the substitution is not a basis for participant cancellation or refund, or (iv) accept or retain any person as a participant in the safari.

The safari price is based on having a minimum of twelve participants and tariffs and the US\$/AUD\$ currency exchange rate in effect at 5 July 2010, (i.e. 0.84 cents), and is subject to adjustment in the event of any change therein.

A Registration Form must be completed and signed by each participant at the time of paying the first deposit. Participation by any person will be declined in the absence of a completed and signed form. No modification to the Terms and Provisions of Registration, detailed on page #3 of the Registration Form, will be accepted.

7. Liability

Iconic Images International does not accept any liability of whatever nature, whether in contract, tort or otherwise, for the acts, omissions or default, whether negligent or otherwise, of third party providers. Under circumstances where liability cannot for some reason be excluded, such liability is limited to the cost of the land package arrangements. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Iconic Images International disclaims liability in contract, tort or otherwise for any injury, damage, loss (including consequential loss), delay, additional expense or inconvenience caused directly or indirectly by force majeure or any other event which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on Iconic Images International's part.

