

# PHOTOVENTURES TOURS & WORKSHOPS

## BOTSWANA SPRING BIRDING / PHOTOGRAPHY SAFARI

March 17 – 23, 2024

### Detailed Itinerary

Day 1                      March 17, 2024                      Arrive Kasane / Chobe River front

Fly to Kasane (We would recommend flying into Johannesburg, South Africa and taking a connecting flight from there – we can assist with flights from Johannesburg to Kasane if needed). Upon arrival you will be met by your specialist birding guide who will be with you for the duration of your birding safari. Transfer a short distance to Kasane town where at the Kasane immigration office, you will officially exit Botswana.



You boat driver will be waiting there for you and he will transfer you to the Namibia immigration office where you will enter Namibia.

A lovely boat cruise up the Chobe River will eventually get you to Chobe Savanna Lodge, where you will spend the first two nights of your birding safari experience.

Set in a classic African savanna environment with sweeping vistas, the focal point of the lodge is a thatched open sided lodge which commands a 270 degree view over the Chobe River and beyond to the Chobe National Park. With just 12 en-suite guest rooms, Chobe Savanna Lodge offers an exclusive, all-inclusive luxury Chobe safari.



**Note: Rooms have air conditioning**

Located on the Namibian side of the Chobe River, overlooking the renowned Puku Flatts, Chobe Savanna Lodge offers a remote Chobe River experience. With the Chobe River the focus of the Chobe Savanna Lodge experience, guests can enjoy the



exceptional wildlife that frequents the rivers banks from morning and afternoon boat cruises. Ideal for wildlife photographers and birders, the Chobe Savanna Lodge boats allow you to explore the far reaches of the Chobe River. Fishing and visits to the local community complete the Chobe Savanna Lodge experience.

The Chobe River front is incredible for birding opportunities and apart from the regal African fish eagle, there are numerous migrants waters and

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waterfowl to be observed. Late afternoon, be on the lookout for Africa skimmers skimming the water surface in an attempt for their last catch of the day.

**Chobe Savanna Lodge – Luxury Chalet – Double (B, L, D)**

**Day 2                      March 18, 2024                      Chobe River Front**

Early morning rise and out with your guide to witness the wonders along the Chobe River. The species will notch up and if you are lucky, look out for the flashes of red amongst the riverine forest tree tops as the elusive Schalow's Turaco. Listen out for the distinctive cry of the Trumpeter Hornbill and get your fill of the herons, egrets and other waders at the water's edge.



In the afternoon, the grounds around the lodge are alive with birdlife and a slow stroll around will well deliver a good variety of feathery friends.

**Chobe Savanna Lodge (B, L, D)**

**Day 3                      March 19, 2024                      Chobe / Savute – Chobe National Park**

After breakfast a birding cruise returns you to Kasane Immigration where you will enter Botswana. You will be driven to Kasane Airport where you will check into your charter flight that will take you to Savuti, in the south-central area of Chobe National Park.



Perched high up on a ledge overlooking the Savuti landscape, lies the Eco-friendly Ghoha Hills Savuti Lodge. Savuti is part of the Chobe National Park and is renowned for being a prime game viewing destination in Botswana. Ghoha Hills Savuti Lodge has been designed and built to blend into the natural surrounding environment and to take full advantage

of the spectacular 180 degree views.

Ghoha Hills Savuti Lodge is fully run on solar power, utilizing the available sun energy to generate enough renewable power to provide the lodge with all of its energy requirements and significantly reduce the site's environmental impact.

Each luxury tented room sleeps two people, offers en-suite facilities and breathtaking views of the African plains (Which can even be enjoyed from the shower). The luxury tented rooms have private viewing decks which can be used to enjoy the untouched wilderness. The luxury tented rooms are well appointed with no expense spared in the decor and wonderful linen ensuring a good night's rest every night



**Note: Rooms have ceiling fans but no air-conditioning.**



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Activities are organised around game drives throughout the Savute area in open 4x4 safari vehicles. Many trips will incorporate a visit to the Savute Marsh to give you a chance to see the historic presence of the Savute Channel at the marsh against a backdrop of teeming wildlife.

A new world awaits here with the seasonal pans having filled with water through the recent rainy season and these deliver a spectacle of water fowl with the comb ducks, egyptian geese, a variety of teals and other water fowl using these pans to raise their young.

The next two days will be spent driving around the Savute area, visiting the wide open marsh, the rocky outcrops and the fabled, now dry, Savute Channel.

### Ghoha Hills Safari Lodge – Luxury Tent (B, L, D)

#### Day 4                      March 20, 2024                      Savute

Explore the Savute area, this is an incredible wildlife area and the birding in March offers a different dimension to other times of the year.

The lower reaches of the dry Savute Marsh is home to a diversity of Larks and Pipits and other interesting arid area inhabitants. The water holes and pans allow for the opportunity to encounter many migrant waders and keep an eye out for the migrant pratincoles who make Savuti their home in the summer months.



Back at the lodge, the lodge grounds are full of a variety of birds, spur-fowl, a variety of hornbills, little waxbills and many more. A slow walk around amongst the trees will not disappoint.

### Ghoha Hills Safari Lodge (B, L, D)

#### Day 5                      March 21, 2024                      Savute / Moremi

Today you will depart to another incredible birding destination in Moremi Game Reserve.



Camp Moremi has a well-deserved legacy in the Botswana tourism industry for being able to deliver the classic African safari experience. Recently completely rebuilt, Camp Moremi is located within Botswana's world-renowned Moremi Game Reserve, situated on the edge of the Xakanaxa Lagoon in an area known for its spectacular game-viewing opportunities.

**Note: Rooms have ceiling fans but no air-conditioning**

Game drives conducted in open 4x4 vehicles in the morning and late afternoons, offer excellent game viewing including frequent sightings of lion, leopard and cheetah as well as wild dog. Alternatively, guest can explore the Xakanaxa Lagoon and surrounding Okavango channels by boating safari.



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This area will allow for a combination of forest dwellers, open landscapes and of course, the inhabitants of the Okavango Delta.

Three days here will allow to explore the different habitats and discover and encounter a variety of species, both resident and migrant.

### Camp Moremi – Luxury Safari Tent (B, L, D)

**Day 6**                      **March 21, 2024**                      **Moremi**

What makes the Xakanaxa area unique are the beautiful Mopane forests which make home for so many



species. A variety of hoopoe, hornbills, rollers, barbets, honeyguides and many more are in abundance here. Listen and look out for the incredible calls and sights of a variety of kingfishers, not only the fish feeding pied, giant, malachite members, but also the insectivores, woodland, brown hooded, grey headed and striped kingfishers.

This area is also the eastern perimeter of the Okavango Delta and is considered a permanent water region.

This makes it the perfect home to a variety of water

birds like the african darter, cormorants, egrets, herons, african jacana, pygmy geese and a variety of other bird species.

Explore the Moremi area on game drives and by boat.

### Camp Moremi – Luxury Safari Tent (B, L, D)

**Day 7**                      **March 23, 2024**                      **Moremi**

The riverine forests of this area have been known as prime habitat for the secretive and stunningly beautiful pels fishing owl. For many bird enthusiasts, this resident is very high on their lifetime sighting list. Head out with your guide and scout for a possible sighting.

Wattled cranes, saddle billed storks, ground hornbills, secretary birds, flycatchers, drones, orioles, shrikes, crombecs, warblers, eremomelas, cisticolas, and chats - they are all here and many, many more.



The grounds of Camp Moremi are also an incredible habitat for a variety of birds - take your time, have a stroll around and the rewards will be incredible.

Get out on to the water by boat, explore the Xakanaxa lagoon, look out for the beautiful pygmy geese and so many more water based inhabitants. Keep a close eye out for the darting malachite kingfisher and its smaller cousin the pygmy kingfisher. The impressive goliath heron also calls this area home.

### Camp Moremi – Luxury Safari Tent (B, L, D)

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**Day 8                      March 24, 2024                      Moremi / Maun / Home**

Wake up to the cacophony of bird calls, they are very active from pre-dawn and as the sun rises, they almost fall silent to greet the new day.

Depending on your departure time today, you might have the opportunity to get out for a last chance to tick off a few more species or relax and take in the environment around camp.

Charter flight from Moremi to Maun, where you will check in for your flight back home.

## **End of Trip**

**(Code: B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner)**

### **INCLUDED:**

- 7 Nights accommodation
- All meals
- Scheduled activities
- All soft drinks and local brand beverages
- Complimentary mini-bar at Chobe Savanna Lodge (in room)
- Laundry Services
- Medical Evacuation
- Airport Departure Tax and all government levies, taxes & 12% Value added Tax
- National park entrance fees
- Scheduled road/boat transfers: Kasane Airport – Chobe Savanna Lodge – Kasane Airport
- Scheduled air charter transfers: Kasane Airport - Savute Safari Lodge – Moremi – Maun Airport

### **EXCLUDED**

- International Flights
- Travel insurance (highly recommended)
- Meals other than specified
- Premium brand drinks
- Gratuities & Porterage
- Sightseeing and Activities other than specified.
- Visa Fees
- Regional/International flights & Airport taxes

**As you plan for this trip and before you depart there are two apps which will greatly add value to your experience:**

1. Roberts Birds of Southern Africa App
2. Botswana Nature and Wildlife App

In addition - a really good pair of 10 x 42 or 8 x 40 Binoculars

**For the true Photography enthusiasts we recommend:**

- Cannon EOS 5D Mark IV or similar
- Nikon D500 / 850 or similar
- Fujifilm X-T4 (Best mirrorless Camera for Bird Photography)

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- Sony Alpha 7III
- 100-400mm or greater to suit the camera body