

7-Day Botswana Itinerary: Okavango Delta, the Kalahari & Chobe National Park

The Okavango Delta, the Kalahari Desert, and Chobe National Park form Botswana's classic high-value, low-impact safari route — a country that caps visitor numbers and lets local communities run much of the show, from the Delta's mokoro polers to the Kalahari's San Bushmen guides. This itinerary links three ecosystems by light aircraft, the same fly-in circuit most Botswana safari operators run between camps.

DURATION

7 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

May – October

dry season, peak wildlife viewing

FROM

\$5,800 USD / person

for 2 people

Day 1

Arrive in Maun, Gateway to the Okavango

Land in Maun, the safari capital of northern Botswana and the staging point for every Delta camp, then ease in with a sunset cruise on the Thamalakane River before an early flight tomorrow.

International Arrival — Maun Airport (MUB)

via Johannesburg · About \$650–850 USD round-trip / person

Most itineraries connect through OR Tambo in Johannesburg on Airlink for the roughly two-hour hop north to Maun, Botswana's main gateway for Okavango Delta safaris.

Airlink · flyairlink.com

Overnight — Cresta Riley's Hotel

From \$140–170 USD / night, for 2 people

Maun's oldest hotel, set on the Thamalakane River a short walk from town's shops and craft stalls — a comfortable, unhurried base before flying into the bush tomorrow.

Cresta Riley's Hotel · cresta-hospitality.com

Sunset Cruise on the Thamalakane River

~1.5 hours · About \$35 USD / person

An evening boat trip past riverside village life and birdlife on the river that gives Maun its name — arranged directly through the hotel.

Day 2

Fly to the Okavango Delta, Mokoro with Local Polers

A light-aircraft transfer over the Delta's flooded channels straight into the bush, then an afternoon on the water in a mokoro — the traditional dugout canoe still poled by hand by villagers from the surrounding communities.

Bush Flight — Maun to Delta Airstrip

~30–40 minutes · About \$220 USD / person

Small-aircraft charter over the Delta's channels and lagoons, weight-limited to 20kg of luggage in soft bags — one of the most scenic short flights in Africa and most travelers' first real look at the Delta from above.

Mack Air · mackair.co.bw

Mokoro Excursion with Okavango Delta Polers

~2 hours · About \$45 USD / person

A traditional dugout canoe, poled standing up by a local guide trained through the Okavango Kopano Mokoro Community Trust, a village-run cooperative based in Boro that has operated mokoro trips for visitors for over two decades. Polers narrate the plants, birdlife, and their own family histories on the water — this is the closest most visitors get to daily Delta life outside a lodge.

Overnight — &Beyond Sandibe Okavango Safari Lodge

From \$1,150–1,350 USD / person / night, all-inclusive

A thatched camp on the NG32 concession bordering Moremi Game Reserve, its architecture modeled on a weaver bird colony. Rate includes all meals, game drives, and mokoro activities led by local guides.

&Beyond · andbeyond.com

Day 3

Full Day in the Delta, Walking Safari with Local Trackers

A full day split between a game drive at first light and a walking safari in the afternoon, led by trackers from the surrounding villages who read the bush the way they were taught growing up here.

Sunrise Game Drive

~3 hours · Included in lodge rate

An open-vehicle drive through the concession at first light, when lechwe, elephant, and — with luck — the resident wild dog pack are most active.

Guided Walking Safari

~2.5 hours · Included in lodge rate

On foot with an armed guide and a village-raised tracker, moving slowly enough to read footprints, dung, and the medicinal and food uses of the plants along the way — the activity where the guides' own knowledge, not the vehicle, does the work.

Overnight — &Beyond Sandibe Okavango Safari Lodge

Second night, same rate as Day 2

Second night at the same camp.

Day 6

Transfer to Chobe National Park

A longer travel day — flight and road transfer to Kasane on the Chobe riverfront, arriving in time for the park's signature activity: a sunset cruise past the largest elephant population in Africa.

Transfer to Kasane Airport (BBK)

~15 minutes · About \$20 USD for 2 people

A short drive out to Kasane Airport to connect home via Johannesburg, or onward to Victoria Falls, a 90-minute drive across the border.

I-Journey · i-journey.com · Prices are per-person estimates researched at time of publication and subject to change.