

Please note this Horseback Safari is exciting but not strenuous. This itinerary only serves as a guide; all scenarios are dependent on the season and levels of the Okavango flood. During cooler months one longer ride may replace the normal morning and evening rides. Local weather conditions may also affect game movements.

No single supplement if prepared to share, otherwise 50% of the ride price to guarantee a single tent.

There is one tent which can be allocated to a single person without payment of a supplement - this tent will be strictly allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Once this tent has been allocated the supplement is payable to guarantee a single tent.

The Okavango Delta is one of the world's largest inland river systems and one of its most incredible wildlife sanctuaries. Perhaps most remarkable of all, is that this 17,000km² wetland paradise is located deep within the Kalahari Desert. Each year, an influx of water from Angola, 1000km to the north, floods into the Delta to create this natural miracle, a patchwork of river channels, lagoons, islands and floodplains.

There is no better way to savour the Okavango Delta and experience its unparalleled wildlife population than on horseback. The annual flooding of the area leaves vast swathes of the Delta inaccessible to vehicles, making horses the most natural and exciting means to explore. The pace of riding is varied; in between fast and thrilling gallops alongside giraffe, zebra and buck, in water and on land, we quietly stalk bigger game such as buffalo and elephant and take time to indulge in some of the best bird watching in the world.



Botswana Horse Riding Safaris



HARTLEY'S SAFARIS



Take morning tea or coffee in bed as the sun rises at your feet. After a light breakfast, you ride westwards following elephant trails from island to island, through a sea of grass into the back country. You may canter across open plains with herds of zebra and wildebeest. Relax on a lush date palm island before meandering back to camp. After lunch, you may choose to take a boat trip and spot lechwe and elephant grazing the edges of the islands, whilst the sun sets across the water



Ride through different country, making your way through clouds of bushman hair grass to plains with fig trees. You might encounter giraffe or shy antelope while passing through mopane woodlands. The pace increases as you break out onto the flood plains, often disturbing troops of baboons. Returning to camp, the afternoon is spent at your leisure, leaving later for a night drive with a spot light.

This morning you ride deeper into the heart of the delta. The afternoon may be spent walking or on a game drive and at night you may choose to sleep on the treehouse with your mosquito net hung from a tree.

The next morning you splash through water on the vast open plains, home to wildebeest and zebra. The riding may be fast as you approach deep reedy areas full of bird life. Return for a picnic, possibly at a swimming hole with the afternoon to relax. Later venture out to the large lagoon to listen and watch as the night draws in and a lion starts to call.



For your final ride, you will move down to some of the higher palm islands that offer great vistas all around. With vultures circling overhead, you may see lions retreating from a kill that was heard during the night. The bush continually changes with life as you weave your way along the flood plain tributaries. As you approach, the animals bark out their alarm calls and you have a final exhilarating ride running with the game before returning to camp to prepare for your onward journey. Transfer to the airstrip for your flight to Maun and onward connections.

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Day 1:

Upon arrival in Maun, you are met and transferred via light aircraft into the Delta. At the airstrip, your guide will greet you and drive you to the Horseback Safari base camp which overlooks a seasonally flooded lagoon. On arrival in camp an introductory talk will be given on all aspects of the safari, followed by a light lunch. There is time for an afternoon rest before an evening ride to familiarise yourself with the horses and the area.

Day 2:



Leave camp early to investigate the fresh game tracks visible on the ground. Join the semi aquatic red lechwe as they thunder through the water meadows. A champagne breakfast is waiting for you under a large boabab tree. This evening is spent exploring the area on a mokoro, gliding silently through the reeds. As dusk closes in have drinks around the campfire.

Day 3:

Day 4:

Day 5:

Day 6:

Day 7:

Day 8:

Cost:

Price from £3325.00 per person sharing

Includes:

Accommodation; full board; drinks; riding; other safari activities

Excludes:

International airfare to and from Botswana and all internal domestic flights; gratuities; premium brand drinks; laundry and items of a personal nature



After breakfast, ride along the myriad of waterways which are lined with large trees. Ahead you may see smaller herds of game moving away to join others, as they jostle in front. This in turn drives the large colourful water fowl, such as the majestic wattle crane and clouds of open billed storks, into the air. In these huge seasonal water meadows you canter through the shallows avoiding the deeper pools of lilies. Here the buffalo may gather in numbers and you have to creep up to them using the islands for cover. The evening offers a chance to go fishing for bream - with luck you may catch something for breakfast!

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