

Tour code: **CK13**
2024
 Guaranteed departures
 Small group safari maximum: **12 travellers**
 Travel through: **Botswana Trans Kalahari**
 Safari length: **13 days**



BOTSWANA "TRANS KALAHARI"

Embark on an extraordinary journey through the heart of Botswana's diverse landscapes. Traverse the ethereal expanse of the Makgadikgadi Pans, where ancient salt flats meet vast open horizons, offering a surreal experience like no other. Delve into the Okavango Delta's watery wonderland, where meandering channels and lush islands teem with wildlife, inviting you to explore its intricate ecosystem. Discover the untamed beauty of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, a vast wilderness that captivates with its stark desert scenery and the chance to encounter rare wildlife species.

DEPARTS: JOHANNESBURG on Sunday at 06:30am

ENDS: JOHANNESBURG on Friday at 18:00pm

Highlights

- * Makgadikgadi Pans – Kubu Island
- * Okavango Delta – mekoro excursion
- * Central Kalahari Game Reserve – game drives
- * Khama Rhino Sanctuary



SAFARI GRADE: CAMPING

Overnight 5 nights on safari we stay at designated campsites in national parks and towns. Formal campsites have hot and cold showers, laundry facilities & telephones.

7 nights we "camp wild" without fences in the wilderness areas. On these nights the crew will erect a bucket shower (with hot water off the fire) and a pit latrine (with seat!).

Meals 12 breakfasts, 11 lunches and 10 dinners will be provided by the Sunway crew, prepared at the vehicle and eaten around the campfire except for 2 dinners in Maun that will be own expense meals.

Transport for the majority of this safari you travel in a custom-built 4WD Land Cruiser with 12 forward-facing seats (of which 8 are "window" seats). Roll-up canvas sides allow you to feel part of the bush.

For the first day from Johannesburg, and the last day back to Johannesburg we use custom-built Sunway Safari trucks with 12 forward-facing seats; or a Mercedes Sprinter minibuses with 12 forward-facing seats and air conditioning.

Limited participation An essential part of your safari is some participation. From putting up your tent to packing the truck in the morning – it's all part of your adventure and when everyone puts in a little effort the trip will run smoothly. Your tour leaders will do all the meal preparation but we do ask the clients to help (on rotation) with the washing up. If there are 9 or more clients on the tour, then a supply vehicle and camp assistant travel with the group through the national parks (days 6-11). The camp assistant will help with meal preparation and washing up, and make your life a little easier!



Day 1 JOHANNESBURG – GOO-MOREMI GORGE [camping -LD]

Departing Johannesburg we head north to Goo-Moremi campsite on day 1 of our journey, as we venture into the heart of Botswana's wilderness. We travel through breathtaking landscapes as we make our way to the enchanting Goo-Moremi campsite, where we explore the gorge, its rich cultural and spiritual heritage, its waterfalls and if lucky see vultures in the colony on foot.

Day 1: Breakfast is not included

Day 1: Lunch provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 1: Dinner provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Includes: Entry fee, walk to waterfalls.

Distance/time: ±530km, 7h00 actual driving time, so with a border crossing and lunch stop we expect a total travel day of ±9h00. This is a long travel day for us to a special overnight stop.

Overnight: Goo-Moremi Campsite - good ablution facilities with hot showers.

Day 2 KUBU ISLAND - MAKGADIKGADI PANS [camping BLD]

Kubu Island is a remarkable granite rock formation located in Botswana's Makgadikgadi Pans, known for its stunningly flat and desolate landscape, surrounded by a vast salt pan and characterized by its eerie beauty. After breakfast we transfer into our open 4wd safari vehicle and head off the beaten track to explore this area of baobab trees and salt pans. The flat landscape, and incredible starry skies offer incredible photo opportunities during the day and night. We explore the granite rock formations and interesting fauna and flora of the area on foot.

Day 2: Breakfast provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 2: Lunch provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 2: Dinner provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Includes: -

Distance/time: ±375km, 5h30 actual driving time. We leave Goo-Moremi relatively early to arrive in Kubu Island around midday, with time to explore in the afternoon, so expected total travel day of ±7h00

Overnight: Kubu Island Community Campsite – basic facilities with bucket shower. You will need to bring a towel.



Day 3 GWETA - MAKGADIKGADI PANS [camping BLD]

We skirt the edges of the vast Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, making our way up to Gweta where we spend the night at Planet Baobab Campsite. The Makgadikgadi Pans are the world's largest salt pans, covering 30,000 sq kms, formed from the remnants of a large inland lake that dried up thousands of years ago. Home to a variety of wildlife including large herds of Zebra and wildebeest and migratory birds. Enjoy an evening under the stars.

Day 3: Breakfast provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 3: Lunch provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 3: Dinner provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Includes: -

Distance/time: ±330km, 6h30 actual driving time. We leave Kubu Island early and arrive in Gweta mid-afternoon with stops for lunch and exploration, so an expected total travel day of ±8h00.

Overnight: Planet Baobab Campsite - good ablution facilities with hot showers, swimming pool, restaurant & bar.

Day 4 **MAUN** [camping BL -]

We have a slow morning allowing time for the optional (own expense) meerkat activity. The meerkat adventure gets us into the middle of the comical antics of the meerkats. The meerkats live in family groups along the edge of the salt pans, and we have the opportunity to get close observing and engaging with habituated meerkats in the habitat.

We make our way towards Maun arriving mid-afternoon where we have time to resupply in preparation for our next few days in the Okavango. An optional (own expense) game flight over the Okavango, which will reveal a different aspect of the delta. We set up camp and enjoy an evening meal at a local restaurant (own expense).

Day 4: Breakfast provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 4: Lunch provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 4: Dinner will be an own expense meal at a local restaurant

Includes: N/A

Distance/time: ±220km, 3h30 actual driving time. With a decent road and a stop at the shops in Maun we expect an overall travel time for the day ±4h30.

Optional Activities: Meerkat adventure from Gweta.

Overnight: Campsite - good ablution facilities with hot showers, swimming pool, restaurant & bar.

Day 5 - 7 **OKAVANGO DELTA** [wild camping BLD]

Our local guides will take us deep into the heart of the Okavango Delta on mekoro (dugout canoes). The delta forms as water flows from the Angolan highlands out over the Botswanan flat Kalahari Desert sands creating a delicate, green oasis for birds & wildlife. We will camp wild on remote islands in this amazingly dynamic environment & enjoy bush walks, bird watching & swimming in the clear water. Camping with our local guides we learn more about their lifestyle & culture. We return to Maun in the late afternoon of day 7 and overnight in the campsite with good, comfortable facilities.

Day 5 - 6: Breakfast provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 5 - 6: Lunch provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 5 - 6: Dinner provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 7: Breakfast provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 7: Lunch provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 7: Dinner will be an own expense meal at a local restaurant

Includes: Entrance to Okavango Delta, mokoro excursion, morning and afternoon game walks with local guides.

Distance/time: Day 5 ±50km, 2h00 actual driving time to mekoro station. Mokoro ride to camp is dependent on campsite location so overall travel time for the day ±6h00.

Optional Activities: Scenic flight over the Okavango Delta.

Overnight: Day 5 & 6: Wild camping – basic facilities with bucket shower. You will need to bring a towel.
Day 7 Maun: Campsite - good ablution facilities with hot showers, swimming pool, restaurant & bar.



The Okavango Kopano Mokoro Community Trust is run by the communities on the south eastern sector of the Okavango Delta with entrance and camping fees paid to the trust, and wages paid directly to the individual guides/polers. Work is split between community members on a rotation basis administered by each village. By working with these communities we help provide sustainable economic benefit for conservation of the area. Please also see the Sunway SOS Save Our Sausage Trees project.



Day 8 - 11 **CENTRAL KALAHARI GAME RESERVE** [wild camping BLD]

The name 'Kalahari' conjures up images of wide-open grassy plains, dry river beds, hardy wildlife and of course the famed black-maned Kalahari Lions. You will not be disappointed! The Central Kalahari

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NZ Travel Agents & General Enquiries: newzealand@sunway-safaris.com or info@indafrika.co.nz

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Game Reserve (CKGR) is the largest, most remotely situated reserve in Southern Africa, and the second-largest wildlife reserve in the world, encompassing 52 800 sq kms. Nothing prepares you for the immensity of this reserve or its wild, mysterious beauty. There is an impression of unending space, and having the entire reserve to yourself.

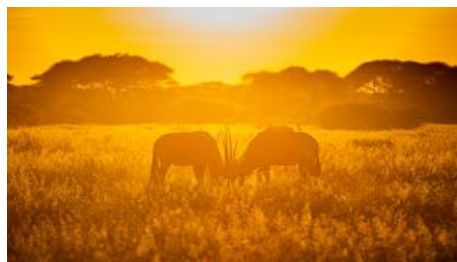
We journey to the northern section of the CKGR, spending four days exploring this remote wilderness of rolling grasslands occasional sand dunes and fossilized river valleys. Including the iconic areas of Deception Valley and Leopard Pan. These areas offer good game viewing. The roads are sandy and heavy going, so be prepared for some long travelling days, but this is more than worthwhile because of the amazing environment that you are travelling through.

Day 8 - 11: Breakfast provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 8 - 11: Lunch provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 8 - 11: Dinner provided by tour leaders with the help of the group

Includes: Entrance fees, morning and afternoon game drives in open 4WD game viewing vehicle.
Distance/time: ±290km, 5h30 actual driving time, excluding stops for sightseeing, expected total travel time ±07h00 to get there, followed by days of game viewing.
Overnight: Day 8 - 11 wild camping – basic ablutions with a bucket shower.



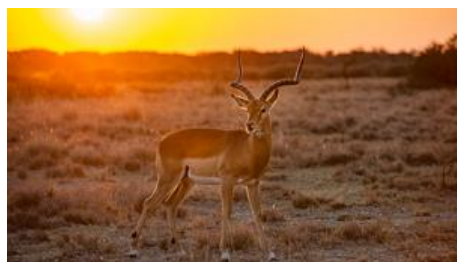
Day 12 KHAMA RHINO SANCTUARY [camping BLD]

The Khama Rhino Sanctuary Trust is a community based wildlife project established in 1992 to assist in saving the vanishing rhino, restore an area formerly teeming with wildlife to its previous natural state and provide economic benefits to the local Botswana community through tourism and the sustainable use of natural resources. This reserve situated on the Kalahari sandveld, has several natural waterholes and provides prime habitat for white rhino, zebra and wildebeest.

Includes: Entrance fee, game drive.
Distance/time: 380km ± 7h30 actual driving time.
Overnight: Campsite - good ablution facilities with hot showers.



Khama Rhino Sanctuary Trust is a key project for rhino conservation in Botswana, assisting in the management and breeding of rhino for redistribution of animals throughout Botswana. 100% Botswana staff are led by the chief warden and all profit made from this initiative goes towards the Serowe, Mabelepedi & Paje communities for development.



Day 13 JOHANNESBURG –TOUR ENDS [- Bx1 - -]

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After breakfast, we say goodbye to our Motswana guides, and beloved 4WD safari vehicles and swop over to our more comfortable minibus for the last day drive back towards civilization. A short stop for border formalities and lunch enroute (own expense) before the tour ends in Johannesburg at the airport at 17:00 on day 13.

Planned stops: drive from Khama to Johannesburg airport where the tour ends

Includes: -

Distance/time: 650km ±7h30 which is all tarmac by minibus. The border is usually quite quick and with a lunch stop en-route, we expect a 9h30 transit day.

Overnight: -

Please note: we do a free drop off at Johannesburg airport on day 13 at +/-17:00pm so you can book your flight out for the last day of the tour.

Please Note:

The distance and travel times quoted above are an estimate only, and subject to local road conditions and animal sightings!

Sustainable Tourism:

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2024 PRICES AND DEPARTURE DATES:

RACK Price: (valid Jan 2024 – Dec 2024)

CK13 NZD 3,845 pps

Single supplement: NZD 213 pp (If you are traveling on your own, Sunway will "room" you with another same gender client. You do not pay extra when booking as a single person. If however you request a single tent, then you'll pay the single supplement.)

2024 DEPARTURE DATES

Departs	Ends
JOHANNESBURG	JOHANNESBURG
Sunday at	Friday
06:30am	17:00pm
04-Feb-24	16-Feb-24
24-Mar-24	05-Apr-24
19-May-24	31-May-24
07-Jul-24	19-Jul-24
18-Aug-24	30-Aug-24
15-Sep-24	27-Sep-24
20-Oct-24	01-Nov-24
10-Nov-24	22-Nov-24



* **Bold dates** are guaranteed departures, all other dates guaranteed from 4 clients.

Airport Transfers:

NZD 53 pp per way

CK13 Pre-Tour Accommodation (Johannesburg)

Road Lodge Rivonia Hotel Room Ensuite: NZD 67 pp twin share, NZD 119 single (B&B)

DETAILED TOUR INFORMATION:

Why travel with Sunway Safaris


We understand that there are several options available to you when choosing your African safari. We also know that you want to make the most informed decision about your safari, what you get, what's included and what you see and experience. So these are just a few of the Sunway qualities and facts:

- **Small groups** – by travelling with a maximum of 12 people, you can witness Africa and have first-hand contact with this amazing continent and its people without being a negative influence. This has been a key

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factor in our continued success. Our trips appeal to a wide demographic of traveller. Our clients range in age from 25 to 65+ with the average being 45. The range of travellers gives a variety of perspectives which adds to the experience of each safari.

- **2 Sunway tour guides** – group leaders are the key to any safari. On a Sunway safari you will travel with 2 qualified and registered field guides (Field Guides Association of SA). Two guides as crew, not a guide and a driver, means interesting trips with maximum knowledge and information. Our guides have a passion for Africa, her people and wildlife, and they love nothing more than sharing their knowledge with you.
- **Guaranteed departures** – departure dates on each itinerary shown as bold are guaranteed departure dates. All other departures operate with a minimum of 4 clients.
- **All-inclusive price** – when we travel ourselves, we always feel that if we're in a country we should find and see the best it has to offer. So when planning the Sunway routes, we ensure that each trip provides the best inclusions and experiences. For example, if you go to Botswana – you have to visit the national parks in an open 4WD – it is the essence of the Botswana wilderness. If you tour Zambia, then you must visit South Luangwa NP and do a game walk with a local scout. When booking on a Sunway Safari there are no hidden costs. All of the entrance fees are included, and a wide range of activities, and most meals. We have included many highlights in our tours, so that you will see and experience the highlights without having to pay extra when you get there. So when you decide on which safari company to book with, look carefully at what you're actually getting. You may only visit a place once, make sure you get the most out of it.
- **Safety** – our fleet of vehicles are custom built to ensure comfortable and safe touring. Each is constructed, by an authorised passenger vehicle builder, to the latest safety requirements, with a safety shell, and every seat has a lap belt. This gives you peace of mind when travelling with Sunway Safaris on the often demanding African roads.
- **Good2Go** - Our commitment to sustainable & responsible tourism is reflected in our low impact travel style where all we take is photographs and all we leave is our footprints. Being an African company, we have the grassroots contacts to make a real difference in the lives of the people whose lands we visit. On each itinerary in the brochure you'll find this symbol which highlights just one of the sustainable travel initiatives that we support. 
- **Solo Travellers** – going it alone won't make your holiday more expensive; our reservations staff will match you up with another same-gender traveller to keep your holiday affordable. If however you request a single room or tent these are available, with a price supplement
- **Experience** - we have decades of experience planning tours throughout Southern Africa since 1994. As such, our itineraries and routes have been perfected over many years ensuring that your tour will run smoothly. We visit the highlights of Southern Africa but ensure that you do not follow the well-trodden tourist track. All of us at Sunway Safaris have extensive travel experience in Africa, and throughout the world. Being adventure travellers ourselves, we know how to plan trips that give you a broad experience of the countries that you will visit.
- **Based in Africa** - probably the most important part of a Sunway safari is that we are an African company with offices in South Africa and Botswana. We live in Africa, we travel in Africa and it is our passion for this amazing continent that makes Sunway your best travel option.
- **Age Policy** - On all scheduled tours, we accept children 12-17 with accompanying adult. We have no upper age limit. Clients older than 65 years of age at the time of travel require a medical certificate stating the client is fit and healthy to join an adventure travel group tour. We have many clients over 65 years of age, who are perfectly capable of enjoying every aspect of a Sunway tour, both accommodated and camping. For more details contact newzealand@sunway-safaris.com / info@indafrica.co.nz.

Accommodation

- **Camping** - where possible we will stay at designated campsites in national parks, on private land and in towns. Campsite facilities are generally very good but in places can be basic. There are hot and cold showers, restaurants, washing facilities and telephones available at most of the campsites. Some camps have simple reed enclosures for showers but do have flush toilets! On other nights in expedition trips we may be forced to stay wherever we can find a campsite, this could even be an unscheduled wild camping night. Sunway supplies all the camping equipment with the exception of your sleeping bag and pillow. The dome tents we use are 2.2 x 2.2 x 1.8 meters and putting them up or down takes only 5 minutes. Tents have built-in insect nets. We supply mattresses, which are about 5 cm thick, warm and comfortable. The camp chairs have a backrest. You will need to bring your own sleeping bag (and a small camp pillow) and a towel. Should you not have, or do not want to buy a sleeping bag, you can rent a sleeping bag and camp pillow from the Sunway office for Euro 1 per sleeping bag per day on tour. Please book this at the time of booking.
- **Wild camping** - Wild camps have no facilities; we will need to take our own water and all equipment. Wild camping can be very enjoyable but please remember that we leave no trace of our stay and take all rubbish away with us. Toilets will be of the "dig and bury" variety and a simple bucket bush shower will be provided.

- **Accommodation** – there may on occasion be campsites with rooms/chalets available. Sunway has budgeted for camping every night, and therefore should you wish to upgrade on arrival at the campsite, this would be for your own expense, subject to availability of rooms. Sunway would pay the cost of camping, any extra would be for your own expense. This gives you the flexibility to use accommodation as you find it, at your own cost (and depending on the weather on the day).

Local Payment

- A local payment is not required on this safari.

Recommended reading

Before you travel you might want to read any of the following books. While not specific to the Sunway tour you will join, they do provide some background understanding of the countries you will be visiting.

- #1 Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith (Fictional story of life in Botswana)
- Trees of the Okavango by Veronica Roodt (A reference book with traditional uses and myths)
- Okavango: Jewel of the Kalahari by Karen Ross (A comprehensive description of the Delta ecology)
- Don't run whatever You Do by Peter Allison (A guide's perspective of Botswana lodge life)
- Okavango: Africa's Last Eden by Frans Lanting (A coffee table book of photography)
- Newman's Birds of Southern Africa by Kenneth Newman
- Sasol Birds of Southern Africa by Ian Sinclair, Phil Hockey, and W.R. Tarboton
- The Safari Companion: A Guide to Watching African Mammals Including Hoofed Mammals, Carnivores, and Primates by Richard D. Estes and Daniel Otte
- Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa (Field Guides) by Braam Van Wyk, Keith Coates Palgrav, and Piet Van Wyk

Food

- We pride ourselves on offering delicious healthy meals to our clients and will provide three meals per day, except where shown in the itinerary, when we try out local restaurants.
- The tour leaders do the shopping and meal planning for each group. He/she will always try to obtain fresh produce wherever possible. A rough idea of what these will consist of is: Breakfast - cereals or coffee and toast or the occasional fried breakfast, Lunch - cheese, cold meats, salads on bread or rolls, Dinner - braais (local barbecue), potjies (stews), stir-fries etc. We use regular plates, cups and cutlery. All cooking and eating utensils will also be provided.
- We do cater for special dietary requirements (e.g. vegetarian or allergies.)
- We will supply fruit squash served with breakfast and tea or coffee served with breakfast and dinner. All other beverages will be for your own expense. We will not supply bottled drinking water although it is available at many shops on tour.

Difficulty

- Anyone who is generally active and in good health should enjoy this trip. Simple campsites and basic wild camps are enjoyed by the outdoor enthusiast, you will get dusty on occasion, but this is Africa!
- Full itinerary with a couple of long driving days. The road conditions through the wilderness areas are very poor and our progress can at times be slow and dusty. Remember to hold on at all times and enjoy the ride!
- Everyone is asked to help out with the running of camp on tour. In other words, if everyone spends a little time setting up camp, preparing meals and cleaning up then the tour will run smoothly and everyone will have a good time. Participation is the name of the game.

Things you should know

- Includes park entrances, game drives and the Okavango Delta excursion.
- As this tour spends most of the time in wilderness areas it is essential that clients adhere to the tour leaders (and local guides) instructions regarding interaction with wildlife, camp safety and game walk/drive rules.
- You will need a valid passport and visas for entry into Botswana and re-entering South Africa.
- If you are joining an Under Canvas camping trip, you will need to bring your own sleeping bag (and a small camp pillow) and a towel. Should you not have, or do not want to buy a sleeping bag, you can rent a sleeping bag and camp pillow from the Sunway office for Euro 1 per sleeping bag per day on tour. Please book this at the time of booking.
- We recommend that you bring Euro, US\$ or South African Rand for personal expenses on this trip but please note that foreign currency will need to be changed into Botswana Pula as shops, restaurants and market vendors only accept BWP. Zambia requires that all services are paid in local currency (Zambian Kwacha), however major credit cards (Mastercard / Visa) can also be used for optional activities in Livingstone and elsewhere on tour. See the Sunway tour dossier for approximate costs of drinks and meals etc.

Common questions about this trip

1. **Can I buy memory cards?** Memory cards and other photographic accessories will be available several times on tour. A camera with a zoom lens from wide-angle to telephoto, 35-300mm, is advisable to capture both scenic and wildlife shots. Each 4WD vehicle as used in Botswana is fitted with a 12/220V inverter – this can be used while the vehicle is running (but will drain the vehicle battery if left plugged in), so this should only be relied on for limited charging of camera batteries and we recommend you bring a 2nd battery. Remember you can also charge your camera on those nights we use accommodation (SA 220V)
2. **Is it safe?** Botswana is relatively safe and your guide knows the countries intimately and will endeavour to show you the best parts while looking after you. In the wild areas, your guide will brief you on the necessary

precautions, follow this advice and you will be fine. Be aware of your personal belongings and you will have a great trip!

3. **Do I need malaria tablets?** Yes, the trip passes through malaria areas and prophylactics are recommended.
4. **What do I need to bring?** All details are covered in our general tour briefing (available from www.sunway-safaris.com on the home page) but the basics are: - a warm sleeping bag, comfortable clothes for warm days and cool evenings, walking shoes, a raincoat, hat and sunglasses, swimsuit, a small pair of binoculars also comes in very handy and most importantly - a sense of adventure!

