

For Sunway Safaris agent use only

Date of issue: 02May18

Tour code:

Guaranteed departures

Small group safari maximum:

Travel through:

Safari length:

**190414CKe14**

**8 travellers**

**Botswana Trans Kalahari**

**14 days**



**2019**

## BOTSWANA "TRANS KALAHARI"



### DEPARTS:

JOHANNESBURG on Sunday 14Apr19 at 06:30am

### ENDS:

JOHANNESBURG on Saturday 27Apr19 at 17:00pm

### Highlights

- \* Mabueshube Game Reserve
- \* Khutse Game Reserve - Central Kalahari
- \* Central Kalahari Game Reserve
- \* Khama Rhino Sanctuary



## SAFARI GRADE: EXPEDITION

**Explore Venture into the heart of the Kalahari and**

**some of the largest game reserves in Southern Africa. Khutse and the Central Kalahari Game Reserve are typical Kalahari – rolling grasslands, dry river beds and of course plentiful wildlife. We explore the more arid areas of the little known Mabueshube Game Reserve, before moving in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve – home of famous black maned Kalahari lions.**

The concept of the Sunway expedition tours is quite simple; we visit unusual destinations as a small group of travellers. There is one Sunway expedition leader who is an experienced guide. He/She knows how to run the operations of the tour, how to get through the borders, do the meal planning, keep the vehicle moving etc.

However these are places that we seldom visit, and as such the expedition leader will not have detailed knowledge of every destination. Where bookings are required, we will make bookings in advance, but much of the itinerary will be flexible and final route will be at the discretion of the expedition leader and subject to road conditions.

All participants on Sunway expedition trips must understand this tour requires flexibility and an appreciation of the open style of travel. This is not a set tour, it is an exploration. It's an adventure!

## Day 1 - 4

### MABUASEHUBE TRANSFRONTIER NATIONAL PARK [wild camping Bx3, Lx4, Dx4]

(B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)

Departing Johannesburg at 06:30am we head to the remote Mabuasehube which is part of the Kalahari Transfrontier Park and situated in the east of the park. Mabuasehube covers an area of about 1800 km<sup>2</sup>. In 1992 the reserve was incorporated into the Gemsbok National Park, and in 2000 it was also integrated into the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

The unforgiving desert terrain is a mixture of typical Kgalagadi tree and shrub savanna with patches of wide open grass savanna. This area of the Kalahari Transfrontier Park comprises a series of exceptionally large pans, which are the principle focus of the reserve. Campsites dot the various pans, and many are situated on slight promontories, giving almost unimpeded vision, thus making for good game viewing right from your camp-side chair.

Each pan is different. The floor of Mabuasehube pan is bare clay that is rich in salts, and this attracts animals that come to lick the surface, deriving essential minerals from it. The floor of Bosobogolo pan is short, shrubby grassland, which antelope frequent to graze, accompanied, of course, by predators. During the rainy season (November until March) the pans may contain water and this is a welcome blessing for the wildlife.

All of the major predators can be seen at Mabuasehube, including the Kalahari black-maned lion, cheetah, leopard, brown hyena, bat-eared fox, lynx, and silver fox. Small mammals, like the Cape fox, aardwolf and blackfooted cat can be seen at the pans in the evening.

**Planned stops:** 1 night en route in the area of Kuruman, 3 nights in Mabuasehube portion of the KTFP  
**Includes:** Entrance fees for 3 nights in the Kalahari Transfrontier Park, game drives  
**Overnight:** Campsite – basic facilities with rustic showers, pit latrines, shade structures  
**Distance/time:** 880km ± 12 hours + border crossing



## Day 5 - 7

### KHUTSE GAME RESERVE [wild camping BLD]

Khutse Game Reserve, situated on southern boundary of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. The first night will be spent camping en route depending on progress made during the first day.

Khutse, meaning "the place where you kneel down to drink" is typical Kalahari landscape – rolling grasslands, dry river beds, fossil sand dunes and small water pans. Khutse has plentiful wildlife, with the desert adapted species in abundance. These include springbok, gemsbok (oryx), giraffe, wildebeest, hartebeest & kudu. These antelope are of course preyed upon by the large lion population, leopard and cheetah.

We have 3 nights in Khutse to explore this out of the way game reserve on morning and afternoon game drives. We will camp wild in unfenced campsites where there is a very good chance of being visited by some of the nocturnal animals. We visit after the summer rains when the wildlife viewing is at its best as animals move into the area to take advantage of the lush sweet grasses that dominate the landscape.

**Planned stops:** 1 night en route in area of Kang and 2 nights inside Khutse Game Reserve (**Mahurushele campsite** in the northern area of Khutse)  
**Includes:** Entrance fees for 2 nights in Khutse Game Reserve, game drives  
**Overnight:** Wild camping – basic facilities with bucket shower  
**Distance/time:** 500km ± 9.5hours



---

**Day 8 - 13**                    **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 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.

This is why we go to the CKGR - to get away from everything. We visit the CKGR after the summer rains when the wildlife viewing is at its best as animals move into the area to take advantage of the lush sweet grasses that dominate the landscape.

We journey through the Kalahari from south to north over a 4 day period camping wild en-route and staying in areas where the game viewing is best. 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.

**Planned stops:**            1 nights in western CKGR (Xade campsite or similar), 4 nights in northern CKGR (2 nights Phokoje campsite or similar, 2 nights Deception Valley or similar), 1 night Khama Rhino Sanctuary

**Includes:**                    Entrance fees for 5 nights in Central Kalahari Game Reserve, game drives

**Overnight:**                   Wild camping x5 – basic facilities with bucket shower

**Distance/time:**           380km ± 16 hours



---

**Day 14**                    **JOHANNESBURG –TOUR ENDS** [- Bx1 - -]

Tour ends in Johannesburg at the airport at 17:00 on day 14.

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

**Includes:**                    -

**Overnight:**                   -

**Distance/time:**           650km ±7 hours

***Please note: The distance and travel times quoted above are an estimate only, and subject to local road conditions and photo stops!***

---

**2019 PRICES AND DEPARTURE DATES:**

**RACK Price:** (valid for travel in 2019)

**€ 3 130 pps**

**€ 85 pp single supplement**




Departs:  
JOHANNESBURG  
Sunday 14Apr19 at 06:30am

Ends:  
JOHANNESBURG  
Saturday 27Apr19 at 17:00pm

## DETAILED TOUR INFORMATION:

### ***Why travel on a Sunway Safaris Expedition Trip.***

Sunway Safaris have been running mobile camping & accommodated safaris throughout Southern Africa for the past 23 years. Our extensive knowledge and experience in African travel means that we are confident that we can safely take you to those remote and wild areas of Africa that many people dream about but who are daunted by the prospect of travelling on their own. You can rely on our knowledgeable and experienced tour leaders to take you to these out of the way places.

- **Experienced African Travelers** – By offering the Expedition trips to people who have travelled to Africa before, and who are aware of the sometimes very difficult travelling conditions, you will only be travelling with adventure minded travelers. The Expedition trips will be limited to a maximum of 8 people ensuring you experience Africa in a small and intimate group of like minded people.
- **Sunway tour guides** – group leaders are the key to any safari. On a Sunway Expedition safari you will travel with one of our most experienced guides who are confident of travelling off the beaten track. Your guide has a passion for Africa, her people and her wildlife, and they love nothing more than sharing his/her knowledge with you.
- **Participation** – An essential part of an Expedition trip is your participation. If the small group all pulls together and when the going gets tough, you are all there to help out. Putting up and taking down your tents is the easy part. Helping get the vehicle out of the thick sand, planning your route through thick mud, being a full participating member of the Expedition will only enhance your enjoyment of your out there African experience.
- **Safety** – All of our 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.
- **Responsible travel** - 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.
- **Experience** - We have more than 19 years experience planning tours throughout Southern Africa. 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. 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 time of travel require a medical certificate stating 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 [marketing@sunway-safaris.com](mailto:marketing@sunway-safaris.com).

### ***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,

**SUNWAY SAFARIS** [www.sunway-safaris.com](http://www.sunway-safaris.com) +27(11) 465 4905 [marketing@sunway-safaris.com](mailto:marketing@sunway-safaris.com) sunway.reservations

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 towel.

- **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 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 budget (and depending on the weather on the day).

### **Transport**

- **Expedition vehicle** – the Sunway Safaris expedition vehicle will be used for beginning and end portions of the tour. IE: you will travel by closed station wagon Land Cruiser from Johannesburg to the gate of Mabuesehube. There you will meet a Botswana registered open sided Land Cruiser with canvas sides which will take you all the way through to Rakops (outside CKGR) where you will once again transfer into the closed station wagon Land Cruiser back to Johannesburg. (The return leg from Khama to Johannesburg may be in a Sprinter minibus).
- The vehicles are designed to handle all road conditions expected on the route. Depending on the group size we may tow a trailer for equipment. Individual seats for each client. There are a couple of long days of travelling but the vehicles have a comfortable cruising speed. The emphasis of the trip is "getting out and doing things".



### **Local Payment**

- A local payment is not required on this safari.

### **Participation**

- An essential part of your expedition is participation – from putting up your tent or packing away in the morning to helping with meal preparation and cleaning up – it's all part of your adventure and when everyone puts in a little effort the trip will run smoothly. Your tour leader will do all the meal planning and food shopping however all participants will need to help with food preparation and washing up. At border crossings the expedition leader will need help from the participants in queuing for paperwork etc. In the unlikely event of a vehicle breakdown (such as flat tyre), or the more likely event of vehicle becoming stuck in mud or sand, everyone will need to help solve the problem and get the group out of the situation. Team spirit is part of the fun!

### **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 giving very good healthy meals to our clients and will provide three meals per day, except as shown in the itinerary. For those meals we will eat at 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.

