



**AFRIKA ECCO**

MOBILE SAFARIS

# FACTSHEET



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### INTRODUCTION

Camp in traditional canvas tents with nothing surrounding you but the stellar night sky over Botswana's wildest destinations. Afrika Ecco Safaris takes its adventurous guests deep into some of the most exceptional areas of the country, demonstrating the diversity of landscapes and watching animals at their most primal.

The leading aspect of this experience is the changing of locations: from the waterways of the Okavango Delta, to Moremi's game-rich lagoons, Central Kalahari's undulating grass plains, Makgadikgadi's endless stars, and Savute's predator paradise. Travelling through impeccable wildlife areas and arriving at numerous pristine campsites tie together some of the most unbeatable safari experiences out there.

Daily activities include 4x4 game drives, canoeing in traditional mokoros, walking safaris, motorised boating excursions, and tours of a local village. Three meals per day are prepared by the chef, while dinners in themselves are a 3-course extravaganza. Wake up to basins of warm water, hot coffee and rusks, and return to a tidied tent and a camera full of safari memories.

### FACILITIES

- 6 Canvas safari tents each sleeping 2 people on individual stretchers
- Ensuite canvas bathroom for each tent, consisting of a bucket shower and eco bush toilet
- Standing hand basins renewed each

morning and afternoon with warm water

- Central camp area equipped with folding safari chairs, a dining table, and tea and coffee facilities
- Campfire in the evenings
- Separate fireplace – chef's domain – where all cooking takes place
- Solar powered lanterns in the camp and one supplied per tent
- House keeping provided by the camp assistant

### AT A GLANCE

- Mobile camping safari covering various wildlife destinations in Botswana
- Maximum of 6 tents per trip
- The low impact, rough and ready approach to the mobile safari keeps things exciting and ensures that guests leave with a greater appreciation Botswana's nature
- Expect to be comfortable with the essentials, and without the frills provided at permanent lodges
- Non-participation camping. Experienced, local guides conduct the activities, while staff cook the food and clean up camp before setting up in the next location.
- Game drives, walking safaris, mokoro trips and motorised boating excursions conducted in various locations in the Okavango Delta.
- Eco-friendly and in touch with nature
- There is no electricity at the campsites - food is cooked on open fire and refrigerated



items stay cold in a gas fridge.

- Each canvas safari tent sleeps 2 people in stretcher beds and has ensuite ablution facilities with bucket showers and eco bush toilets
- 3-Course dinners cooked and served under the stars.

## ACTIVITIES

The safari experience at Afrika Ecco is all encompassing in that it offers game activities for both land and water to suit which destination is being visited. The ethos at Afrika Ecco is to keep a low carbon footprint, so all game activities are gentle on the environment.

- **Walking safaris:** This is the way to experience the Chief's Island in the Okavango Delta. On foot with a guide who knows the area like the back of his hand. Learn about the tracks and signs of the bush and watch big game from the ground.
- **Mokoro safaris:** The traditional dug-out wooden canoe utilised especially in the Okavango Delta. Silently gliding through the waterways, guides take guests closer to nature and to the wildlife in the Delta than ever before.
- **Boating safaris:** A 3-hour cruise when travelling into the Delta to access the campsite at Xaxaba.
- **4X4 Game Drives:** All travel between destinations takes place in an open-air safari vehicle, while twice daily game drives are the highlight in Moremi, Kalahari, and Savute.

- Day trip to **Victoria Falls.**
- Chobe River **boat cruise.**

## TYPICAL DAY AT AFRIKA ECCO

The routine at Afrika Ecco can be tailor-made to suit the guests, so that daily schedules are built around what the guests would most like to do. In water-rich areas like the Okavango Delta, half the experience is on the water.





- In the mornings, guests will be woken up at around 05h30 with tea, coffee and breakfast before heading out on the morning's activity.
- All activities will depart from the campsite and explore the vast surrounding area before returning 3-4 hours later to hot showers and a wholesome lunch.
- After lunch, guests are invited to relax around camp with a good book and a pair of binoculars.
- At 15h00 high tea is served, which consists of tea, coffee, biscuits, and/or a special surprise from the chef.
- Afternoon activity commences at 16h00 – 16h30 and guests return to camp by sunset.
- Warm water basins await upon return to camp and a crackling campfire awaits.
- Around 19h00 the chef announces the menu and guests take their seats around the table with their guide.
- After a 3-course dinner, guests are welcome to join their guide at the fire for some storytelling, or just to admire the stars before turning in for the night.

## LOCATION

The beauty of Afrika Ecco Safaris is that there is no sole location, and the whole trip is an adventure discovering the safari hotspots of Botswana.

Depending on guests' tailor-made itinerary, one may find themselves in the vast fan-shaped floodplains of the Okavango Delta, or on the acacia-filled grass plains of the Central Kalahari. Perhaps the game-rich Xinii lagoon in Moremi Game Reserve,

the endless Makgadikgadi salt pans, or northern Chobe's pristine Savute Marsh.

A day trip to Victoria Falls and a Chobe River boat cruise can be arranged for inclusion in an itinerary.

## BOGA CAMPSITES

BOGA stands for Botswana Guides Association and was established with goals that encompass conservation, wildlife management, local guide education and training, and maintaining the highest skill level and professionalism of Botswana guides.

Afrika Ecco is a member of BOGA, and as a result it is guaranteed that the experience is 100% locally operated.

The campsites used throughout the tours are designated only for BOGA accredited guides, sustaining the exclusive status of the safari.

Campsites used are as follows:

### SAVUTI

SMOS	S 19 56 588 E 023 29 218
CNP21	S 18 34 453 E 024 04 900
SV1	S 18 34 533 E 024 04 939
SV2	S 18 34 214 E 024 04 718
SV3	S 18 34 229 E 024 04 900

### MOREMI

MGR10 – 3rd Bridge	S 19 24 721 E 023 39 236
Samahundu	S 19 19 046 E 023 59 302
SMOX2 – Khwai	S 19 20 837 E 023 40 286
SMOT – 3rd Bridge	S 19 14 208 E 023 20 939
SMOX1 – Xakanaxa	S 19 11 158 E 023 25 998



Magwexana S 19 22 596 E 023 40 286

**CHIEF'S ISLAND**

Xaxaba S 19 31 090 E 023 04 618

**NXAI PAN**

Nxai Pan 1 S 19 56 320 E 024 47 427

**CKGR**

Deception Valley S 21 45 410 E 023 81 260

At Chobe Riverfront, guests are accommodated at lodges in the vibrant town of Kasane. In Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, pristine government campsites are utilised as there are no BOGA sites in existence.

## HOW TO GET THERE

Guests will arrive in Botswana at Maun Airport where they will be met by their Afrika Ecco guide and transferred through the small town to the pre-arranged accommodation for the night.

Depending on guests' tailor-made itinerary, the following morning will start with an overland, open-air drive to the first destination.

When travelling to the Okavango Delta campsite of Xaxaba, guests will leave Maun on a boat cruise on the Thamalakane River, embarking on a 3-4 hour cruise into the Delta itself.

## CHILD POLICIES

Children over 12 years old are welcome at Afrika Ecco. Parents are responsible for their children.

## GENERAL TRAVEL INFO:

### Weather

The climate in Botswana brings very hot, dry periods (September, October), and also very wet seasons. Winter (June, July, August) pack cold nights and mild, dry days, while November to February is hot and wet.

Temperatures in summer soar as high as 40°C bringing warm nights, and humidity levels fluctuating between 50% and 80%. The average annual rainfall is 450mm and most of it falls between December and March in the form of heavy afternoon thunderstorms.

In contrast, the winter nights can drop to barely below freezing in the Delta, although daytime temperatures at this time of year are mild to warm.

### Wildlife

Elephants walk the earth in Botswana in such great numbers and can be seen bathing in rivers and crossing the Okavango waterways en masse, or walking the dry Savute plains. Other mammals to look out for are Cape buffalo, hippo, lechwe, tsessebe, sitatunga, blue wildebeest, giraffe, springbok, kudu, sable, warthog, and baboon.

Moremi and Savute are renowned for their abundance of predators. Following in the footsteps of the grazing herbivores, guests can see lion, leopard, cheetah, wild dog, and spotted and brown hyena. The great Nile crocodiles lurk in the waters and generally prey on fish.

The varying habitats all for a complete smorgasbord



of birder's delights. Water bird species are abundant in the Delta and at lagoons, waterways, and rivers throughout Botswana, while summer brings in the migrant species, which fleck colour through the trees. Birds of prey, and grassland birds are seen and heard throughout the day.

### Malaria

Before travelling, guests are encouraged to consult their local doctors on anti-malarial medication and preparation, however a repellent stick or spray is effective and should be utilised. All the tents have mesh windows, keeping the bugs out. Mosquitos are more prevalent in the wet, warmer season.

## WHAT TO PACK

The climate in Botswana brings very hot, dry periods (September, October), and also very wet seasons. Winter (June, July, August) pack cold nights and mild, dry days. Depending on what time of year you travel, you will need certain essentials.

- Throughout the year, we recommend packing lightweight, neutral-coloured clothing with short sleeves
- Bring sun protection in the form of sunblock, sun hats, and glasses.
- Scarfs, jackets and gloves are needed for early mornings on the boat, especially in winter.
- Comfortable walking shoes are essential, as is sun protection in the form of hats, sunglasses and sun block.

- Bring along cameras, binoculars and recording gadgets to keep a record of the many wildlife sightings.

## GUIDES AND VEHICLES

Afrika Ecco Safaris will adjust the number of vehicles and staff members depending on how many guests are travelling. Game drive vehicles will carry guests and their luggage, while backup vehicles will carry camping gear and kitchenware.

**From 5-8 guests:** 1 Game drive vehicle, plus one backup vehicle.

**From 9-12 guests:** 2 Game drive vehicles, plus one backup vehicle.

**From 12-16 guests:** Able to cater for a group of 16 with each game viewer carrying 8 people at most; however, 12 is a more manageable number for a mobile safari of this nature.

Guides at Afrika Ecco Safaris have been selected based on their experience of Botswana as a country, and their experience in the world of professional guiding.



**Ketlogetswe Teko Mbwe:** Born in Xaxaba, a village in the middle of the Delta, Teko was born a guide. He has been with Afrika Ecco since the beginning of operation in 2007. With more than 30 years work experience, he has worked with numerous safari companies in Botswana (including Wilderness Safaris and Desert and Delta), and has worked



as a freelance guide in the field of mobile safaris, including Afrika Ecco Safaris.



**Kedumetse KD Malatsi:** Another Delta-born guide who joined us in 2010, KD has about 25 years working experience (including years with Wilderness Safaris and Desert and Delta). He has perfected the art of mobile safari guiding through freelancing with numerous mobile operations, including Afrika Ecco Safaris.



**Samoxhose Custard Samoya:** Famously named “Custard”, this guide is also Delta-born, and has over 15 years’ guiding experience under his belt, gained at various Botswana safari operations, one of which offered him experience with @Beyond

in Tanzania. Previously an employee at Machaba Camp, Custard has most recently joined Afrika Ecco Safaris as a mobile safari guide.

Additional staff members contributing to an Afrika Ecco mobile safari include chefs, camp assistants, and local mokoro guides who live in the Delta. The number of guests hosted per trip determines the number of staff.

