

Okavango Horse Safaris

7 night



Okavango Horse Safaris 7 night (8 day) riding safari takes you to two different areas of the Okavango Delta. Kujwana Delta Camp has a choice of walk in Meru tents or Riverside suites, whilst Mokolowane Camp offers tree house accommodation. Both have superb views and locations, fine dining and en-suite facilities.



BOTSWANA | OKAVANGO HORSE SAFARIS 7 NIGHT (8 DAY)



Okavango Horse Safaris is based in the vast inland Okavango Delta, an area which teems with wildlife and birdlife. Expect to ride through water meadows, palm islands, grassy flood plains, mopane forests and clear streams. You will get close to elephants, big cats, and buffalo as well as herds of wildebeest and zebra. You will be able to gallop alongside giraffe and watch the intricate network of the bush unfold in front of you without the sound of an engine. Okavango Horse Safaris is owned and run by PJ and Barney Bestelink who, having kept horses in the Okavango for over 30 years, are true experts in this part of the Delta. It is this extra dimension that they bring to the safari that makes this one of the best rides in Africa.

The Riding

Rides here are generally medium to fast paced; you should be able to trot for at least ten minutes and be happy at a canter or gallop. You can expect to ride for up to six hours a day. There are over 50 horses which are either thoroughbred or Anglo Arabs, and all of their horses are over 14hh.

You can choose between three, five, seven or ten day set departure trips. On this web page we detail the seven night option. If you would prefer a longer or shorter option please let us know.

- Riding through the diverse landscape of the Okavango Delta
- The safari takes place in a private concession area of over 2500sq kilometers
- Experience the excitement of wildlife viewing from horseback
- Four to six hours in the saddle each day
- Afternoons give you the option of wildlife drives, mokoro trips (dug out canoe), swimming or walking
- A total of six nights at Kujwana Delta Camp
- One night at Mokolowane Camp in between
- Elephant, lion, leopard and cheetah country and occasionally rhino and wild dog are spotted
- Luxury accommodation
- Private guide
- Eight days with a maximum group size of eight guests on set departure trips to ensure a highly personal experience



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Please note this is a sample itinerary only and locations / camps may change depending on weather and wildlife movements.

Day 1

You will be met at Maun Airport by a representative from Okavango Horse Safaris and transferred by helicopter direct to camp, or by light aircraft to Pom Pom airstrip, a 25-minute flight followed by an hour's drive to camp by vehicle or boat.

On arrival, you have lunch and an introductory talk with a demonstration on tack and advice on wildlife viewing from horseback. This is followed by an orientation ride for between one and two hours. You have a four night stay at Kujwana Delta Camp on a full board basis, to include all meals, house drinks and activities.

Day 2

This morning you have an early morning ride in the Qwaapu area. This river system to the east of camp offers exciting wildlife viewing and good birdlife. In the afternoon you can head out for a peaceful mokoro expedition, enjoying the tranquility of the Delta from the different perspective of a dug out canoe. You return to camp for supper.

Day 3

This morning you ride in the Xudum area, wading through lush green malapos that lead from island to island. You may spot reedbeek in on heavily wooded islands or enjoy herds of zebra and lechwe moving through open spaces. You return to camp for lunch followed by a siesta. This afternoon you take a wildlife drive which ends with sundowners and dinner in the bush, after which you have a night drive back to camp.

Day 4

Today you have a full day ride from Kujwana Camp heading north west. The route moves through open floodplains and scattered islands towards the Matsebe river system where you will see a lovely variety of wildlife.

After a picnic lunch on a shady island you can have a siesta on camp beds, and maybe a swim before you set off for a further two hour ride. You arrive back into camp at sunset in time to enjoy a refreshing drink before dinner.



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Day 5

Today you spend the morning on horseback exploring the open plains to the south of camp. After lunch and a siesta you will take a wildlife drive to Okavango Horse Safaris' sister camp, Mokolowane (Mok), where you stay overnight in beautiful stilted accommodation, raised up to be above the highest flood waters.

There is excellent predator viewing at Mok, with lion and leopard regularly spotted. You will enjoy an afternoon wildlife drive to explore the area.



Day 6

You head out in the vehicle at dawn to look for lion, leopard and the other resident wildlife. After lunch in camp you return to Kujwana where there is time for a short siesta before getting back into the saddle to explore the area immediately around camp.



Day 7

You have the option of another full day ride exploring the Xudum area, with a picnic lunch along the way. The ride covers around 35km, with four hours riding in the morning and two in the afternoon. You traverse a variety of wildlife areas, fording the Xudum River through numerous hippo channels.



Day 8

After an early morning ride and breakfast (aircraft movements permitting), you are driven back to the airstrip, viewing wildlife along the way, arriving in time to meet the helicopter or light aircraft flight back to Maun.



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KUJWANA DELTA CAMP

Okavango Horse Safari's main camp, Kujwana offers spacious tented accommodation with en-suite bathrooms and riverside views.

There are also two Riverside suites with spectacular views built on the river (The Hippo Cradle or The Rocking Horse can be booked on request), four meru double-bedded / twin-bedded tents on decking complete with attractive furnishings, bedside tables, hanging cupboard, luggage rack, floor rug, and chairs. Kujwana also has a swimming pool, bar, library and offers WiFi. Limited electric charging facilities are also available (220volt solar power).

MOKOLWANE CAMP

Situated north west of Kujwana, on the Matsebi River, the camp has five tree houses, two metres off the ground boasting superb views. A real haven for elephants that love the palm trees of this area. Each tree house has a en-suite bathroom and are fully equipped with eco toiletries made from wild sage and marula in the Delta, towels and linen.



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2023 TRAVEL DATES

Operate from Saturday to Saturday with occasional Tuesday departure

2023 SCHEDULED DEPARTURE COSTS (GBP £)

Per person sharing a tent (travel December - March)
£4,760

Per person sharing a tent (travel April, May, October and November)
£5,600

Per person sharing a tent (travel June -September)
£6,860

Single room supplement charged at 50% (if you are willing to share)

Minimum number of guests required for the safari to operate is 2.

RIVERSIDE SUITE UPGRADE

£100 extra per person per night

There are two spacious Riverside suites with spectacular views built on the river.

The Hippo Cradle or The Rocking Horse can be booked on request, depending on availability.

THE ITINERARY INCLUDES

Accommodation and all meals as stated

House drinks as stated

Laundry as stated

Activities as stated

Airstrip transfers

National Park and concession fees

THE ITINERARY EXCLUDES

International flights to Maun

Passenger and airport taxes

Premium brand drinks

Travel insurance

Tips and gratuities

Other personal spending

RIDING SAFARIS

Please note that Okavango Horse Safaris have a maximum weight limit of 90kgs, please let us know if you are close to this..

WEIGHT SUPPLEMENT

Over 90kgs a supplement of 50% will be charged for an extra horse.

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Horse type

Full and part Thoroughbred, Pure Arab, Anglo Arab, Friesian cross, and Botswana Warm Bloods (American Saddle bred cross African Boerperd) between 14 and 17 hands; well-schooled, responsive and even temperament. There is a wide range of horses (over 50) suitable for the competition rider to a steady hack. Every effort is made to match horse and rider.

Tack and saddles used

Tack is English style and South African trail saddles. Each saddle has a seat saver for comfort. Tack is of high quality and kept in good condition. Saddles are well known makes such as Ideals, Albion, and Symonds. Most horses are in snaffle bridles.

Minimum number

2 riders

Maximum number

8 riders

Hours in the saddle per day

Between 4 and 6

Standard of riding required

Minimum riding ability required is mastery of the basic aids, ability to post to the trot for stretches of ten minutes at a time, to be comfortable at all paces and to be able to gallop out of trouble. It is a great advantage if you are a fit and a proficient rider.

Children accepted

Children must be over 12 years old

When to go

Open all year round

Non-riders welcome

Yes, non-riders are welcome (just need to ensure you are booked in as such). Non-riders have their own guide and enjoy game drives, walks and Mokoros. They move with the riding guests to the various fly camps and join non-riding activities and picnics.

Activities other than riding

Whilst the main priority at Okavango Horse Safaris is riding, there are alternative activities during the afternoons that are not day rides. A six hour morning can be tiring so afternoons are spent at leisure with evening bird walks or mokoro rides (water levels permitting). Afternoon wildlife drives and night spotting are also offered.