

BOTSWANA SAFARI

DRY SEASON ITINERARY



HORSE RIDING SAFARI ON THE MAKGADIKGADI SALTPANS

3 Nights at Camp Kalahari

2 Nights Fly Camping on the Pans



HORSES & HORIZONS...

5 NIGHTS IN THE **MAKGADIKGADI PANS** & THE **KALAHARI DESERT**

Uncharted Africa Safari co. has teamed up with David Foot Safaris to create a fantastic five-night horse-riding safari, combining three nights at Camp Kalahari with two nights fly camping out on the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans.

Now you can explore this wild, unspoilt area in the same way many of the earliest explorers, hunters and missionaries did – on horseback!







HEAD OFF IN
THE **BEAUTIFUL**
AFTERNOON
LIGHT TO
EXPERIENCE
THE BEAUTY OF
THIS **MAGICAL**
AREA.

DAY 1

On arrival by air or road, you will be greeted by your host and Guide David Foot and settled into Camp Kalahari, nestled amongst the acacias and Mokolwane palms of Brown Hyena Island, on the edge of the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, adjacent to the Makgadikgadi-Nxai Pans National Park, Botswana.

It's refreshingly simple, yet comfortable, with a traditionally built thatch library, living/dining area and a swimming pool for those hot Kalahari days.

Camp Kalahari has 10 spacious Meru tents: 7 Twin tents, 2 Double tents and 1 Family tent consisting of 2 adjacent tents, accommodating 2 Guests in each with an inter-leading bathroom.

All tents have en-suite outdoor bathrooms, flush loos, hot and cold running water, along with comfy beds, crunchy cotton sheets, stripy African blankets and hot water bottles in winter.

Head off after tea in the beautiful afternoon light, for an introductory ride – primarily to match horse and rider and to provide the opportunity for Guests to experience the beauty of this magical area.

Return to the camp for sundowners followed by dinner and to kraal the horses close by, before the lions of the Kalahari commence their nightly prowling.



THE BROWN HYAENA IS A TIMID NOCTURNAL, SOLITARY FORAGER, RARELY SEEN BY HUMANS.

DAY 2

Up with the dawn, a light breakfast is followed by a long morning ride through the “land of a thousand islands”. Stranded on the ancient lakebed, these sand dunes covered in palm trees are one of the most beautiful and fascinating areas of the Botswana wilderness. At the height of the migration season, the islands and adjoining grasslands are awash with zebra, wildebeest, hartebeest and ostrich - and of course the attendant predators! The white encrusted pans between the islands provides excellent going for the horses. Return to the camp for lunch and rest through the heat of the day in the welcome shade of the camel thorn trees or cool off in the camp swimming pool.



After tea, head off to see some unique desert species such as springbok, gemsbok, red hartebeest and the elusive brown hyaena; these consummate desert specialists survive in arid areas where both food and water are scarce. The brown hyaena is a timid nocturnal, solitary forager, rarely seen by humans, but in spite of this, are very social animals, living in clans of up to 10-12 hyaenas.

Enjoy a night game drive back to camp, and with the aid of a spot light, look for nocturnal desert inhabitants such as armadillo, bat eared foxes, armadillos, porcupine, honey badgers and perhaps even a black maned Kalahari Lion.

Arrive at Camp Kalahari in time for dinner.





THIS AREA IS RICH IN **BIRDS OF PREY** AND NUMEROUS OTHER UNUSUAL BIRD SPECIES; THERE IS ALSO A CHANCE THAT WE WILL SIGHT **KUDU** AND THE ODD **ELEPHANT!**

DAY 3: XAU XAI

Today is a long ride eastwards to Xau Xai Fly Camp, so an early start is imperative. Be sure to pack a few essentials for the next two days of adventure. The journey takes us away from the edge of the Pans and through the mopane and acacia woodlands interspersed with short grasslands allowing for lovely long canters. Whilst the area is rich in birds of prey, bustards, korhaans and numerous other unusual dry woodland bird species; there is also a chance that we will sight kudu and the odd elephant bull.

By lunchtime we reach the famous Greens Baobab proudly positioned alongside the well-travelled Missionary Road, traversed by David Livingstone on his journeys northwards. The magnificent trunk of this ancient tree is scarred with the initials of early travellers dating back some 150 years thus providing a living testimony to the rich history of this area. Break for lunch at the adjacent Gutsa Pan under a stand of palm trees where we may find Stone Age artefacts and the hunting blinds used over millennium by the Bushmen.

Siesta through the midday heat and after tea, continue the journey on to Xau Xai Fly Camp.

Camp will be made up of comfortable dome tents, a central mess tent, loos and bucket showers. Enjoy a long cool drink as you watch the sunset followed by dinner out under the magnificent Kalahari sky.





DUE TO AN ONGOING HABITUATION PROGRAMME, IT'S POSSIBLE FOR GUESTS TO **GET UP CLOSE & PERSONAL** WITH THESE **CAPTIVATING** CREATURES!



DAY 4: PANS

Wake up to a steaming hot cup of coffee and a light breakfast, before heading off in search of some of the Kalahari's most fascinating inhabitants, the meerkats.

With our horses tethered we will proceed on foot in to the midst of the group. Due to an ongoing habituation programme it's possible for us to get up close and personal with these captivating creatures. Remember, they are not tame – just used to our non-threatening presence.

On chilly mornings, you might well find a meerkat snuggling up to you for warmth. Or, in the absence of a termite mound or tree, using your head as a sentry lookout post...

By spending quality time with these incredibly social, superbly adapted animals, you will be able to see how they interact with each other and their environment. You also get the chance to see the desert through the eyes of a meerkat – which, despite the fact that it's only a foot off the ground, is a pretty spectacular vantage point, and definitely one of the most special and memorable game experiences you will encounter in Botswana

As the day warms up, leave the meerkats to continue foraging. Mount up and follow the well-worn trails that lead to the resident herds of zebra and large congregations of ostriches attracted to the area by permanent freshwater in hidden waterholes.

Return to Xau Xai for lunch and a refreshing shower.

Set off in the late afternoon for one of the greatest adventures imaginable - a ride straight out into the middle of the ancient lakebed! Eventually all that can be seen is the vast flatness stretching in every direction

Watch the sun set and the stars rise. This is one of the only places in the world where the silence is so complete you can hear the blood circulating through your ears. There is not one visual landmark to be seen and one swiftly loses one's sense of perspective - 16,000 square kilometres of baking soda void, are inhabited only by you and a few gazillion invisible brine shrimp! And it is here that we'll make camp. Sleeping on bedrolls under the silence of a star studded sky!



AS THE SUN DIPS
BELOW THE
HORIZON WE WILL
BE SURE TO
DWELL ON THESE
AMAZING PAST FEW
DAYS OF **YOUR**
ADVENTURE!

DAY 5

Wake up on the moon! As the dawn greets this extraordinary landscape and the last of the stars disappear, head homewards directly across the Pans to Camp Kalahari, we may be lucky enough to see the unusual sight of ostrich deep in the Pans and then from a great distance the famous Chapman's Baobab.

Also known as the Seven Sisters, and acknowledged to be one of the largest trees in Africa, measuring 25metres around its girth, this great baobab was also the campsite of early explorers like Livingstone and Selous when they pioneered the area.

It is near here that we break for lunch before our final ride back across the grasslands and into camp.

As the sun dips below the horizon and the last light fades, we will be sure to dwell on these amazing past few days. Incredible scenery, memorable wildlife encounters and above all superb riding!

Arrive at Camp Kalahari in time for a refreshing shower and a final lamp lit dinner.



A WINDOW INTO THE PAST... **THEY TEACH US** HOW THEY HAVE SURVIVED IN THE **HARSHEST OF ENVIRONMENTS**

DAY 6

The horses are loaded early and trucked to their home base in Maun. A non-riding day commences with an early morning walk with Zu/'hoasi Bushmen trackers.

We have been working closely with the Zu/'hoasi people of the Western Kalahari for many years and are privileged to have a small group of these extraordinary men to guide Guests on a morning's walking safari.

Offering a window into the past, they teach us how they have survived in this harshest of environments, using their vast and ancient knowledge of plants, animal behaviour and survival skills.

Time for one more Camp Kalahari lunch before you bid farewell to Camp Kalahari in preparation for your onward journey.



“INCREDIBLE SCENERY,
MEMORABLE WILDLIFE
ENCOUNTERS AND ABOVE
ALL **SUPERB RIDING!**”

