

FINDERS & KEEPERS SAFARIS

A LIFE OF MAKING MEMORIES

SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

The Botswana Wilderness Immersion

“Fully private — just you and your party, with no fixed departure date”

15

DAYS

3

DESTINATIONS

2

CHARTER FLIGHTS

FROM

\$20,800

PER PERSON

PREPARED EXCLUSIVELY FOR YOU · FINDERSANDKEEPERS.COM

Overview

This is not merely a safari. This is an immersion into one of Africa's last great wildernesses — a land of infinite horizons, ancient baobabs, predator-rich plains and waterways teeming with life. Over fifteen unhurried days, journey from Gaborone to the exclusive Mashatu Reserve, known as the "Land of the Giants," then onward to the legendary waterways of Chobe National Park. This journey is designed for those who wish to go deep — not wide. No rushing between countries. No checked boxes. Only the wilderness, its rhythms and the profound stillness that comes from truly being inside it.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Four nights at Mashatu Main Lodge — walking safaris, photographic hides and full-day game drives through the tri-border reserve
- Mashatu's world-famous photographic hide — ground-level encounters with elephants, lions and leopards at the waterhole
- Nine nights at Chobe Game Lodge — the only permanent lodge inside Chobe National Park, on the banks of the Chobe River
- Hot air balloon safari over Chobe's vast floodplains at sunrise, followed by a champagne breakfast on the open plains
- Private river safari along the Chobe River — hippos, crocodiles, elephants and extraordinary birdlife from the water
- Multiple leisure days built in — this journey is not rushed; there is time to simply watch, breathe and be present
- Complimentary spa session at the Protea by Marriott Gaborone on Day 15 — a perfect close to the wilderness experience
- Flexible departure from Gaborone — leave when you are ready, on any date you choose

Fully private — just you and your party, with no fixed departure date

The Itinerary

01

GABORONE

Day 1 | Arrival in Gaborone — Welcome to Botswana

Your Botswana adventure begins the moment your aircraft touches down at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport in Gaborone. A Finders & Keepers Safaris representative greets you in the arrivals hall — no searching for signs, no waiting in long queues. You are escorted through VIP formalities where necessary and then into a waiting luxury transfer vehicle for the short drive to the Protea by Marriott Hotel Gaborone. The drive carries you through Gaborone's leafy suburbs — calm, clean and unhurried, a perfect first impression of the country's famous hospitality. At the hotel, you are checked in immediately. The room is spacious and elegant, with a king-sized bed, marble bathroom and large windows framing the cityscape. The remainder of the day is entirely unscheduled — rest, swim, explore the hotel at your leisure. As evening approaches, a welcome dinner is served at the hotel's signature restaurant. Your guide joins you at the table, spreading maps, sharing stories and building the anticipation for the days ahead. Tomorrow, the wilderness begins.

- Protea by Marriott Hotel , Gaborone
- Dinner

02

MASHATU RESERVE

Day 2 | Charter Flight to Mashatu Reserve — The Land of the Giants

After a leisurely breakfast, check out and transfer to Gaborone Airport for your private charter flight to Mashatu Reserve, operated by Air Charter Botswana (approximately 1 hour 15 minutes). From above, the outskirts of Gaborone give way to rolling hills, open savannah, ancient riverbeds and the baobab-dotted plains that define Mashatu. Guests may spot wildlife from the air — herds of elephant, giraffe and antelope moving across the landscape far below. Upon landing at the Mashatu airstrip, your guide is waiting. There is no delay. Bags are loaded and your Mashatu adventure begins immediately. The drive to Mashatu Main Lodge takes you through the reserve's northern sector — within minutes, a herd of elephants with tusks curving toward the earth, a family of giraffes at the highest acacia leaves, a troop of baboons crossing ahead. You arrive to cold towels and a welcome drink. Your suite — private deck over the bush, king bed in fine linens, outdoor shower open to the African night. Lunch. A rest. Sundowners as elephants silhouette against the fading sky. Dinner by candlelight. The sounds of Africa surround you.

- Mashatu Main Lodge
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

03

MASHATU RESERVE

Day 3 | Mashatu Reserve — The Giants of the North

The day begins before sunrise. By 6:00 AM, you are in your private safari vehicle as the morning air turns cool and golden. Within the first hour, a herd of more than fifty elephants — a massive bull tearing bark from a baobab, mothers guarding calves, adolescents chasing each other through dust clouds. Your guide explains their social structure, their memory, their grief. You watch for a long time. Mid-morning: your guide pulls into a clearing where a table is set with white linen, silverware and china cups. A chef prepares a full breakfast over an open fire while zebra graze a hundred metres away. This is breakfast in the wild. This is Mashatu. Return to the lodge for lunch and a siesta. At 4:00 PM, reports of a leopard near the Majale River. You drive toward the acacia trees — and there she is, draped across a branch, an impala carcass wedged in the fork above, watching you with half-closed eyes. A sundowner overlooking the river as the first stars appear. You raise your glass. To Mashatu. To the giants. To this moment. Bonfire dinner. Somewhere in the darkness, an elephant rumbles.

- Mashatu Main Lodge
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

04

MASHATU RESERVE

Day 4 | Mashatu Reserve — Walking Safari & Photographic Hide

The day begins early with a different kind of safari — on foot. Accompanied by an armed ranger, you set out across Mashatu's wilderness. Walking through the bush is a fundamentally different experience: the sounds, the smells, the textures — everything is amplified. Your guide reads the tracks: an elephant passed here last night, a lion rested under this tree, a leopard dragged its kill across this path. You walk for two hours, stopping often to observe, to absorb. Your guide points out medicinal plants used by local communities for generations and explains the deep relationship between the trees, the soil, the water and the animals that depend on them. The experience is humbling and absolutely unforgettable. Mid-morning, return to the lodge for a late breakfast. Rest through the midday heat. In the afternoon, you visit Mashatu's famous photographic hide — a sunken structure at ground level that brings you eye-to-eye with wildlife coming to drink at the waterhole. Elephants arrive first — a family of fifteen, drinking and playing in the mud — then zebras, wildebeest and giraffes. The golden light is perfect for photography. You emerge at sunset, exhilarated. A private bush dinner follows: lanterns in the acacia branches, white linen, bonfire crackling, a lion roaring somewhere in the darkness.

- Mashatu Main Lodge
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

05

MASHATU RESERVE

Day 5 | Mashatu Reserve — Full Day Safari

A 5:30 AM wake-up. Coffee. Then out into the dawn for a full day dedicated entirely to Mashatu's extraordinary wildlife. Reports of a cheetah with cubs near the Limpopo River — within an hour, you find them on a rocky outcrop, the cubs tumbling over each other while the mother watches with patience and love. After the cheetahs, your guide takes you off the main tracks into the reserve's most remote corners — a pride of lions in the shade of a baobab, a herd of buffalo massive and watchful, a pair of rhinos rare and magnificent, a large python coiled in the branches of a fig tree. Mid-morning: a bush breakfast set under an acacia tree — white linen, silverware, china cups, a chef preparing eggs to order while zebra graze nearby. Return to the lodge for lunch and a long siesta. The afternoon is yours to rest, swim or visit the spa. At 4:00 PM, out again. The elephants gather to drink at the Majale River in their dozens. Your guide sets up a sundowner — premium wine, gourmet snacks, the sky turning violet, then deep indigo, the first stars appearing above the baobabs. Bonfire dinner. The African night wraps around you.

- Mashatu Main Lodge
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

06

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Day 6 | Mashatu » Chobe National Park — Flight of the Elephants

After breakfast, bid farewell to Mashatu Main Lodge and transfer to the airstrip for your charter flight to Chobe National Park (approximately 1 hour 30 minutes). From above, the baobab-dotted plains of Mashatu give way to the lush riverine forests and winding waterways of Chobe. The river glints in the morning light and elephants are visible from the air — hundreds of them gathering along the riverbanks. Your new guide is waiting on landing. The drive to Chobe Game Lodge reveals more elephants than you have ever seen in one place. Hippos grunt in the river. Crocodiles bask on sandbanks. Chobe Game Lodge sits directly on the banks of the Chobe River — the only permanent lodge inside the park, guaranteeing exclusive access to the best game-viewing areas. Check into your luxurious river-facing suite — balcony over the river, deep soaking tub, air conditioning. Lunch on the main deck. At 4:00 PM, a first Chobe game drive: more than a hundred elephants drinking, bathing and playing in the river, a young elephant practising with its trunk, the matriarch watching patiently. Sundowner at the river. Dinner. The Chobe chapter of your journey has begun.

- Chobe Game Lodge
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

07

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Day 7 | Chobe — Private River Safari & Evening Game Drive

A 6:00 AM wake-up. Coffee. Then a different kind of safari — on the water. After breakfast, board your private river safari boat and set out along the Chobe River. Hippos surface beside the boat, their enormous yawns revealing teeth the size of a man's fist. Crocodiles slide from the banks into the current. Elephants wade in to drink, cross and bathe. Your guide navigates close to a pod of thirty or more hippos resting in the shallows. The birdlife is extraordinary — African fish eagles, saddle-billed storks, goliath herons, kingfishers of every colour, Egyptian geese, pelicans. Mid-morning: a bush breakfast on a sandbank, white linen and silver, a chef working at a river kitchen while hippos surface in the channel behind you. Return to the lodge for lunch and a siesta. At 4:00 PM, an evening game drive: a pride of twelve lions resting in the shade of an acacia, lionesses and cubs with full bellies and half-closed eyes. Sundowner over the floodplains as hundreds of elephants gather to drink. Bonfire on the riverbank. The sounds of the river fill the night.

- Chobe Game Lodge
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

08

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Day 8 | Chobe — Full Day Safari & Bush Lunch

A 5:30 AM wake-up for a full day dedicated to Chobe's extraordinary wildlife. Reports of a leopard near the Nogatsaa area — elusive in Chobe, sightings are rare, but today luck is with you. A female leopard rests on an acacia branch, an impala carcass wedged in the fork above, watching you with calm intelligent eyes. Thirty minutes alone with her, no other vehicles in sight. After the leopard, your guide takes you off the main tracks: a herd of buffalo massive and ancient, a pair of rhinos rare and magnificent, a pack of wild dogs resting in the shade. Mid-morning bush breakfast under an acacia. Lunch served in the bush — a gourmet picnic at a viewpoint overlooking the floodplains, white linen and silver amid the open wilderness. The afternoon continues with further exploration of Chobe's remote corners. Sundowner at the river as the elephants mass to drink in their hundreds. Return to the lodge for dinner. Bonfire on the riverbank. Another unforgettable day.

- Chobe Game Lodge
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

09

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Day 9 | Chobe — Hot Air Balloon Safari over the Floodplains

The alarm comes at 4:00 AM. Coffee. A warm jacket. A short drive to the launch site on the edge of the Chobe floodplains. The balloon inflates in the darkness, burners casting an orange glow. You climb into the basket. The ground falls away and you rise above Chobe National Park. The Chobe River winds below you, glittering in the first light. Elephants gather along the banks in their hundreds, moving in single file, their shadows stretching long across the floodplains. Hippos emerge from the river. Buffalo move across the grasslands. Lions pad back from a night hunt. The sun breaks over the horizon. The floodplains turn gold, then amber, then gold again. The balloon drifts silently for over an hour — you see Chobe as only a bird can see it. You descend to a champagne breakfast on the floodplains: white linen flapping in the morning breeze, a toast to the elephants and to this extraordinary moment. A morning game drive follows. Return to the lodge for lunch and a long siesta. This evening, a private bush dinner on the banks of the Chobe River — lanterns in the acacia branches, white linen and silver, a bonfire crackling, the river flowing past below you, elephants watching from the far bank, the stars bright above.

- Chobe Game Lodge
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

10

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Day 10 | Chobe — Walking Safari & Afternoon River Cruise

A 6:00 AM walking safari along the Chobe River with an armed ranger. On foot, the bush becomes immediate and real in a way no vehicle can replicate — sounds, smells and textures all amplified. Your guide reads the tracks: an elephant passed here last night, a lion rested under this tree, a crocodile slid into the river at dawn. You walk for two hours, stopping often to observe and absorb. Return to the lodge for a late bush breakfast. The rest of the morning is yours to rest. In the afternoon, board your private river safari boat for one more exploration of the Chobe River — the light golden, the animals active. Hippos surface beside the boat. Crocodiles slide from the banks. Your guide navigates close to a herd of elephants crossing the river — the matriarch leading, her calf swimming close beside her. You watch them reach the opposite bank, shake themselves dry and disappear into the forest. A sundowner on a sandbank in the middle of the river as the sky turns violet and the first stars appear. Return to the lodge for dinner. Bonfire on the riverbank.

- Chobe Game Lodge
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

11

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Day 11 | Chobe — A Final Full Day on the River

A 5:30 AM wake-up for one final full day in Chobe. Your guide asks what you wish to see or revisit — a particular lion pride, a favourite waterhole, or the river where the elephants crossed. You choose the Chobe River one last time. Hundreds of elephants line the banks this morning, drinking, bathing, playing. Hippos grunt in the shallows. Crocodiles bask on the sandbanks. A mid-morning bush breakfast in the shade of an acacia. After breakfast, your guide takes you into the remote corners of the park — places rarely visited, where the wilderness feels entirely your own. Return to the lodge for lunch and a long siesta. At 4:00 PM, a final Chobe game drive: the elephants gathering to drink, stretching to the horizon in every direction. Your guide sets up a sundowner. The sky turns violet, then deep indigo. You raise your glass. To Chobe. To the elephants. To the memories that are already yours for life. A farewell dinner at the lodge. A final bonfire on the riverbank. The sounds of the river carry you to sleep.

- Chobe Game Lodge
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

12

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Day 12 | Chobe — Leisure Day in the Wilderness

Today is intentionally unscheduled — a day of rest and reflection before your return to Gaborone. Sleep in. Breakfast is served until late morning at the lodge's dining room. The remainder of the day is entirely yours. Relax on your private river-facing balcony and watch the elephants move along the far bank. Swim in the lodge pool while hippos surface in the shallows below. Enjoy a spa treatment, read in the library or simply sit at the lodge deck with a pot of coffee and absorb the last moments of the wilderness at your own pace. An optional gentle afternoon game drive is available at no additional cost, should you wish one final outing. As the sun begins to set, your guide sets up a sundowner at a viewpoint over the floodplains — the elephants gathering to drink one last time, the sky turning violet and deep indigo. Return to the lodge for dinner under the stars.

- Chobe Game Lodge
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

13

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Day 13 | Chobe — A Second Leisure Day at the River

Another unhurried day at Chobe Game Lodge — because the wilderness deserves more than a single farewell. Sleep in and enjoy a late breakfast on the main deck. This morning's options are entirely yours: a final morning game drive along the river circuit, a gentle swim while watching the elephants on the opposite bank, a spa treatment in the lodge's wellness suite, or simply the pleasure of doing nothing at all in one of the world's most extraordinary settings. Lunch is served on the main deck overlooking the river. In the afternoon, a gentle game drive is offered for those who wish it. As evening approaches, a farewell sundowner is served on the lodge's deck — the sky turning violet and the first stars appearing over the Chobe River. A final dinner in the wilderness is served beneath the stars, the chef preparing a special menu to mark your last night in Chobe. After dinner, a bonfire is lit on the riverbank. You sit around the fire with your guide, sharing stories of the elephants, the lions, the river and the memories you will carry home.

- Chobe Game Lodge
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

14

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Day 14 | Chobe — Final Morning in the Wilderness

Guests wake to their last sunrise over the Chobe River. Breakfast is served on the main deck — fresh fruit, pastries, eggs prepared to your liking and a pot of Botswana's famous coffee. The morning is entirely yours. Take one final short game drive or watch the elephants from your balcony one last time. Swim in the pool. Simply rest and pack at your leisure. Lunch is served on the main deck. The remainder of the afternoon is yours to prepare for tomorrow's journey back to Gaborone. As evening falls, a farewell sundowner is served on the lodge's deck — one last chance to raise a glass to the river, the elephants and the wilderness that has welcomed you so completely. Dinner is served at the lodge. The river flows past in the darkness. The stars are everywhere.

- Chobe Game Lodge
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

15

GABORONE

Day 15 | Chobe » Gaborone — Return to the City, Complimentary Spa & Flexible Departure

After breakfast, bid farewell to Chobe Game Lodge and transfer to the airstrip for your charter flight back to Gaborone (approximately 1 hour 30 minutes). The lush riverine forests of Chobe give way to open plains, rolling hills and the outskirts of Gaborone. A Finders & Keepers Safaris representative is waiting at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport. Transfer to the Protea by Marriott Hotel — the same sanctuary where your journey began. As a special conclusion to the safari, a complimentary spa session awaits you at the hotel's wellness centre: full body massage, aromatherapy, deep tissue treatment, steam room, sauna, relaxation lounges and wellness facilities — designed to leave you completely refreshed and revitalised. The remainder of the day is unscheduled. A farewell dinner in the hotel's signature restaurant closes the journey. From Day 15 onward, the Protea by Marriott Hotel is your home for as long as you wish to stay. There is no fixed departure date — Finders & Keepers Safaris will arrange your airport transfer for any date and time you choose. No rush. No pressure. No alarm. You leave when you are ready.

- Protea by Marriott Hotel , Gaborone
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

INVESTMENT

Pricing & Inclusions

PER PERSON SHARING

\$24,500

SINGLE TRAVELLER SUPPLEMENT

\$6,100

Prices are per person based on double/twin sharing. Single travellers pay the supplement above. All activities, charter flights and signature experiences are included. No fixed departure date — stay in Gaborone as long as you wish before flying home. Speak to a specialist for group rates and tailored options.

SEASONAL PRICING

Jan – May

BEST VALUE

\$20,800

Emerald season — birdlife & newborn animals

May – Sep

PEAK SEASON

\$28,900

Peak dry winter — game concentrates at waterholes

Sep – Dec

SHOULDER SEASON

\$25,250

Dry season tapering into the first rains

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- » All accommodation, Full Board
- » All alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages
- » All park & conservancy fees
- » Charter flights (Gaborone–Mashatu–Chobe–Gaborone)
- » Hot air balloon safari over Chobe
- » Mashatu photographic hide session
- » Walking safaris with armed rangers
- » Private river safari (Chobe)
- » All game drives throughout
- » Bush breakfasts, bush lunches & bush dinners
- » Sundowners & bonfire dinners
- » Complimentary spa at Protea Gaborone
- » All airport transfers

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flights to/from Gaborone
- Gratuities for guides & lodge staff
- Additional spa sessions beyond the complimentary one
- Items of a personal nature

FINDERS & KEEPERS SAFARIS

Tell us what you have in mind.

This itinerary is a starting point, not a fixed departure. The pace, the lodges, the length, the dates and the party travelling can all be reshaped around you.

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HOURS

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The Botswana Wilderness Immersion