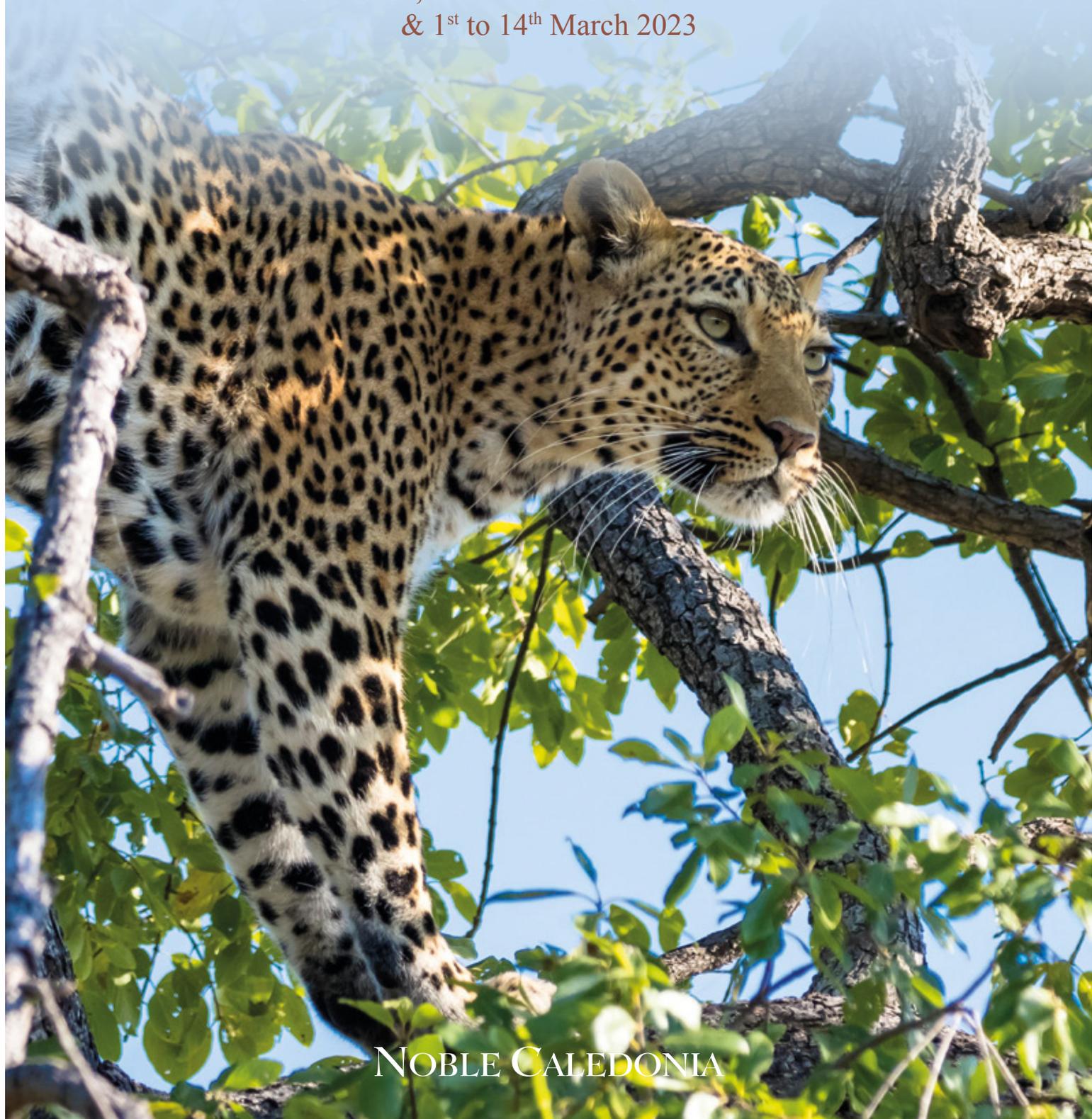


ULTIMATE BOTSWANA

A luxury escorted safari of Botswana
& two nights at the spectacular Victoria Falls

2nd to 15th March, 19th November to 2nd December 2022
& 1st to 14th March 2023



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Bestowed with the gift of diamonds, Botswana is one of Sub-Saharan Africa's richest and most stable countries and offers the traveller astonishing natural beauty, wide open spaces, and some of the most unique and unrivalled wildlife viewing in the world. This exclusive tour will explore the bounty of natural treasures on offer in both the Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park and our days will be full of activities including game drives, canoe safaris, bush walks and birdwatching. We will fly between lodges to avoid long overland journeys and to maximise our time spent in the luxury surrounds or our private reserves.



Our first week is spent in the Okavango Delta to fully discover this diverse area of northern Botswana where a wealth of wildlife can be seen on drives, walks and traditional mokoro rides. Known as the jewel of the Kalahari Desert, the Okavango Delta is all that remains of an ancient super lake that was once fed by the Okavango River; today it is the largest inland delta in the world. From the Okavango Delta we fly to the Chobe River whose exotic banks boast one of the densest populations of wildlife on the African continent. There can be few natural wonders as synonymous with Africa's raw wilderness as the great Chobe River and our three night stay here is a fitting finale to our Botswana visit. Teeming with life, the National Park sprawls across some 11,000 kilometres of lush African bush, and is home to elephants, prides of leopard and lion, huge groups of buffalo, waterbuck, roan, eland, sable, giraffe, and, if you are lucky, one of the rare puku, can also be seen. In the river itself watch out for hippo and crocodile, and keep your binoculars at the ready for spotting a rich selection of bird life. Next we fly to Kasane and traverse to neighbouring Zimbabwe where our final two nights are spent at the Victoria Falls Hotel, one of Africa's most famous and our base to explore the wonder of the Falls.

Botswana has maintained a policy of low-impact tourism, ensuring that the wilderness remains pristine and, in the company of just sixteen or so fellow travellers you will be able to truly immerse yourself in the untamed world of wild Africa and enjoy game viewing at its best. Added to this, we have personally selected the finest luxury lodges and accommodations; all ideal places to unwind after the eventful days and from which to enjoy the wonderful African hospitality.

What to Expect

Whilst each tour is different based on the season, weather conditions and wildlife sightings, the extracts below are from a previous tour report and will provide you with an insight into what you can expect from this Botswanan adventure.

5th March 2020 – Moremi Game Reserve:

This morning our first sighting was two hippos that actually ran away from the vehicles – this is a lesser visited area and so the animals are not so used to hearing/seeing the safari vehicles – and a jackal surrounded by ground hornbills with large red beaks. Then Baba, our driver, spotted a giraffe with a very young baby walking some distance away... this was a very special moment as the baby was very young and the mother was very protective, watching us all the time. Next, during our stop for morning tea the guides told us that they had been informed that the two male lions they had been searching for in this area had moved to another place and asked if we would like to go and find them. Of course, we all agreed! En-route we saw lots of giraffe, buffalo and more hippo before arriving in the area where the lions had been sighted earlier. With information from another driver we found one of the two males and then we saw the second male followed by a mother, daughter and son. This turned into a very exciting situation as these three had strayed into the two male's territory and eventually there was a big standoff between the older male and the younger male. The mother and



young male stood their ground. They made noises and watched each other whilst the older male chased off the younger male. The guide explained the two males would not hurt the two females as they might need them for mating. After the situation settled down, we drove back to the camp where we were met with hot towels and a delicious brunch. What what an amazing experience!

10th March 2020 – Savute, Chobe National Park:

We woke to see two lionesses and eight cubs at the water hole, one was 'contact calling' as the male had done yesterday. After breakfast we started our morning game drive and the same two lionesses and eight cubs walked alongside us for a good five minutes before they wandered into the long grass. We continued on and were treated to sightings of maribou stork, wildebeest, zebra, guinea fowl and ostrich before driving to the location where someone had spotted a lone lioness. And there she was sitting virtually under a bush, very difficult to spot with just the tufts of her ears showing. She was watching a group of zebra that had one young. The zebra were on alert as they can smell and sense trouble. Two ostrich wandered through and eventually the zebra wandered off in the opposite direction...the lioness was still watching. Continuing on we saw a tawny eagle, waterbuck and many more birds and we drove along the now dry Savute Channel, stopping at a higher elevation on one of the nine hills for refreshments.





Giraffe, Chobe National Park



Baobab Tree



Impala, Chobe National Park



Elephant herd, Chobe National Park

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Maun, Botswana. Fly by scheduled indirect flight to Maun.

Day 2 Moremi Game Reserve. Arrive into Maun and take a scheduled charter flight to the Moremi Game Reserve. Transfer to Camp Moremi, our base for the next three nights. **(L, D)**

Days 3 & 4 Moremi Game Reserve. Situated in the east of the Okavango Delta, Moremi Game Reserve ranks as one of the most beautiful reserves in Africa. It covers more than 4871 square kilometres of pristine wilderness, and the varied terrain includes savannah, winding waterways, and dense forest. This diverse ecosystem supports an incredibly wide spectrum of wildlife, ranging from large herds of buffalo, wildebeest and zebra, to the rare Sitatunga and Lechwe antelope, lion, cheetah and packs of wild dog in the open grasslands. The birdlife is prolific and includes most of the 550 bird species recorded on Botswana's national bird list. **(B, L, D)**

Day 5 Xugana Lagoon, Okavango Delta. Today we fly by scheduled charter flight to Xugana Lagoon and on to the Xugana Island Lodge where we spend three nights. **(B, L, D)**

Days 6 & 7 Xugana Lagoon. Situated in the north-western corner of Botswana, the Okavango Delta is a World Heritage Site as it is the largest inland delta in the world. The magnificent Okavango River sprawls out over the dry sands of the Kalahari Desert forming this flourishing waterlogged oasis featuring countless meandering waterways and crystal clear lagoons studded with water lilies, as well as fertile floodplains and reeded islands inhabited with abundant wildlife. The Okavango Delta stretches over



Saddle-billed Stork in the Okavango Delta

15,000 square kilometres. Visitors can enjoy a number of wonderful activities such as game viewing, fishing, bird watching or taking an authentic guided Mokoro excursion through this wetland paradise in a traditional dugout canoe. Commonly spotted animals include lion, leopard, giraffe, hippos, elephants, crocodiles and countless species of bird. **(B, L, D)**

Day 8 Savute, Chobe National Park. Our next stop is Savute. We fly by scheduled charter flight to Savute and transfer to Savute Safari Lodge where we will be staying for the next three nights. **(B, L, D)**

Days 9 & 10 Savute. Savute lies in the heart of Botswana's beautiful Chobe National Park. This dynamic wilderness is a sweeping expanse of savannah brooded over by several rocky outcrops which guard a relic marsh and the dry channel that was once its lifeline. The Savute goes through wet and dry cycles, where wild dogs hunt in the dry river channel where crocodiles swam only twenty years ago. Visitors to this spectacular area can spot abundant wildlife including a variety of birds, elephants, antelope, lion prides, black-backed jackal, bat-eared foxes, tsessebe, kudu, hyena, cheetah Cape buffalo herds, and thousands of migrating zebra and wildebeest. **(B, L, D)**



Zebra, Moremi Game Reserve



Hippos in the Okavango Delta



Male and Female Lions, Moremi Game Reserve



Leopard, Moremi Game Reserve



Lilac Breasted Roller in Chobe National Park

Day 11 Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The final stop on our wonderful journey is the stunning Victoria Falls. We fly to Kasane Airport and transfer by road to the luxurious Victoria Falls Hotel for our two night stay. **(B, D)**

Day 12 Victoria Falls. We take a guided tour of the Falls which form the largest single curtain of falling water on earth (on average the curtain is 92 metres deep). The Victoria Falls' 500 metre plume of spray can be seen from as far as 70 kilometres away. The sound of the water can also be heard from kilometres away and up close this muted 'thunder' becomes a roar. In full flood, over 550 million litres of water per minute cascade over the brink. The vast width of the Falls, extending 1708 metres, allow for many safe vantage points from where you will be able to get different views of the roiling water as it crashes into the gorge and whose constant spray maintains the rain forest. The forest is an attraction on its own with many of the trees marked to help identification. These include fig, mahogany, date palm, milkwood and ebony. The bird life is prolific and species that may be seen include the colourful sunbird and large trumpeter hornbill. This evening we enjoy our farewell dinner at the hotel. **(B, D)**

Day 13 Victoria Falls to London. After breakfast transfer to Victoria Falls airport for your return indirect flight to London. **(B)**

Day 14 London. Arrive London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

	Mar 22	Nov 22 & Mar 23
Twin	£10395	£10495
Single	£12995	£13195

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 11 nights accommodation (3 nights Camp Moremi, Moremi Game Reserve, 3 nights Xugana Island Lodge, Okavango Delta, 3 nights Savute Safari Lodge, Chobe National Park, 2 nights Victoria Falls Hotel, Victoria Falls)
 • Meals as listed (B - breakfast, L – lunch, D – dinner)
 • Excursions & game drives as listed • Tour Manager • Local guide/s
 • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Zimbabwean visa, optional activities.

NB. Due to restrictions on the domestic flights, the total luggage allowance is 20 kilos per person and only soft-sided travel cases are permitted.

Group Size: We are restricting the group size to just sixteen participants.



Victoria Falls

YOUR ACCOMMODATION



Inside Lounge



Guest Tent



Dining Room

Camp Moremi, Moremi Game Reserve

Peeking out from under a lush green woodland canopy, Camp Moremi, in the Xakanaxa area of Moremi Game Reserve, is a truly hidden gem. At the point where the life-giving waters of the Okavango Delta meet the vast plains of the Kalahari Desert, Mother Nature has created a sanctuary of Mopane forests, open grasslands, seasonal floodplains and riverine habitats, resulting in one of the most magnificent and welcoming animal environments in all of Africa. Shaded from the African sun by a forest of ancient ebony trees, Camp Moremi is an elegant thatch and timber lodge consisting of an elevated main lounge, wildlife reference library, dining room and cocktail bar. Facilities at Camp Moremi include a secluded swimming pool and sundeck, an elevated viewing platform with a breathtaking panorama of Xakanaxa Lagoon, and a thatched boma where brunch or afternoon tea can be enjoyed. For an authentic and personal safari experience, Camp Moremi accommodates just 22 guests in East African-style individual safari tents, each situated on a raised teak platform with private adjacent facilities and viewing deck. A complimentary laundry service is also offered.



Outdoor Dining on the Lodge Barge



Guest Room



Lounge

Xugana Island Lodge, Okavango Delta

Xugana Lagoon is widely accepted as being the most spectacular permanent water site in the entire Okavango Delta. Xugana Island Lodge, situated on a wooded island abutting the lagoon, takes full advantage of this magnificent site. The lounge, bar and dining areas are set back under an ebony and African mangosteen tree canopy in open sided thatched structures, and with the swimming pool, located within the mature gardens in the centre of the island, Xugana Island Lodge is a perfect place to relax. It accommodates just 16 guests in large raised reed and thatch lagoon-facing chalets, with en-suite facilities and private viewing decks situated on the shaded fringe of the island. Mokoro trips in eco-friendly dugout canoes, built to the traditional design, boat safaris to lagoons, and islands and wilderness walks offer the chance to see the Delta denizens such as Sitatunga and Lechwe antelope, crocodile and hippo, as well as the other big game that frequent the islands and riverine fringes. Bird-watching opportunities are outstanding, and the bream and tiger fishing can be excellent at certain times of the year. The peaceful boat ride back across Xugana Lagoon during the spectacular African sunset provides a lifelong memory. Two activities a day are included and conducted by experienced naturalist guides, who, are keen to impart their vast knowledge and love of this unique area.



Guest Room



Main Lodge



Outdoor Dining

Savute Safari Lodge, Chobe National Park

Located on the banks of the Savute Channel, Savute Safari Lodge is intimate with just 11 thatched chalets built of local timber. The chalets, which have been elegantly furnished in calm neutral tones to blend with the natural environment, feature expansive private decks, a combined bedroom and lounge area and en-suite facilities. Sink into one of the numerous comfortable sofas in the lounge and library or sip a cocktail in the stylish bar. All these facilities are situated in a beautiful two storey thatch and timber main building. Savute Safari Lodge offers a shaded viewing deck, an al fresco dining area and swimming pool with spectacular pool loungers – ideal for watching the varied wildlife, including the resident elephants, as they make their way to the channel to drink, bathe and play. Twice daily activities are organised around game drives throughout the



Lounge and Bar



Swimming Pool

Savute area in open 4x4 safari vehicles. Many trips will incorporate a visit to the Savute Marsh to give you a chance to see the historic presence of the Savute Channel at the marsh against a backdrop of teeming wildlife.



View of Victoria Falls Bridge from the hotel grounds



Hotel exterior



Lounge

Victoria Falls Hotel

Popularly known as “the grand old lady of the falls” the historic Victoria Falls Hotel overlooks the Victoria Falls Bridge and the gorges below. Situated in acres of private garden, the charm and tranquil atmosphere of this five-star hotel has earned international acclaim. The elegant decor and the old-world charm of this gracious hotel is reflected in the wide colonial verandahs. The hotel’s 180 rooms are decorated in a manner that recaptures the comfortable charm of a bygone age, with colonial prints, four poster and canopied beds, antique furniture and well-chosen artifacts. Modern facilities and amenities mingle well with the old-fashioned ambience, including such 21st century travellers’ necessities as personal safes, minibars, bathrobes, digital satellite television and umbrellas for the convenience of guests visiting the rain forest surrounding the Falls. The main lounge with its old-fashioned traditional elegance and decor has a warm welcoming style, providing a perfect backdrop for relaxing with friends. The Bulawayo Room offers surroundings of exceptional comfort and luxury, going back to the turn of the last century.



Guest room

NOBLE CALEDONIA

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Itinerary and accommodation subject to change. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Leopard, Chobe National Park, Botswana.