

## HORSE SAFARIS

### EXAMPLE ITINERARY

#### 5 NIGHT ITINERARY

A 5-night itinerary may take place on the first five nights or the second 5 nights of a 10 night itinerary. Clients would depart on day 6 after an early morning ride & breakfast (aircraft movements permitting).

#### 7 NIGHT ITINERARY

A 7-night itinerary usually starts on night 1 of a safari, it would usually be split between 2 camps giving guests the opportunity to explore these areas more than on a 5 night itinerary.

#### 10 NIGHT ITINERARY

On a 10-night itinerary we work out of our base camp Kujwana. This is situated on the Xudum river in the Okavango Delta. We then use two other camps in different areas of the concession. All these camps are well situated in big game areas. They are chosen for the variety of terrain & species that favour particular areas.

*This is a sample itinerary which may vary according to water levels and game movements.*

#### Day 1: Kujwana Camp

You are met at Maun Airport by our representative and transferred to camp. Options on transfers available, however the fixed wing and helicopter shuttle are highly recommended. You'll be served lunch and given an introduction talk on safety and game viewing from horseback. This will be followed by an orientation ride lasting 1-2 hours.

#### Day 2: Kujwana Camp

Morning ride in the Xudum area. Wade through lush green malapos that lead you from island to island. Surprise a timid reedbuck out of its dense cover on a heavily wooded island; enjoy herds of lechwe and giraffes moving through the open spaces. Return to camp for lunch and a siesta followed by an afternoon game drive with sunset drinks.

#### Day 3: Qwaapu Camp

Ride eastwards to two very large islands that are cut off from Kujwana by the Qwaapu River. Breeding herds of elephants enjoy the security of the dense forest and travel from pan to pan leaving a lattice of large paths. Zebra, wildebeest and buffalo are also attracted to this area. Animal tracks abound, telling you about what has passed through – or what you might still find. Arrive in time for a late lunch followed by an evening bird and game walk.

#### Day 4: Qwaapu Camp

Full-day ride with a picnic lunch. This area forms seasonal marsh lands and hosts a variety of exceptional birdlife. Wildlife moves freely to and from Moremi National Park and this is good buffalo and elephant country. Return to camp in the cool of the late afternoon.

#### Day 5: Kujwana Camp

This morning's ride returns along the western route, cutting through rain pans and visiting deep hippo pools. Arrive at Kujwana in time for a swim in the Xudum River. Take an afternoon trip in a mokoro, a traditional dugout canoe.

#### **Day 6: Kujwana Camp**

A rest day for the guests who are riding for 10 days. You can opt to take a game drive, walk, float in a mokoro or relax with a pair of binoculars at a waterhole. For guests riding 5 or 7 days, there's a dawn ride, transfers permitting. Return to camp for breakfast. Guests joining the safari take a ride in the cooler afternoon to see the wildlife stirring after the heat of the day.

#### **Day 7: Kujwana Camp**

A full-morning ride exploring the western Baobab area. Small islands linked by numerous hippo channels lead you to Baobab Island. This is good habitat for cheetahs and a breeding ground for Carmine Bee-eaters. Afternoon game/night drive.

#### **Day 8: Mokolwane Camp**

Ride from Kujwana to Mokolwane Camp, following a 30-km north-westerly route through open floodplains and scattered islands to the Matsibe River system. A picnic lunch is served on a shady island some two hours from Mokolwane Camp, where you'll arrive at sunset.

#### **Day 9: Mokolwane Camp**

Morning ride. This camp lies on the Matsibe River system and features wide floodplains interspersed with okolwane palms - a favourite food of elephants and baboons. This is a good area for plains game. In the afternoon enjoy a 1-2 hour mokoro experience.

#### **Day 10: Kujwana Camp**

A 40-km full-day ride from Mokolwane to Kujwana with a picnic lunch on the way. You'll ride for four hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon through game areas and ford the Xudum River via elephant highways. Arrival at Kujwana is at sunset.

#### **Day 11**

Early morning ride out of Kujwana Camp if flight times permit. Guests depart after breakfast.

#### **KUJWANA CAMP**

Kujwana camp is situated on the Xudum river south west of Chiefs Island in the Okavango Delta. The camp accommodates a maximum of 8 to 10 guests in spacious safari tents each with bathrooms ensuite. Fixed departure dates are published with a 5, 7 and 10 night safari offering the opportunity to explore the three main river systems in this area, the Xudum, Matsibe and Kiri river. An area of over 2500 sq. km it is rich in wildlife and variety of fauna and flora. The areas between the three rivers contrast greatly and support different species of game and birds.

#### **MOKOLWANE CAMP**

Mokolwane camp is north west of Kujwana on the Matsibe river. This camp is situated in the open flood plains which receive flood water three weeks earlier than Kujwana camp. The vegetation consists of smaller palm islands and wide open spaces. Mokolwane is also a 10-bedded camp. The tree houses (accommodation) are 10 feet off the ground boasting superb views and each with a private bathroom. The Matsibe river is your main feeder for Lake Ngami.

#### **FLY CAMP**

Qwaapu Fly Camp is south east of Kujwana camp. This camp is temporary and the site moves according to access due to water levels. Deep lagoons make this a good area for hippo and lechwe as well as buffalo and other big game. The camp consists of walk in meru tents (see fact sheet). The term fly camp means temporary camp easily moved ( from the days when you moved your fly sheet rather than you whole tent).

## FACTSHEET

**RIDING ABILITY:** Minimum riding ability required is mastery of the basic aids, ability to post to the trot for stretches of 10 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.

**TYPE OF HORSE:** Full and part Thoroughbred, Pure Arab, Anglo Arab, American Saddle Bred. All horses are between 14 and 17 hands, well-schooled, responsive and even tempered. There is a wide range of horses (over 60) suitable for the competition rider to a steady hack. Every effort is made to match horse and rider.

**WEIGHT LIMIT:** Maximum weight is 200 lbs (14 ½ stone or 90 kg). Guests may be required to step on the scales. A special program is available for clients over our weight limit, which offers shorter rides, game drives and walks. Weight supplement: over 200 lbs. (14 ½ stone, or 90kg) a supplement of 50% will be charged for an extra horse.

**SAFETY:** All rides are led by qualified professional guides. A .375 rifle is carried on all the rides. All camps and vehicles have radio communication and guides ride with hand held radios. A demonstration is given at the beginning of the safari with a talk on how to handle big game situations.

**GUIDING:** All rides are led by qualified professional guides. A keen interest is taken in birds as well as fauna & flora.

**TACK:** Tack is English Style and each saddle has a seatsaver for comfort. Tack is of high quality and kept in good condition. Saddles are well known makes such as Ideals, Barnsby and Symonds. Most horses are in snaffle bridles.

**SIZE OF THE RIDES:** Maximum of 8 guests.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Kujwana camp offers spacious safari tents with a shower and flush toilet en suite. There are two double-bedded tents and four twin bedded tents complete with attractive furnishings, bedside tables, hanging cupboard, luggage rack, floor rug and chairs. Mokolwane has tree chalets also all with showers and flush toilets. Fly camp has dome tents with camp beds, bedrolls with cotton sheets, duvet and towels. Long drop toilets for each tent and bucket and pulley showers with hot water. Tent personnel is on hand at all times.

**MEALS:** Safari cooks prepare 3 meals a day and vehicle supported picnic lunches. Emphasis is made on fresh vegetables and salads. Fresh bread is baked every day. Vegetarians are catered for. Light lunches, cold meats, salads and 3 course dinners served by candle light at the dining table near the campfire.

**LENGTH OF THE RIDE:** Between 4-6 hours in the saddle a day. This is broken by refreshment stops, lunch and a 10-minute walk for every two hours spent in the saddle. (This eases up the rider using different muscles and helps the horse from constant pressure of the rider's weight).

**TERRAIN:** The Okavango Delta has been described as a water meadow. Palm islands, grassy flood plains, mopane forests and clear streams. Highest water is normally between May to September. Many of the flood plains are full at this time and the horses wade through from island to island. The going is normally quite good and firm along the edges of the islands allowing the ride to move on at a trot and canter.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:** Although our priority is riding we do offer alternative activities during the afternoons that are not day rides. A 6 hour morning can be tiring so afternoons are spent at leisure with evening bird walks or mokoro rides (water levels permitting). Afternoon gamedrives and night spotting are also offered.

**NON-RIDERS:** We can accommodate non-riders but they must be booked in as such. Non-Riders have their own guide and enjoy gamedrives, walks and mekoro safaris. They move with the riding guests to the various fly camps and join non-riding activities and picnics.

**CHILDREN:** We do accept children but they must be strong competent riders. They should have a certificate from a pony club or qualified teacher to attest this. No adjustment in price of children.

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:** This is only enforced when the guest will not share a tent.

**DRINKS:** Iced drinks are available. Beer, bottled water, an assortment of cool drinks and limited choice of spirits. Special requests can be catered for. Cordials, tea and coffee are freely available and house wine is served with dinner. Special requests can be catered for with advance warning and billed out accordingly.

**CLOTHING:** See our clothes list. Laundry can be done in camp. Light Aircraft and helicopter transfers have a weight restriction of 12kg. Any extra luggage can be left with our office in Maun. Luggage for light aircraft should be soft holdall type. Riding clothes should be in neutral, khaki or bush colours, no red or white if possible. We recommend all riding equipment/clothing be carried hand (cabin) luggage in case of lost luggage.

**POWER SUPPLY:** Kujwana camp has 220volt solar power. Limited recharging of camera batteries is possible (no hair dryers or electrical appliances).

**INSURANCE:** We cover all guests for Emergency Medical Evacuation, however guests must have adequate medical and travel insurance.

**GAME VIEWING:** Game is plentiful, including elephant, buffalo, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, kudu, lechwe, reedbuck, bushbuck, steenbok, impala, roan antelope, duiker, waterbuck, tsessebe, bat-eared fox, sidestriped and lackbacked jackal, African wildcat, baboon, vervet monkey, honey badger, spotted hyena, mongoose, meerkat, warthog, tortoise and ostrich; special nocturnal creatures - porcupine, aardwolf, aardvark, civet, genet, serval, spring hare; water species - hippo, crocodile, cape clawless and spotted necked otter; predators - leopard, lion, cheetah, wild dog. Safety precautions are taken when viewing any dangerous game.

**ARE THE HORSE SAFARIS OPERATE IN:** The horse safaris operate in a private concession covering 2,500 sq. km situated on the western side of the Okavango Delta bordering on Moremi Game reserve. The area includes three major river systems of the Okavango Delta, the Xudum, the Matsibie and the Kiri rivers.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** Air Botswana fly from either Johannesburg, Gaborone or Victoria Falls and Air Namibia from Windhoek into Maun. We can book all Air Botswana flights. We arrange transfer by light aircraft and helicopter from Maun to the nearest airstrip (seat rate on our price list). Clients are collected from the airstrip and transferred by 4x4 vehicles to camp. Please remember that internal transfer light aircraft have a luggage weight restriction of 12kg. Should guests arrange their own transfers the helicopter option may not be available.

**WEATHER CONDITIONS:** Summer months are September to April. October, November and February are the hottest months with temperatures varying from 12 degrees C and peaking to 38 degrees C at midday. The rains can start in October with the occasional thundershower. December to February are the wettest months. Winter is May to the end of August. No rain. Evening and early mornings are cold. Temperature varies from 8 degrees C to 24 degrees C at midday.

**INFORMATION WE REQUIRE:** Age, weight, height, and riding experience of client. Drinks preferred. Any specialised diet or allergies. Please complete our Booking Form when making a reservation.

**INDEMNITY:** Guests will be asked to sign an indemnity in camp before they ride.

**MEDICAL:** A medical kit is kept in the camp. Guests should take Malaria tablets.

**OTHER:** Guests are given personal attention and attention is paid to detail. A limited assortment of half chaps and riding gloves are kept in the camp for loan.