Trans Kalahari Camping Safari

Trip Code: TKC

Version:

WILDLIFE	GUIDED GROUP	MODERATE
		4



HIGHLIGHTS

- NEW FOR 2026 - Longer 16 day trip including three new days in the patchwork paradise of Moremi Game Reserve.
- Discover the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, a vast wilderness of untamed beauty and rare wildlife species.
- Delve into the Okavango Delta, a unique landscape of islands and channels like no other on the

planet.
- Traverse the ethereal expanse of the Makgadikgadi Pans, where ancient salt flats meet vast open horizons.
- Visit the Khama Rhino Sanctuary and envelop yourself in the sights and sounds of a once again thriving ecosystem.

AT A GLANCE

- 16 days remote wildlife safari. Multiple days off road 4wd
- Rhino conservation project visit - 1000m to 1999m asl
- Join at Johannesburg

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

In the spirit of the expedition style trip that went before it, this trip visits some incredibly wild, remote and wonder-filled places, including some of the key hotspots for wildlife in Botswana on a 4000+km overland journey. We'll be sharing responsibilities for setting up camp, cooking and washing up, becoming a small community of sufficient adventurers as we make our way overland through this incredible country. Although the obvious highlight of this trip is undoubtedly the Kalahari itself, we think you'll be surprised and captivated by the sheer variety of landscapes visited on this trip, as well as the thousands of species of flora and fauna that call these places home.

First stop is the breathtaking Goo Moremi Gorge. A gouge of water through rocks, perfected over thousands of years to create a green oasis for birdlife, as well as early humankind. Next we truck on overland into the Makgadikgadi pans, a desolate and vast salt pan, to find Kubu Island, a steadfast granite promontory among a sea of emptiness. An eerie and fascinating place in the dry season, and in the wet, can be the perfect vantage point to watch thousands of flamingo and pelicans among the shallow salty waters. We spend a further day at the pans. This place is gigantic (the pans are about 1.5 times the size of Wales) - despite a near 7 hour drive, we're still skirting the edge of the pans to visit the majestic baobabs at Gweta. After a day of relative rest and optional activities at Maun we move on to the Okavango Delta for a wild camping experience like no other. We'll be taken deep into this natural wonder on a mokoro to one of the many islands, directed by our guides to steer clear of grumpy hippos, and set up our wild camp for the next couple of nights. The Okavango is a river delta with no saltwater exit. Waters feed from the Angolan Highlands onto this vast plain where the water fans out and eventually dissipates. As such it is home to a huge population of hippos as well as hundreds of species of birdlife and other fauna. Ungulates flock to this watery haven for water and shelter, whilst in turn attracting predators to seek them out, which is no mean feat in this supersized water park landscape of a thousand channels and islands.

After the watery oasis of the Okavango, we'll make our way into the Kalahari proper, the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, a simply vast wild landscape some 52 thousand sq kilometres (that's the size of the

Netherlands, or about 2/3rds of the size of Scotland!) home to the black maned Kalahari Lions. We will spend four days here among the unending scrub and sand enjoying game drives and wild camping. Finally, we'll head to the Khama Rhino sanctuary, one of the best places to see both white and black rhinos. A rewilded paradise, returned to its natural state in the last 30 or so years initially to provide safe haven for the rhinos, but is now also home to hundreds of species of flora and fauna too. We will also be treated here to a fixed campsite. The hot shower will likely be welcome after two weeks of brilliantly wild camping among the hippos and lions of some of the greatest wildlife reserves in Southern Africa.

If you would like further information on when to go to Southern Africa on safari and which trip suits you the best please refer to our detailed guide: Which safari is right for you?

Is this holiday for you?

These trips cover thousands of kilometres on bumpy and sometimes unmade roads, in functional vehicles making them a physically demanding but rewarding experience. They start very early, often at or before dawn, and finish late, and require all members of the party to assist in food preparation and loading vehicles. On these camping trips you will also be required to help with pitching and dismantling tents. Helping each other with these straightforward tasks is a great part of the adventure, whilst also helping to break ice and galvanise the group.

There are several walks in this itinerary. These may be on paved surfaces, uneven sandy dunes or rocky terrain and are always accompanied by your experienced guide. Each walk is paced with time for your guide to interpret the environment around you. On walks within game reserves it is vital to keep up with the group line and move together in case of any animal encounters.

For further information on our participation safaris and what they entail, **click here.**

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

A professional and qualified guide,

Airport transfers,

All accommodation as described,

Meals as described in the Meal Plan,

National Park entrance fees and special permit fees,

All activities/excursions mentioned except where specified as 'optional'

What's not Included

Travel Insurance,

Visas (if applicable),

Airport transfers,

Meals as detailed in the Meal Plan,

Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional,

Tips for local staff,

Miscellaneous personal expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will meet at the group hotel near Johannesburg Airport.

On arrival airport transfers are provided to the group hotel.

Return flights, on the last day of holiday, should not depart before 1900. The holiday will end in the late afternoon at the group hotel near Johannesburg Airport via one stop at the airport.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

12 breakfasts, 12 lunches and 11 dinners are included. Non-included meals are on arrival at the hotel in Johannesburg, and one evening meal in Maun. We recommend you budget £10 - 15 for each non-included meals.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. You should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a Water-To-Go bottle) to treat your water. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

The majority of the meals are provided. Breakfast will be cereals and yoghurt, with coffee, tea, toast and the occasional cooked breakfast. Lunch will typically be picnic style - cold meats, cheese, salads, bread, rolls and fruit. Dinner will be potjies (traditional stews), braais (barbecue), stir fries, pasta dishes, curries etc. Very often cooking will be on an open fire. Fresh produce will be used wherever possible and fruit squash, tea and coffee will be served with breakfast and dinner. Many of the meals are prepared by the guides and it is good group etiquette to help with preparation and washing up on these days and this is usually done on rotation. Some meals are taken at the accommodation or in local restaurants. Special dietary requirements (vegetarian or allergies) can usually be catered for, but it is essential that this information is received on booking. There is one cool box available for the group to put your own drinks in. Stops at supermarkets are regular to pick up supplies such as alcohol and soft drinks.

Accommodation

Camping - where possible we will stay at designated campsites in national parks, on private land and in towns. Campsite facilities are generally very good but in places can be basic. There are hot and cold showers, restaurants, washing facilities and telephones available at most of the campsites. Some camps have simple reed enclosures for showers but do have flush toilets!

We supply all the camping equipment with the exception of your sleeping bag and pillow. The dome tents we use are 2.2 x 2.2 x 1.8 meters and putting them up or down takes only 5 or so minutes. Tents have built-in insect nets. We supply mattresses, which are about 5 cm thick, warm and comfortable. The camp chairs have a backrest.

Wild camping - Wild camps have no facilities; we will need to take our own water and all equipment. Wild camping can be very enjoyable but please remember that we leave no trace of our stay and take all rubbish away with us. Toilets will be of the "dig and bury" variety and a simple bucket bush shower will be provided.

You will need to put your tent up, and help pack up the truck in the mornings. Most of the meals are prepared by the guide and it is good group etiquette to help with preparation and washing up - it's all part of the adventure and when everyone puts in a little effort the trip runs smoothly.

If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. Single tents and rooms are available for a supplementary cost.

All accommodation is subject to change without prior warning.

SAFARI VEHICLES

For the national parks of Botswana we use custom built 4WDs, with individual "bucket" seats, with trailers for the equipment. The vehicles are designed to handle all road conditions expected on the route. These open-sided land cruisers also have a bank of plug sockets or USB ports for charging. Game viewing from an "open" vehicle is the best way to go for Botswana - small groups in Land Rovers and Land Cruisers have the best wildlife sightings!

These custom built game viewing vehicles are the first of their kind in Botswana. Each new vehicle has a built in "roll cage" that conforms to the latest safety standards of South Africa, and each individual bucket seat has a lap belt. The vehicles are constructed by a registered coach builder and ensure structural integrity of the passenger cabin in the unlikely event of a roll.

There are a couple of long days of travelling but the vehicles have a comfortable cruising speed. The emphasis of the trip is "getting out and doing things".

For the transfers in South Africa at the beginning and end of the holiday we will probably travel by closed station wagon Land Cruiser or a Sprinter minibus.

Group Leader & Support Staff

Your guides are key to any successful safari. On this adventure safari, you will travel with two qualified and experienced, registered field guides (FGASA). All our guides have a passion for Africa, her people and wildlife, and they love nothing more than sharing their knowledge with you.

Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

Spending Money

We estimate a total of around £500-600 per person (or equivalent in euros/dollars) for personal spending. This amount should be sufficient to cover all non-included meals and miscellaneous expenses, including tips to local staff. If you are intending to buy expensive souvenirs, considerable quantities of soft drinks / alcohol, or undertake additional activities or excursions, you should budget accordingly (credit cards can be useful in this respect, and are widely used throughout the destinations of this trip). Your travel money is best in US dollars, as this can be used in most countries on your visit. We also advise you to change some of your money into local currency on arrival at the airport, and your local leader will advise further places to change money en-route and at borders. Additionally, you will be able to get currency from bank ATMs in many of the towns that we will visit.

Many small traders will accept US$, and your notes should be clean and undamaged. Please avoid USD$100 and old issue 'small head' US$ notes as they might not be accepted.

There some optional activities that you can take part in on this holiday. These should be booked on arrival with your leader and paid for locally. All optional activities taken outside of the KE trip itinerary are at your own risk.

Guidance on Tipping

Your tour leader also works extremely hard to ensure that your holiday runs smoothly and that you are happy. We suggest that a tip of £2-5 per client per day for your tour leader is reasonable. When it comes to tipping the guides that we sometimes use for various activities (e.g. game walks, polers in the Okavango Delta etc) we suggest that a tip of £1-3 per client per ½ day activity, or the local currency equivalent, is acceptable. As in all cases with tipping, the final decision of the amount tipped is up to the individual. It is up to you to decide if you thought the service was poor, or exceptional, and the amount tipped should reflect that. The amounts quoted above are guidelines for you to get an idea of what to tip.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Your baggage will travel in the gear compartment of the truck with the group, and there is a finite amount of space. Please keep the weight of your main luggage to 12kg. You should bring a soft bag as these are more suitable to pack in the vehicle. For the 2 nights wild camping in the Okavango Delta you will take only what you need for these 2 nights and your main bag with remain in Maun.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

Group Members

We sell this holiday in conjunction with our local operator in Southern Africa. This enables us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get the holiday up and running quickly. For this holiday the minimum age is 12 yrs, however it is unusual to have people under 16yrs.

South Africa Indemnity Form

As a member of the South African Tourism Service Association, our ground agent in South Africa may require you to complete an indemnity form at the start of your holiday, which you will need your insurance details for. As a client of KE Adventure Travel, your rights under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangement Regulations (2018) are unaffected and KE Adventure Travel will remain liable for the actions of our suppliers.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Visa South Africa

UK and USA passport holders do not require a visa for short stays. You must have 2 blank pages in your passport.

Rules on **travelling with children under 18 years** have been relaxed. Visa exempt children entering South Africa only need passports, and not birth certificates as previously required. This applies if the child is travelling with both parents, one parent or an adult who is not a biological parent, and school groups. There are some different requirements for unaccompanied children, and children who do not have UK passports or visa exempt passports. For full details please see the FCDO website.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The unit of currency in Botswana is the Pula.

Climate

Botswana: This Central region of Southern Africa is subtropical being generally warm and mild to humid. October and November are hot, day and night. November to April is the hottest time of the year with chances of showers to heavy rains later in the season. May to September is cool and dry, perhaps even getting close to freezing during the coldest of nights.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Explore International

This holiday is part of our Explore International range. Participants on these trips can book through KE or through our international partner. This helps us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get your holiday up and running quickly. Led by an English-speaking guide, the cosmopolitan nature of these groups can be an important part of the experience!

Equipment Information

Equipment List

Please try to keep the weight of your baggage to a minimum. See the ‘baggage allowance’ section for further details.

You should bring the following items:

- Lightweight walking shoes or trainers
- Sandals
- Socks and underwear
- Long lightweight trousers
- Shorts

- Lightweight waterproof jacket & trousers
- T-shirts
- Casual shirts with sleeves
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Sunhat with wide brim
- Sunglasses
- Buff/scarf for dusty days
- Small towel/Travel towel
- Daypack 20-25 litres
- Sleeping bag* - comfort rating 0 degrees C (May-Sep) and thinner sleeping can be used during the rest of the year
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 1 litre (x2) filter bottle if possible (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic
- Water purification tablets
- Washbag and toiletries (biodegradable soap is preferred)
- Antibacterial handwash
- Insect repellent
- Basic First Aid Kit including: antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, re-hydration salts (Dioralite), anti-nausea tablets and

antihistamine cream/tablets

The following items are optional:

- Swimwear
- Pen-knife (remember to pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- A selection of dry bags for daypack/kit bag
- Camera
- Binoculars (highly recommended)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Notes:

Please be aware than in the Southern African the winter months, May - September, the nights can be cold with an average of between 0-5 degrees Celsius in some places, and the days can be warm between 20-30 degrees Celsius.

Bright bold colours and white are not suitable for game viewing or bush wear as they attract insects and the attention of animals. Please do not bring camouflage or military style clothes as they can cause problems with local authorities.

Please dress appropriately for border crossings, village and market visits - ie: no bare feet, no bare chests, no bikinis and no hats. A few restaurants are also not keen on T-shirts and jeans either.

Tents have mosquito netting on the windows and doors. Sleeping mattresses of 5cm thick are provided.

*It is possible to hire a sleeping bag for this holiday.

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining at Johannesburg Airport. Airport transfers are provided.

Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Johannesburg.

Outbound flights will depart from the UK in the evening, arriving the morning of the following day (day 1 of the Land Only itinerary). Return flights will depart Johannesburg in the evening of the last day of the land only itinerary, arriving in the UK the following morning.

Why Choose KE

Why KE?

Our new and permanent camping version of our once Pioneer trip, the Trans Kalahari Expedition - this is a wild exploration of some of the key highlights of Botswana focused around the incredible and vast wild lands of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve.New for 2026: this itinerary extends to 16 days with three days in Moremi Game Reserve at the North East end of the Okavango Delta, a patchwork landscape rich with life from the fleeting and yapping painted dogs, to the matriarchal societies of the giant African elephants. Starlings serenade us through dawn and hornbills glide alongside our vehicle at last light accompanying us on game drives to hopefully catch sight of the infamous big five.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 21/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change