Africa Safari, Botswana





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Tour Summary

Botswana has the greatest collection of elephants in all of Africa. You can see them - along with giraffes, zebras and hippos - when you walk in the bush, or drive slowly by in a jeep. The Okavango Delta is flooded in winter, so animals flock there – great for close up observation by boat. You ride in mokoro dugout canoes; two passengers with one guide. And you can combine your safari with a visit to the world's largest waterfalls in Zambia, just a short distance away...

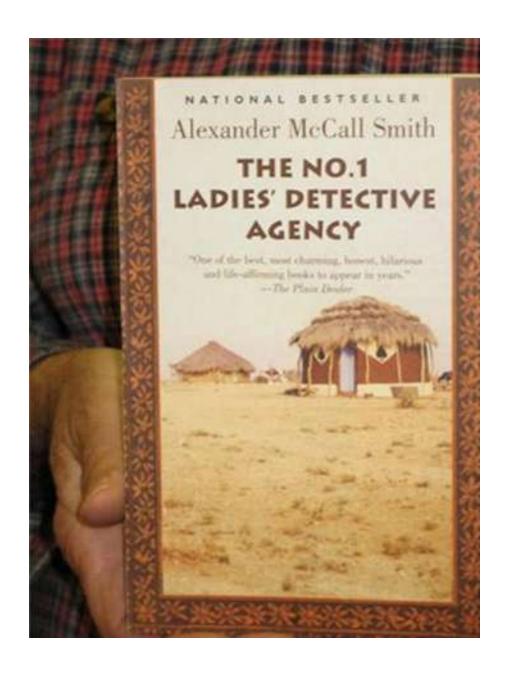
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Introduction





Botswana, in southern Africa, is THE place to see wild animals. If you feel nervous about going to Africa, please be assured that Botswana is safe. The people are friendly and English is the official language. The government is stable. Facilities are well organized, and in the towns, you can safely drink the tap water!

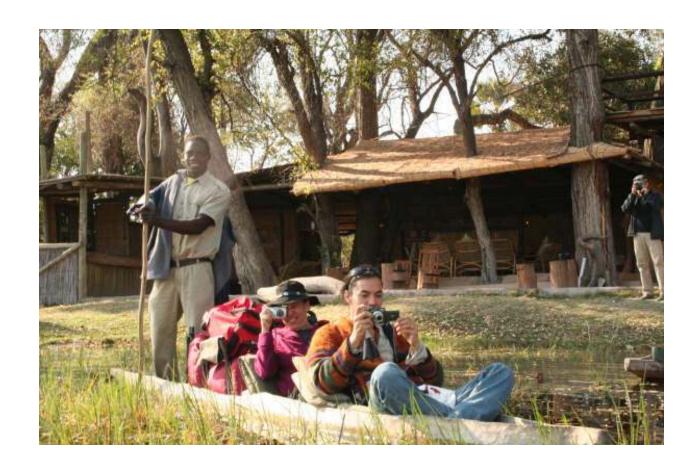


Many people know Botswana as the setting of a series of delightful books about the No.1 Ladies Detective Agency. But it also has 120,000 elephants and thousands of

other amazing creatures in and around its nature reserves. You can go on fantastic safaris there.



The jewel of Botswana is the Okavango Delta. It is a grassy flood plain that's bigger than the state of Connecticut. You can travel on foot and camp in the bush, just like the early explorers. Our only problem while camping was with a wild bull elephant. But more about that later!



The best way to get around the delta is by mokoro, a dug-out canoe poled by a native guide. You can also explore by jeep, by horseback or even on a domesticated elephant. It depends on your budget and the time of year. We like the delta best in July and August: the air is dry and cool and the water is high.



In other parts of Botswana you can see buffaloes, crocodiles, and many other kinds of animals too. Around Kasane in the north, you can do this from motorized boats or four-wheel-drive vehicles.



Boats are more comfortable, because the jeeps drive along bumpy, unpaved roads. You see different kinds of animals and birds from each kind of transport. Your children can do an amazing check list!



There are plenty of luxury lodges in Botswana with swimming pools, maid service and nightly entertainment. But when you get home, it's your nights in the wild that you will rave about to your friends. You might not feel at home camping, but with a good guide you can have a mind-boggling experience.



You get closer to nature by staying in a camp, hiking through the bush, and sightseeing from a mokoro. You also make a better bond with the people who spend their lives co-existing with wild creatures. Our guide Leko was wonderful, and we had plenty of time to ask a lot of questions.

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