

Exclusive Botswana – The Greater Okavango (10 days, 9 nights)



The Okavango Delta is one of the most extraordinary natural areas in the world. In this immense and water-rich ecosystem in Botswana, countless animals live among winding waterways, golden grasslands, palm islands, and ancient forests. During this exclusive photographic safari, we travel deep into the greater Okavango region, far away from the crowds, to some of Botswana's most remote and wildlife-rich private concessions.

This journey is entirely focused on tranquility, immersion in nature, and photography at the highest level. No mass tourism, no overcrowded safari vehicles, but an intimate and serene experience where you truly feel part of nature. "Living in nature" takes on a completely new meaning here.

Ingrid Vekemans, your tour leader and professional wildlife photographer, has travelled to Africa every year for more than 30 years and has truly lost her heart there. She feels at home in Africa and will enthusiastically share her knowledge and passion with the group.

We travel in the month of May because it is one of the most beautiful and pleasant periods to visit the Okavango Delta. Nature is then in a special transitional phase that creates spectacular landscapes, pleasant temperatures, and outstanding conditions for wildlife photography.

- **Fresh, green landscapes**

After the rainy season, nature is still beautifully green. The vegetation looks fresh and vibrant, while the grass gradually becomes lower, improving wildlife visibility. This creates an exceptional combination of atmospheric landscapes and excellent photographic opportunities.

- **Soft and pleasant light**

In May, temperatures are generally very pleasant, with cool mornings and warm but rarely extremely hot days. The light is often softer and less harsh than later in the dry season, making it ideal for photography.

- **The Delta begins to fill with water**

Although the rains have already ended, water from Angola slowly starts flowing into the Delta. This creates a magnificent interplay of waterways, reflections, islands, and golden grasslands. The landscape changes almost daily and offers enormous variety.

- **Excellent wildlife sightings**

Animals are still very active in May, and the combination of water and greenery attracts large amounts of wildlife. Elephants, lions, leopards, wild dogs, buffaloes, giraffes, and countless bird species can often be observed beautifully in a still very natural and peaceful environment.

- **Fewer tourists**

May falls just before the absolute high season. As a result, you enjoy a more exclusive safari experience with fewer vehicles and more peaceful sightings — a major advantage for photographers and nature lovers alike.

- **The perfect balance between atmosphere and photography**

Later in the season, the landscapes become drier and dustier. May offers that unique balance between dramatic skies, vibrant colours, the presence of water, and excellent wildlife activity. For many experienced safari travellers, this is one of the most photogenic months of the year. It is a period in which Botswana can be experienced at its most atmospheric and pure.



This trip is exclusively intended for people who love nature and wildlife and enjoy photographing it (of course, non-photographing partners are also welcome!). Unlike regular group trips, this safari specifically focuses on photographic opportunities and ample time is taken whenever a situation is particularly interesting from a photographic perspective.

The group is small, allowing for a personal approach and plenty of room for photographic equipment in the vehicles. We use open 4x4 safari vehicles suitable for 6 passengers, but only 3 passengers will be assigned per vehicle. Two vehicles will be used, and Ingrid will divide her time equally between both vehicles.

Besides photographing together with immediate help and tips, feedback sessions will also take place after brunch during which a selection of each participant's photos can be discussed.

A typical day starts very early in the morning to make optimal use of the soft morning light, which often results in the most memorable photographs. This is also when animal activity is at its highest. Usually, a light breakfast is provided early in the morning, and we take along snacks and hot drinks to enjoy at a beautiful location during the drive.

Late morning and early afternoon are generally the warmest part of the day, so after brunch there is time to relax in camp and/or review and select photos for discussion. In the late afternoon, after an extensive tea break, we head out again to photograph until the very last light. (Please note: participation in every safari drive is not mandatory — there are often excellent photographic opportunities within the camp itself.) Afterwards, there is time to freshen up before dinner and relax or retreat to your room or tent. Another exciting day undoubtedly awaits tomorrow!

THIS SAFARI IS OPERATED BY



HOW IS THIS SAFARI DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER SAFARIS LED BY INGRID?

- The trip is not spread across multiple reserves but takes place entirely in and around the Okavango Delta. Although **wild dogs** can never be guaranteed — as they travel large and unpredictable distances daily — this approach maximizes the chances of encountering these fascinating predators.
- We stay in three top-class luxury camps at different locations deep in the wilderness. The camps are not only wonderful places to relax but also an extension of the safari experience itself. Because we stay deep inside exclusive private concessions, we will encounter **very few other tourists**. You experience the safaris far away from crowds and the many vehicles often found in national parks. An additional major advantage is that **off-roading** is permitted here. This allows our guides to leave the tracks whenever a special sighting requires it, ensuring we always have the best position for photography and observation.
- With only five participants, the group remains exceptionally small. This ensures **highly personal guidance**, maximum flexibility, and exceptional space in the vehicles for both comfort and photographic equipment.
- We have two open safari **vehicles specially adapted for us**. Low camera angles are possible for more impactful images, and exceptional space is provided for cameras, lenses, and other photographic gear. Everything is designed to allow photography under the best possible conditions.
- The safari begins with an overnight stay in Maun, a pleasant and welcoming town. This ensures that no valuable Delta time is lost in case of delays on international flights. In addition, the safari can be organized entirely **using charter flights** within Botswana.

Day 1

We begin our journey with a first overnight stay in Maun, the gateway to the Okavango Delta. Depending on our arrival time, there will be a general briefing or we may take a short excursion. We can also spend time in the lodge gardens, where we can already start photographing.



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Day 2-4

On the morning of Day 2, we fly by small aircraft to the remote Linyanti region, where we stay for three nights. This area is known for its impressive concentration of elephants, large lion prides, wild dogs, and spectacular encounters along the waterways.

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Every day, we depart early in the morning to make the most of the soft light and high animal activity. In the afternoon, we head back into the bush until the last golden light has disappeared. Between safari drives, there is time to relax, review images, or simply enjoy the silence and beauty of the African wilderness.



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This trip is suitable for photographers wishing to deepen their passion for wildlife, but also for nature lovers wanting to experience Africa in a pure and authentic way. The combination of exclusive locations, small groups, adapted vehicles, and intense immersion in nature makes this an exceptional safari experience. You do not merely photograph the Okavango Delta — you feel it, experience it, and carry it with you forever.



Day 5-7

We then continue to the famous Kwara Reserve for another three nights. Kwara combines open plains, lagoons, and densely vegetated islands, creating enormous biodiversity and stunning photographic variety. Here, we may encounter leopards, cheetahs, hyenas, and countless bird species.



Both in Linyanti and in Kwara, we stay in our own private section of the camp, where our group will be personally welcomed and fully pampered.



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Day 8-9

Our final two nights are spent in the western Delta, a region where the water landscape takes centre stage and where the atmosphere becomes almost unreal in its beauty during sunrise and sunset.



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Dag 10

After our final morning safari, we fly back to Maun to connect with the international return flight.



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PLEASE NOTE: Changes to the above itinerary may always occur if circumstances require it.

PRACTICALITIES

TUI

The safari is organized by TUI Tours, part of TUI Belgium. The TUI Group is the largest tourism group in the world.

You can request your reservation online or ask for a completely non-binding quotation via the headquarters of TUI by using the "PRICE REQUEST" button on the safari page of the website: www.ingridvekemans.com.

The invoice and booking conditions will be sent to you by TUI. TUI's general and special conditions apply. You can find all information on: <https://www.tui.be/nl/reisvoorwaarden>. Special cancellation conditions for this trip: Up to 61 days before departure: 50%; From 60 to 31 days before departure: 75%; Less than 30 days before departure: 100%.

The **price** of the trip is €15990 based on sharing a double room. Single supplement: €3890. A deposit of €500 is required upon reservation, with an additional €3,000 once departure is guaranteed. Prices are subject to increases in local taxes, park fees, and fuel surcharges.

Safari period: 22 tot 31 May 2028

The price includes accommodation in a comfortable hotel in Maun, accommodation in exclusive luxury tented camps in the Delta (9 nights), all meals and drinks except in Maun, where meals and drinks are not included, laundry service except in Maun, safaris (two per day from day 2 to day 9), two open 4x4 safari vehicles, experienced drivers/guides; reserve entrance fees; all transfers (among which 3 scenic flights); guidance and advice on wildlife and photography, photo analysis sessions, an experienced and passionate tour leader.

The price excludes international flights and related taxes, passport costs, travel insurance, drinks and any meals in Maun on days 1 and 10, tips, personal expenses.

Number of participants: 5 (minimum and maximum)

Minimum age: 16

Once the required number of participants has been reached, TUI will contact you. At that time, TUI will provide flight price indications for the **international flights**. You are free to book these through TUI or arrange your own international flights. International flights can only be booked from 1 June 2027 onwards.

Insurance: Every participant is strongly advised to take out cancellation insurance and comprehensive travel assistance insurance.

Force majeure: The photographic safaris are normally guided by Ingrid Vekemans. Only in the event that Ingrid Vekemans is unable to attend due to force majeure will an equivalent replacement be sought to ensure proper execution of the travel contract.

Baggage restriction: To ensure sufficient freedom of movement in the vehicles during travel days, only one soft travel bag (maximum dimensions 40x40x80cm) per person is allowed in addition to the camera bag. Only if everyone respects these restrictions will the trip remain comfortable for all participants. Maximum luggage weight: 20 kg per person. An additional supplement may apply for participants weighing more than 100 kg.

Requirements for participants: Both beginner and advanced photographers (and their partners) are welcome. However, to get the most out of the photographic opportunities, it is recommended that participants understand the basics of photography (ISO, shutter speed, aperture, and metering), as taught in a basic digital photography workshop. The trip is not physically demanding since

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photography is always done from vehicles. However, participants should be prepared for early mornings and should be in good health. Participants are responsible for arranging any required **vaccinations and medication**. For more information: <https://www.wanda.be/nl> - <https://www.ggdreisvaccinaties.nl>. Participants must ensure they have a valid international passport that remains valid for at least 6 months after return. At the time of publication of this document, no visa is required for Botswana. For the latest updates: <https://diplomatie.belgium.be>;

Finally, respect for nature and animals is essential!

Participants should also be aware that Africa requires patience and a sense of perspective: roads can be bumpy and things may not always function as efficiently as at home. Life there moves at a slower pace — something that ultimately benefits us all.

