



botswana
tourism



In 2022, Botswana welcomed 1.04 million international arrivals and is focused on growing that number this year through new source markets and increased airlift capacity. Intraregional travel is a growing trend, with five of Botswana's top-ten source markets located in Africa – namely South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, and Lesotho. Internationally, its key source markets are USA, Germany, United Kingdom, Australia and France.

Botswana Bytes - News you can use...

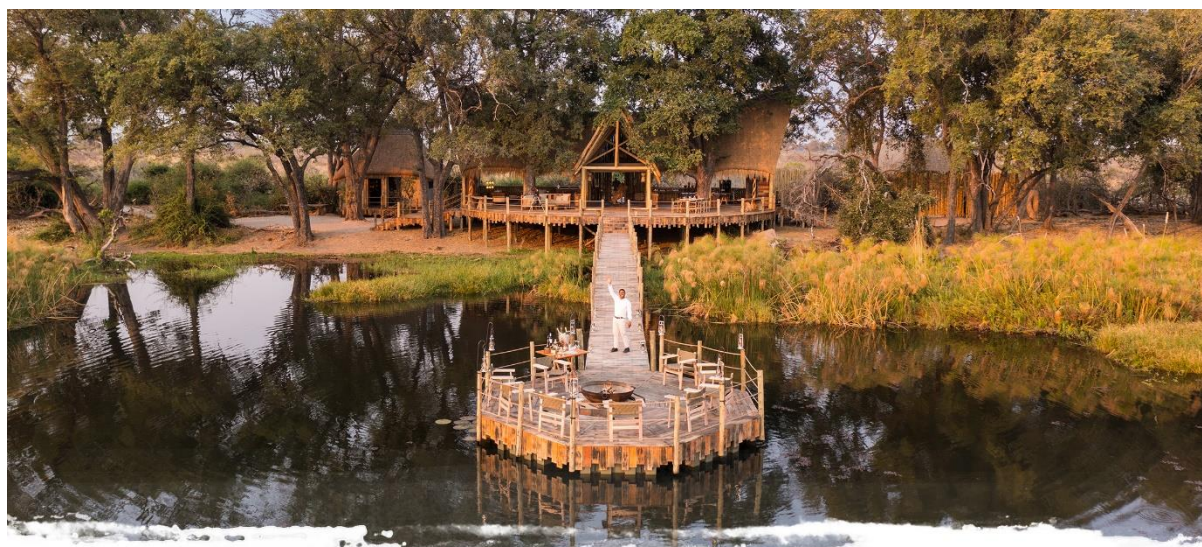
NEW PROPERTIES

African Bush Camp's new Khwai Lediba



African Bush Camps launched Khwai Lediba, along the Khwai River in the Khwai Concession earlier this year. The camp accommodates 16 guests in environmentally friendly luxury tented rooms including five double rooms, one honeymoon suite, and one family suite. Each unit features an ensuite bathroom with both indoor and outdoor showers. The honeymoon and family units also include a bath tub and private deck equipped with daybeds. The camp's central building houses a pool, a dining area with an open kitchen, a large pizza oven, and a bar. Other facilities include several decks and lounging areas, a shaded and secluded pool and a fire pit on the lower deck. Guests can enjoy morning, afternoon, and evening game drives, as well as walking and mokoro (canoe) safaris when water levels allow. Access is via a 30-minute flight from Maun Airport or a one-hour flight from Kasane Airport. For more information contact Adele Cutler on adele@pindropr.com

Great Plains' new Sitatunga Private Island



Great Plains launched Sitatunga Private Island in mid July 2023, located in the Okavango Delta. Built on a raised railway sleeper private deck, using the wood from old railway tracks, Sitatunga Private Island can host up to eight guests in two four-person suites and an additional four adults or family of two adults and three children in a spacious two-bedroom unit. Each of the suites boasts an indoor lounge, well-furnished bathrooms, a private deck and an outdoor pool providing panoramic lagoon views. The camp's design, driven by Great Plains' Dereck and Beverly Joubert, is an ode to the Okavango's history and the Bayei people. It is one of the few locations in the world where one can still see the sitatunga, a rare aquatic antelope, from camp and by boat. Activities at Sitatunga encompass boating safaris, mokoro rides, walking safaris, game drives and even private helicopter tours of the delta. For relaxation, guests have access to in-room massages, yoga mats, exercise equipment, a wine cellar and a boutique. The camp also offers a professional camera set for guests. Read more on <https://greatplainsconservation.com/safari/sitatunga-private-island/>

Wilderness Mokete launched in Mababe Concession

Wilderness launched a stunning new 9-tent Safari Camp in September 2023, situated in an untamed region to the east of the Okavango Delta and to the south of Chobe National Park. However, if you want to experience their incredible photographic safaris, you'd better get booking as the "limited-edition" camp will only exist for two years, after which it will be dismantled and replaced by a permanent camp, Meraka.

Read more on <https://www.wildernessdestinations.com/africa/botswana/mababe-region/mokete-camp>

Natural Selection's new Botswana camps



Natural Selection has launched two new properties in a 220,000-acre swath of private "NG12" concession in the northern Okavango Delta. Duke's Camp opened in June 2022, comprising eight canvas tents on raised wooden decks on Kgao Island. In May 2023, they added "Duke's East", a small sister camp with just 4 luxury tents – 3 double and 1 family room.

Both camps are picturesquely located on the water, only about 500 meters apart, but operate independently of each other. Duke's East is ideal for exclusive use by multi-generational families or small groups - but can also be booked individually. Activities include game drives and traditional mokoro (a dugout canoe) safaris. They also launched a new high-end camp North Island Okavango in June 2023 in NG23A, just to the north-west of both Duba Plains and Vumbura. The camp comprises just three premier tents, one very private island and a hive of year-round safari activities to choose from.

For more information contact lindsayT@naturalselection.travel

Mashatu's two new Safari Homes



Mashatu Game Reserve in the Northern Tuli has introduced two new safari homes. Located on the banks of the Limpopo River, Kolokolo is a luxurious, 5-star, newly renovated safari home designed for exclusive-use. It boasts four ensuite bedrooms, spacious communal areas and has a private dedicated team.

Shalimpo Safari Home is Perched atop a kopje, at the convergence of the Shashe and Limpopo Rivers, weaving together Botswana, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. From its vantage point, Shalimpo commands breathtaking views that extend across the landscape. This is a self-catering home that welcomes up to 8 guests with four bedrooms (two ensuite and the other two share a bathroom). It has a large farm-style kitchen for self-catering, and food & drink supplies can be pre-ordered and delivered ahead of your arrival. Shalimpo's charm lies in its remote authenticity, free from electricity, powered solely by solar energy and lanterns.

You can hear more about Mashatu in this podcast interview with owner and conservationist, Stephen Lansdown on @AlgoaFM 'Frontier Land' exploring his passion for Africa and its wildlife. Listen on <https://algoafm.co.za/podcast/steve-lansdown-investing-in-africa>

NEW FOR 2024 & BEYOND

Atzaró Okavango coming in March 2024



Atzaró Okavango will be launching in March 2024, set within a 1,100-sq-km private concession by Moremi Game Reserve. The ultra-luxury, nature-inspired property will encompass 12 suites, including two private villas, all equipped with plunge pools and starbeds. The interiors will draw on Atzaró Group's signature French mid-century furnishings, parquet flooring, eclectic antiques and artwork. Each suite will have a private deck overlooking the lagoon and wildlife-rich waterways. Shared spaces will include a bar, restaurant, boma, African art gallery, wine cellar, gym, 20m pool and spa. In addition to game drives, experiences will include community visits, safari hikes, helicopter safaris, mokoro expeditions, candlelit lagoon-side dinners and stargazing. Read more on <https://atzaro-okavango.com/>

Karangoma to launch May 2024

Wild Expeditions will be launching a brand-new camp, Karangoma in May 2024 in NG12, in partnership with a local bushman partner from the Bukakwe tribe. For more information contact Suzanne at Classic Portfolio on suzanne@classic-portfolio.com.

Marriot to launch hotel in Serowe in 2026

Marriott International will expand its presence in Botswana by signing Protea Hotel Serowe in collaboration with Letsatsi Partners. The hotel, scheduled to open in 2026, will feature 155 guest rooms and suites, an all-day-dining restaurant, a fitness centre, a swimming pool, and multiple meeting rooms. Situated near the Khama Rhino Sanctuary in Serowe, the hotel will be between Gaborone and Orapa, one of the world's largest diamond mines.

GENERAL NEWS

Desert & Delta's Chobe Game Lodge celebrates 50 years

As the only permanent lodge located inside the world-renowned Chobe National Park, set on the banks of the Chobe River, Chobe Game Lodge is the ideal place from which to explore the very best of one of Botswana's most iconic regions. The camp, which is celebrating 50 years of operation, is also known for its "Chobe Angels" – Africa's very first all-female guiding team. In fact, 50% of Desert & Delta Safaris' management team are women. For more information contact Li Boatwright at Storrington PR on Li@storringtonpr.com or visit <https://www.chobegamelodge.com/>

Botswana to showcase culture at annual festival

On 16 September 2023 Botswana launched the inaugural Xere Cultural Festival. Xere is a village 14km from Rakops in the Boteti District. The festival will take place annually to celebrate the rich Sesarwa culture, drive transformation and foster a collective shift in attitudes and perspectives.

The Acting Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mabuse Pule, noted that the government had reserved BWP6 million (€411 270) for the development of the Xere Cultural Centre, adding that the United Nations Development Programme had also supported the initiative with a BWP500 000 (€34 266) donation.

Meeting Mashatu's People

Mashatu Game Reserve in the Northern Tuli Game Reserve has been running a series of blogs over the past few months encouraging guests, old, new and yet to visit, to get to know the people who make Mashatu so special. This is everyone from Thulani, air traffic controller who welcomes you safely to Limpopo Valley airstrip, to Mariam in Reservations, operations manager, Otsile, Managers Rose and Benjamin and, mostly recently, Hospitality GM Peter Bale. To meet the team please visit <https://mashatu.com/wildlife-blog/>

Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Area - KAZA

The Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Area (KAZA) is the world's largest terrestrial Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) at approximately 520 000sqkm.

Occupying part of the Okavango and Zambezi river basins, it encompasses areas within the borders of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and includes 36 formally proclaimed protected areas made up of a host of game reserves, forest reserves, game/wildlife management areas, community conservancies and conservation and tourism concession areas designated for use of natural resources. The most well-known components of KAZA are the Chobe National Park, Hwange National Park, Kafue National Park, the Makgadikgadi Pans, the Okavango Delta and Victoria Falls. KAZA is the world's largest wildlife conservation area and is home to the greatest concentration of free-roaming savannah elephants in Africa. For more information contact Alison at Ethos Marketing on alison@ethosmarketing.co.uk

Natural Selection to launch Tawana Camp in May 2024



Natural Selection's new-build camp Tawana, situated in the heart of Botswana's pristine wilderness on the Moremi Game Reserve, is slated to open in May 2024. Named in honour of Chief Tawana Moremi, this luxurious safari camp offers an unparalleled blend of elegance and comfort. With only 8 stylish rooms, Tawana

ensures an exclusive experience in one of the last wild corners of Africa. As guests step into their luxurious accommodation, they will be captivated by the spacious rooms and amenities offered. The 8 suites, including three family suites, includes its own lounge area, private terrace, plunge pool, and air conditioning over every bed. The suites are spaced well apart for privacy and offer breathtaking views of the lush riverine forest. Private viewing decks and a serene sala daybed promise remarkable views of the perennial Gomoti River and the surrounding game-rich grasslands. At Tawana, everyone's stay will be filled with thrilling adventures and unforgettable encounters. Guests will embark on guided game drives led by expert trackers to find antelopes, lions, leopards, and African wild dogs. Communal areas offer an elegant lounge, walk-in wine cellar, 16-meter lap pool, indoor and outdoor dining, and a lodge library filled with books about the local Batawana tribe. For more information email lindsayT@naturalselection.travel or visit <https://naturalselection.travel/camps/tawana/>

REFURBS

Beagle Expeditions Revamp

Beagle Expeditions is one of Botswana's most authentic and private safari experiences. As the only operator in a remote concession of the Abu Private Reserve, they offer exclusive use of the entire 30,000ha area in the Delta. They are currently doing a camp revamp with beautiful new tents but still the simplicity of back to the essence of safari with bucket shower and eco loo. This is the ultimate luxury, being immersed in nature without the interruption of the modern world and other people. Beagle is owned and operated by Botswana born Simon Byron. For more information contact Suzanne at Classic Portfolio on suzanne@classic-portfolio.com

Desert & Delta's Savute Safari Lodge Refurb

Savute Safari Lodge is reimagining the luxury safari with a spectacular rebirth in the heart of Botswana. The lodge's new design draws inspiration from the harsh and dramatic contrasts of the Kalahari Desert, blending earthy greens with the vibrant hues of life-giving rains. This fusion mirrors the captivating beauty of the Savuti region, creating a visual masterpiece that reflects the diversity of Botswana's landscapes.

Contact Li Boatwright at Storrington PR on Li@storringtonpr.com for more info or read more on <https://desertdelta.com/reimagining-luxury-safari-savute-safari-lodges-spectacular-rebirth-in-the-heart-of-botswana/>

ALL ABOUT ACCESS

Botswana unveils first cable car project

Cable Cars Botswana (CCB) has revealed ambitious plans for the installation of cable cars in the southern region of Gaborone, atop the scenic Kgale Hill. The cable cars will offer an exciting urban adventure, providing visitors with panoramic views of Gaborone and its surroundings. It will connect the Game City Mall, a kilometre from the proposed upper station, which is 1.2 km above sea level. The proposed Cabrio system from Switzerland is expected to transport about 60 tourists per trip, with 30 on the upper deck and 30 in the lower chamber. The lower station will feature a coffee shop and ticket booth, and the upper station will have a revolving restaurant, a sky bridge, an infinity pool, a gym, curio shops, a conference centre and an event park. The additional facilities are designed to enhance tourism and enliven the capital city. Construction is scheduled to commence in early 2025.

FlyCemAir launched second service to Botswana

South African domestic and regional carrier FlyCemAir launched a service to Kasane in September 2023. The two weekly non-stop flights operate on Wednesdays and Saturdays between OR Tambo International Airport (JNB) in Johannesburg and Kasane International Airport (BBK). Kasane International Airport is about 4km south of Kasane in Botswana's Chobe District. It provides access to Chobe National Park and serves as the second airport for tourists travelling to the Victoria Falls – both on the Zambian and Zimbabwean sides – and Katima Mulilo in Namibia. The airline also offers a service to Maun International Airport.

Airlink opens offices in Botswana

Regional airline Airlink, opened country offices in Gaborone to enhance customer services and meet the strong demand for travel to Maun and the Okavango Delta. Airlink's Gaborone team comprises two staff and Airlink's Country Manager. Airlink operates up to 50 return flights a week to Gaborone, Maun and Kasane.



For more information and news on Botswana please visit
<https://www.botswanaturism.co.bw/travel-info/news-updates>

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