

GREEN ALERTS!

Edition: September 2009

1. COVER STORY (Inserted into photo image at the top)

Country Title: Botswana - Chobe

Botswana is renowned for its environmental complexity and contrast. Its diverse terrain, abundant wildlife, rich selection of birds and unusual reptiles make this a safari destination par excellence!

Situated in Northern Botswana, near Kasane and bordering the Chobe River, the Chobe National Park encompasses a lush riverine system including floodplains, woodland and periodic marsh. The diversity of habitats attracts multitudinous game and affords unsurpassed game viewing opportunities, both on land and from the river. In particular, there is an impressively huge elephant population at Chobe – reputedly the largest in the world!

The park is exceptionally close to the borders of Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, enabling sightseeing trips to other countries as part of your journey. The wetland wonders of the Okavango Delta and Moremi Game Reserve are also a short charter flight away.

2. GENERAL story/snippets (Left hand side of page below photo)

Title: Large groups are spoilt for choice at Chobe

Bringing a large group to a safari destination can sometimes be a challenge, given that many lodges are intimate affairs with less than 20 rooms. Chobe is the ideal destination as there are large lodges to select from. Your hosts for meetings, conferencing and relaxation, they are also superlative bases from which to embark on wildlife encounters, of which the opportunities are plentiful. Here are some examples...

Mowana

Variety is the keyword at this luxury 5 star lodge. The 111 rooms have breathtaking views over the Chobe River and floodplains. As well as conferencing facilities for up to 100 delegates, there are several interesting venues for group functions, both indoors and outdoors. When not embarking on fun activities or safari excursions, the swimming pool and 9-hole golf course are other ways to keep active during your stay.

Chobe Game Lodge

This 5 star lodge has a superb location inside the Chobe National Park with stunning views of the Caprivi floodplains. Moorish architecture and original African artworks complete the tastefully elegant look of the 48 private rooms. Solar powered water heating systems are just one of the many back of house upgrades that the lodge is embarking on. Apart from the great range of on-site facilities, including function venues and conferencing, the full sized Victorian pool tables are interesting way to spend the afternoon before your next game drive.

Chobe Marina Lodge

Set on the river's edge and surrounded by lush gardens, the Chobe Marina Lodge is another popular accommodation option. The 60 well appointed rooms come in a variety of formats and there are an assortment of enjoyable bars and restaurants on site to keep guests happy.

Conference and meeting rooms and a mobile health spa are just two of the featured facilities that draw groups to this versatile venue.

Mowana, Chobe Game Lodge and Chobe Marina Lodge are all well located for easy access to Kasane as well to the abundant natural and wildlife based activities in the region. They each have their own draw cards but irrespective of your property choice, your group is guaranteed to enjoy excellent service, great dining and function options and best of all, the opportunity to view plentiful wildlife in a variety of different ways.

3. ACCOMMODATION

Title 1: Chobe Savanna Lodge

Sub heading: The Chobe Savanna Lodge re-opens after recent floods.

Following the highest Chobe River floods in 40 years, the Chobe Savanna Lodge reopened in early June after two months of repair and refurbishment. Amongst other things, a new coat of paint and a revamp of the gardens have returned the lodge to its stunning former glory.

Chobe Savanna Lodge is located on a private concession on the Namibian side of the Chobe River, and enjoys 270 degree views of both the river and the Puku flats. The exquisite accommodation comprises 12 stylish thatch and brick suites with all the mod cons. Facilities include a lounge, dining room, library and game viewing bar along with plunge pool, sun deck and open boma. Being the furthest removed from the hustle and bustle of Kasane town, this haven of tranquillity offers guests the perfect exclusive hideaway.

Title 2: Chobe Safari Lodge

Sub heading: Newly refurbished, this gem in the wild now offers even more choice!

Following a recent refurbishment, the Chobe Safari Lodge has added 14 additional safari rooms to the fold, bringing their total accommodation complement to 90 rooms. With a choice of safari rooms, river rooms, family units and thatched rondavels, the variety of accommodation options available on site makes this a super venue to suit all budgets.

The amenities at Chobe Safari Lodge are situated in beautiful gardens and include two viewing decks, a swimming pool, a bar, lounge and newly built restaurant and a well established activity centre. There are two riverboats at your disposal for sunset game safaris or dinner cruises. This 4 star lodge is also conveniently located, providing an excellent base from which to explore the region.

Title 3: Chobe Chilwero

Sub heading: The quintessential relaxation option for small groups.

A member of the sanctuary lodges group, this place of "high view" provides exceptional vistas over the Chobe River in a quietly luxurious 5 star setting. The 15 well appointed thatched cottages epitomise privacy and seclusion, boasting individual terraces and private gardens.

Relaxation is the keyword at Chobe Chilwero – when not heading out on game drives, the main attractions include indulging in preferential spa treatments, curling up in a hammock with a good book from their library or taking a moment of quiet reflection on one of the viewing patios. Gourmet cuisine and vintage wines round off the sumptuous experience.

Title 4: Elephant Valley Lodge

Sub heading: The ultimate destination for real Chobe adventure.

Nestled in Lesoma Valley, the Elephant Valley Lodge enjoys the luxury of being the only lodge within the Kasane Forest Reserve, adjacent to the Chobe National Park. Located close to a prolific watering hole and bird hide and surrounded by a colony of nesting white backed vultures, this unique location epitomises the concept of real adventure.

The open guest areas are complemented by 20 spacious "meru-styled" safari tents, allowing you to experience the sounds and sights of the wild more closely. But the highlight of your stay is guaranteed to be the exclusive safari experiences, as morning river cruises and sunset game drives are the order of the day.

4. ACTIVITIES

Title 1: Kasane – Gateway to Chobe

Sub heading: Air Botswana reintroduces the Kasane /Johannesburg direct service.

With the arrival of the airline's second new ATR72-500 in May 2009, direct flights between Johannesburg and Kasane have been re-instated. This is welcome news for tour operators and visitors alike, eliminating the need for passengers heading for Chobe National Park to route via Gaborone or Livingstone, thereby reducing journey time considerably.

The 2 hour 20 minute flight is currently scheduled 3 times per week in both directions and will remain in place until at least the 28th November, when timetables will again be revised. With Johannesburg acting as the gateway for many international travellers, the reintroduction of this flight route is of great benefit to both countries.

Title 2: The New Zambezi Queen

Sub heading: Cruise the Chobe River on board this luxurious floating lodge.

For a unique Chobe experience, the new 45 metre Zambezi Queen riverboat is an elegant, sophisticated accommodation option. No expense has been spared to make your two or three night stay one of pampered indulgence and superior comfort.

Designed with the African summer in mind, the 14 sumptuous suites are located on the first and second levels of the boat. With unobstructed views on three sides, the expansive top deck hosts the dining room, lounge, bar and sunbathing area complete with private pool. Embark from the banks of the Caprivi Strip for an unsurpassed river cruise experience.

Title 3: John Chase Tented Safaris

Sub heading: Get up close and personal on a luxury tented safari!

Have you ever wanted to disappear into the wilds of Africa the way they did in old safari days? John Chase Safaris is a family run business that offers exclusive, intimate tented safaris into remote, limited-access areas of Botswana. The majority of their guests are photographers seeking unique animal encounters as well as those keen to get away from traditional game viewing strips.

A maximum of 9 twin-bedded mobile luxury tents with en suite bathrooms are permitted per trip, ensuring a lesser impact on the landscape. The mobile camp operates throughout Botswana in areas such as Chobe, the Okavango Delta, Moremi Game Reserve, the Makgadigadi and the Central Kalahari. Apart from viewing wildlife up close in a variety of ways, this type of hands on safari also allows you to engage personally with local culture.

Title 4: Impalila Island

Sub heading: Hop across the border for a unique stay at one of Namibia's premier lodges.

Straddling the confluence of the Chobe and Zambezi Rivers, Impalila Island forms the north eastern tip of Namibia. It is a stone's throw away from Chobe National Park and the physical meeting place of four countries!

The main lodge was built beneath the canopy of an ancient baobab tree, with 16 well appointed log cabins on stilts situated nearby. The island is a nature playground filled with adventure and plentiful activity options – from common game viewing activities in the region to river paddling and fishing. Impalila also allows for gentle reflection in seclusion as well as pampered relaxation.

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