

## Elephant Song Trail

*Guided walking safari in the Okavango*



*Northern Botswana is home to one of the largest populations of wild elephant of any region in Africa. While these magnificent creatures are now endangered across much of the African continent, in the wilds of Chobe, Okavango and Moremi – where this unique walking safari takes place – they continue to eke out an existence.*

*On this most unique of walking safaris you'll have the chance to track wild elephant in the remote Khwai Concession, just outside Moremi Game Reserve. You'll come to appreciate the daily rhythm of these magnificent creatures as you track them from the early morning to the close of day, and in doing so gain a deeper understanding of their nature and character than can be had from a traditional 4x4 driven safari. Travelling with experienced Bayei Bushman guides – former hunter-gatherers – you'll learn everything there is to learn about the elephant: how they communicate, their migration patterns, and the important role they play in the preservation of their eco-system. You'll learn, too, about their role in African history, as the source of the ivory trade, and the threats that face them today. You'll learn to recognise their song.*

*Please note that this walking safari does not follow a fixed programme. The schedule for each day will depend on the location of the elephant, and your actual itinerary may differ from the example outline given below. You will need to be moderately fit to participate. At a minimum, each day will require 7-8km of walking, sometimes more, between 8am and 3pm.*

### **Your Financial Protection**

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

**Day 1: Arrival (overnight at Hyena Pan Tented Camp)**

You will be collected from Khwai Airstrip for the 40 minute drive to Hyena Pan Tented Camp. You'll be shown to your tent as you arrive into camp, then join the rest of the group for a shared lunch.



This afternoon, enjoy a short game drive along the Khwai River, stopping at an underground hide with a view of a major waterhole—the perfect spot for budding wildlife photographers to brush up on their skills!

After the afternoon game drive, it's back to camp for a hot shower. Prior to dinner, there will be a short briefing on tomorrow's activities, during which you'll be introduced to your walking guides and have a chance to ask any questions about the trail.

Following the briefing, gather with the rest of the group for drinks and dinner. Then, an early night in anticipation of tomorrow's early start.

**Day 2: Depart on the Elephant Song Trail (overnight at "the Platforms")**

Wake to a fulsome breakfast in camp (hot tea and coffee, bacon, eggs to order, fruits and cereals). After breakfast, pack your own lunch from the sandwiches and snacks on offer. Then, grab your day pack (checking you have your wide-brimmed hat, sunscreen, camera, and other essentials), and set out into the bush.

The walk will be adjusted to the pace of the slowest member of the group. There will be a tracker at the front and a guide behind, ensuring everyone stays together. During the walk, you'll be keeping an eye out for elephant bull tracks, but also taking the time to admire the smaller fauna and flora, the bird and plant life that can only really be appreciated on a walking safari.





Once the track is picked up you will have a chance to witness the incredible tracking skills of the Khwai Bushmen. Every track tells a story, which your Bushman guide will be able to interpret and translate for you, outlining the pattern of the elephant's movement as you follow in its footsteps. They will be able to show you where elephant stopped to forage, to rest, and can even detect the pattern of its more cautious nocturnal movements.

The length and pace of the walk will depend on the location of the elephants. There will be regular stops and a lunch break to ensure that everyone is rested and comfortable. Once the bull elephant has been sighted, you will approach cautiously with your tracker. You will follow from a distance, observing his movements, which seem so much more dramatic when watched from the ground!

It is possible that you won't see elephant today, but sightings are common and generally expected. With any luck, you'll also have exhilarating encounters with buffalo, antelope and other game during the walk.



The walk ends at "the Platforms", three raised-thatched hides situated a short distance from the main Hyena Pan Camp. Each of the hides has a sleeping area, shower and washroom. They are positioned overlooking a well-frequented waterhole, where elephant, giraffe, buffalo and antelope can often be sighted.

End the day with a sundowner overlooking the waterhole, followed by a campfire dinner. Tonight, you sleep under the stars (and a mosquito net!) on top of the platforms!

### **Day 3: Elephant Song Trail (overnight at "the Platforms")**

Another early start. Tea, coffee and hot chocolate will be waiting for you as you get out of bed, followed by a full English breakfast cooked over the campfire.

Then, set off for another day in the wilderness. The morning will be spent tracking the elephants and other wildlife. Your guide may decide that it would be best to visit another part of the concession, in which case he can radio for a vehicle.

Return to the platforms early afternoon for lunch and a shower. Late afternoon, take a walk to another underground hide, before returning to the platforms by vehicle.



Dinner is again served around a crackling campfire. Take the opportunity to share stories of the day's game-viewing with the rest of the group, and to learn more about the elephant and the region in general from your guide. Then, to bed for another night under the stars!

#### **Day 4: Khwai River (overnight at Hyena Pan Tented Camp)**

Wake to coffee in bed, followed by a campfire breakfast. Before setting off today, leave any luggage you don't need in your day pack at the foot of your bed – this will be taken back to Hyena Pan Tented Camp during the day and will be waiting for you on your return this afternoon.

Set off by 4x4 for a short drive to the Khwai River, stopping for any good wildlife sightings along the way. At the river, board a mokoro (dugout canoe) for a gentle river cruise, followed by a walk along the river bank. This is a great opportunity for bird viewing. In terms of big game, hippo abound, and, with a bit of luck, the elusive leopard and wild dog can also be seen in this region of the Khwai Concession.

A table will be set up on the banks of the river for lunch and a short rest. In the afternoon, take a game drive back along the river in search of big cats and wild dogs!

After the game drive, continue to Hyena Pan. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure. Enjoy the lounge and pool, before a final dinner with the group.



## Day 5: Departure

Leave the camp this morning after breakfast and drive to the airstrip for your onward transfer.

*NB. We can offer a 3 night variant on this itinerary, with only one night on the platforms.*

### Price Guide:

*The cost of this itinerary is **£1,445 per person**, based on twin/double accommodation (the 3-night programme costs **£1,095**). For more information, or if you would like to enquire about a tailor-made safari combining part or all of the above itinerary, please [contact us](#).*

#### Includes:

- Full-board accommodation (2 nights at Hyena Pan Tented Camp, 2 nights on the Platforms)
- All meals, local drinks and laundry
- Game drives and walking activities as outlined in itinerary
- Experienced guides
- Return transfers from Khwai or Banoka airstrips
- Government taxes and VAT

#### Excludes:

- International flights – please ask us for a quote
- Charter flights to/from Hyena Pan (return charter flight from Maun starts from £355 per person; driven transfer from £215 per person – costs based on 2 persons minimum)
- Personal travel insurance
- Personal expenses and tips
- Premium drinks