

## *Big Game, Splendid Isolation*

# BOTSWANA'S GREAT HERDS

15 DAYS – DEPARTS SATURDAY, RETURNS SATURDAY

Botswana is one of the best-kept secrets in Africa—unspoiled and untamed, a wonderland of natural beauty and prodigious wildlife. The astounding variety of species, combined with a sparse population and a government that is committed to protecting its natural treasures, makes this an awe-inspiring safari destination. It is quintessential game-viewing country—where the “Big Five” are stars of the show, and yet only the beginning of the marvels we will see.

The appeal of this country lies in its astonishing contrasts: the winding waterways and lush lagoons of the immense Okavango Delta, the parched landscape of Chobe National Park, the immense floodplains of Moremi Game Reserve, and the gape-inducing grandeur of Victoria Falls. While each area has its own highlights, one thing remains constant: wildlife. Lions, elephants, wildebeest, rhinos, zebras, eland, leopard, cheetah, impalas, hippos and more—this region is a bounty of intertwined ecosystems. Discerning travellers will appreciate Micato's commitment to travel lightly; on our safaris, we are respectful observers rather than intruders in these precious areas.

With experienced and knowledgeable staff leading the way, we'll embrace each of these regions with long stays in luxurious camps. We will explore densely forested islands and vast grasslands. There will be invigorating game drives through the wildlife-rich bush and serene boat rides through the marsh. The proud majesty of elephants and lions will take our breath away, as will the stunning sunsets on the savannah. This well-designed, impeccably paced adventure will take us into the wild heart of Africa with the uniquely personal Micato touch.

Our journey begins in the Okavango Delta—a fertile oasis in a mostly dry country. A striking combination of woodlands and wetlands, this region supports a unique and fascinating ecosystem. We discover it moment by moment, gliding through the maze of water lily-fringed lagoons and reed-laden channels in a mokoro—a charmingly rustic African version of the gondola. For another perspective, we take to the skies on a helicopter game-viewing flight. When the day is done, we'll relax back at

Eagle Island Camp—our deluxe home-away-from-home in this untamed land. As night falls, we may drift off to sleep in sumptuous comfort to the sounds of an owl's hoot or a distant lion's deep-throated roar—an entrancing African lullaby.

Our next stop is Savute Elephant Camp in the incomparable Chobe National Park. Outstanding game viewing is just outside the door in this blissful setting: the adjacent waterhole draws a fascinating array of wildlife. When we do venture out in four-wheeled safari vehicles, the unfolding drama of the desert awaits—wildebeest, kudu and steenbok juxtaposed with their powerful predators: leopard, cheetah and lions. The rough-hewn, semi-arid wilderness of Savute evokes the Africa of lore—rugged, wide-open,

seemingly endless. True to its name, this is the place to see Earth's most majestic land creature: the African elephant. Very few sights compare to the slow march of these gentle giants in their natural habitat. When we're not out exploring the area, we can unwind in the camp's heated pool or on the private viewing deck of its well-appointed tents—indulgent luxury in primitive lands.

From there we fly off to resplendent Khwai River region. This area is a primordial throwback—a land seemingly unchanged over epochs. Well-known for its concentration of large mammals

like buffalo, hippo and elephant, the region also features clutches of predators like lions and leopard. Nearby Moremi Game Reserve offers a variety of viewing, from grandiose big game on the savannahs to quiet birding in a lagoon. We will stay in the Khwai River Lodge—one of the oldest and most respected safari lodges in Botswana—which features breathtaking views of the floodplain and exquisite amenities such as an in-house gym and spa.

Finally, after a relaxing cruise down the Zambezi River, we make our way to one of the world's most impressive natural spectacles: Victoria Falls. Appropriately called Mosi-oa-Tuny—“The Smoke that Thunders”—by native peoples, this Natural Wonder will make even the most experienced of travellers gasp in awe. It is a worthy finale to an unforgettable foray into Africa's heartland.



# BOTSWANA'S GREAT HERDS

15 DAYS – DEPARTS SATURDAY, RETURNS SATURDAY



## Day 1 *United States*

We depart on our international flight bound for South Africa.

## Day 2 *Johannesburg*

We touch down and transfer to the Westcliff Hotel, situated in the city's most exclusive residential suburb. The Westcliff's hillside setting with cascading, sculpted gardens and elegant accommodations evoke a bygone era of refinement in this renewed and vibrant city. Dinner will be served in the private home of our Micato hosts—the first taste of the personal attention we'll enjoy over the next two weeks.

## Day 3 *Okavango Delta*

Today we fly to Eagle Island Camp, our home for the next few nights and the only camp in Botswana to offer helicopter game viewing! Nestled on a tranquil island, it's a luxurious escape in a beguiling wilderness. Under a cooling canopy of Illala palms, we take in the winding waterways and expansive floodplains of this remote paradise under wide African skies. With our expert guides, we set off into the bush for a glimpse of the area's ample wildlife.

## Day 4 - Day 5 *Okavango Delta*

In these postcard-perfect surroundings, we continue our exploration of Okavango's flora and fauna—by foot, dugout canoe (mokoro), motorboat—or via an included

game-viewing flight by private helicopter! Breathtaking moments are plentiful: watching crocodiles sunning themselves by the water or a pride of lions lounging in the shade of a baobab. The delta is teeming with over 1100 species including giraffes, leopard, hippos and elephants among so many others. Later, a refreshing drink beckons at the Fish Eagle Bar, which *The New York Times* calls one of the world's most romantic bars.

## Day 6 *Chobe National Park*

From Okavango, we'll take a quick flight to the semi-arid Savute region of Chobe National Park. Famous for elephants, Chobe also boasts a swath of other fascinating wildlife including buffalo, lion and a spate of exotic bird species. This is a chance to see the Kalahari Desert at its best: unique and abiding, a remarkable corner of the planet that is still governed by nature. We'll stay at Savute Elephant Camp, a lavish escape ideally located for exploration of these alluring wilds. With a waterhole only a few feet away, an impressive view of wildlife is available without even leaving camp.

## Day 7 - Day 8 *Chobe National Park*

We are now at the centre of a classic big-game country and there is thrilling evidence all around us. Set unobtrusively on the banks of the now-dry Savute Channel, Savute Elephant Camp offers a fantastic base to explore this famed wilderness. Whether it's the hulking mass of a bull elephant

herd or the exciting sight of a large pride of lion, we'll see what makes this region a wildlife-viewing Eden. We'll also come within close viewing range of impala, giraffe, wildebeest and zebra. One animal is master of the Savute, however—the elephant. The region is ideal for spotting Earth's largest land creatures in all of their imposing glory.

**Day 9**  
**Moremi Wildlife Reserve**

We'll catch another short flight to one of Botswana's oldest safari lodges—Khwai River Lodge. This legendary camp, opened by the first president of independent Botswana, will make us feel pampered amidst the wild surroundings. The location is ideal for elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard and cheetah sightings—and the camp blends so well with the surrounding bushveld, it's not uncommon to see some of them from our private deck.

**Day 10 - Day 11**  
**Moremi Wildlife Reserve**

Game viewing opportunities abound in the area around Khwai and no experience is more diverse and jaw-dropping than at nearby Moremi Wildlife Reserve. Here we are close to the core of timeless Africa; in the centre of a world that is immortally wild. Whether driving along a roaming zebra herd or watching baboons play along the riverbank, nearly every turn of the head seems to offer a spectacular menagerie of exotic animals. Returning to camp, lounge by the heated pool and perhaps glimpse a pod of hippo playing in the river. At night we lie under a star-speckled sky, basking in the calming cacophony of the African night.

**Day 12**  
**Victoria Falls**

We'll be whisked away by flight to Livingstone, Zambia, where we'll enjoy a leisurely cruise along the legendary Zambezi River. Retiring to the five-star Royal Livingstone Hotel, our thoughts turn to the wonder that awaits us in the morning.

**Day 13**  
**Victoria Falls**

This morning we visit the venerable Victoria Falls. Nothing will prepare us for the pure, humbling power of this regal



sight. Continuing to the heli-pad for our "Flight of Angels," we'll get a bird's eye view of this colossal cascade in full perspective; an elephant-back trek is another option. The experience will inspire breathless awe and the stunning images will linger in our imagination for years to come.

**Day 14**  
**Johannesburg - United States**

After breakfast, we fly to Johannesburg for international connecting flights home—where we can reflect on a true trip of a lifetime. We arrive home on Day 15.

Tariff 2008: Per Person			
Land Arrangements (per person)			
	Nov-Feb	Mar-May	Jun-Oct
Double Occupancy	\$9,975	\$12,755	\$13,955
Single Supplement	\$695	\$890	\$2,925
Internal Airfare	\$1,010	\$1,010	\$1,010

(Johannesburg/Maun/Camp to Camp/Kasane/Victoria Falls/Johannesburg)

Sample Airfare from New York	
Economy Class from	\$1,450
Business Class from	\$5,380

The airfares listed above are provided *only* as indications of fares that might be available when booking your flights. Micato does not supply international air tickets, only the "Internal Airfare" flights within Africa during the safari. Travellers should purchase international flights through travel agents or via the Micato preferred air purveyor—complete details will be provided upon booking. Airfares are subject to change, carry penalties and seasonal surcharges. Add-on fares are generally available from major U.S. cities.

**Tour Dates: Every date is a guaranteed departure.**

2008 Departure Dates (From USA)							
Depart	Return	Depart	Return	Depart	Return	Depart	Return
Jan 05	- Jan 19	Apr 12	- Apr 26	Jul 19	- Aug 02	Oct 25	- Nov 08
Jan 19	- Feb 02	Apr 26	- May 10	Aug 02	- Aug 16	Nov 08	- Nov 22
Feb 02	- Feb 16	May 10	- May 24	Aug 16	- Aug 30	Nov 22	- Dec 06
Feb 16	- Mar 01	May 24	- Jun 07	Aug 30	- Sep 13	Dec 06	- Dec 20*
Mar 01	- Mar 15	Jun 07	- Jun 21	Sep 13	- Sep 27	Dec 20	- Jan 03*
Mar 15	- Mar 29	Jun 21	- Jul 05	Sep 27	- Oct 11		
Mar 29	- Apr 12	Jul 05	- Jul 19	Oct 11	- Oct 25		

\*Holiday supplement may apply

2009 Departure Dates (New rates and dates may apply)							
Depart	Return	Depart	Return	Depart	Return	Depart	Return
Jan 03	- Jan 17	Feb 28	- Mar 14	Apr 25	- May 09	Jun 20	- Jul 04
Jan 17	- Jan 31	Mar 14	- Mar 28	May 09	- May 23	Jul 04	- Jul 18
Jan 31	- Feb 14	Mar 28	- Apr 11	May 23	- Jun 06	Jul 18	- Aug 01
Feb 14	- Feb 28	Apr 11	- Apr 25	Jun 06	- Jun 20	Aug 01	- Aug 15

