

Our Story

Born from one man’s deep love of Africa and unrelenting passion for responsible travel, Rainbow Tours began with a handful of people and an adventure to South Africa. It’s a love and dedication that remains, and drives us to pioneer new destinations and find new ways to explore well-trodden routes. Rainbow Tours now offer quality tailor-made holidays and group travel throughout Africa and Latin America and are proud to be the UK’s leading tour operator to Madagascar.

When Roger Diski established Rainbow Tours in 1997 he wanted to show that Africa was a place to be fallen in love with - not pitied. It was a belief that grew from his own experiences. Encountering majestic wildlife, grand landscapes and exotic cultures drove him to spearhead responsible travel through Africa. Today we work closely with a select group of respected charities and NGOs to remain deeply involved in each of the countries we specialise in.

Contact a Rainbow Tours Travel Specialist on 020 7666 1267
www.rainbowtours.co.uk

Botswana Made Easy

Take in three of Botswana’s most iconic safari destinations with one tour. Start at the magnificent Okavango Delta; recently named UNESCO’s 1,000th World Heritage Site, this far-reaching and unique eco-system is a maze of lagoons, lakes and channels best explored by boat or traditional dugout canoe in the dry season. During the green season the bush here is especially verdant, many bird species migrate to the delta and infant zebra and impala are easily spotted.



In Makgadikgadi Pans National Park you’ll stay at Leroo La Tau camp. Perched on top of cliffs overlooking the Boteti River, this stunning camp features just twelve luxurious glass-fronted suites. Set off in search of hippo and giraffe at the water’s edge and take a 4x4 to visit the local Khumaga Village. Later fly north to reach the Moremi Game Reserve, heralded one of the country’s most diverse ecosystems. Game drives follow the movement of wild elephant herds, buffalo and wildebeest and track prides of lion, cheetah and leopard.

Rainbow Tours’ 9 day Botswana Made Easy tailor-made tour includes flights, transfers and accommodation and costs from £3150 per person

Chobe Princess River Cruise

The bulging waterways of Chobe River in the dry season attract huge herds of big game making a boat the best place to spot some of Botswana’s most iconic animals. But instead of taking to the water in a mokoro just for an afternoon, pack your bags and climb aboard a luxurious and elegantly furnished Chobe Princess houseboat to leisurely drift along the river. Watch hippos surface and spot elephants, wildebeest and lions from the comfort of your own private deck.



Helicopter Flights

For an unforgettable view of Botswana’s most iconic landscape, head for the skies in a helicopter from Belmond Eagle Island Lodge. Enjoy this excursion during the dry season when the Okavango Delta’s twisting waterways are swollen from the previous season’s rains and the bush is bright and green. From up above the sheer magnitude and vastness of each wilderness and its inhabitant herds become both clear and humbling.

Speak to a Rainbow Travel Specialist on 020 7666 1267 about adding excursions to your Botswana safari holiday

Botswana & Zambia

Situated in both Zambia and Zimbabwe, just north of the border with Botswana, Victoria Falls dominates the Mosi oa Tunya - a park whose name translates as ‘The Smoke that Thunders’. Dense mist shrouds the valley and the ravine belches a white cloud of water upwards making it visible for miles. Over a million litres of water course over Victoria Falls every second. The falls are easily visited from Chobe National Park or combined into a two-country trip.



Botswana & South Africa

Botswana and its southerly neighbour share more than a border; wildlife moves freely between the two but while South Africa also boasts national parks, its vast wildernesses don’t match the pristine levels of Botswana’s. Instead South Africa is home to the award-winning Stellenbosch winelands, lively Cape Town and a stunning coast from which to search for migrating whales and great white sharks.



Speak to a Rainbow Tours Travel Specialist on 020 7666 1267 about tailor making your multi-country holiday

Botswana & Mozambique



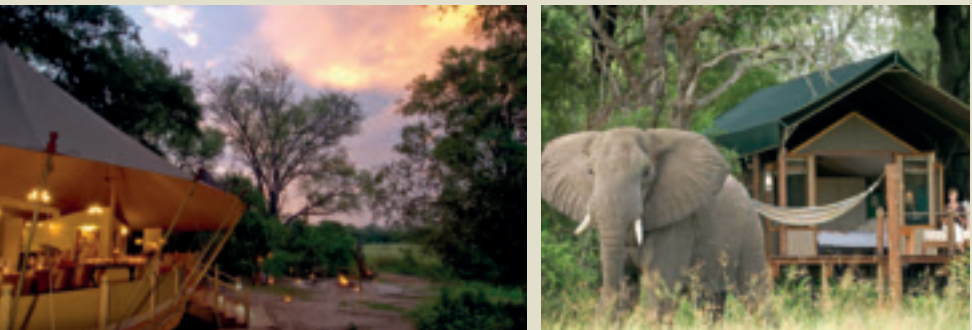
Where could possibly follow the adventures of a wildlife-spotting mokoro safari and elephant experience at Botswana’s Stanley’s Camp by Sanctuary? Surely few destinations could - but one answer lies around a thousand kilometres west. Trade your sturdy boots and safari khakis for a pair of flip-flops and a bathing suit to spend a few days relaxing on the pristine, white sand beaches of northern Mozambique’s remote coastline. You’ll have the chance to explore the history and culture of the region, touring protected UNESCO World Heritage Site, Ilha de Moçambique - a slim island littered with colonial Portuguese and old Swahili architecture.

But if the excitement of busy Botswana left you on tenterhooks, Mozambique has plenty to keep your heart rate up. From your beachfront villa at Coral Lodge set off to dive and snorkel coral reefs, try windsurfing and fishing, arrange a whale watching boat trip (seasonal) or even visit a local village.

Rainbow Tours’ 12 day Botswana Safari & Mozambique Beach Escape includes flights, transfers and accommodation and costs from £5395 per person

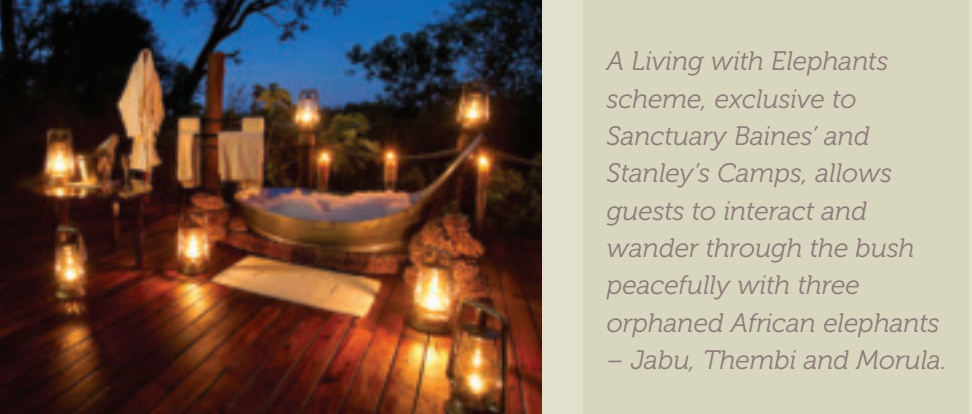
Sanctuary Stanley’s Camp

Escape into the African wilderness for an authentic tented safari experience without compromising on comfort. Sanctuary Stanley’s Camp borders the Moremi Game Reserve and overlooks the floodplains of the Okavango Delta on a private concession hidden between ebony trees. These tents have hot showers, ceiling fans and a private deck with a hammock. There is also a cocktail pool deck. Nature activities include: walking safaris, mokoro dug-out canoe trips and 4x4 game drives and sundowners, all accompanied by professional guides that interpret the signs of the wild.



Sanctuary Baines’ Camp

Also in a private concession bordering the Moremi Game Reserve, sister camp Sanctuary Baines’ Camp is built on raised platforms above the Boro River. This boutique camp is perfect for those celebrating a special occasion. Luxury suites feature four-poster mobile ‘sky beds’ that wheel out onto a private deck to sleep under the African star canopy. Guests can enjoy open-air bubble baths under the stars, with ice bucket and sparkling wine to hand.



A Living with Elephants scheme, exclusive to Sanctuary Baines’ and Stanley’s Camps, allows guests to interact and wander through the bush peacefully with three orphaned African elephants – Jabu, Thembi and Morula.

Rainbow Tours’ 8 day Botswana by Sanctuary Retreats tailor-made tour includes flights, transfers and accommodation and costs from £3475 per person

When to go

Botswana is one of Africa’s greatest safari destinations. National parks protect over half the country and are roamed freely by big cats, endangered rhinos and the world’s largest population of wild elephants.

Named Lonely Planet’s ‘Top country to visit in 2016’ and ready to celebrate 50 years of independence, there has never been a better time to pay Botswana a visit.

The Dry Season: The best time to search for large herds is between July and October. Set off on game drives in the dry season as creatures big and small predictably gather in huge numbers at water sources. Water levels in the Okavango Delta are at their highest, filling winding water channels – perfect for river or mokoro safaris.

The Green Season: Botswana is in bloom! Between December and April the flora flourishes following the rains, birding is excellent and ‘Big Five’ viewing is still very good – catch game giving birth to young and migrating south to the Makgadikgadi Pans and the Kalahari. Take advantage of lower accommodation prices, if you don’t mind the odd rain shower.

The Wettest Months: January and February

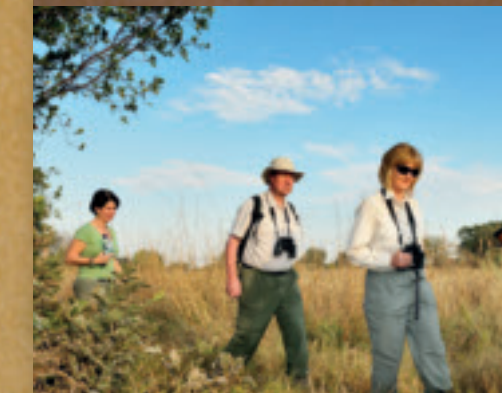
The Hottest Months: October and November



Speak to a Rainbow Botswana Specialist today on 020 7666 1267 or visit www.rainbowtours.com/botswana

BOTSWANA

Safari Types



WALKING SAFARI

Walking was the original form of safari; following scat trails and led by an expert whose keen eyes spot wildlife often overlooked from a jeep. Set off on foot with a local guide for an intimate safari experience, allowing you to get up close to the bush and its inhabitants including weird and wonderful insects, endemic plants and colourful native birds. Sturdy hiking boots are recommended.

Best at: Selinda



JEEP SAFARI

Cover more ground in your search for big game, which could be almost anywhere in the vast reaches of the national parks. Experienced safari guides know their turf like the back of their hand, head to the best wildlife spots for each day's conditions and will share their impeccable wildlife knowledge. Plus, you'll be grateful for the shade of the roof in the heat of the African sun.

Best at: Savute



BY WATER

Botswana's most famous safari type is all thanks to the extensive, twisting waterways of the Okavango Delta. Boats slowly chug up the deeper rivers to spot hippos lurking in the water and elephant drinking at the water's edge, while leisurely trips along smaller rivers in a traditional mokoro (wooden canoe) bring you face to face with the frogs and exotic birdlife that inhabit the passing reeds.

Best at: Okavango Delta



MOBILE SAFARI CAMP

Botswana is one of Africa's most environmentally conscious safari destinations and each national park has a strong focus on conservation. Mobile safari camps are set up for just a few days before being packed up and moved on to another location by the camp porters. This prevents any damage to the ground from a permanent settlement and gives you an authentic safari camp experience.

Best at: Savute

WHAT TO SEE & WHERE



The Big Five: Elephant, Lion, Buffalo, Leopard, Rhino



Elephant



Zebra



Lion



Hippo



Buffalo



Impala



Leopard



Birds



Rhino



Baboon



Cheetah



Wildebeest



Giraffe



Flamingo



Crocodile



Meerkat



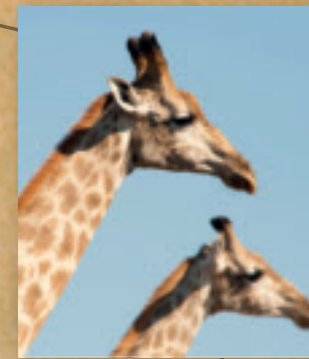
Hyena



Monkeys

RAINBOW TOURS

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Chobe National Park

Best for: spotting enormous herds of wild elephant and buffalo. From April to November game migrates to the Chobe River in search of a water source, followed of course, by prides of lion.



Victoria Falls

The largest waterfall in Africa was 'discovered' by Victorian explorer, David Livingstone in 1855 and named after his queen.



Kwando Wildlife Reserve

Kwando Wildlife Reserve is huge, covering 2,300 sq km of wild, undisturbed wilderness north of Selinda, boasting lush forest skirting the Kwando river, dense mopane forest and open plains that attract lots of big game.



Linyanti Wildlife Reserve

The unfenced Linyanti, Selinda and Kwando Wildlife Reserves are a magnet for large and diverse herds of game in the dry season, thanks to the permanent water of the Kwando-Linyanti river system.



Makgadikgadi Salt Pan

Famed for its arid, moon-like landscapes during the dry season in contrast to the verdant, game-rich Okavango regions, Makgadikgadi is a quad-biking haven but when the rains fall later in the year, the vast salt pans fill with water forming a breeding ground for migrating flamingo and regenerated grasslands draw zebra and wildebeest.



Selinda Wildlife Reserve

Renowned for having some of Botswana's best big predator viewing opportunities during the dry season, Selinda Wildlife Reserve covers the Okavango and Linyanti river systems, flood plains and picturesque dry grasslands.



Savute

Stretching from the wild northern reaches of the Chobe National Park to the Linyanti River, Savute is a remote corner of the region dominated and regenerated by the increased water flow of the Savute Channel and drawing large numbers of wildlife.



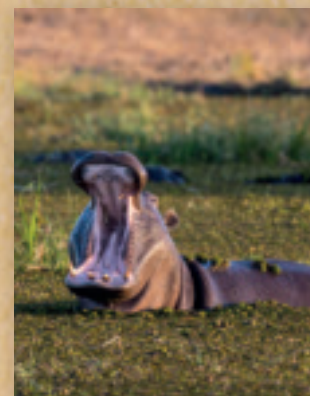
Okavango Delta

Best for: weaving through river channels in a traditional dugout canoe (mokoro) safari in the dry season while the floodplains are swollen from the previous season's rainfall.



Tsodilo Hills

This UNESCO World Heritage Site protects caves and rock shelters with walls that are home to ancient rock art depicting thousands of years of human settlement.



Moremi Game Reserve

Voted the 'best game reserve in Africa' by the African Travel and Tourism Association in 2008, Moremi protects the central and eastern areas of the Okavango Delta, one of the richest and most biodiverse ecosystems on the continent.



Kalahari Game Reserve

The Kalahari Desert is the world's largest sand basin and the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, is the world's largest game reserve. For many years it was closed to the public, rendering it one of Africa's last true wildernesses and allowing large and unique wildlife populations to flourish – look out for the Kalahari black-maned lion.



Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

Angola

Zambia

Zimbabwe

Francistown

Serowe

Gaborone

South Africa