

Sky Theme Safaris – Nature at its Most Beautiful



Tour Notes



FAMILY TRAIL (STSFY)

Tour Duration: 19 Nights / 20 Days

Tour Style: Classic **Tour Type:** Small Groups **Tour Code:** STSFY

Tour Pace: Moderate **Tour Comfort:** Standard

Tour Highlights – Okavango Adventure

- Raw feel for the African wilderness.
- Moremi Game Reserve – untouched wildlife for a breathtaking experience.
- Chobe National Park – wilderness at its finest and its reputation speaks for itself.
- Victoria Falls – ‘Mosi-oa-Tunya’- The Smoke that Thunders. Hear the roar and feel the spray.



Checklist:

- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Sun glasses
- Closed shoes
- Comfortable clothing
- Mosquito/insect repellent
- Binoculars
- Head/hand torch

Tour Itinerary:

Accommodation:

- 1 night at a lodge in Maun
- 2 nights camping in Nxai Pan National Park
- 2 nights at a lodge in Makgadkadi Salt Pans
- 2 nights at a lodge in Elephant Sands
- 2 nights at a lodge in Livingstone
- 2 nights camping in Chobe National Park
- 2 nights camping in Savute
- 5 nights camping in Moremi Game Reserve
- 1 night at a lodge in Maun
- Depart from Maun airport

Included Meals: 11 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 11 dinners

Start Point: Join tour: Maun

End Point: Tour ends: Maun

Transport: 4WD

Countries: Botswana and Zambia

Day 1 Tour Starts in Maun

Land in Maun and check in to your first accommodation. Maun is a small rural town which is the doorway to the Okavango Delta. This is where your adventure starts and the entrance to excitement and memories.

Overnight: Standard lodge



Included: All meals excluded

Standard-Medium Lodge (Sedia Hotel): <http://www.sedia-hotel.com>

Upscale Lodge (Maun Lodge): <http://www.maunlodge.com>

Day 2 Drive to Nxai Pan National Park

Today is the start of your journey so ease into the day with a delicious breakfast at your lodge whilst the team arrives to take you to Nxai Pan National Park. The drive towards Nxai Pan sets the tone for the rest of your trip with beautiful landscape and diverse wildlife. You will arrive at your campsite. Nxai pan has a very different topography to the rest of the Okavango Delta with vast grass plains that were once a great lake in central Botswana.

Overnight: Standard camping

Included: Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 at Nxai Pan National Park

Nxai pan National Park is a great way to start your trip with beautiful scenery and large herds of mammals and bird life leaving you wanting to see more. The zebra and wildebeest migration is one of nature's greatest events, the migration season starts in November/December and ends in March/April. After your daily game drive arrive back at your camp site and settle into the night ahead with a beverage of your choice around the campfire.

Overnight: Standard camping

Included: All meals



Day 4 Drive to Makgadkadi Salt Pans

Wake up in Nxai Pan and prepare yourself for your next adventure because today you're off to the Makgadkadi Salt Pans. It's a short drive from Nxai Pan to Makgadkadi, therefore the topography of both areas are very similar. The salt pans are situated in the middle of the dry savannah and the fossil lakebed spans about 40 squared kilometres in size and has been dried up for over a thousand years. Arrive at your lodge and settle back.

Overnight: Standard lodge

Included: Breakfast

Standard-Medium Lodge (Planet Baobab Lodge): <http://www.planetbaobab.co>

Upscale Lodge (Nata Lodge): <http://underonebotswanasky.com/camps/nata-lodge.php>

Day 5 at Makgadkadi Salt Pans

Today you will be able to finish the activities still unticked on your list, whether it's quad biking or the meerkat expedition. The harsh environment and the lack of flora and fauna means that wildlife is practically non-existent on the Salt Pans. Elephants are one of the only large mammals able to cope with such harsh conditions. The open space and large horizons are still a thing of beauty because of its remoteness and harshness. Arrive back at your lodge and start packing at your own pace. Meet the team back at the reception for dinner.

Overnight: Standard lodge



Included: All meals excluded

Day 6 Drive to Elephant Sands

Today after your breakfast you will be heading to Elephant Sands. It is a short drive away from Makgadkadi Salt Pans. Elephant Sands is a bush lodge and campsite and what sets Elephant Sands apart from the other lodges is the amount of wildlife all around and in the lodge itself. Due to the lack of water in high season the wildlife flocks to the man-made water hole built by the owner of the lodge. Elephants end up staying the whole day - hence the lodge's motto "Where Elephants Rule". In a completely safe environment you are able to spectate the daily routine of a herd of elephants. Settle into your superbly comfortable tents and put your feet up around the campfire whilst observing the elephants.

Overnight: Standard lodge

Included: All meals excluded

Standard-Upscale lodge (Elephant Sands): <http://www.elephantsands.com>

Day 7 at Elephant Sands

Grow Familiar with your surroundings at Elephant Sands. The abundance of wildlife at your door-step is truly unbelievable. Today you will be able to do the numerous activities Elephant Sands has to offer - such as bush walks, game drives, bush braai (African barbecue) and mountain bike riding. You can either book the activities yourself or go through your tour guide/leader and tell him the activities you wish to do. After an activity filled day, relax back and think about the day you just had. The elephants around the water hole will be sure to entertain you as you sit around the fire.

Overnight: Standard lodge

Included: All meals excluded



Day 8 Drive to Livingstone

Wake up at Elephant Sands with a coffee in one hand and your passport in the other, since today you are heading to Livingstone, Zambia. We will no longer be conducting game drives (unless you want to book supplementary game drives in Livingstone) however Livingstone is the perfect place for adrenaline junkies or people fascinated in its rich history. As you get yourself comfortable at your new lodge, prepare yourself for the activities you have booked with your tour guide. There are many activities Livingstone can offer such as, white water rafting, bungee jumping, village tours, scenic helicopter flights, lion and cheetah walks and many more. And don't forget the famous Victoria Falls also known as Mosi-oa-Tunya 'The Smoke that Thunders'.

Overnight: Standard lodge

Included: All meals excluded

Standard-Medium Lodge (Bushfront Lodge):

<https://www.safarinow.com/go/thebushfrontlodgelivingstone/>

Upscale Lodge (Water Front Lodge): <https://thevictoriafallswaterfront.com/the-lodge/>

Day 9 at Livingstone

Wake up in the comfort of a lodge well relaxed from your action packed first day. Due to the amount of activities Livingstone provides, today is the perfect day to tick off anything else that is on your 'to do' list. Come back to your lodge for the last time and start getting ready for your next segment and enjoy the festivities the night has to offer.

Overnight: Standard lodge

Included: All meals excluded

Day 10 Drive to Chobe National Park



Sky Theme Safaris – Nature at its Most Beautiful

Wake up in Livingstone, Zambia, and prepare yourself for your next adventure by heading to the famous Chobe National Park in Botswana. The drive into the National Park will be the start of your trip to Chobe and the change of scenery will take your breath away. Once you have settled down into camp get ready for your first of many afternoon game drives. Chobe National Park is famous for its large herds of elephants, buffaloes and numerous predators that come with them. Your first night at Chobe will not disappoint and the surroundings will leave you absorbing the feel of the nature.

Overnight: Standard camping

Included: Lunch, Dinner

Day 11 in the Heart of Chobe National Park

Your first morning in Chobe will be an unforgettable one with the striking beauty of your new surroundings. The first morning game drive will set the tone for the rest of your stay in Chobe. If it's big game you seek, then Chobe National Park is the right place to be. The vast herds of elephants will forever be ingrained in your memory. Head back to camp after your second game drive of the day and exchange stories over the camp fire.

Overnight: Standard camping

Included: All meals

Day 12 Drive to Savute



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Savute is an area in the Chobe National Park and is probably most well-known for its large herds of African Elephants. But this is just the beginning of the park. Discover an entirely different environment within the Okavango Delta as we take a beautiful drive towards your new camp site that will allow you time to take in the surroundings. It will be a similar game drive and night camping experience as Chobe, but with completely different surroundings that will keep you intrigued.

Overnight: Standard camping

Included: All meals

Day 13 in Savute

Enjoy your early morning wake up in Savute with breakfast and a cup of coffee or tea and the aura of the wildlife around you. Start your day with an early morning game drive through Savute. The vast plains of Savute and its diversity of environments will take your breath away. After the morning game drive, you come back to camp and enjoy a lovely lunch that has already been prepared for you. After your afternoon nap amongst nature, or chatting with fellow guests, get ready for your afternoon game drive and explore the other sections of Savute. Then relax back at camp and anticipate your night around the camp fire.

Overnight: Standard camping

Included: All meals

Day 14 Drive to Moremi Game Reserve (Khwai Area)



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Wake up for the last time in Savute and start getting ready at your own pace to head to Moremi Game Reserve. The drive towards the Okavango Delta will make you realise how different the topography is between Moremi and your previous camp sites. Settle down at your new camp site in Khwai and prepare yourself for your up-coming afternoon game drive. Khwai is an area within the national park owned by the village of Khwai. Moremi is in the heart of the Okavango Delta and therefore wildlife is rich and diverse due to the sheer quantity of water. Settle down at your new camp site and prepare yourself for your up-coming afternoon game drive. The nights in Moremi are truly a thing of beauty.

Overnight: Standard camping

Included: All meals

Day 15 in the Middle of Moremi Game Reserve

The Okavango Delta also referred to as ‘Africa’s Last Eden’. It is one of Africa’s most beautiful and well preserved ecosystems. The Okavango Delta is affected by seasonal flooding with flood water from Angola reaching the Delta between March and June, peaking in July. This peak coincides with Botswana’s dry season resulting in great migrations of game from the dry hinterland. Your days camping in the Moremi Game Reserve will be an unforgettable experience to your journey.

Overnight: Standard camping

Included: All meals



Day 16 in the Heart of Moremi Game Reserve

Wake up in a wonderland and let your imagination be taken away by the striking sunrise and the smell of the African bush. The Okavango Delta supports large concentrations of animals on both a permanent and seasonal basis. Through careful wildlife management it has become perhaps one of the best places to see animals and birds in Africa. Scenic game drives through the game reserve will undoubtedly leave you satisfied.

Overnight: Standard camping

Included: All meals

Day 17 in Moremi Game Reserve (Xakanaxa Area)

The mornings in Moremi are truly amazing. The serenity of being in the bush brings out the serenity in people. Today you will be heading to a nearby campsite in the Xakanaxa area, the drive towards your new campsite in the morning will act as a game drive since both areas are within the national park. Your morning game drive will allow you to witness a different area of Moremi. Due to its sheer size we are able to explore countless different areas within the Game reserve. Come back to camp after your morning exploration and have lunch already prepared for you and relax into your afternoon with a book in hand or a pair of binoculars. After your relaxing mid-afternoon break, the team will take you on your late afternoon game drive. By this time, you will realise the difference between morning and afternoon game drives



Sky Theme Safaris – Nature at its Most Beautiful

and what they both offer with different animals coming out at different times of the day. Come back to camp in the evening and enjoy the ambiance around the camp fire.

Overnight: Standard camping

Included: All meals

Day 18 in Moremi Game Reserve

Enjoy your final day in Moremi. Today will be your last chance to see unexplored parts of Moremi. The diversity of Moremi is what makes it truly special - from vast plains to dense woodlands and deltas. If it's a passion for flora and fauna or large game, then Moremi is the right environment to see them all. Embrace your last dinner in the bush with a beverage of your choice and stories to tell around the camp fire.

Overnight: Standard camping

Included: All meals

Day 19 Drive to Maun

Wake up at your own pace with a nice cup of coffee or tea at your side and enjoy your surroundings for one last time. The final leg of your trip will end in Maun, however the drive there will take you through the Game Reserve for one final viewing of the wildlife and a chance to take final photos and absorb the wonderful fragrance of the African bush. Arrive at your lodge in Maun and relax with your free time in your new surroundings.

Overnight: Standard lodge



Sky Theme Safaris – Nature at its Most Beautiful

Included: Breakfast and Lunch

Standard-Medium Lodge (Sedia Hotel): <http://www.sedia-hotel.com>

Upscale Lodge (Maun Lodge): <http://www.maunlodge.com>

Day 20 Depart from Maun Airport

Your adventure ends in Maun. Depending on the schedule of your flights you may wish to spend some additional time relaxing or exploring the friendly atmosphere of Maun.

The Ability to Swim

The ability to swim is necessary in order for you to be safe during the water based activities on this trip. This will enable you to avoid any hazardous situations and enjoy your time during the activity.

Accommodation and Meals

The majority of the lodges that we stay in on this trip have a small swimming pool. We also spend time camping in the wilderness sites in Moremi Game Reserve and Chobe National Park. The tents that you will be using include camp beds, bedding and pillows. The camp assistants

12



Sky Theme Safaris – Nature at its Most Beautiful

are here to make your stay as comfortable and enjoyable as possible. You will have all of the modern comforts yet still be in close proximity to the African bush. This will make your experience more pleasant and more memorable.

Food and Drinks

Included meals: 11 breakfasts, 12 lunches and 11 dinners are included in the price of the tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals and please take note that prices for drinks and meals may vary between locations.

Budgeting for Your Tour

If you are interested in any excursions and/or activities which aren't part of the original tour you will have to make arrangements locally to book them. We will be more than happy to help you decide which activities better suit your needs and budget. *Please note:* these activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Sky Theme Safaris tour contract.

Tipping – Tour Leader/Tour Guide

At your discretion you may wish to tip your tour leader/guide in appreciation of the efficiency and service you have received during your stay.

Tipping – Local Crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised practise in this region of the world if you are satisfied with the service and preparation you have received. In order to make things easier for you the tour leader may organise a group kitty. Again, this is voluntary.



Foreign Exchange

ATM Availability: Cash can be drawn out on credit cards from ATM's in Maun

Credit Card Acceptance: Limited

Travellers Cheques: Not recommended

Local Currency: Botswana Pula

Recommended Currency for Exchange: US Dollars / US Dollars for tips

Important Information

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of joining **any** of our tours that you must have valid travel insurance. It must indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. We also strongly recommend your policy includes curtailment, personal effects and cancellation protection as all deposits paid are non-refundable. You will also need to ensure your travel policy covers you for all activities you intend to do whilst on your tour. Your insurer may charge an additional premium for certain activities.

Visa Information



Botswana and Namibia: visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian passport holders. All other nationalities, please consult your nearest Embassy for up to date advice on necessary visa requirements.

Zambia: Visas are required by UK, Canadian, US, Australian and New Zealand passport holders. Please note it is possible for UK passport holders to obtain their visa on arrival at all ports of entry.

All other nationalities, please consult your nearest Embassy for up to date advice on necessary visa requirements.

All passports must have a minimum of 6 months' validity from date of return to your home country. Please note: Be aware that visa information is subject to change and that you must not rely on STS to be fully aware of all visa requirements for all countries. Please ensure you inform yourself on this matter.

Lone Parents

In Botswana single parents or other adults travelling alone with children should be aware that some countries require documentation confirming that the individual has authority to travel with the minor. You should contact the Botswana Embassy for further information and details.

Vaccinations and Protection

Botswana: Nothing compulsory, but we do recommend protection against malaria, hepatitis A, tetanus, typhoid and polio. Consult your travel clinic for the latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Travellers may wish to immune themselves against meningitis. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC and from your local



healthcare provider in your country. Visa vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

Zambia: We strongly recommend protection against malaria, hepatitis A, tetanus, diphtheria, typhoid and polio. Malaria is present in the region so consult your travel clinic for the latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Yellow fever is compulsory for all travel into Zambia if transiting via South Africa or any other Yellow Fever Zone. Please ensure you inform yourself of all requirements.

Preparing for your Tour

Climate

Botswana: Botswana has many regional characteristics that differ - from fertile areas in the east to vast desert in the centre and south and a vast delta in the north-west. This creates extremes of temperatures and highly variable rainfall.

Zambia: The main rainy season is from January to March. The rain is widespread and generally falls in the form of thunderstorms; grass tends to be long and there is more water about which makes game viewing more dispersed.

Clothing

Clothing should be lightweight. However, a wind/waterproof jacket, a warm fleece or sweater and thermal underwear for night time is strongly advised. Night temperatures and early morning game drives can be very cold, especially in the winter (April to August). Brightly coloured and white clothing is not suitable for game viewing.

Equipment



Sky Theme Safaris – Nature at its Most Beautiful

Bring a head/hand torch, a water bottle, a sunhat, sunglasses, insect repellent and sunscreen. Binoculars are essential for game viewing and a 300mm lens is recommended for photography.

Footwear

Lightweight trail and/or steel cap boots are vital and sandals for relaxing in.

General Information

Food

The prices for meals and drinks can vary greatly depending upon location. In general, you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or a local bar to be less expensive. Whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Electricity Supply and Plugs

Botswana: 3 Pin Round

Zambia: 3 Pin Flat

Country Details

Botswana:

Population: 2 182 719

Size of Country: 581 730 sq. km

Major Languages: English, Setswana

Religion: Christians, Anglicans, Methodists

Time Difference to GMT: +2



Zambia:

Population: 15 066 266

Size of Country: 752 600 sq. km

Major Language: English, Bemba

Religion: Christian and Indigenous

Time Difference to GMT: +2

Why Chose Sky Theme Safaris

We are a dedicated team with all the energy and enthusiasm that goes with the territory. We will do our utmost to give you an experience that will have you wanting to come back to Sky Theme Safaris. We are a team with great passion for conservation and for adventurous experiences that do not involve unnecessary risks. Our aim is to grow and be around for the long term. We hope to bring our dream to fruition with you along for the ride.

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price you paid for your holiday is not subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not



Sky Theme Safaris – Nature at its Most Beautiful

be approached to pay fuel surcharges. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings and tours.

