



BOTSWANA IN FIVE DAYS

My first safari in Botswana began with an overnight at the Airport Sun Intercontinental, a perfect hotel, a short walk from arrivals. The morning is very relaxing as you do not have to get up early for the transfer back to the airport. A leisurely breakfast followed by an easy walk to the international terminal made for a stress free morning. I met up with a colleague in Johannesburg and departed to Maun.



After arriving in Maun, Botswana I took a charter flight to Vumbura Plains. The flight over the delta was amazing. The landscape was very dry and barren leaving Maun and gradually fingers of water and life appeared as we flew closer to the heart of the delta. The land below is dotted with islands and waterways – lush and green. The rooms at Vumbura Plains have the best showers in Botswana - amazing. I saw leopard, lion and lots of plains game. A morning mokoro ride was a relaxing way to enjoy the delta close up. Little Vumbura was a charming camp, small and cozy.



Delta view



Me and Kirsten



Charter flight to camp

The next camp was Kwetsani. I loved this camp. Shane and Kim the managers have it right, from the welcome to departure. The camp is very warm and inviting - it feels like home. Good lion sightings, plains game and elephant. One elephant was below my tent enjoying a palm tree for breakfast. He took great care at pulling the tree down to eat the heart of the palm. Elephants will always amaze me at how such a large animal can be so gently and precise. We also took a boat cruise on the delta. I would choose the boat cruise over the mokoro if not just for the comfort level.





Kwetsani Tent



Elephant below my tent at Kwetsani

Jao was a short drive from Kwetsani. Jao is stunning - a great splurge for a camp in the delta. The next camp was Mombo, absolute perfection from start to finish. The game is amazing – I was stunned as I walked through to the lounge area and the magnificent flood plain opened in front of me, I was literally speechless. Everything was right there in view from the lounge and my room. My species list was almost complete and I just arrived. The food and service is unparalleled. We saw a pride of 19 lion on a morning game drive, a leopard in a tree enjoying an impala, a male lion lay on the ground below with one open hoping for piece of impala to fall to the ground.



Jao



Mombo

The highlight was a buffalo attack at 3:00 in the in camp by a group of hyena – a lot of noise. The buffalo tail was found the next morning in camp, but they did not get him,, we found him later in the deep water soaking his wounds. Duma Tau was next with a quick visit to Kings Pool and Savuti. The reward was 4 wild dog, my first sighting ever! Savuti is brilliant with a great view of a watering hole from camp, teeming with elephant in season. Kings Pool also beautifully situated above a hippo pool. If you love hippos – Kings Pool is the place.

The diversity of the delta amazed me. Vumbura Plains and Kwetsani are just 10 minutes apart but the terrain is completely different. The Moremi Reserve differs from both the Kwetsani and Vumbura concessions. Seeing the changes in ecosystems reinforces the importance to visit 3 camps in 3 different areas.