



Walk Botswana Safaris

- SAFARI STYLES -





What is a mobile safari?

You may well ask 'Ok, so what is a mobile safari?'. Thanks to James Gifford and his piece in the Lonely Planet, for what we think is a perfect description: 'A mobile safari is exactly what it sounds like – a journey through a variety of different wildlife habitats, staying for a few nights in each area. When you move location, your camp moves with you. Each campsite is simply a designated, secluded area of bush with neither facilities nor fences. Before your arrival and after your departure, there is no trace that anyone has stayed there, and the wildlife is free to wander through camp at any time. '...it is amazing to watch the camp disintegrate during breakfast, only for it to reappear in time for sun-downers in a completely different location.' In the evening, watch amber flames lick hungrily at the charred logs of the campfire as the lilting chimes of miniscule reed-frogs and vociferous crickets float through the cool night air. If you listen closely, you might hear a zebra braying in the distance, an elephant's trumpet of displeasure or even a rasping, saw-like cough resonating from the inky darkness – the unforgettable call of a leopard patrolling its territory.

The sounds of the bush become more vivid when there is no barrier between you and the wildlife, particularly in the absence of any auditory distractions. Without the monotonous drone of a permanent camp's generator nor any of the background noise inherent in the operation of such lodges you will find yourself listening to sounds you never imagined existed. And when everything goes quiet, the silence is so intense, it feels almost oppressive. Although activities are similar to a traditional lodge – morning and afternoon wildlife drives, interspersed with the occasional mokoro (traditional dugout canoe) journey or boat cruise – the intimacy of the operation gives you more flexibility. Normally a mobile safari will involve just one wildlife-viewing vehicle, allowing you to stay out for as long as you like without having to worry about being late for meals. On a mobile, the camp timings revolve around you, not the other way around. Having the same guide for the duration of the trip also allows the focus of the safari to be tailored to the group's specific interests, which can be adapted according to what you see. This avoids the possibility of listening to different guides repeat the same information or spending longer than desired at similar sightings at different lodges – sometimes an unavoidable consequence of sharing a vehicle with other lodge guests.

For **eco-conscious travellers**, one of the attractions of a mobile is your **reduced carbon footprint**. Travelling between locations is done by vehicle instead of the small planes that are used to transfer between lodges, which also gives you the opportunity to watch the subtle changes in scenery as you move from one ecosystem to another. In the camp itself, lanterns are often solar-powered, and camera and phone charging is done with an inverter linked to your vehicle's battery. Some mobile operators also use a portable water filtration system to avoid the waste from plastic water bottles.

Families or groups wanting more privacy to have the option of booking an entire mobile for themselves, giving them an exclusive safari at a fraction of the exorbitant cost of hiring out an entire lodge. Families or groups wanting more privacy to have the option of booking an entire mobile for themselves, giving them an exclusive safari at a fraction of the exorbitant cost of hiring out an entire lodge.



Adventure Style

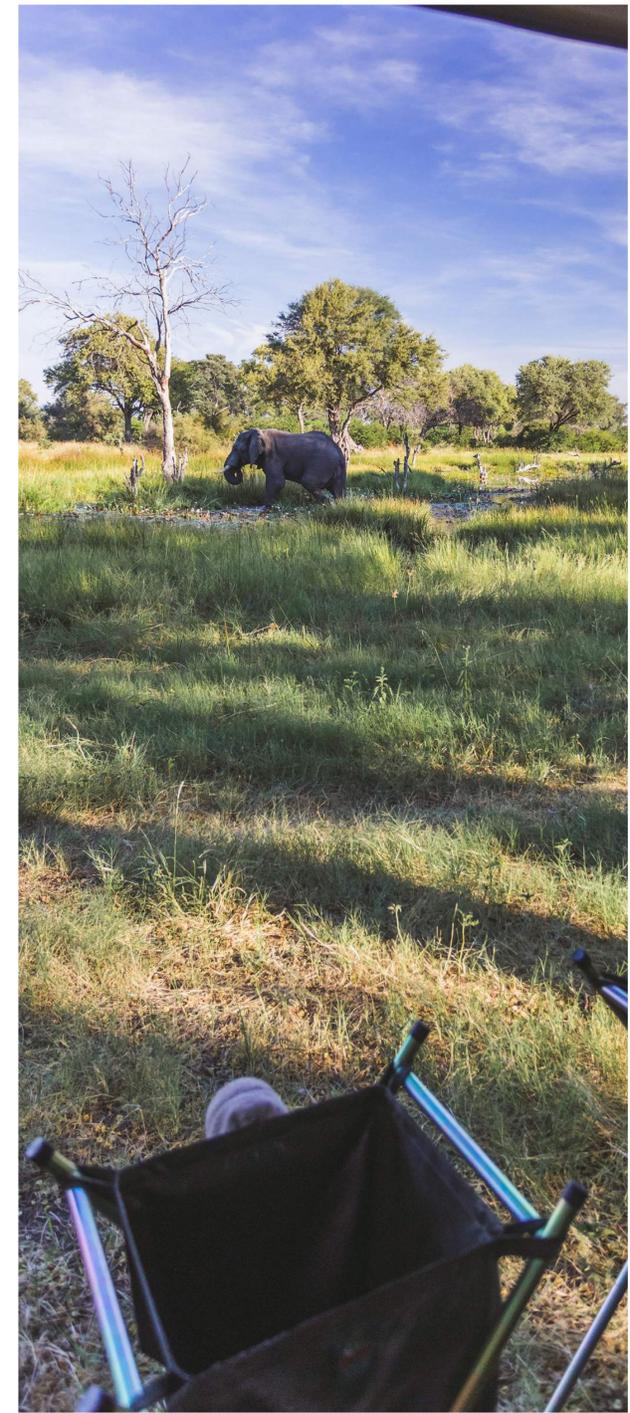
Two-man dome tents (3m x 3m) house your floor based, high density foam mattress ensuring you a good night's sleep. Tents are equipped with a rechargeable light that will provide ample lighting inside your tent for before sunrise or after sunset needs.

The open air but private shower tent and bathroom tent sit separately to your sleeping tent but are not far for easy access purposes both during the day and night. Showers are provided via bucket showers and toilets are long drop toilets, or 'thunderboxes' as we affectionately call them. While it may be a foreign concept to you with regards to going to the toilet, we include real toilet seat in the 'experience' to make it more comfortable for you. Don't worry we consider cold showers something that even the explorers didn't brave themselves. Water is heated up over the fire and then prepared for you by our staff, no heavy lifting required. So, while you gaze up at the night sky you can wash off the dust you have managed to collect from the days adventure. For more regular washing needs, raised canvas basins are provided in front of your tent and filled with water regularly for washing hands, teeth or perhaps just dusting off your feet quickly.

Meals are specially prepared over the fire and served in the dining tent by our very own safari chef.

Meals and snacks are abundant and fresh despite the remote setting. Our safari chefs pride themselves on being able to prepare quality meals despite it being over the fire, guaranteeing surprise and awe from our guests. Alcoholic beverage, soda's, juice and water are provided throughout the safari. After all what would a sunset be without a good 'ol' gin and tonic? We don't believe in warm drinks so you can be assured of cold drinks together with the necessary ice!







Semi Luxury Style

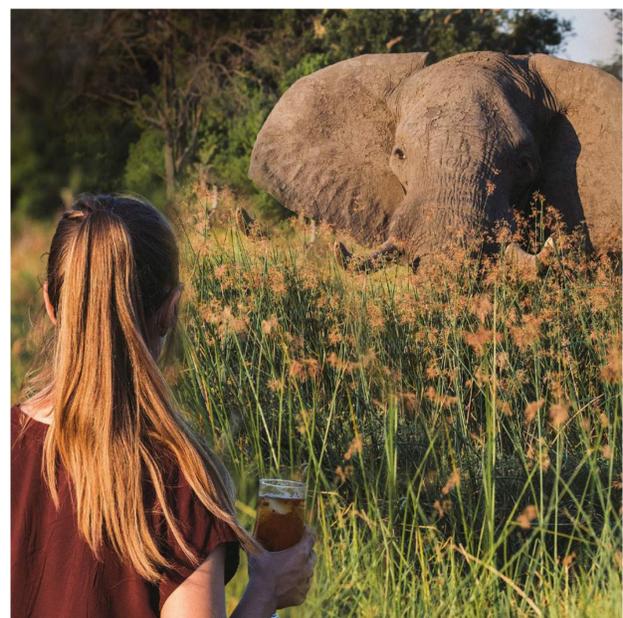
There is no shame in liking it a tad on the luxurious side. We certainly do! High density foam mattresses sit on raised 'cots' inside your two-man dome tents. You won't even know that you are not in your bed at home, except for the incredible night sounds of the African bush that lull you to sleep. Don't fret about those nippy nights as you will be accompanied in bed with a hot water bottle to keep the chill away. Tents are equipped with a rechargeable light that will provide ample lighting inside your tent for before sunrise or after sunset needs.

Our en-suite tents boast a spacious bathroom space attached to the back of your two-man dome (3m x 3m) tent. Our family unit en-suite tents have an extra large bathroom that connect 2 dome tents at the back, allowing for extra space and a sense of connection when traveling with children. This bathroom is open to the sky, providing you great views of the magnificent trees and starry nights while showering. Bathrooms are equipped with a shower, long drop toilet and table for your ablution needs. Steamy hot water is most certainly a necessity, whether it be in your bucket showers or in the raised canvas basins in front of your tent, for washing hands, brushing your teeth or washing the dust from your feet. For relaxing at your tent, canvas director chairs are provided for you to fully immerse yourself in the natural setting of your camp.

Our very own safari chef will make sure that not a moment of the day goes past that you think about food before it thinks of you. Breakfast includes a hot option, as well as cereals and yoghurt, lunches are buffet style with a selection of salads, pies or fresh breads, topped off with high tea in the afternoon, catering to the sweet tooth in us all, finishing the day off with a three course dinner under the starry night sky. Let's not forget the snacking opportunities provided during the day in the form of a coffee stop in the morning and a sundowner snack in the afternoon.

Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, juice and water are provided throughout this style of safari, always served cold unless specifically wanted otherwise. Our safari vehicles are also equipped to charge all your 'bells and whistles' that you need to capture those sacred memories of your amazing safari in Botswana.







Luxury Style

Need the next level up in luxury – then look no further as Walk Botswana Safaris is proud to be launching our newest product, the Super Luxury Mobile Safari. On this level of safari a Sahara tent is provided. These spacious tents are equipped with full on beds, luxurious linen, extra pillows and a standing wardrobe. Large windows provide amazing views of the landscape around you, as well as any wildlife activity that may pass your way. Attached to your tent is a spacious en-suite bathroom, fitted with a long drop toilet and washing facilities including a basin with running water and a bucket shower, with an extra big shower head for your showering enjoyment. Our long drop toilet is also a super lux version of the standard 'thunder box' with wooden throne and wooden toilet seat with a self ash 'flushing' handle on the toilet itself. Just like all our other safari setup's, the super lux bathroom is uncovered providing each and every opportunity for you to enjoy nature around you. Situated on your veranda is a vanity table together with basin and running water. Also outside your tent is a relaxing area just for yourselves, with comfortable chairs and a small table to store your reading material or binoculars on as you enjoy the wilderness around you.

Our very own safari chef will make sure that not a moment of the day goes past that you think about food before it thinks of you. Breakfast includes a hot option, baked option, as well as cereals and yoghurt, lunches are buffet style with a selection of salads, pies or fresh breads followed by a cheese board, topped off with high tea in the afternoon, catering to the sweet tooth in us all, finishing the day off with a three course dinner under the starry night sky. On one of the nights on safari, the desert will take place in the form of a wine and chocolate pairing, something our guests rave about! Let's not forget the snacking opportunities provided during the day in the form of a coffee stop in the morning and a sundowner snack in the afternoon. To step up the coffee experience, we are able to provide our guests with cappuccino, espresso or latte's, together with a good selection of coffee options, with mostly African based beans. To spice up our sundowners we have included a cocktail afternoon, just to add a bit of variety for your drinking pleasure.

Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, juice and water are provided throughout this style of safari, always served cold unless specifically wanted otherwise. For our super lux guests, we also provide specialised alcoholic beverages such as limoncello and flavoured gin's. Our safari vehicles are also equipped to charge all your 'bells and whistles' that you need to capture those sacred memories of your amazing safari in Botswana.







What do the costs include and exclude?

Adventure Style:

Adventure Style Safaris booked with us are inclusive of 3 meals per day, coffee stop snacks, sundowner snacks, beverages including water, juice, sodas and alcoholic beverages such as wine, beer, liquor and mixers. These do not include imported brands but locally available brands. Exclusions with food are based on special dietary requirements and are discussed accordingly.

Accommodation as per style is included, as well as bedding and towels, lights for your tent and the following are included for your ablutions: toilet paper, shower gel, lotion, shampoo and conditioner. Staff servicing your camp is included in the price and all of our safaris are non-participatory.

Game drive and walking activities are included in the price, as well as Gareth Flemix as your specialist guide unless otherwise stated in the initial correspondence email. Driving based transfers, depending on location, is also included.

Semi-Luxury Style:

Semi Luxury Style Safaris booked with us are inclusive of 3 meals per day, with breakfast and lunch being buffet style, with dinner served as a 3 course meal. High tea and cheese boards are served on alternative days for your extra dining experience. Also included are coffee stop snacks and sundowner snacks. Beverages including water, juice, sodas and alcoholic beverages such as wine, beer, liquor and mixers are included. These do not include imported brands but locally available brands. Exclusions with food are based on special dietary requirements and are discussed accordingly.

Accommodation as per style is included, as well as bedding and towels, hot water bottles for cold nights, lights for your tent and the following are included for your ablutions: toilet paper, shower gel, lotion, shampoo and conditioner. Staff servicing your camp is included in the price and all of our safaris are non-participatory.

Game drive and walking activities are included in the price, as well as Gareth Flemix as your specialist guide unless otherwise stated in the initial correspondence email. Driving based transfers, depending on location, is also included.

Luxury Style:

Luxury Style Safaris booked with us are inclusive of 3 meals per day, with breakfast served as a buffet style. Take away breakfast options are also provided such as overnight oats. Lunch is served as a 2 course meal with buffet main meal and a cheese boarded provided with crackers and fruit. Dinner is a 3 course meal in addition to fireside snacks. High tea is served each day before your afternoon activity. During your safari, a wine tasting afternoon or evening will be included in your itinerary, as well as an afternoon cocktail based sundowner.

Accommodation as per style is included, as well as bedding and towels, hot water bottles for cold nights, lights for your tent and the following are included for your ablutions: toilet paper, shower gel, lotion, shampoo and conditioner. Staff servicing your camp is included in the price and all of our safaris are non-participatory.

Game drive and walking activities are included in the price, as well as Gareth Flemix as your specialist guide unless otherwise stated in the initial correspondence email. Driving based transfers, depending on location, is also included.

Excluded from all safari styles:

The following is not included in the any of our rates regardless of safari style: international flights, domestic or charter flights, additional activities not listed in your quote or itinerary, additional accommodation not listed in your quote or itinerary, staff gratuities, personal item purchases, specially requested imported beverages and food items.



A Typical Day on Safari

The day starts with the rising of the sun. Your wake-up call will be between 5am and 6am - a gentle "koko" ('knock knock' in Setswana) at the entrance of your tent. Your wash-hand basin will be filled with steaming hot water and freshly made tea and coffee will be served around the campfire. Wake up to the warmth of the morning sun at the dawn of a new day. A light breakfast will be served before the early morning game drive. We do our best to get out as early as possible as this is key game viewing time of the day.

During the morning activities you will undoubtedly stop for coffee and a little morning snack overlooking a beautiful scene. Having spent the morning exploring the surrounding wilderness in search of Botswana's hidden treasures either on foot or game drive, you will return to camp for a bountiful lunch spread. We sporadically do a bush lunch in a separate location to your camp to change the scenery for you and then return to camp afterwards.

Commonly, just as the animals retreat to escape the heat of mid-day, so will you. This is your time to enjoy reading, chatting, taking a shower, just relaxing or taking a nap, the well-recognised 'siesta' time of the day. If you are on an explorer's walking safari, we do spend some of the lunch and siesta time of the day out in the bush rather than returning to camp, especially during days where we are walking from one location to another. In this case, we will be carrying lunch with us or have a bush lunch set up where we too will take a little snooze mid-day to recuperate for the rest of the days walk.

Later in the afternoon you will head out into the wilderness once more as the animals awake from their days slumber and gather at the watering holes to quench their unforgiving thirst. As the sun sets on the horizon, one can only marvel at the sheer splendour of an African sunset and with refreshments in hand, toast to the wonder of nature. We do warn you that this is prime game viewing time of the day, so don't be surprised if our guide shivys you back onto the car for some more game viewing action with your drink in hand! On your return to camp, you can enjoy a hot shower under the starry night sky and gather around the warmth of the camp fire with your fellow companions to relive the day's events and excitement. Enjoy a three-course dinner fit for a king served with a selection of fine wines against the magical backdrop of the African night sky. Retreating to the comfort of your tent after enjoying a night cap around the campfire, you can fall asleep to the calls of the African wild. Good night!

On moving days, the safari team will pack down the camp, travelling ahead in the back up vehicle to prepare the camp for your arrival at the next location. When travelling between locations, the route is most commonly through the parks and reserves and is therefore an extension of your daily game drives. A picnic lunch can be enjoyed en-route.







A Peek into your Mobile Camp

Not many people know what mobile safaris entail or what it will be like in camp - so here is a sneak peek for you to see what your tents and private camp will look like. As the term implies, a mobile tented safari is just that, a camp that is able to move with you from one location to another. We create a camp from nothing, bringing in all the equipment, food and staff with us, and leave nothing except our footprints in the sand.

Depending on the style of safari you choose with determine your tent and bathroom setup, however, much of the rest of camp is standard including our vehicles. Your camp is spread out just enough to provide the privacy you need but not too much where you start to feel unsafe walking between areas. Our main area mess tent where meals are served is open providing a good viewing platform for the passing wildlife but still providing a sheltered place to enjoy some social time around the table during meals. This area is where most of the camp 'action' takes place including the location of the fire for keeping your coffee warm in the morning or toasting your toes at night as you reminisce over the days events. Drinks, including tea and coffee is also served from this central area anytime of the day.

Each mobile safari is accompanied by your guide, chef, waiter and camp hand who make sure that camp is kept spick and span during your stay with us. They do laundry, keep your tents clean, cook your food, fill your basins and bucket showers, not to mention moving the entire camp during moving days. You will be amazed at the incredible food that the chef will prepare over the fire, from cakes to pies and delicate starters.

The staff camp is situated around the kitchen area which acts as an operations centre for the whole of camp and of course where all of your foody goodness is created. Most of our guests love to venture to the back, have a chat with our staff and see just where 'the magic happens'.

Our vehicles are 10-seater open game viewers equipped with drinks fridge, game drive blankets and hot water bottles for those brisk mornings during winter, ponchos for any sudden rain burst we are lucky enough to experience and a charging station for all your camera paraphernalia. All of our vehicles are Land Rovers which are without a doubt the most comfortable vehicles from which to enjoy a safari from. Our game drive seats are converted air craft seats are as such are extremely comfortable.



