



FIREFLY operates in the Okavango Delta and offers:

- Mobiles Safaris –departing and returning to Maun and Ikoga. Operations to commence in 2010 – confirmation dates to follow.
- Mobile Base Camp – temporary camp operating from 1st August to mid December 2009.
- Camp site – opens Jan 2010
- Tented Lagoon Camp – opens mid December 2009

The name Firefly is derived from these incredible little creatures that light up the camps at night. We have the same attitude, mantra and dance to the same song as the fireflies that glow at the lodge.

Everything we do in the Delta is undertaken with the environment in mind. We are eco-friendly and all we do has a low impact on our location.

Our vision is to have our guests relaxed and not to have to worry about anything, except having to leave this piece of paradise. The beauty and serenity of the surroundings, with the warmth of hospitality, easily makes us the best place to visit on the delta.

Firefly Safaris offers incredible fun, entertaining and educational activities for you to soak up the Delta in many diverse ways.

Location: Closest airstrip is Guma Lagoon Camp Airstrip, or the Gumare Airstrip. Both are within 30 minutes of the camp.

With water levels at this time the Gumare airstrip is the most accessible.

The lodge is situated in an area with permanent water.

The lodge is accessible by air and road.

Safe parking is provided at Igoga school and land and water transfer from this area to the camps are included in the rates.

- **MOBILE SAFARIS**

Operations to commence in 2010.

Mobile safaris will start and end in Maun or Ikoga. Tailor made options as well as schedule departure tours will be offered.

- **MOBILE BASE CAMP**

This is a temporary camp set on the site of the future Luxury Tented Forest Camp.

Accommodation is provided in 10 Sahara frame tents (larger than dome tents). Size (LxWxH): 3.8 x 2.6 x 2.25m.

All tents are equipped with twin single beds and all the tents face permanent water.

Ablution facilities are communal with bush showers and comfortable toilets.

Meals are prepared on open fires.

- **CAMP SITE**

This option is water permitting and will be available from January 2010.

Firefly Safaris welcome guests, and self drive travelers to come and stay with us at our camp site facility.

The camp site is situated near the lagoon and river canals for easy access to the wildlife and water. It is regarded as one of the most beautiful camping sites in the delta.

Each site has its own:

Plug point, lights, built in braai (bbq), fresh water tap, and parking area for 4x4 and trailers.

One is welcome to partake in all activities that Firefly Safaris has to offer its guests

*Once open food from the elegant kitchen and drinks from the relaxing bar at the Tented Lagoon camp are available at cash to campers.

- **TENTED LAGOON CAMP**

This lodge is currently being built and is due for completion by mid December 2009.

The lodge layout naturally flows from the entrance down towards the lagoon and river canals. From the lodge and eating area you move down a path to an entertainment area with a bar, which opens up onto the jetty with our boats and mokoros floating in the sun. All close to the luxury rooms and camp site just an amble away.

Accommodation is offered in 10 Sahara frame tents (larger than dome tents). Size (LxWxH): 3.8 x 2.6 x 2.25m

Each tent will sleep 2 guests. Bathroom facilities are communal with 5 tents sharing one ablution centre.

All tents have, either, 2 single beds or a double bed, bedside tables and wardrobes as well as an outside seating area on the viewing deck.

Each tent is privately situated on their own private wooden deck overlooking the water.

Dining Experience at Firefly:

At the lodge we try to make our guests experience the traditional African cuisine. We incorporate a traditional African Fusion menu but we also have traditional Boma nights around the fire where guests will be able to witness first hand the preparation of a Potjie as well as enjoy a good old fashioned african "braaivleis" (barbeque).

ACTIVITIES AND SAFARIS

The following activities are included in your daily rate(excluding camping):

Birding

Firefly Safaris is "heaven on earth" for bird watchers. Bird species include all the water species which can be viewed from our boat, mokoro or and dry land and flood plain species on walks. Join our expert guides for a guided bird walk around the lagoon and in and around the Tsodilo Hills area.

The abundance of birds will leave you astonished.

Bush Walks

Embark on a journey of discovery with a local guide, learn how the local Hambukushu or Bayei live in this water paradise, what plants are important to them and what their uses are. See the waters and river banks of the delta through their eyes.

Mokoro Day Trips

The BaYei people came to the Okavango Delta hundreds of years ago, bringing with them, their traditional mode of transport, the mokoro, a dug-out canoe made from a large straight tree such as a sausage tree. The mokoro is ideally suited as transport in the delta as in can move quietly through shallow water, being pushed by the boatman using a long pole, moving along the narrow channels or cutting through the long grasses or papyrus.

Mekoros (plural for mokoro) started to be used by tourists in the early 1980's and has since than become an almost mandatory activity if one is visiting the Okavango - the two almost becoming synonymous.

Firefly Safaris has collaborated with a number of communities in and around the delta to provide mekoro tours into different parts of the Okavango. The mekoro trip is one of the most exiting ways to experience the Delta in all its splendor. The birding is truly spectacular and there is always the possibility of viewing game in their most natural environment.

Fishing

We have the option to fish off our boat with a guide. One can catch Tiger Fish all year round except for July and August. There are 13 species of bream, pike, and barbell. The barbell run happens from mid September until November. The fishing has been excellent in recent times with some big and interesting catches by guests. Fishing rods and tackle are provided at the lodge.

Or one can fish from the banks of the river at any time.

Sunset Cruise

We take our firefly boat, which comfortably seats 8, before sunset and make our way through the canals surrounding the camp with a cooler box filled with local beers and drinks. This chilled and relaxing boat trip is accompanied by a guide. As you sip on a beverage of your choice, and make your way around the array of water, you will come across wildlife and nature all preparing for the night ahead. The boat will stop at a special location where snacks will be provided and Okavango tales will be told.

OPTIONAL EXTRA EXCURSIONS

The following activities are not included in the daily rate:

Tsodilo Hills:

Tsodilo Hills is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in north-western Botswana. It was inscribed in 2001 due to its unique religious and spiritual significance to local peoples, as well as its unique record of human settlement over many millennia. It contains over 4,500 rock paintings in an area of approximately 10 km² within the Kalahari Desert. A recent discovery of 70,000-year-old artifacts and a python's head carved of stone appears to represent the first known human rituals.

An hour game drive gets us to the quartzite cliff-faces of the four Tsodilo Hills which rise majestically above the surrounding savannah. The four hills form a line and are referred to by the San people as "The Male" - the largest hill which reaches a height of 410 metres above the surrounding plain. It is a must see trip, everything about these hills is extraordinary: their very nature, the incongruence of their presence in such an unrelenting landscape, the tale they tell of climatic change - of lakes, swamps and inland deltas - but above all for the way, through millennia past, they have drawn man to their sheltering shadows. Another fascinating attraction at Tsodilo Hills is the bushman paintings of a penguin and a whale suggesting that the bushman made the incredible journey across the dessert to the ocean and back again.

Scenic Flights

Hop on our Firefly 182 aeroplane that seats 4 and enjoy a scenic flight. This is most efficient in terms of time, and enables you to experience an aerial view, which puts into perspective the vastness of these wilderness areas. The best times for scenic flights are in the morning and late afternoon when weather conditions are calmer. The air craft is owned and operated by Firefly Safaris which allows for customised times and flights to be easily arranged for guests.

The scenic flight over the Okavango Delta is an excellent way to see the area in all its beauty.

Quansite Island Camping

One of the charms of Firefly lodge is our island camping experience. This is environmentally friendly, low impact camping on a magnificent island off the Firefly lodge. Be the only human inhabitants on the island with the possibility of sharing it with any of the Big 5 at any time. Accommodation will be tents that are setup for you overlooking the waters that surround the island. At night a braai (bbq) will be made with drinks and African storytelling. An early morning breakfast and boat cruise back to the lodge rounds off the island camping and gets your day off to a virtuous start in Africa.

CLIMATE

Summer: December to March. High temperatures average 30C-35C with lows around 18C and rain particularly between December and March.

Winter: June to August. Daytime temperatures around 23C, and night time lows averaging 5C.

GETTING THERE

GPS CO-ORDS:

S18 51'203"

E22 17'485"

Air Botswana provides international flights from Gaborone and Maun to Johannesburg and from Gaborone to Harare, with internal flights to Maun.

Charter flights are available from Maun to Firefly Lodge with the Closest airstrip being Guma Lagoon Camp Airstrip, or the Gumare Airstrip. Both are within 30 minutes of the camp and the road or boat xfers (depending on water levels) from there to the camp (are included in the rates).

Depending on water levels the lodge is accessible by 4x4, however, we strongly recommend that guests check with the lodge on road conditions before planning their trip.

Visas

Visitors from the European Union, most commonwealth countries and the USA do not require visas. Visitors from other countries should check with Botswana embassies or consulates.

CONTACT DETAILS

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