



REED FROG © SUZANNE MORPHET



HUGE MALE ELEPHANT STROLLING THROUGH THE WATER



CAPTIVATING  
IS THE ESSENCE OF BOUTIQUE

“In 2014, UNESCO recognized the Okavango Delta as a World Heritage site for its exceptionally scenic landscapes, nearly intact ecosystem and thriving populations of some of the world’s most endangered large mammals”

For my final Botswana boating adventure, I board a luxurious houseboat for three days on the Chobe River. The river borders Botswana’s Chobe National Park, a wildlife mecca, before flowing into the Zambezi River near Victoria Falls.

Each morning, I wake to the African landscape gliding by; dusty red hills, umbrella-shaped acacia trees, undulating green grass, and hundreds – no, thousands – of water lilies lining the shore, white heads swivelling on red stems.

Our boat moves along at a leisurely eight kilometres per hour. “Sometimes there could be 20 elephants crossing the river and we stop for them,” explained a guide. All the better as far as we’re concerned. As one guest remarked, “This is the best way to view game I’ve ever heard of.”

**GETTING THERE:**

Small bush planes fly travellers into safari camps in the Okavango Delta, usually from the gateway town of Maun.

**PEAK WILDLIFE VIEWING:**

Most camps offer safaris by mokoro and/or by small motorboat when water levels are sufficiently high, usually between May and August. On the Linyanti River, the best game viewing is during the dry season from May to October when animals congregate on the river’s banks. Sunrise and sunset cruises are popular as wildlife is most active and visible at those times. On the Chobe River, there are many options for boating, from half-day to multi-day. Wildlife is at its peak from April to December, while birding is best from November to April.

**WEATHER IN BOTSWANA:**

May to September is most comfortable; it’s the dry season and temperatures are moderate. October and November can be very hot while January and February are usually the rainiest months.

**WHAT’S NEARBY:**

Take advantage of your proximity to Victoria Falls, and spend a couple days exploring from the Zambia and/or Zimbabwe sides. Opportunities for adventures here include bungee jumping from the Victoria Falls Bridge, a 111-metre plunge, and swimming in Devil’s Pool at the brink of the falls.



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