

OKAVANGO DELTA • BOTSWANA

SANDIBE SAFARI LODGE
NXABEGA OKAVANGO SAFARI CAMP





OKAVANGO DELTA BOTSWANA

The Okavango, the largest inland delta in the world, is the most unexpected wonder – water present in a desert. Crystal clear channels spread like an outstretched hand over the thirstlands of the Kalahari with their green papyrus-fringed banks and fertile floating islands – this is nothing short of miraculous in the heart of the desert. This magical oasis is dubbed “the river that never finds the sea” as a result of ancient seismic shifting of the Earth’s surface. Spanning 15 540 km², the Okavango Delta is a maze of sparkling lagoons, meandering channels and overgrown islands teeming with wildlife. Wide grassy floodplains interlaced with looping channels and palm-forested islands are host to a magnificent array of wild animals.

When the grasses mellow to gold, marking the demise of the rainy season, the wildlife is drawn, sometimes in their hundreds to the perennial channels of the Delta. The elegant red lechwe and shy sitatunga are two characteristic antelope adapted for a life in and out of water. Lion prides, cheetah, leopard and African wild dog may be encountered, while hippos reside in deeper channels and lagoons. Honey badgers are observed during daylight hours. Roan and sable antelope favour taller grass in open woodlands and families of dwarf and banded mongoose occupy large termite mounds. This wilderness supports the continent’s largest surviving concentration of African elephant and buffalo.

The glistening Okavango waterways are best experienced at eye level from the vantage point of a mokoro (dugout canoe) or the more common, environmentally-friendly fibreglass replicas where iridescent dragonflies, technicolour frogs and jewel-like kingfishers are encountered. In these crafts, guests are propelled by expert polers, many of whom were born in the Okavango Delta and know the winding waterways and their inhabitants intimately.



OKAVANGO DELTA



Little Bee-eaters

Sabina Sparrow

Red-veined Dragonfly

Moremi Game Reserve

Kwai River

North Gate

Chief's Island

• Sandibe Safari Lodge

• Nxabega Okavango Safari Camp

• Xaranna Tented Camp

• Xudum Delta Lodge

Shorobe

Real Fan-Palm

Xudum Gate

Siaw

Matsibi Gate



SANDIBE SAFARI LODGE

Sandibe Safari Lodge is situated on a permanent channel of the Okavango Delta, adjacent to the game-rich Moremi Game Reserve. With exclusive traversing rights over 270 km² of wilderness in a private concession, this site was specifically chosen for its extraordinary beauty and proximity to the game-rich grassy plains.

Tucked away under a cool forest canopy of wild palms and gnarled fig trees, Sandibe Safari Lodge is just a few metres from the water, which glints through a maze of brilliant green papyrus. Behind the Lodge, golden-grassed floodplains stretch into the distance, framed by lush palm islands and the spires of giant termite mounds. The beautiful organic architecture of the thatched Lodge blends seamlessly with one of Africa's most breathtaking landscapes. The Lodge's meandering paths are those made by the elephants and wildlife that have, for thousands of years, traversed this true African Eden. Each thatched ensuite cottage features open air showers, allowing guests to feel part of the forest. Walls are airy screens, admitting the refreshing Okavango breezes, and the cottages are decorated in a sensitive fusion of ochres and tactile textures – from leather and silk to rough-hewn wood. Private decks right on the Delta are idyllic vantage points in this birdwatcher's paradise. Tall overarching trees inspire the soaring volumes of the guest sitting and dining area with quiet, hammocked decks offering views across the wetlands and savanna grasslands. At night, a constellation of candles illuminate the boma with its al fresco Pan African banquet and fine wines from the unique charcoal-cooled wine cellar. Alternatively, private decks provide a romantic setting for an intimate candlelit dinner for two. The shaded swimming pool is a refreshing oasis for an après-lunch cool off.

Sandibe Safari Lodge at a Glance

- 8 cottages – overhead fans
- Swimming pool
- Safari Shop



NXABEGA

OKAVANGO SAFARI CAMP

Nxabega Okavango Safari Camp is located on the edge of the Okavango Delta in a 7 000 hectare exclusive wildlife concession bordering the Moremi Game Reserve. Meaning “Place of the Giraffe,” Nxabega is ideally positioned to explore the magnificence of the Okavango. The Camp is known for its elegant tented accommodation with breathtaking views of the ever-changing Okavango Delta.

It is a skillful combination of luxury and integration with the environment. Nine exclusive tented suites on raised wooden platforms nestle under a canopy of African ebony trees, featuring ensuite bathrooms and private verandas overlooking the reeded molapo (floodplain).

The heart of Nxabega Okavango Safari Camp lies in its handsome living and dining areas – burnished teak floors underfoot and windows and doors frame a lofty space crowned by a steeply pitched thatch roof. The guest areas, made from the local timber, reed and thatch, include indoor and outdoor dining, a Safari Shop and a swimming pool with expansive deck overlooking the floodplain. From this springboard of comfort, guests are able to appreciate the exquisite beauty of the Okavango Delta. Private bush dinners, breakfasts in bed, lamplit cocktails on a river island, or a walking safari with al fresco picnic are provided with pleasure by Nxabega’s warm and friendly staff.

Nxabega Okavango Safari Camp at a Glance

- 9 ensuite safari tents
- Swimming pool
- Safari Shop







SANDIBE AND NXABEGA IN BRIEF

Location: Sandibe: Situated in a remote wilderness area in the southeastern Okavango Delta, 20 km east of Chief's Island, on the southern border of Moremi Game Reserve

Nxabega: On the edge of the permanent Okavango Delta, Botswana, in a 7 000 hectare exclusive wildlife concession on the western border of the Moremi Game Reserve

Safaris: Experience this irresistible combination of water and wildlife on twice-daily game drives in open 4x4 safari vehicles, bush walks, Delta cruises in an electrically powered 'eco-boat', mokoro (dugout canoe) excursions in the Delta, bush breakfasts and excellent birdwatching

Access: Air Botswana operates scheduled flights to Maun or Kasane. A light aircraft will transfer guests to Chitabe airstrip (Sandibe) or Nxabega Okavango Safari Camp airstrip, where they are welcomed by staff and driven to the Lodge only 45 minutes away (Sandibe) or 15 minutes away (Nxabega)

What Our Guests Have to Say

- "I travel a great deal every year and have seen and done many things in this wonderful world. I have stood on the Great Wall, stayed in Versailles, cruised in Alaska, driven the Great Ocean Road in Australia, seen the terracotta warriors in Xian, China and have done countless other things. The four nights at Nxabega were simply not enough. Your facilities are fabulous and are only exceeded by your personnel."
- "We were truly spoiled by the staff at Sandibe and with the brilliant game viewing. Thanks for also bringing our anniversary to Sandibe's attention, they really went out of their way to make our weekend special by surprising us with drinks in the bush, including champagne, baking us a cake, making African bangles with our names weaved into them, and generally making us feel like extremely special guests"
- "Sandibe was probably the most remote of the camps; it certainly felt that way because of the way everything was in earth tones and the paths were clearly not only manmade. Again, our staff was splendid, particularly our guide, Bats, and his tracker, Bring. It was particularly pleasant to listen to the staff as they performed as a choir, clearly enjoying putting on the show as much as the guests enjoyed listening to them"

Nxabega's Star Birds

- Pel's fishing-owl
- Southern carmine bee-eater
- Lesser jacana
- Malachite kingfisher
- Greater swamp-warbler
- Swamp boubou
- Saddle-billed stork
- Long-toed lapwing
- Slaty egret
- Rufous-bellied heron

Sandibe's Star Birds

- Wattled crane
- African fish-eagle
- White-browed robin-chat
- Violet-eared waxbill
- Brown firefinch
- Hartlaub's babbler
- African jacana
- African pygmy-goose
- Dickinson's kestrel
- Coppery-tailed coucal