



**XAXABA**  
ISLAND CAMP

# FACT SHEET



SUNDESTINATIONS™



### INTRODUCTION

Xaxaba Island Camp is run by Afrika Ecco Safaris from the local Xaxaba community. The camp moves between 3 different locations on the island every few days. It is located on a private island deep within the heart of the Okavango Delta, a world-heritage site renowned for its abundance of wildlife. This is a true rustic, wilderness experience ideal for the wild at heart. The focus here is on the community, the wildlife and untouched views in an area not known to many visitors. The island overlooks the famous Chief's Island, and guests will have the opportunity to enjoy walks on this island. There are plenty of activities to enjoy that cater for the adventurous.

Expect mokoro trips in traditional canoes, boat excursions, fishings, and visit to the community village. There's even an opportunity to celebrate golden hour in a special sundowner spot on the banks of the intricate waterways.

Evening times are spent around the campfire under the stellar night sky, and guides will prep all meals and tend to your every need. This is an intimate, rustic experience for a close group of 12 guests sharing in 6 traditional canvas tents neatly set-up in an idyllic location. Staying on this island is a unique experience, and the choice of location might vary between 3 spots all within the island. This is dependent on wildlife activity, water levels and weather conditions.

This is your chance to experience the real Botswana, where it's not only about the wildlife but also the culture and community spirit. A rare opportunity to explore remote corners and inlets of the Okavango Delta.

### FACILITIES

- Canvas safari tents each sleeping 2 people on individual stretchers.
- Ensuite canvas bathroom for each tent, consisting of a bucket shower and eco-bush toilet
- Standing hand basins renewed with warm water.
- Central camp area equipped with folding safari chairs, a dining table, and tea and coffee facilities.
- A campfire is set-up in the evenings.
- Separate fireplace - chef's domain - where all cooking takes place. Guests will enjoy a sense of privacy.
- Lanterns in the camp and one solar lantern supplied per tent. Guests will need to bring their own torch.
- House keeping and turn downs. Tents are sprayed to prevent mosquitoes and bugs.
- Tents are 2.4m x 2.5m in size.
- Water is included, and guests can order soft drinks and alcohol from their guide.
- There is no electricity at camp, which means you cannot charge your items.
- Fishing is optional and we recommend bringing your own gear.

### AT A GLANCE

- The tented camp will be in one of 3 locations on the island.
- Maximum of 6 tents, sleeping 12 people. Perfect for an intimate crowd.
- The location overlooks the world-renowned Chief's Island.



- Expect to be comfortable with the essentials, this is a rustic camp.
- Eco-friendly camp with little impact on the chosen site.
- This is a back-to-basics rustic experience with a focus on community, activities and wildlife.
- Non-participation camping. Experienced, local guides conduct the activities, while staff cook the food and clean up camp before setting up in the next location.
- There is no electricity at the campsites - food is cooked on open fire and refrigerated.
- Game drives, walking safaris, mokoro trips, motorised boating excursions, fishing, and swimming (if safe) are conducted in various locations in the Okavango Delta.
- Sundowners on a sand bank overlooking the crystal clear waters of the Delta.

## ACTIVITIES

The safari experience is all encompassing in that it offers the best of both land and water game viewing. The ethos at Xaxaba is to keep a low carbon footprint, so all game activities are gentle on the environment.

- **Walking Safaris:** This is the way to experience the Chief's Island in the Okavango Delta. On foot with a guide who knows the area like the back of his hand. Learn about the tracks and signs of the bush and watch big game from the ground.
- **Boating Safaris:** Enjoy a relaxing boat cruise to and from camp on the open waters of the Okavango Delta.
- **Mokoro Safaris:** The traditional dug-out wooden canoe utilised especially in the Okavango Delta.

Silently gliding through the waterways, guides take guests closer to nature and to the wildlife in the Delta than ever before.

- **Swimming:** There are certain sections of the island where swimming is possible. If it is safe, and the water levels are low, guides will take you for a dip in the pristine waters.
- **Fishing:** Try your hand at fishing from a mokoro or boat. You will need to bring your own fishing equipment.
- **Sundowners:** Guides will take you to an exquisite set-up on the sandy banks of the island to celebrate golden hour.

## TYPICAL DAY AT XAXABA

The structure and itinerary is quite flexible, and determined by group dynamics and presence of wildlife. A typical day structure looks something like this:

- **5:30 - 6:00:** Wake-up at first light to enjoy coffee and rusks
- **6:00 - 6:30:** Depart for a 3 hour walk on Chief's Island, or other morning activity
- **11:00/11:30:** Brunch
- **11:30-15:00:** Siesta time/ leisure time
- **15:30:** High tea will be served
- **15:30/ish - Sunset:** Activity and return to camp
- Drinks around the campfire, followed by dinner under the stars



### LOCATION

Xaxaba Island is located in the heart of the Okavango Delta and overlooks the famous Chief's Island. The location is between Eagle Island and Chief's Island, making it a pristine and untouched area with abundant wildlife, and offers the best of both land and water based safaris. There are three locations on the island which are used for camping.

### HOW TO GET THERE

Guests will arrive in Botswana at Maun Airport they will need to take a small light air transfer to Xababa Airstrip. Guests can also connect from Kasane Airport to Eagle Island Airstrip. However, Maun is the closest. From the local airstrip it is a 20 minute scenic boat ride to the island.

### CHILD POLICIES

Children over 12 years old are welcome at Xaxaba Island Camp. Parents are responsible for their children.

### GENERAL TRAVEL INFO

#### **Weather**

The climate in Botswana brings very hot, dry periods (September, October), and also very wet seasons. Winter (June, July, August) packs cold nights and mild, dry days, while November to February is hot and wet. Temperatures in summer soar as high as 40°C bringing warm nights, and humidity levels fluctuating between 50% and 80%. The average annual rainfall is 450mm

and most of it falls between December and March in the form of heavy afternoon thunderstorms.

In contrast, the winter nights can drop to barely below freezing in the Delta, while daytime temperatures at this time of year are mild to warm.

#### **Wildlife**

Elephants walk the earth in Botswana in such great numbers and can be seen bathing in rivers and crossing the Okavango waterways en masse, and have been known to casually stroll through camp. Other mammals to look out for are Cape buffalo, hippo, lechwe, tsessebe, sitatunga, blue wildebeest, giraffe, springbok, kudu, sable, warthog, and baboon.

The Moremi is renowned for its abundance of predators. Following in the footsteps of the grazing herbivores, guests can see lion, leopard, cheetah, wild dog, and spotted and brown hyena. The great Nile crocodiles lurk in the waters and generally prey on fish. The varying habitats all for a complete smorgasbord of birder's delights. Water bird species are abundant in the Delta and at lagoons, waterways, and rivers throughout Botswana, while summer brings in the migrant species, which fleck colour through the trees. Birds of prey, and grassland birds are seen and heard throughout the day.

#### **Malaria**

Before travelling, guests are encouraged to consult their local doctors on anti-malarial medication and preparation, however a repellent stick or spray is effective and should be utilised. All the tents have mesh



windows, keeping the bugs out. Mosquitos are more prevalent in the wet, warmer season.

### WHAT TO PACK

The climate in Botswana brings very hot, dry periods (September, October), and also very wet seasons. Winter (June, July, August) pack cold nights and mild, dry days. Depending on what time of year you travel, you will need certain essentials.

- Throughout the year, we recommend packing lightweight, neutral-coloured clothing with short sleeves.
- Bring sun protection in the form of sunblock, sun hats, and glasses.
- Scarfs, jackets and gloves are needed for early mornings on the boat, especially in winter.
- Comfortable walking shoes are essential.
- Bring along cameras, binoculars and recording gadgets to keep a record of the many wildlife sightings.

