

EPIC EXPERIENCES

TSODILO HILLS ADVENTURE

# **AN EXPLORATION OF BOTSWANA'S UNDISCOVERED CULTURE**

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3-NIGHT PACKAGE







Experience Botswana like a local as we learn about ancient Bushman cultural heritage, sleeping in traditional dwellings and exploring the modern rural livelihoods of the remote Okavango communities.

Modern humans are thought to have originated in Botswana, and Tsodilo Hills is likely one of the world's first sacred natural monuments of modern humankind. During this incredible 3-night expedition, you will enjoy an exclusive experience with expert local hosts from the community and a professional expert on the Kalahari San-Bushman history in Botswana.

Included in the package is 3 nights at Nxamaseri Island Lodge including a 1-night overnight excursion with exclusive use of the Tsodilo Hills Sleep-Out Camp. This unique itinerary combines two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Tsodilo Hills and the Okavango Delta. Sitting around the fire, talking with the local elders and witnessing an insight into the sacred 'trance dance' below Botswana's highest peak, is an experience unlike any other.

Discover hundreds of ancient Bushman paintings alongside your local guides in a uniquely intimate setting. You'll also have the opportunity to immerse yourself in the modern traditional lifestyles of the Okavango community members.

The Tsodilo Hills adventure can be added to any Botswana fly-in safari to experience an intimate ancient Bushman culture amongst their sacred Kalahari.



## PACKAGE HIGHLIGHTS

**1-night Private use of the Tsodilo Hills Sleep-Out Camp** in a traditional-style Bushman dwelling for 1 night (maximum 8 adults and children).

**2-nights at Nxamaseri Island Lodge.**

**Hosted by a specialist guide** for the duration as an expert on the history of the Kalahari Bushman cultures.

**Sunrise summit hike** of Botswana's highest peak, Male Hill, for those who wish.

**Spend an afternoon with the locals** from the Nxamaseri community, learning about modern African culture, foraging for local food, fishing, and harvesting reeds for construction and basket weaving.

**Helicopter scenic transfer** from the Tsodilo Hills and over the Okavango Panhandle back to Nxamaseri Island.

**Supporting the local community** with donations going towards homegrown projects within the area.

**Note:** Itineraries are based on the ultimate exclusivity.  
Itineraries can be amended according to budget or specialist requests.



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## ITINERARY

### DAY 1:

Arrive at Shakawe Airstrip and enjoy a 1-hour transfer in a closed vehicle directly to your very own private Tsodilo Hills Sleep-Out Camp. Under the shadow of Botswana's highest peak, settle into your traditional-style Bushman dwelling and familiarise yourself with the camp. Meet your local hosts for the trip and explore the wilderness trails around the camp with a late lunch/afternoon tea.

Later in the afternoon, the majestic Male Hill of Tsodilo transforms its colour to a deep purple as it towers above the seemingly endless flat Kalahari. Your local Bushman guide and expert host will share stories of the region and culture while the team prepares the fire and a traditional dinner cooked over the coals after sunset.

Sitting around the fire under a blanket of stars, with the sound of the Kalahari as the backdrop, the local Bushman will share stories and reenact elements of the sacred "trance dance" as their ancestors have who frequented these sacred hills for millennia. Stories will be translated and interpreted by the local experts and guides. Reflect on ancient heritage before retiring to your traditional Bushman pod for the night.

### DAY 2:

For those hiking the summit of Male Hill, wake up around 4:00 - 4:30 AM (depending the time of year) for tea/coffee and snacks around the fire before heading to the base of the climb. An approximate 400m (1,300ft) ascent from the base of the hike will take you to the summit of the hill at 1,400m asl (4,593ft). The hike takes between 2-3 hours, depending on fitness level. Enjoy a fresh cup of tea at the summit along with the early morning sun and spectacular views across the Kalahari towards the Okavango Delta, where two UNESCO World Heritage Sites converge.

Those not hiking can enjoy a few more hours in their cosy pod.

The morning then takes you to the rock painting trails of Tsodilo Hills, where your guides and specialist host will take you on an exploration of these ancient paintings, said to date back tens of thousands of years. Your specialist guides will bring their knowledge of the area into the walk, making the previous night's stories of ancient traditional shaman trans dances and ceremonies come to life as you explore and unravel this wonderfully preserved rock art and caves of Tsodilo.





The morning's trails can be extended or shortened depending on guests' wishes and culminate in a delicious bush breakfast under the camp acacia trees.

A scenic helicopter transfer will await you, offering the opportunity to see the hills from above before travelling to the tip of the Okavango Panhandle and across to the private Nxamseri Island, your private delta property for the next 2 days.

After an incredible morning of hiking and cultural discovery, enjoy a nutritious lunch under the trees followed by an afternoon at leisure. Indulge in a full-body massage at the Wellness Spa, followed by sundowners and dinner along the Nxamaseri channel.

### DAY 3:

This morning, head off after breakfast with your local guides to meet members of the nearby community, who will host you for a morning of understanding how rural communities live. Forage for water lily roots, harvest reeds for roofing/basket weaving, help herd the livestock and visit the traditional villages that skirt the area. Move around on traditional mokoros (dugout canoes) like the region's inhabitants. Many Botswana trips focus solely on wildlife areas, but this is a wonderful place where the wilderness meets local inhabitants who live in tune with nature.

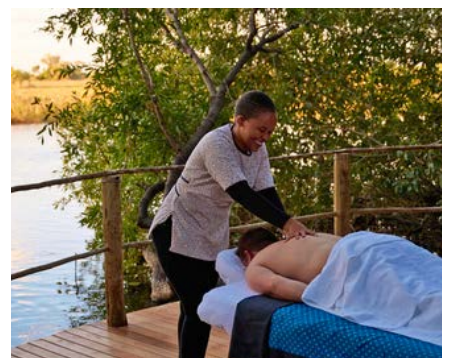
Return to Nxamaseri, where locals will help you learn the art of weaving baskets using harvested materials from the area and prepare local dishes using ingredients cultivated from your morning's adventure.

After resting around camp, we suggest a river cruise exploring the channels of the Okavango Panhandle and floodplain areas. The team will prepare a gorgeous private sundowner on a sandbank or island location, or simply enjoy a mesmerising sunset over the Okavango. Explore the local water-based wildlife, such as prolific birdlife, hippos, and the famous large Nxamaseri Nile crocodiles.

Enjoy a private dinner on the deck by the fire, hosted by your guides, as you reflect on a stimulating few days of learning about ancient and modern local traditions.

### DAY 4:

Conclude your adventure with the local community on a morning nature walk, or simply enjoy a morning at leisure, taking in the cacophony of birdsong on the island. The final morning activity depends on your flight time and can be adapted to your preference before returning to Shakawe airport (1 - 1.5 hours) for your onward flight.







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### What to know?

- The Tsodilo Sleep-Out Camp caters for a maximum of 8-guests or a family of 10.
- Valid all year round.
- Private use of the Tsodilo Sleep-Out Camp is optional & subject to availability.
- A private guided host specialising in local culture and the traditional Bushman for the full duration of your stay.
- A local San Bushman host and interpreter if required during the Tsodilo Hills overnight adventure.
- Each trip contributes significantly to the local community but an extra donation to the community engagement and coexistence projects the company are involved in is possible.
- A one way scenic helicopter transfer over the Okavango Panhandle from Tsodilo Hills Sleep-Out Camp to Nxamaseri Island Lodge is included but optional return transfer available also.
- For more information on the Tsodilo Hills Sleep-Out Camp and what to bring/prepare for the overnight & hiking adventure please see our [Tsodilo Hills Sleep-Out Factsheet](#).



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