



MUCHENJE
SAFARI LODGE | CHOBE



Western Chobe - Botswana

Jewel of the Western Chobe



MUCHENJE SAFARI LODGE BOTSWANA

Situated high up on the escarpment in Western Chobe region is Muchenje Safari Lodge, one of Chobe's oldest and most established luxury safari lodges.

Muchenje is independently owned and run and is set within the Chobe Forest Reserve, just 3km from Chobe's Ngoma gate. There are no fences between the Chobe Park and the Forest Reserve; so, the animals roam freely.

Muchenje is well known for its dramatic and panoramic views across the Chobe River, which can be enjoyed through out the main lodge and the cottages.

Muchenje is within an easy 50 minute drive from Kasane Airport and a further 2 hours from Victoria Falls.

MUCHENJE AS A HOME

Muchenje's main lodge has an extensive lounge, bar and dining area overlooking the Chobe River and Muchenje's waterhole.

The dining area encompasses both separate and mixed dining. There is a lapa (pergola) by the swimming pool for a more intimate dining experience. An outside boma is often enjoyed with an evening bush braais (barbeques) under stars. Our chefs provide varied and delightful food.

Extensive outdoor deck areas are set against the escarpment and enable guests to relax and enjoy the panoramic views across to Namibia and down the floodplains. The swimming pool and surrounding lounge area affords similar views whilst cooling off in the midday heat.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served at the lodge. However, some excursions will have the added experience of breakfast or lunch in the bush or on one of our boats.

Sundowners are taken in Western Chobe, or, on the flood plain by the river in front of the lodge.



Comfort and Views



ACCOMMODATION

Muchenje has ten luxury individual private cottages and a larger family cottage. Each cottage has its own large private deck with its own unique view overlooking the Chobe River.

All rooms can convert to double or twin, and have air conditioning, fan, electronic safe, en-suite bathroom, mosquito net, tea and coffee station, stocked fridge, hair dryer, power points and adaptors.

The family cottage at Muchenje offers spacious comfort, with an additional mezzanine open plan sleeping area which can accommodate two children. With two bathrooms and a generous deck it is perfect for a family travelling together.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MUCHENJE

The concept of a safari lodge at Muchenje dates to 1990 when permission to build a safari lodge on tribal leased land was obtained. The dream of the idea took two years to get approved and planned, and then a further 3 years to complete. But in 1995 the doors were open for business and Muchenje was formally opened by the then Vice President of Botswana, Festus Mogae, in October 1996. Our founders of Muchenje are still part of the lodge family.

*Arrive as friends
and leave as family*

Muchenje is well known for its relaxed and friendly atmosphere. All our team at the lodge are local and have a dedication to the lodge and area. We are all passionate about what we do and enjoy sharing the experience that Muchenje provides.

Pioneers of the Chobe



MUCHENJE EXPERIENCES

Abundance and Flexibility

Our experienced Guides, all of whom have had extensive guide training in both animals and birds, are from the Chobe region and are passionate about their Park and communities. They love sharing their Chobe with you and being part of your safari. We also have a registered accredited bird expert at the lodge – Chobe is well known for its high diversity of birdlife – a must-see destination for birders, particularly in the Summer months.

Our full fleet of 4x4 open safari vehicles take you out into the park to explore this magnificent region.

Muchenje's two boats are based either at Sedudu (eastern shores) or at our jetty near Ihaha. Exploring the deep-water channels and the seasonal flood plains are one of Muchenje's highlights.

Activities

2 or 3 night stay:

- Game Drives – morning and afternoon within Western Chobe
- Chobe Full Day Experience – including Chobe Boat trip with a picnic lunch
- Guided Bush Walks
- Night Drives
- Community Visit to Muchenje Village

- Extend your stay to 4 nights or more and enjoy more activities:
- Mokoro trips on western waters
- Half day Ihaha picnic
- Full Day Drive in the Chobe with Picnic lunch



CHOBE NATIONAL PARK & FOREST RESERVE

The Chobe National Park dates from 1967 and covers 11,700km² it extends from Kasane through Serondela (the Chobe River front) to Western Chobe, the Ngwezumba pans, Savute and Linyanti.

The life blood of the park is the Chobe River, undoubtedly one of Africa's most beautiful rivers. Western Chobe supports a diversity and concentration of wildlife unparalleled anywhere else in the country. The Chobe River forms the northern boundary of the park.

Western Chobe covers an area from Ihaha, the mid-point of the National Park, to Ngoma and through to Muchenje including the Chobe Forest Reserve. The main benefit of the Western Chobe is that it has no traffic congestion and is an untouched wilderness.

Muchenje is situated in the Chobe Forest Reserve just 3km from Western Chobe National Park. There are no fences here and the animals roam from the park into the Reserve as well as from Zambia, Namibia and beyond.

Concentration and diversity of wildlife



THE CHOBE RIVER

The life blood of the Chobe

The Chobe River is unique in Africa in that it flows both ways.

In the early months of the year the heavy rains in Northern Angola and Northern Zambia increase the volume of the Zambezi River. The Zambezi overflows into the Chobe River and massive amounts of water then flow westwards down the Chobe River creating huge lakes on the floodplains.

In front of Muchenje in Western Chobe the lake extends 6km inland into Namibia and 35-40km westwards. The depth of this lake can be up to 3m; it is truly impressive. Pods of hippo and crocodiles follow the river as it ebbs and flows through out the flood season.

In July/August the river reverses and flows eastwards, draining the lakes, and reducing the river to isolated ponds or a very narrow channel, just a few metres wide and less than a metre deep, by November.



ANIMALS & BIRDS OF WESTERN CHOBE

This area is famous for its huge concentrations of elephant, hippo and Cape buffalo. Together with these, there are the predators – lions, leopards, wild dogs (painted wolves), hyenas, jackals, serval cats, caracal (lynx), honey badgers and crocodiles. There are estimated to be over 60,000 elephants in the Chobe alone and in the dry season, one can see hundreds of these magnificent animals on the flood plains at any one time.

Nowhere in Africa are you going to see such large herds of elephant... watching them drink, play and swim across the river is something you are unlikely to ever forget.

Vast herds of up to 500-1,000 Cape buffalo are regularly seen grazing on the flood plain

Large pods of hippos, both in and out of the water, are prevalent.

Abundant Plains game include giraffe, sable antelope, roan antelope, kudu, waterbuck, red lechwe, impala, puku and Chobe bushbuck (both endemic to the Chobe), tsessebe, eland, duiker, warthog, steenbok and zebra.

Chacma baboons, Vervet monkeys, genets, banded mongoose, slender mongoose, otter, squirrel, porcupine, bat-eared fox and civet are all seen frequently in the Muchenje area.

Over 500 species of birds have been recorded in the Okavango Delta, Chobe and Caprivi region, making this one of the finest bird watching localities on the African continent.

Even more bird species occur during the summer months (December through to April), when migrants from further afield return to Botswana, and when the smaller songbirds are most vocal.



ZEBRA MIGRATION TO WESTERN CHOBE

Muchenje is situated above the flood plain which is the start and finish point of the zebra migration to and from Nxai Pan to the south. The distance between the Western Chobe River floodplain and Nxai Pan is around 250km, which makes this wildlife migration the longest mammal migration in Africa. The zebra congregate on the flood plain during the dry season (between May – November) each year, returning to Nxai Pan at the start of the rainy season.

Up to 15,000 of these animals make this yearly migration and hundreds of zebra are concentrated in and around Muchenje Safari Lodge during the dry winter months.

Longest mammal migration in Africa



