

MAX PAX:7

MIN PAX:2



# 16 nights Zambezi Avian Trail

## Trip Overview

Adventurous, nature-loving and birders travellers will love this itinerary that focuses on three countries of the top national parks in Zambia, Namibia and Botswana. The trip starts and ends in Maun, tourism capital of Botswana. You will be able to explore camping in Lake Ngami, and then we head north to Okavango Panhandle. We then go beyond boarder to Namibia in Caprivi Strip (Zambezi strip), then visit Victoria Falls and Choma in Zambia. The tour also takes back into Botswana where we explore Chobe National Park, then we move to Makgadikgadi Salt Pans National Park and head to Moremi Game Reserve for the sum-up. If you want an insider's birding safari experience with opportunities to visit areas that most tourists never see, this trip is designed for you.

## Trip Highlights

- Bird Watching and photography safari in Botswana; Lake Ngami, Okavango Panhandle, Chobe River Front, Makgadikgadi Pans, Thamalakane River and Moremi Game Reserve the best place to spot Black-tailed Godwit, Great White & Pink-backed Pelican.
- Dig into Caprivi River birding architecture and explore adventure flying species in Namibia.
- See fantastic and outstanding birds engravings in Choma and Vic Falls in Zambia

## Brief Itinerary

Day	Highlights	Activity	Overnight
Day 1	Arrive in Maun International Airport, and then be transferred to Lake Ngami for your first destination.	Bird watching	Lake Ngami- Pat Mobile Sahara en-suite tented camp.
Days 2-3	Explore Okavango River in the panhandle area. Spend 2 nights	Bird watching	Okavango River – lodging in Drosky's Cabins
Day 4-5	Transfer to Caprivi Strip & Zambezi (Namibia)	Bird watching	Namibia – lodging in Caprivi River Cabins
Day 6-7	Livingstone Zambia	Bird watching	Lodging – in Bushfront Lodge
Day 8-9	Choma (Zambia)	Bird watching	Masuku Lodge
Day 10-11	Chobe (Botswana)	Bird watching *Boat cruise	Lodging- Chobe Safari Lodge
Days 12	Makgadikgadi Pans (Nata Bird Sanctuary)	Bird watching	Lodging- Nata Lodge

Day 13	Maun	Bird watching	Lodging – Thamalakane River Lodge
Day 14-16	Moremi Game Reserve (fly-in and fly-out). Explore day trip to a heronry at Gadikwe for boat cruise.	Bird watching	Moremi Game Reserve Pat Mobile sahara en-suite tented camp.
Day 17	Transfer to Maun on a light aircraft to continue with other travel arrangements End of travel with Pat Mobile Safaris.		

## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 1

Arrive in Maun – Botswana then transfer to Lake Ngami

#### 1 Night

Patmobile Safaris tented camp

You'll first arrive in Maun International Airport from there you'll be transferred to Lake Ngami. When you arrive at Maun International Airport, your specialist birding guide will be waiting to take you to the camp where you will stay for the first night.



The grounds of the camp overlook a rich flood plain and the Lake Ngami, and the main camp area consists of a dining area, lounge and camp fire place. There is also a photographic special location in front of the camp that allows you to get a closer look at the birdlife in the lake.

Your accommodation in Sahara tented camp is en-suite bathrooms have bush toilets, and a bucket of hot water is provided for a bucket shower. You'll have the evening free to unwind and settle in after your flight.

**Possible birds species sightings;** (*Great White & Pink-backed Pelican, Lesser Jacana, Pirit Batis, Black-tailed Godwit, Greater & Lesser Flamingo, Whitebacked Duck*)

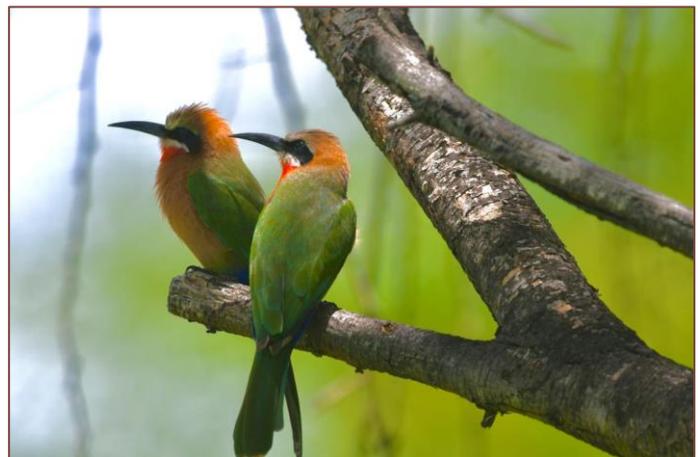
### Day 2-3

Transfer to Okavango Panhandle

#### 2 Nights

Drosky's Cabins – lodging

Your second day reveals the Okavango Panhandle in all its matchless glory, as you spend the day exploring its exotic sights, sounds and sensations. A buffet lunch divides a day in which the world's finest birdlife spectacles play out before your eyes.



By now you may want to mix bird watching with boat cruise, so might choose an early morning birding walk and bush breakfast followed by a return to camp for lunch. Then, recharged after a restful afternoon, you set out once again, this time for an evening drive to witness more birdlife nightlife in action.

**Possible birds species sightings;** (*Pel's Fishing Owl, Black-faced Babbler, White-backed Night-Heron, Narina Trogon, Western Banded Snake-Eagle, African Skimmer, Southern Brown-throated Weaver*)

### Day 4-5

Transfer to Caprivi Strip & Zambezi (Namibia)

### 2 Nights

Caprivi River Cabins – lodging

After breakfast you get to spend the whole day in the Caprivi Strip, heading for the places your expert tour guides believe will display the greatest abundance of glorious birdlife sights. Stopping only for a morning tea under a sheltering tree, your expedition becomes a succession of stunning tableaux, creating a simply unforgettable day.



You have two full days here to enjoy game drives, canoeing, river cruises, nature walks, bird-watching, and more.

**Possible birds species sightings;** (*Rufous-bellied Tit, Racket-tailed Roller, Sharp-tailed Starling, Purple-banded Sunbird, Copper Sunbird, Wood Owl, Eastern Bearded Scrub-Robin, Schalow's Turaco, Giant Kingfisher, Rock Pratincole, Shelley's Sunbird, African Finfoot*)

### Day 6-7

Livingstone Zambia

### 2 Nights

Bushfront Lodge

On day six, you rise early, either for a morning birdwatching or a walking safari to the Zambezi River. This latter option takes you to one of the hidden wonders of the Mosi-oa-Tunya (Smoke that Thunders) - local name for the Victoria Falls.



With your guides explaining the birdlife, shrubs and trees you pass, en route to a timeless riparian forest along the Zambezi provides some excellent bird life in this area. After all, it was an early start and you already have a head full of new sights and sounds to process.

**Possible birds species sightings;** (*Trumpeter Hornbill, Crowned Hornbill, Verreaux's Eagle, Taita Falcon, Narina Trogon, Olive Woodpecker*)

### Day 8-9

Choma (Zambia)

### 2 Nights

## Masuku Lodge

Today, you will transfer to Choma. When you reach Choma, you will drive to the lodge. Depending on when you arrive, you may have an opportunity to go on an afternoon bird watching. This Lodge offers an array of land- and water-based safari activities to choose from in and around the Zambezi River. Your accommodation is a spacious suite with air-conditioning, ceiling fans, and decadent goose-down bedding with nice linen. Tonight, you can relax on your private veranda and enjoy the river views.

**Possible birds species sightings;** (*Chaplin's (Zambian) Barbet, Souza's Shrike, White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike, Red-faced Crimsonwing, Spotted Creeper, Miombo Pied Barbet*)

## Day 10-11

Chobe (Botswana)

### 2 Nights

Chobe Safari Lodge

Today, you will be leaving Zambia and re-enter Botswana through Kazungula boarder heading to the renowned Chobe National Park where countless bird species have made this area its habitat. Birding in and around the Chobe River is diverse and rewarding throughout the year. You will have the option of boat cruise, which is a highly recommended experience to get closer to more wetland birdlife. Your cosy accommodation will offer views of the Chobe River Front with rich birding experience. The rooms have its own deck with comfortable chairs so you can enjoy the views. The en-suite bathrooms have double sinks, flushing toilets, and offer both indoor and outdoor showers. Mosquito nets are provided in each room so you can sleep comfortably. Here you will be able to go on more bird watching.

**Possible birds species sightings;** (*Collared Palm-Thrush, Bronze Mannikin, Orange-winged Pytilia, Racket-tailed Roller, African Finfoot, African Skimmer, Pel's Fishing Owl, Brown Firefinch*)



## Day 12

Makgadikgadi Pans (Nata Bird Sanctuary)

### 1 Night

Nata Lodge

For the next day you will explore Makgadikgadi pans; the remains of a once ancient lake and now form part of the route of Southern Africa's largest remaining migration. The rainy season in the national park is a sight to behold as you can see the pans come to life with water birds and great herds of game. This area incorporates a multitude of salt pans and vast grass plains dotted by palm islands and form the Great Makgadikgadi, which comprise the largest area of salt pans in the world, covering some 37,000 sq km in overall extent. It is the last vestiges of Africa's largest inland sea and exudes an atmosphere of antiquity and mystery.

**Possible birds species sightings;** (*Lesser Flamingos, along with Greater Flamingos, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Montagu's Harrier, Pallid Harrier, Abdim's Stork, Marsh Owl Chestnut-banded Plovers, Great White and Pink-backed Pelicans*).

**Day 13**

Maun (Thamalakane River)

**1 Night**

Thamalakane River Lodge

After breakfast this morning, you will depart from Makgadikgadi Pans to overnight in Thamalakane River Lodge even more tranquil, Thamalakane River Lodge provides almost complete solitude. With rooms facing the river on stilts, each one open and overlooking the river, you'll have fabulous views from the comfort of your room. En-suite bathrooms have flushing toilets, cold running water, and a bucket of hot water is provided for a relaxing shower. Your safari and outdoor activities for the day are focused on walking, so wear comfortable shoes and clothing.

**Possible bird species sightings;** (*White-backed Duck, Lesser Jacana, Bat Hawk, White browed-robin, Purple Roller*)

**Day 14-16**



Moremi Game Reserve

**3 Nights**

Patmobile Safaris tented camp

Day fourteen brings the realisation that you are going to have to leave, much as you and we wish it were not so. Flying to Moremi Game Reserve for the last 3 nights of the final destination, where you will be camping under African sky. Embarking on early morning game drive, watching the sun rise and light flood the landscape you've explored and loved.

Having whetted your appetite for extraordinary experience, after having observed the spectacular birdlife on guided game drives, you can retire after dinner to a grand Patmobile Safaris tented camp. However, the dream has to end.

**Possible bird species sightings;** (*Rufous-bellied Heron, Wattled Crane, Slaty Egret, Black Coucal, Swamp Nightjar, Malachite Kingfisher*)

**Day 17:**  
**Departure day**



It's time to say goodbye to Botswana! Your hearts, minds and cameras will be filled with unforgettable memories as we fly to Maun Airport for your voyage home – or to whichever adventure life has lined up for you next. From Maun, you can connect to your international flight.

**Trip Details**

**NB:** Please be aware that Yellow Fever certificates are required by South Africa for any travellers who have been through Zambia.

**Tour Includes;**

All accommodations, park entrance and camping fees (except Vic Falls), excursions, transfers and border fees. Full board in Patmobile Safaris Tented Camp with non-participatory/fully serviced en-suite tented accommodation; **includes** all meals (three course), snacks, local beverages.

Full board in a lodge or hotel; **includes** bed and breakfast at the lodge or hotel. Lunch, dinner and drinks are excluded, they are on travellers own expense.

**Tour Excludes;**

International flights, gratuities for guides and staff, any applicable visa fees & optional excursions and extra activities, full medical & travel insurance

