

Spotlight on the Okavango Delta!

The Okavango Delta is undoubtedly one of Africa's ultimate safari destinations.

Divided into the Greater Okavango Delta and the Moremi Game Reserve (which includes Chief's Island), the Okavango is a unique ecosystem of waterways, floodplains, lagoons, shady forests and rich savannah grasslands.

The Delta owes its existence to the Okavango River which flows from the Angolan highlands, into the harsh Kalahari Desert. The Okavango Delta is affected by seasonal flooding with flood water from Angola reaching the Delta between **March and June**, peaking in July. This peak coincides with Botswana's dry season resulting in great migrations of wildlife from the dry hinterland.

The **Moremi Game Reserve**, comprising 1/3 of the Delta, combines permanent water with drier areas. Game viewing here is at its peak from July to October, when seasonal pans dry up and the wildlife concentrates on the permanent water. Select your lodge according to season.

In Moremi, water-based activities using boat and mokoro (dug out canoe) are often only available in high-water season. Please be aware that there are also some lodges which do not offer water-based activities at all.

Abu Dhabi to strengthen ties with Southern Africa

Abu Dhabi is about to become a vital hub for inbound tourism into Southern Africa. Firstly, flights from Abu Dhabi to Johannesburg have doubled with the inauguration of SAA's flights this month. Secondly, SAA's new codeshare partner, Etihad, is already allowing SAA to issue tickets for passengers originating in some



The **Greater Okavango** is in the heart of the wetlands and water-based activities are available throughout most of the year.

Lodges are generally accessed by small aircraft from Maun. A four night programme is ideal, with two nights concentrating on land-based programmes, and two nights concentrating on water-based activities. Alternatively there are lodges which offer both activities subject to seasonal water levels. The Delta can also be combined with Chobe National Park and or Victoria Falls.

Top Accommodation Picks:

Moremi with focus on land-based activities
[Belmond Khwai River Lodge](#)

Moremi with combination of water and land-based activities:

[Sanctuary Chiefs Camp or Camp Xakanaxa \(water activities seasonal\)](#)

Greater Okavango with emphasis on water-based activities:

[Xugana Island Lodge](#)

27 centres including Dublin, Manchester and Edinburgh.

Etihad and SAA now both offer daily flights to and from Abu Dhabi into Johannesburg. SAA is using A330-200 aircraft, with 36 business class and 186 economy seats, on the Abu Dhabi route.

Cape Town takes 3rd place in Condé Nast World's Best Food Cities list

Cape Town has always been acknowledged as the top foodie destination in South Africa. With an abundance of fresh produce, local seafood and Cape wine, guests are spoilt for choice.

Two of our current favourite restaurants are Jordan Restaurant and La Colombe.

Jordan is located on Jordan Wine Estate, just outside Stellenbosch, and is currently rated 5th in the Top 10 Restaurants in the country. "This is easy-going fine dining at its best." The estate also boasts The Bakery for more informal daytime dining. The estate is approximately 30 minutes from Cape Town city centre.



La Colombe recently relocated from Constantia Uitsig to Silvermist Estate, situated high in the hills, overlooking the Constantia Valley. This restaurant is also a frequent contender on the Top 10 list. It is relaxed, yet ultra elegant and located just 20 minutes from the city centre.

All our clients receive a copy of our very own printed restaurant guide.

Continuing on a foodie theme, **Cooking Wild** is a new and exciting, all-inclusive alternative to learning to cook in Tuscany or France. Learn to cook in Africa while



on a Big 5 game safari. Track cheetah in the morning and enjoy a sensational meal of your own making at Shamwari Villa Lobengula in the evening. Explore the delicious cuisines of the African continent - from the slow-cooked tagines of North Africa to the Cape Malay sweet curries from the south. Shamwari is located 1 hours' drive from Port Elizabeth. This is offered as a three or four night programme with a maximum of 12 guests.

Brief updates from Southern & East Africa

Tsogo Sun will soon begin construction of an exciting new 500-bedroom hotel complex in Cape Town city centre. The new hotel will consist of two products in one complex; a 200-bedroom latest-design **SunSquare hotel** (4*) and a 300-bedroom new generation **StayEasy hotel** (3*), offering affordable and stylish accommodation. Date of completion TBA.

SA Airlink is soon to launch a **lodge-link system** of scheduled flights that will feed from **Skukuza Airport** and **Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport** to a number of luxury lodges in the Kruger Park. This is a first for lodge connectivity. Guests travelling from anywhere in the world will now be able to fly in to a number of luxury lodges in the Kruger on a single ticket. Tickets can be booked through the Global Distribution System as each lodge will receive an International Air Transport Association designated code. Service will be in Cessna 208B Grand Caravans and is due to start mid July 2015.