



HARTLEY'S SAFARIS

FINDING YOUR AFRICA



Botswana

Okavango Delta
Moremi Wildlife Reserve
Selinda, Linyanti and Kwando Private Reserves
Chobe National Park
Makgadikgadi Pans and Kalahari
The Tuli Block



INTRODUCTION

Botswana is a country of striking natural contrasts - from the rich, verdant aquatic grasslands and waterways of the Okavango Delta and the broad Chobe River, to the immense open spaces of the Kalahari Desert and Makgadikgadi Pans - an unforgettable combination of wilderness providing the visitor with a plethora of safari options.

Although much of the country is extremely arid (the Kalahari is termed a "desert" but it is covered in grass and small trees), Botswana is home to some of the best game viewing areas in Southern Africa with lion, leopard, cheetah, elephant (the largest concentration of elephants in the world), giraffe, zebra, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, buffalo, hyena and many species of antelope occurring here. It is also a birders' paradise with over 550 regularly occurring species.

Botswana is sparsely populated, with the main proportion of its just over two million people concentrated in the south east. Botswana boasts the largest percentage of land formally protected for conservation in the world, a remarkable 31%.

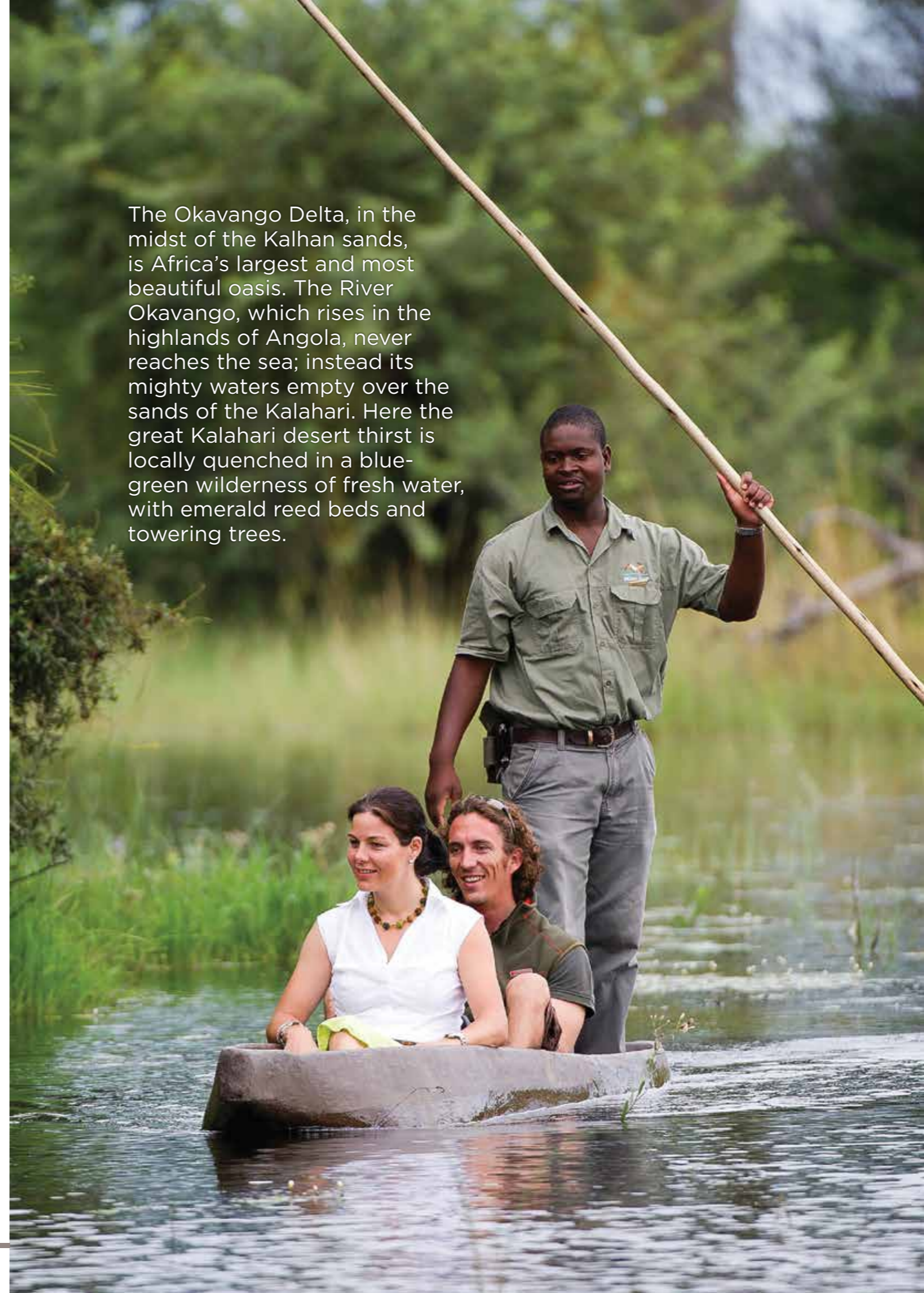
The country has four international airports which service all the major tourism regions. Due to the remoteness of their locations many lodges rely heavily upon on a highly organised system of light aircraft flights to fly guests from camp to camp, thus allowing a variety of areas and

experiences to be included in any itinerary. These low level flights afford spectacular aerial views of the landscape and add tremendously to the holiday. The main gateway airport for Botswana is Johannesburg from where Air Botswana and SAAirlink service the routes to Maun for the Okavango Delta and Kasane for the northern Chobe National Park.

Hartley's Safaris have a very special relationship with Botswana, forged by the fact that for over twenty six years, David Hartley owned and operated Xugana Island Lodge, Xugana Mokoro Trails and Tsaro Elephant Lodge in the spectacular Okavango Delta. This enabled Hartley's the privilege of gaining a deep insight and understanding of this magnificent country, its many camps, diversity of wildlife and habitats and vividly contrasting environments. Over the years we have constantly drawn upon this invaluable knowledge to help us design and construct luxury safari holidays for our clients that fully complement and fulfil their individual needs, desires and expectations.



The Okavango Delta, in the midst of the Kalhan sands, is Africa's largest and most beautiful oasis. The River Okavango, which rises in the highlands of Angola, never reaches the sea; instead its mighty waters empty over the sands of the Kalahari. Here the great Kalahari desert thirst is locally quenched in a blue-green wilderness of fresh water, with emerald reed beds and towering trees.





HISTORY

About two thousand years ago migrants from central Africa began settling in what is today Botswana. San, (Bushmen) who were primarily hunter gathers, and Khoikhoi herders also lived in parts of the region.

The migrants brought with them cattle and crops and although settlement took place slowly a thriving society based on agriculture had developed by about 1000AD. The people of the region became known as the Tswana and as the population grew they also settled in part of what is today South Africa. Strong cultural ties still exist across the modern international boundaries.

The Tswana did not escape the effects of the political turmoil that spread through the region in the 19th century. As colonists began searching for new land, conflict with Boers moving north had by the 1880s intensified to the point that Tswana leaders appealed to the British, then the colonial power controlling South Africa, for protection. In 1885 some of what is today Botswana was placed under South African administration and land north of the Molopo River became known as the Bechuanaland Protectorate, administered directly by Britain.

For the first part of the 20th century Tswana leaders regularly argued for independence and in 1966 Britain finally relented and Botswana was born. Modern Botswana is a democracy with several political parties.

PEOPLE, CULTURE AND ECONOMY

Although Botswana is sparsely populated most people live in a broad strip running from the capital Gaborone to the country's second city of Francistown near the Zimbabwean border. Most people are Tswana, sometimes also known as Batswana (singular Motswana).

Although people in the cities follow a generally western lifestyle many people maintain strong ties with rural traditions. Cattle play an important cultural role and many pay bride wealth in cattle, and slaughter animals at weddings and funerals. Ground maize, served in various forms, is the staple diet of most Tswana. Diamonds are the country's principal earner of foreign exchange. Beef farming is the most important agricultural activity and plays a significant role in the country's economy and large quantities of meat are exported to Europe. Tourism is also one of the largest earners of foreign exchange.

BOTSWANA IN BRIEF

- Capital City:** Gaborone
- Area:** 581,700 km² / 225,000 mi²
- Population:** 2.09 million
- Time zone:** GMT +2
- Currency:** Pula (BWP)
- Electricity:** 220V
- Geography:** Botswana consists mainly of semi-desert, with the notable exception of the famed Okavango Delta.
- Language:** English and Setswana



WHEN TO GO

Botswana is a year round destination with a climate that is mostly fine and dry, the prime game viewing months being June to November. The best time for birding trips is the wet season - there are over 550 different birds in Botswana making it both exciting for bird and animal lovers.

November to March: 'Wet season', good game viewing although a little dispersed, warm to hot, afternoon thunderstorms, long summer days, bush becoming lush and green, beautiful photographic light, spectacular migratory birds, good fishing, baby animals, flowers blooming from January, incredible sunsets, few tourists, low season rates. Zebra and wildebeest migration to the Makgadikgadi Pans in March.

April: good game viewing, bush green and beautiful, lovely warm days, low season rates.

May to June: good game viewing, Okavango River floods making greater areas accessible to mokoros, warm days, cool nights, low season rates.

July to September: best game viewing, warm days, cold-cool nights, most tourists, good sunsets, peak season, bookings need to be made well in advance.

October: best game viewing, hottest month, humid, bush very dry and dusty, acacia and rain trees flowering, good fishing, huge herds of elephants concentrated along the Chobe River.

CLIMATE

Maun	Temp °C		Rainfall
	Min	Max	mm
Jan	18	32	100
Feb	18	31	90
Mar	17	31	80
Apr	14	30	20
May	9	27	0
Jun	5	25	0
Jul	5	25	0
Aug	8	28	0
Sep	12	32	0
Oct	17	35	10
Nov	18	34	40
Dec	18	32	70

Kasane	Temp °C		Rainfall
	Min	Max	mm
Jan	19.6	30.8	133.9
Feb	19.2	30.6	134.1
Mar	18.8	31.1	70.1
Apr	16.2	30.5	22.8
May	12.5	28.6	2.2
Jun	9.9	26.2	0.5
Jul	9.5	26.2	0
Aug	12.2	29.4	0
Sep	16.1	33	1.5
Oct	19.3	34.5	20.2
Nov	20.3	33.1	62.7
Dec	19.7	31.4	127.3





ANGOLA

ZAMBIA

LAKE KARIBA

KATIMA MULILO

ZAMBEZI

KAVANGO

ZAMBEZI REGION

CHOBE

KASANA

LIVINGSTONE

VICTORIA FALLS

KAUDOM
GAME
RESERVE

TSODILO
HILLS



SELINDA
SPILLWAY

MOREMI GAME
RESERVE

OKAVANGO
DELTA

SAVUTI

CHobe
NATIONAL
PARK

HWANGE
NATIONAL
PARK

ZIMBABWE

NXAI PAN
NATIONAL PARK

MAUN

NATA

MAKAGADIGADI
PANS GAME RESERVE

MAKAGADIGADI
PANS

FRANCISTOWN

B O T S W A N A

CENTRAL
KALAHARI GAME
RESERVE

TULI BLOCK
GAME RESERVE

MASHATU

PALAPYE

KHUTSE
GAME RESERVE

LIMPOPO

GABORONE

MABUASEHUBE
GAME
RESERVE

KGALAGADI
TRANSFRONTIER
PARK

PRETORIA

JOHANNESBURG

N A M I B I A



HIGHLIGHTS

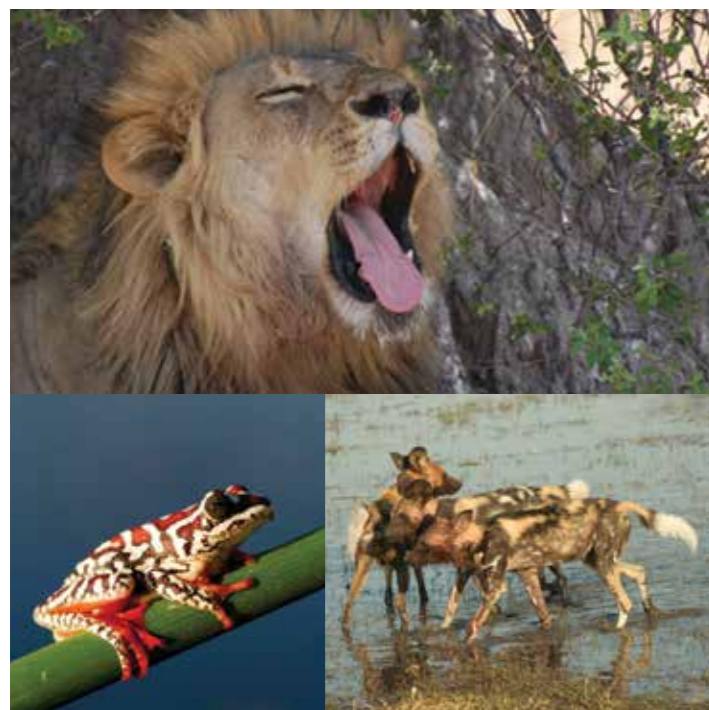
OKAVANGO DELTA

The Okavango Delta –“the jewel of the Kalahari” - is the world’s largest inland delta, made up of an intricate network of channels and lagoons. This is a beautiful wetland with crystal clear waters spreading into flood plains, lily ponds and papyrus swamps helping create a haven for all forms of wildlife.

Visitors can glide silently through the clear waters in mokoros (dug-out canoes) absorbing the scenery in company with the occasional hippo or enjoy the thrill and excitement of a game drive and marvel at the delicate beauty of over 550 species of birds - then sit back and relax over dinner served under the thatch of the camp or star studded African sky.

The Delta provides a seasonal habitat to numerous different species with the best time for game viewing in the dry season (May - October) when the animal life is concentrated close to the Delta’s life-giving waters. The wealth of wildlife includes elephant and buffalo, hippopotamus, lechwe, wildebeest, giraffe, Nile crocodile, lion, cheetah, leopard, hyena, wild dog, sable antelope, both the black and white rhinoceros, zebra, warthog and baboon.

Birdlife in the Delta is outstanding - ranging from water birds to shy forest dwellers and birds of prey.



MOREMI WILDLIFE RESERVE

The Moremi Wildlife Reserve is a 3,200 km² (1,200 mi²) reserve in the heart of the Okavango Delta and heralded as one of the world’s most beautiful wilderness areas. Moremi - named after Chief Moremi of the BaTswana tribe - is a place of lily covered swamps, expansive grass plains and mopane forests.

Moremi encompasses a network of waterways surrounding two large islands - Chief’s Island in the West and the Sandveld Tongue in the East. The diverse ecosystems - riverine woodland, flood plains, wetlands and reed beds, mopane forest and dry savannah woodland is the perfect domicile for a huge variety of animals and around 550 bird species.

Lion, leopard, elephant and buffalo are common and visitors regularly see wild dog, cheetah and the magnificent sable antelope. The cool, dry winter months from March to September are a good time to visit.



MAKGADIKGADI PANS AND KALAHARI

The combination of the grasslands of the Kalahari together with the vast flat pale landscape of the Makgadikgadi salt pans are a striking contrast to the verdant Okavango and Linyanti regions. The Kalahari is a unique desert experience with a variety of wildlife species that adapt well to arid regions. These include brown hyena, meerkats, gemsbok, springbok and the great black-maned Kalahari lion.

The Makgadikgadi Pans are the legacy of an ancient lake that covered much of southern Africa, but which dried up thousands of years ago. However, for a few months of most years, (occasionally the area suffers extreme droughts) the Makgadikgadi is transformed into an important wetland. When the rains come, the pans fill with water and become a vast breeding ground for huge flocks of flamingo and other migratory birds. The rains also regenerate the grasses which attract the last surviving migration of zebra and wildebeest in Botswana.



THE TULI BLOCK

The Tuli Block is a wildlife area that marks Botswana’s south eastern border with South Africa and Zimbabwe and is home to a number of private reserves. The vegetation is spectacular, the scenery diverse - gigantic Nyala trees and yellow barked fever trees grow along the riverbanks and wildlife flourishes in the wild terrain. The Mashatu Game Reserve is home to the one of the largest elephant population on private land in Africa.

Wildebeest, zebra, kudu, eland, impala and waterbuck migrate through the area. Lion (some of them black-maned), leopard and cheetah follow the game and intermingle with the large herds of elephants. Tuli is also renowned for being one of the best places in southern Africa for birding, with over 350 species of birds being identified in the area, including rock thrushes, boulder chats, shrikes and cormorants.



OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

For a unique holiday experience, there are few better ways to discover the real heart and soul of a country than to travel away from the traditional tourist destinations and go ‘off the beaten track’. With the wealth of experience we have gained through our many years creating luxury safari holidays to Africa, Hartley’s Safaris offer an extensive portfolio of experiences that allow you to embrace the true spirit and adventure of this magnificent country in a safe and secure manner.

SELINDA, LINYANTI & KWANDO PRIVATE RESERVES

These three reserves offer the visitor more exclusive safaris than the more often visited national parks and allow walking, night drives and off-road driving. All three reserves are totally fence free; the animals are at liberty to roam between the reserves and the national parks providing excellent game viewing. The Selinda Reserve protects the Selinda Spillway linking the Okavango and Linyanti River systems. There is a high concentration of hippo in Selinda and it is one of the few places in the world where lion hunt hippo! Game viewing is superb and it offers some of the best walking safaris in Botswana.

The Linyanti Reserve is sandwiched between the Linyanti River and Chobe National Park. This is an enormous reserve in one of the most remote and inaccessible parts of Botswana. It offers abundant wildlife and a very small number of camps, making it a very private and exclusive destination.

The Kwando Reserve is a huge private reserve covering some 3,625 km² (1,400 sq. miles). The western area is covered in dense woodland, while the area along the banks of the Kwando River is lush riverine forest with expansive plains, offering very high concentrations of game, particularly elephant.



**CHOBENATIONAL PARK
(INCLUDING THE SAVUTI REGION)**

Chobe National Park sprawls spectacularly across some 10,359 km² (4,000 mi²) of northern Botswana offering a variety of contrasting safari and wildlife experiences and one of the greatest concentrations of elephant in Africa.

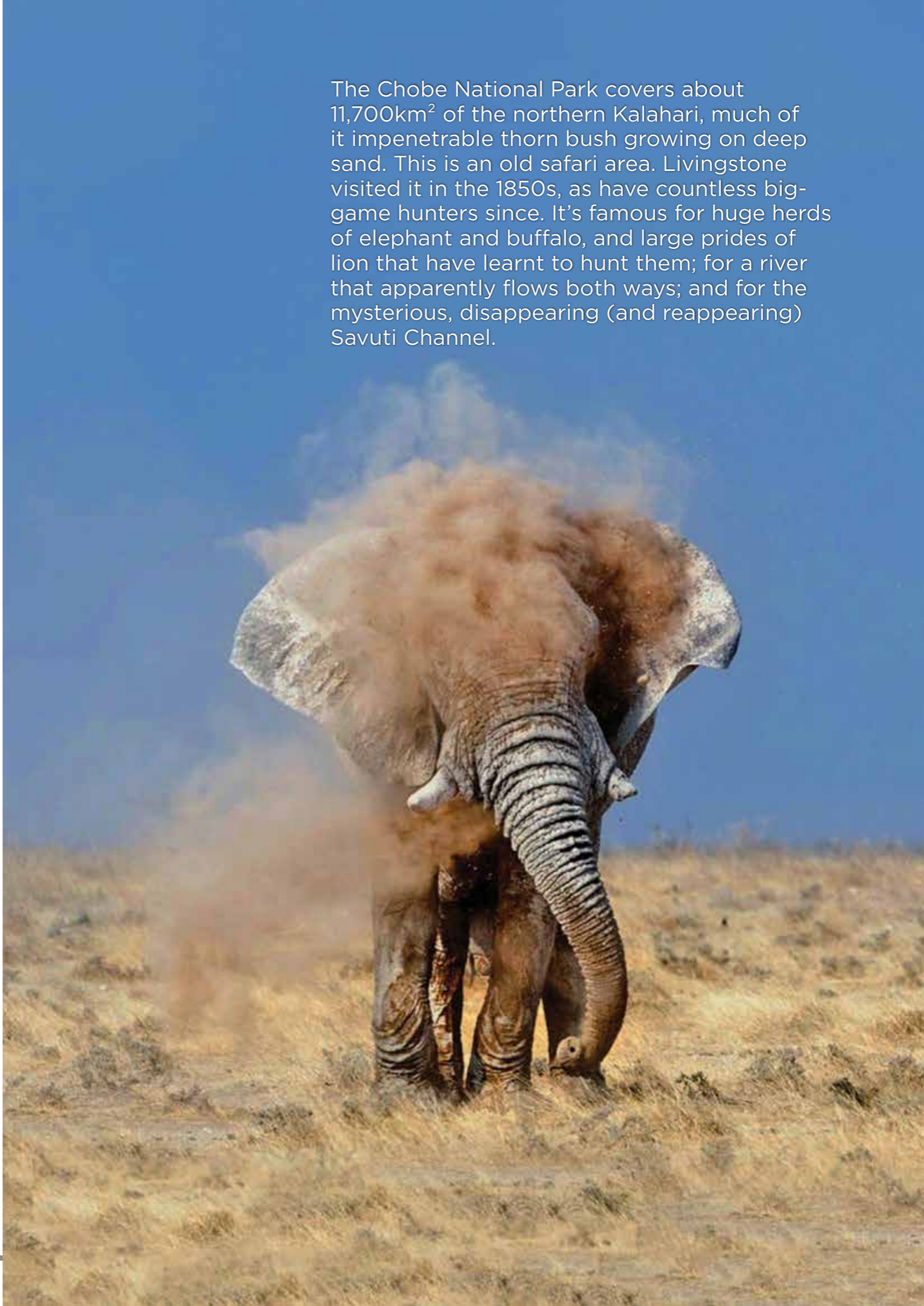
The Chobe River is the only major source of water in the region during the dry season and big game travels here from great distances. This in turn ensures there is also a large lion population. Game viewing peaks at the end of the rainy season, when large numbers of zebra and wildebeest move through the area from the Linyanti to graze on the better grasses in the Mababe Depression. There is a plethora of other wildlife to see here including giraffe, buffalo, tsessebe and hyena.

The park has a remarkable variety of habitats – floodplains and marshes, woodlands of baobab, mopane and acacia trees, to verdant grasslands and thickets bordering the Chobe River. Flowing along the park’s northern boundaries are the Linyanti and Chobe Rivers, while in the south the Savuti Channel brings life to the Mababe Depression.

The Savuti region is famous for its elephant and lion. Although dry for years at a time the Savuti Channel has flowed strongly in recent years, attracting even more game and birds.



The Chobe National Park covers about 11,700km² of the northern Kalahari, much of it impenetrable thorn bush growing on deep sand. This is an old safari area. Livingstone visited it in the 1850s, as have countless big-game hunters since. It’s famous for huge herds of elephant and buffalo, and large prides of lion that have learnt to hunt them; for a river that apparently flows both ways; and for the mysterious, disappearing (and reappearing) Savuti Channel.





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