



MalaMala Game Reserve



Victoria Falls



Mashatu Game Reserve

SAFARI OF DISTINCTION

Including

ZAMBIA (VICTORIA FALLS), BOTSWANA (OKAVANGO DELTA & MASHATU GAME RESERVE) AND MALAMALA GAME RESERVE

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE



Day 1: Guests depart on a scheduled flight from Johannesburg to Livingstone Airport in Zambia.

Day 1 – Day 2: Spend one night at a top class resort on the Zambian side of the magnificent Victoria Falls (a natural wonder of the world)

Day 2: Charter hop to the world-famous Okavango Delta in northern Botswana.

Day 2 – Day 4: Spend two nights in a luxury safari camp in the Okavango Delta.

Day 4: Charter hop to Mashatu Game Reserve in the Northern Tuli Reserve in Botswana.

Day 4 – Day 6: Spend two nights at Mashatu Game Reserve

Day 6: Charter hop to MalaMala Game Reserve adjacent to the Kruger National Park

Day 6 – Day 8: Spend two nights at MalaMala Game Reserve

Day 8: Transfer back to Johannesburg via scheduled Airlink flight.

End of Arrangements

ITINERARY in more DETAIL



Information Courtesy of the Zambian Tourism website – www.zambiatourism.com

Described by the Kololo tribe living in the area in the 1800's as 'Mosi-oa-Tunya' - 'the Smoke that Thunders' and in more modern terms as 'the greatest known curtain of falling water', Victoria Falls are a spectacular sight of awe-inspiring beauty and grandeur on the Zambezi River, bordering Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Columns of spray can be seen from miles away as 546 million cubic meters of water per minute plummet over the edge (at the height of the flood season) over a width of nearly two kilometers into a deep gorge over 100 meters below. The wide basalt cliff, over which the falls thunder, transforms the Zambezi from a wide placid river to a ferocious torrent cutting through a series of dramatic gorges.

Facing the Falls is another sheer wall of basalt, rising to the same height and capped by mist-soaked rain forest. A path along the edge of the forest provides the visitor who is prepared to brave the tremendous spray with an unparalleled series of views of the Falls.

One special vantage point is across the Knife edge bridge, where visitors can have the finest view of the Eastern Cataract and the Main Falls as well as the Boiling Pot where the river turns and heads down the Batoka Gorge. Other vantage points include the Falls bridge and the Lookout Tree which commands a panoramic view across the Main Falls.

"The first impression was unmistakable; immense power, the raw energy unleashed when the entire Zambezi leaps wildly into a black two kilometer wide abyss. The scale is massive, the spectacle spellbinding and perpetually changing. The falls hiss and roar as if possessed, they rumble and crash like thunder. Vast clouds spew and billow out from the seething cauldron of its dark impenetrable depths. The moving water creates a magnetism that sucks you closer, so that you recoil in horror to quench a subliminal sacrificial urge." (Jumbo Williams, Zambezi, River of Africa. 1988)



Courtesy of Wikipedia - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Okavango_Delta

The water entering the delta is unusually pure, due to the lack of agriculture and industry along the Okavango River. It passes through the sand aquifers of the numerous delta islands and evaporates/transpires by leaving enormous quantities of salt behind. These precipitation processes are so strong that the vegetation disappears in the center of the islands and thick salt crusts are formed.

The waters of the Okavango Delta are subject to seasonal flooding, which begins about mid-summer in the north and six months later in the south (May/June). The water from the delta is evaporated relatively rapidly by the high temperatures, resulting in a cycle of cresting and dropping water in the south. Islands can disappear completely during the peak flood, then reappear at the end of the season.

The Okavango is home to a prosperity of wildlife and attracts thousands of visitors a year. There are camps within the delta region that cater to these visitors.

The delta provides a seasonal habitat to numerous different species. Among these are African elephants, the African Buffalo, the Hippopotamus, the Lechwe, the Topi, the Blue Wildebeest, the Giraffe, the Nile crocodile, the Lion, the Cheetah, the Leopard, hyenas, wild dogs, the Greater Kudu, the Sable Antelope, both the Black and the White Rhinoceros, the water monitor, zebras, the Warthog and then chacma baboon. The delta also includes over 400 species of birds, including the African Fish Eagle, the Crested Crane, and the Sacred Ibis.



It's from any towering vantage point on Mmamagwa Hill that the great, primal stillness of Africa knocks you for six. For down in the valley, to the north and south, east and west, lies the flattened and sweltering Mopane plains of Mashatu, 'Land of Giants'. For 360 degrees these sweeping wilds spread out, steadily and spartanly, but awesomely so, and merge into clean horizons. This land is lovelier than any imagining of it and to those who stand on Mmamagwa Hill, also resoundingly silent – for the 'Land of Giants' is an utterly unpeopled wilderness in eastern Botswana, at the confluence of the Limpopo and Shashe Rivers.

Mashatu, 'Land of Giants' takes its name from the locally-revered Mashatu tree and the giants that roam this prodigious land. **As the largest private game reserve in southern Africa**, Mashatu is, at 33 000 ha (75 000 acres), a fitting setting for the world's largest land mammal – the elephant; and the world's tallest mammal, the giraffe. Mashatu also provides a sanctuary to the world's largest antelope, the eland; the world's largest bird, the ostrich and of course, the world's largest flying bird: the noisy kori bustard. Add the lion, the king of the beasts and the iconic baobab and you have Africa's Big Seven. At over 700 individuals, one will also find Africa's largest elephant population on private land!

This special spot under the African sun proudly boasts an ecological diversity uncommon in other reserves. Complementing three members of the Big Five – leopard, lion and elephant – are some of the more surprising species, including the aardwolf, bat-eared fox, African wild cat, honey badger and black-backed jackal. True to form, Mashatu is also an ornithological paradise, and plays host to 350 bird species, including the enchanting lilac-breasted roller, whose plumage features no fewer than seven different shades of blue!

Set out, at dawn or dusk, on a 4x4 safari guided by dedicated and experienced Tswana rangers and trackers. Or brave an adventure safari that strays from the traditional format offered by other southern African lodges: go bushwhacking on foot, gallop through verdant Mopane plains on horseback or confront Mashatu's unforgiving terrain on a mountain bike.

Mashatu Main Camp exemplifies pure bushveld luxury and comfort, morphing harmoniously into the surrounding game-lands that throng with diverse wildlife.

Accommodation at Mashatu Main Camp includes 14 insect-proofed luxury suites, each with an ample and fully equipped en-suite bathroom. Sliding doors open onto the African bush where guests can sample the effervescent sights and sounds of from their own suites. Two large beds complete well-appointed rooms. Mashatu Main Camp offers a stunning viewing deck directly off the bar, together with an elevated lounge overlooking the waterhole.

Tucked away in the remote northern area of the reserve lies **Mashatu Tent Camp**. With never more than 16 guests, this idyllic getaway provides accommodation in the form of 8 twin tents. Although rustic in character, every facility is catered for. The tents are insect-proofed, have comfortable beds and each has an en-suite shower and W.C. facility. There is an open-sided thatch deck where meals are served, as well as a traditional boma for intimate campfire dinners. This camp also contains a plunge pool – a welcome luxury after a day of Mashatu's optional adventure activities. Guests' absolute comfort is their priority of the host. While on game drives, they are taken care off by their ranger and on their return, the camp staff gladly see to their every need.



MalaMala was once at the heart of the rip-roaring gold rush transport route on which fortune-seekers hauled their goods, often at tragic cost. And if the mosquitoes didn't get them there were the vultures, hyenas and lions that circled just beyond the flickering campfire. The transport route may now be a romantic memory but today's visitor to MalaMala is just as likely to encounter Africa's big game as those 19th century gold-diggers were.

At a mammoth 13 200 ha (33 000 acres), MalaMala lies sandwiched between the Sabi Sand Game Reserve and the world famous Kruger National Park. The 19 km (12 mile) unfenced border with this massive wildlife conservancy provides unimpeded access to wildlife. Of great appeal to such wildlife is the vast array of MalaMala's habitat type - ranging from open savannah to dense riparian zones and granite outcrops. But perhaps the strongest allure to wildlife is the perennial Sand River of which 13 km (8 miles) flow through the reserve.

It's this habitat diversity – and sound conservation management – that has earned MalaMala a reputation as the foremost game viewing destination in the world.

While it's become the exception rather than the rule for all members of the Big Five not to be seen on a single day, MalaMala's certainly not just about the big and hairy. CEO and owner, Michael Rattray, has been closely associated with the MalaMala area for almost 70 years and his formidable conservation expertise ensures that smaller beasties like dung beetles have right of way! Indeed, MalaMala is a sanctuary for rare and endangered wildlife where nature lovers may see threatened animals such as cheetahs, pangolins and the wild dog – Africa's second most endangered carnivore! The variety of birdlife in the reserve regularly rewards even the most seasoned ornithologist with surprising finds: the martial eagle and ground hornbill for instance.

Activities range from walking safaris to 4x4 safaris which may include sumptuous bush breakfasts, picnic lunches and the opportunity to quaff sundowners as the sun sets behind the dusty horizon. Outdoor activities are led by highly qualified rangers, most of whom have university degrees in the natural sciences and are thoroughly conversant with all aspects of bushveld ecology. To optimise the guests' game viewing experience, trackers from the Shangaan tribe collaborate closely with their rangers. These Shangaan trackers have a fabled understanding of the bushveld passed down through the ages by their fathers and their fathers' fathers.

MalaMala's accommodation is the Rattray trademark incarnate: discreet, classic and elegant African opulence. The luxury camp, Rattray's on MalaMala, is a thoughtful reinvention of the traditional "Into Africa" safari experience. To enable the business mandarin to stay in touch with their company, each plush suite or khaya features optional 21st century convenience – satellite landlines, wireless internet access, laptops and a plasma screen TV with global news channels to keep you in touch with market-moving events. But ultimately it's the environment and how it's experienced that makes MalaMala what it is today. With the resources at its disposal, and the experience of over 40 years as a leader in its field, MalaMala Game Reserve is well-established as a premier safari destination in southern Africa – and the world.

Package Information

Inclusions & Exclusions

The cost of the package is inclusive of all air fares in twin-engined aircraft, the convenience of a fully inclusive tariff on your safari and the accommodation and service which is synonymous with The Rattray Portfolio.

Extras include items of a personal nature such as bar purchases and telephone calls.

Contact Details

For more information on the above, including a detailed itinerary and rates, please contact Angela McLean:

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