



BOTSWANA

VUMBURA PLAINS

PURPOSE: The concession is leased from five villages through the Okavango Community Trust in a partnership that ensures that the benefits of ecotourism are shared with our neighbouring rural stakeholders.

PLACE: Luxurious Vumbura Plains lies in an area that is a mix of water and dry land. The wildlife is diverse, so that both land and water activities on vehicles, mekoro and boats deliver an all-round African safari experience.

UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

- Beautiful, diverse area with a range of herbivore and predator species.
- Best antelope diversity in the Delta, particularly sable.
- Large, lavish camp with contemporary, modern design.

ACCESS – FLY IN BASIS

Airstrip Name:	Vumbura Airstrip
Duration to Camp:	Approximately 35 minute road transfer (depending on wildlife sightings, scenery and photographic opportunities along the way) and 5 minutes boating into camp
Airstrip Coordinates:	S 18 57 Latitude E 22 48 Longitude
Altitude/Elevation:	3 200 feet
Runway Length:	1 000 metres
Runway Heading:	15/33
Airstrip Surface:	Calcrete
Airstrip Services:	Little Vumbura and Vumbura Plains North and South.

OVERVIEW: The Vumbura area comprises 60 000 hectares (150 000 acres) in the northern Okavango Delta that includes a diverse mosaic of habitats, from permanent swamp with small palm islands to seasonally inundated floodplains, acacia woodlands, and extensive mopane and Kalahari appleleaf stands. The area is known for its scenic beauty and diversity of wildlife.

WILDLIFE: The annually flooded grasslands of the Okavango Delta surrounding Vumbura Plains are locally referred to as 'melapo' and offer good seasonal viewing of elephant, giraffe, impala, sable antelope, kudu, zebra, common waterbuck and reedbuck, tsessebe, wildebeest, red lechwe and Cape buffalo. Hippo and crocodile are common in the waterways. Predators include the African wild dog, several resident prides of lion, as well as leopard, cheetah and African wildcat. Birding is exceptional all year round.

ACTIVITIES

- Vumbura Plains North: Day and night drives in 04 x 10-seater open 4x4 Land Cruisers.
- Vumbura Plains South: Day and night drives in 03 x 10-seater open 4x4 Land Cruisers.
- Private activities available on request at North and South (additional cost applicable).
- The camps have a supply of bean bags for guests to use to steady their camera while on a game activity.
- There is a pair of Olympus binoculars in each of the game drive vehicles for guests to share amongst themselves whilst out game viewing.
- Hot water bottles, blankets and lined ponchos are provided on game drives.
- Water-based activities in 03 x 02-seater mekoro and 01 x 06-seater boat (water levels permitting) - available at North and South.
- Guided nature walks (seasonal and subject to the availability of a qualified walking guide).
- Birding in an Internationally Recognised IBA – Important Birding Area.
- Fishing on a catch and release basis (fishing is prohibited in Botswana in January and February for fish breeding purposes).
- Wilderness Safaris and Olympus Photo Hub experience.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES AT ADDITIONAL COST

- Hot air ballooning (weather permitting and operational from 01 April 2019 to 07 October 2019 and from 19 April 2020 to 31 August 2020) with guest numbers as a minimum of 02 and a maximum of 06. Transfers to the launch site are done via helicopter flight ONLY, while the return to camp can be either a game drive or scenic helicopter flight at guest's choice.

- Scenic helicopter flights ranging in duration from 30, 45 to 60 minutes - with guest numbers as a minimum 02 and a maximum up to 05 or 06 depending on the helicopter used; half day (morning or afternoon) (via scenic helicopter flights only).

CAMP DESIGN AND FACILITIES

- Each camp with its own main area, under a wooden roof, encompassing a lounge, dining and bar area on a raised wooden deck and an outdoor sunken lounge with fire deck and stargazing.
- Vumbura South main area is wheelchair accessible.
- Vumbura North main area has a swing seat.
- Curio shop.
- Library.
- Traditional boma for dining under the stars.
- Spotting scope.
- Menu of massage treatments (at an additional cost) - conducted in the privacy of the guest's tent.
- Each camp with a guest toilets in the main area.

* Vumbura Plains can be sold in conjunction with her sister camp, Little Vumbura. However it is necessary to note that the camp categories differ.

ACCOMMODATION: Vumbura Plains comprises two satellite camps, each with its own main area with an expansive vista across the floodplains and furnished with idiosyncratic objets d'art. The 14 rooms, raised off the ground, are unique and contemporary in design, with extensive use of light, wood and space. Each includes a sunken lounge, sala, and plunge pool. Two family suites have private decks linking the two separate rooms.

VUMBURA PLAINS SOUTH – NUMBER OF TENTS

This camp can accommodate 12 guests plus 02 guide/pilot/tour leaders sharing, subject to concession numbers and/or concession availability.

- 06 x units in total comprising:
- 06 x twin-bedded tents each with two extra lengths three quarter beds.
- Mattress converters are available that transforms twin beds into king-size beds. To be arranged prior to arrival.

Plus guide/pilot/tour leader accommodation comprising:

- 02 x twin-bedded tents with two three quarter beds and shared en-suite facilities (04 beds sharing 02 bathroom - not of the same standard as a guest room)

VUMBURA PLAINS NORTH – NUMBER OF TENTS

This camp can accommodate 16 guests and 04 children plus 02 guide/pilot/tour leaders sharing, subject to concession numbers and/or concession availability.

- 08 x units in total comprising:
- 06 x twin-bedded tents each with two extra lengths three quarter beds.
- 02 x family units with two extra lengths three quarter beds in each bedroom (each unit consists of 02 bedrooms, with their own bathroom and entrance, separated by a deck). The family units do not have a sala.
- Mattress converters are available that transforms twin beds into king-size beds. To be arranged prior to arrival.

Plus guide/pilot/tour leader accommodation comprising:

- 02 x twin-bedded tents with two three quarter beds and one shared communal facility accessed from outside the tents (04 beds sharing 01 bathroom - not of the same standard as a guest room).

TENT DESCRIPTION

- Luxury spacious contemporary tented rooms under thatch, on a raised deck. Both camps are connected by with elevated wooden walkways (intermittent sections may be on the ground to allow for animal movement).
- Each tent has the bed situated in the middle of the room offering view out of tent, en-suite facilities with separate toilet, outdoor shower, mosquito net, private plunge pool, indoor sunken lounge area, sala (there is no sala at the family units), tea and coffee making facilities, mini-bar, Olympus equipment (includes a camera and a pair of binoculars), hairdryer, electronic safe and exercise mat and weights (02 x 1 kg and 02 x 2 kg)
- No air-conditioning, however, ceiling and pedestal fans are provided in each tent.
- Complimentary in-Tent Wi-Fi.
- Two way emergency radios have been fitted in the rooms and may be used by guests to contact camp management in the event of an emergency only. Said radios are on a closed circuit and inter-room communication is not available.
- Seasonal bathrobes, slippers, liquid soap, body wash, shampoo and conditioner, body lotion, room spray, insect repellent, insect spray, mosquito coil, shower caps, vanity kit with cotton tip swabs and cotton wool pads, sewing kit, tissue dispenser, laundry bag and umbrella are supplied in each tent. During winter months hot water bottles and extra blankets are provided.

ELECTRICITY AND WATER

- 100% solar powered (solar panels and inverters provide electricity and hot water). A 220V generator is used for emergencies.
- 220V multi-plug adaptor charging facilities for mobile devices. Additional charging facilities (available on request) for the use of sleep apnoea machines (guests to provide own device, spare batteries, charging unit and adaptors).

EXAMPLE OF A TYPICAL DAY: Morning wake-up and activity times vary according to the seasons, activities on offer and wildlife sightings.

- Early morning wake-up call.
- Light breakfast before departing on the morning activity.
- Return to camp for a meal and rest period.
- Meet for afternoon tea before departing on the activity.
- Return to camp – freshen up or meet for drinks, followed by dinner and thereafter, perhaps a nightcap.

CHILD POLICY

- Children of 06 years and older are accommodated.
- For families travelling with children between 06 and 12 years, private activities need to be booked and paid for.
- Children between 06 and 16 years must share with an adult/s in the same room.
- The minimum age for boating activities is 06 years, while mokoro and walking activities have a minimum age of 13 years.
- For the hot air ballooning, the minimum age restriction is 07 years and a parent/guardian must accompany any child under 16.

LAUNDRY FACILITIES: Laundry services are provided on a daily basis (weather permitting) and included on the FI rate basis. A mesh laundry bag is supplied for 'smalls' so that guests may place their underwear in this bag which will be machine washed and returned in the mesh bag. Environmentally friendly detergent available in the rooms or can be provided on request. Note that laundry services may be as a result of water shortages.

GRATUITIES GUIDELINES: We would like to reiterate that tipping is not compulsory. Please do not feel obliged to do so, tipping should be undertaken only by choice, subject to the service received. In addition, you may wish to add a nominal amount for incidentals, ranging between US\$ 15.00 to US\$ 30.00 per day (subject to personal budget choice) – i.e. if additional activities are booked once on your journey, if travel arrangements change for any reason, in acknowledgement of good service received in another area, etc.

- Guides and Specialist Guides – We recommend US\$ 10.00 per guest per day.
- Mokoro Paddlers – We recommend that each paddler receive US\$ 5.00 per guest per day and that camp.
- The General Safari Camp Staff – We recommend about US\$ 10.00 per guest per day for safari camps/lodges. This should be placed in the communal tipping box to be distributed equally amongst all the staff.
- Massage Therapists – We recommend about US\$ 3.00 to US\$ 5.00 per treatment.
- With regards to being hosted by Camp Management and/or Assistant Camp Management, tipping separately for said staff is purely optional and per guests' discretion.