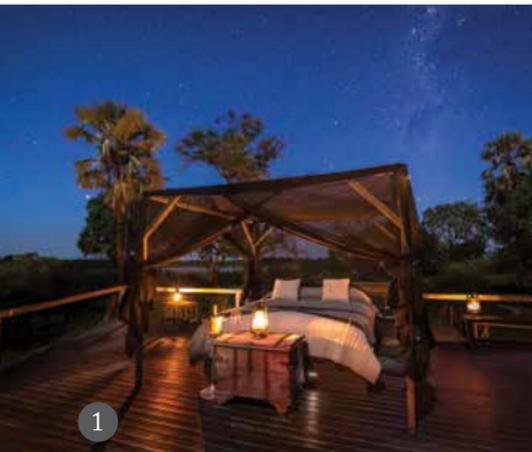


BOTSWANA



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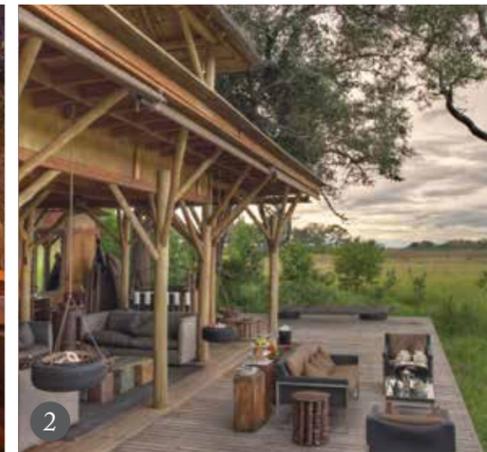
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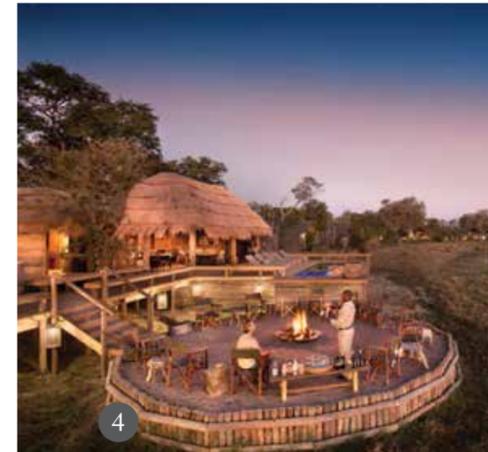
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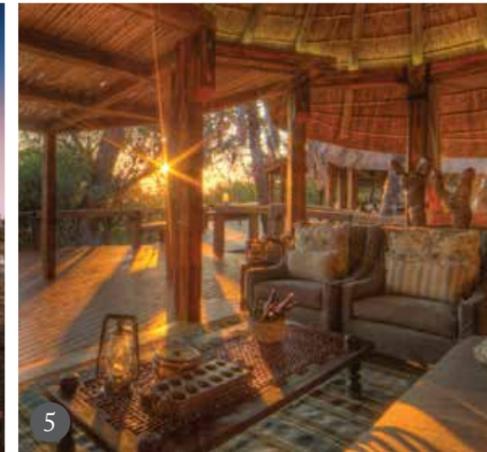
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By Land Safari

WOODLANDS AND SEMIDESERTS CREATE AN UNRIVALED EXPERIENCE IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN BUSH.

1. Abu Camp Amble through the Okavango Delta with the charismatic Abu elephant herd, a group of previously exploited and orphaned elephants slowly reintegrating to the African wilds. Spend time with the elephants and their handlers at the six-tent camp to understand this extraordinary conservation-based program and see the bush through the eyes of the elephants. abucamp.com

2. Vumbura Plains This eco-retreat occupies prime predator real estate in the northeastern delta. Two camps, one with eight tents and the other with six, were built in 2005 among tracts known for lion, leopard cub, and wild dog action. Rare antelope like the sitatunga and sable are as photogenic as the big cats. wilderness-safaris.com

3. andBeyond Chobe Under Canvas This mobile, five-tent camp in northern Botswana's Chobe National Park moves with the wildlife its guests want to observe. Herds of elephant and buffalo and dazzles of zebra are so massive that they extend farther than the eye can see. andbeyond.com

4. Kalahari Plains Camp Here, guests traverse daily to remote swathes within the Kalahari Desert biome in search of black-maned lion and cheetah. After dark, they stargaze from the comfort of their accommodations: All eight tents come with indoor bedrooms as well as rooftop beds. wilderness-safaris.com

5. Mombo Camp On Chief's Island in the Moremi Game Reserve, the nine-suite camp holds a front-row seat to the most coveted big game wildlife interactions on the Okavango Delta. No wonder this is where a number of Botswana's nature documentaries are filmed. The camp will reopen March 2018 following an extensive, yearlong rebuild. wilderness-safaris.com

6. OUTFITTER: Passage to Africa Craft a tailor-made journey through Botswana's game-rich wilderness with experts who specialize in arranging both privately guided safaris and independent itineraries where logistics are completely arranged, but a private guide is not present. passagetoafrica.com

(1) Dana Allen, (2) Dana Allen, (3) Stevie Mann, (4) Dana Allen

(1) Dana Allen, (6) African Horseback Safari

By Water Safari

AN ABUNDANCE OF RIVERS AND FLOODPLAINS OFFER A DIFFERENT KIND OF ADVENTURE BY BOAT.

1. Jao Camp Float down the Okavango Delta, past rookeries and peeping crows, as malachite kingfishers and saddle-billed storks light the sky like fireworks. Afterward, luxuriate over the many tiers of this camp with its nine individually designed tents, impressive wine cellar, and the best spa experience on the delta. wilderness-safaris.com

2. andBeyond Xudum Okavango Delta Lodge In the heart of the delta's permanent flood zone, this nine-suite camp specializes in safari by mokoro, a two-person wooden canoe. Immerse in the papyrus-lined banks of the floodplains, feeling simultaneously vulnerable, relaxed, and swept up by nature. andbeyond.com

3. Sanctuary Chobe Chilwero Cruise down the Chobe River, the natural boundary between Botswana and Namibia, on an 18-seat, double-decker safari boat, complete with 360-degree swivel chairs. Capture prizeworthy shots of fighting, snarling hippos and interlocking elephant herds that form chains to cross the deepest parts of the river. sanctuaryretreats.com

4. Sable Alley These 12 elevated tents opened in May on northern Botswana's Khwai Private Reserve, nearly a half-million acres crisscrossed with waterways. Guests watch for hippos, leopards, lions, and cheetah from quiet mokoro canoes or take in the landscape on sunset boat cruises. naturalselection.travel

5. Camp Okavango Desert & Delta Safaris closed its flagship camp of 35 years, completely rebuilt it, and reopened it in 2016 with wooden decks and walkways on stilts designed to connect guests with the delta. From the 12-tent camp's perch at the edge of Nxaragha Island, guests venture into the maze of lagoons and hidden channels by mokoro. desertdelta.com

6. OUTFITTER: Red Savannah This United Kingdom-based tour operator founded in 2011 sells trips to nearly every corner of the world. For Botswana, choose among four pre-set itineraries ranging from 9 to 13 days or design a bespoke journey suited to your tastes and wildlife goals with one of the company's Africa specialists. redsavannah.com >

—Paul Rubio