GUIDED SAFARIS INC
San Francisco • (415) 814-6676
www.LuxurySafariCamps.com

JACK’S CAMP - FACTS & INFORMATION

WHAT IS IT ABOUT JACK’S CAMP?
Jack’s Camp is an oasis of style and comfort in the middle of Botswana’s Kalahari Desert. The Makgadikgadi is truly like nowhere else on earth. Spectacular vistas, creative surprises, expert guiding, incredibly friendly habituated meerkats, unique desert wildlife, old-world safari styling and superb cuisine all come together to create an experience that is completely different to any other.

WHERE IS JACK’S CAMP?
Jack’s is a Kalahari Desert camp located in Botswana’s Makgadikgadi Salt Pans. The remnants of an enormous superlake - that used to cover most of Southern Africa.

WHAT WILL I DO HERE?

Year Round
• Get unbelievably up close and personal with the family of meerkats that was filmed for the No.1 Ladies’ Detectives Agency!
• Walk with Zu’hoasi Bushmen Trackers for a glimpse into their ancient culture.
• Game drives to experience unique desert wildlife.
• A visit to Chapman’s Baobab, campsite of the family of meerkats that was filmed for the No.1 Ladies’ Detectives Agency!
• Game drives to experience unique desert wildlife.

Dry Season Only:
• Quad biking across the lunar expanse of the pans.
• Lie out on the pans as the sun sets, and watch the planetarium show unfold with spectacular vistas.

Wet Season Only:
• Experience the spectacular migration of zebra and wildebeest – the second biggest in Africa, and the last remaining in Southern Africa.

WHAT WILL I EAT?
Jack’s Camp has a reputation for delicious, fresh and original food. Meals are plated, not buffet style. Please inform the camp of any dietary requirements prior to travel – and confirm upon arrival.

WHAT ARE THE FACILITIES AT JACK’S CAMP?
• Mess Tent with Natural History Museum, Library, antique pool table and well stocked drinks chest.
• Refreshing plunge pool and a larger swimming pool housed in a beautiful tent.

WHEN IS A GOOD TIME TO GO?
Jack’s Camp is open all year round.
The Dry Season: Winter
16th April – 31st October
The Wet Season: Summer
1st November – 15th April
Please note – weather and activities can never be guaranteed.

HOW DO I GET THERE?
Fly to Johannesburg, and then on to Maun, Botswana. From Maun, you take a smaller charter plane to Jack’s Camp.

WHAT DOES THE RATE INCLUDE?
All meals, activities and drinks are included. Flights, premium brand beverages and discretionary tips/gratuities are excluded.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?
• We welcome all ages. Guests travelling with children younger than eight years of age require a private guide & vehicle.
• There is no electricity in our tents.
• You can charge camera batteries in the Mess Tent: bring an adaptor for a round 3 pin plug.
• The camp takes a maximum of 20 Guests.
• Water is a scarce resource in Botswana – so please try to conserve it where possible.
• Stay hydrated! The water in Botswana is safe to drink.
• We recommend precautions be taken for malaria. Please consult your doctor.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

Year Round
• Layers – the best way to dress on safari, due to fluctuating temperatures. We recommend cotton. Long sleeves and trousers will protect from both sun and insects. Colours should be neutral (beige, khaki, tan…).
• Fleece/warm sweater – even in summer.
• Hat – broad brimmed for protection against the sun.
• Sunglasses – dark ones to cut the glare.
• Sunblock, insect repellent and lip salve.
• Head torch – handy in the evenings. We recommend Petzl.
• Binoculars – each person should have their own so as not to miss out on any sightings. We recommend Leica Ultravid 10x42 or Swarovski 10x42 WB EL.
• Camera with spare batteries, memory sticks, film, and the correct charging apparatus.
• A kikoi or light sarong has a multitude of uses.
• A good book for those lazy afternoons

Summer
• Light, compact jacket (windcheater) for the rainy season.

Winter
• It gets very cold in the evenings and early mornings, and quite hot during the day – so layers are essential.
• Warm leggings – good to wear under trousers on the quads.
• Hat – woolen beanie for warmth.
• Gloves – good for cool winter evenings, quad biking and sun protection.
• Scarf

WHERE WILL I STAY?
7 Twin and 3 double tents with en-suite bathrooms featuring indoor and outdoor showers. Spacious and stylish – with a sophisticated 1940’s safari atmosphere.
LOCATION
Located on a tree and palm covered island on the edge of the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans in the Kalahari Desert, Botswana.

SEASONS
High season: July to October
Shoulder season: April to June
Low season: February to March, November and December
The camp is closed for the entire month of January.
Children over the age of 4 years allowed.

ACCOMMODATION
9 large walk-in tents, consisting of:
• 6 Twins
• 3 Honeymoon tents
• 1 twin guides tents (same standard as guest tents)
This camp can accommodate 18 guests + tour leaders, escorts, guides

Room Details
• Traditional Green canvas tents
• Access to tents through a zipped door
• Ensuite bathroom including shower, basin, flush toilet and outdoor shower

CAMP DESCRIPTION
• Mess tent with adjacent library and drinks tents
• National museum housed in mess tent
• Tea tent with Persian carpet floor, chess set and wind-up gramophone.

GAME VIEWING
Year round: unique desert species - Suricate (Meerkats), Brown Hyaena, Aardvark, Aardwolf, Gemsbuck, Springbuck, etc. Wet season: Flamingo, Stork, Wattled Crane, Waterfowl, Annual Wildebeest and Zebra migration.

ACTIVITIES
Wet Season:
• Game drives in open 4x4 Landcruisers - the camp has 3 custom designed vehicles with 2 rows of seats behind the front row thus seating max. 5 guests when allowing each guest an outside seat
• A morning spent with the Suricate (Meerkat)
• Bird walks to observe migratory waterfowl breeding / feeding sites.
• Very limited usage of 4WD quad bikes and vehicles on the pans - weather permitting and if the pans are dry
• Night drives to view migration and unique desert wildlife.
• Game walk with Bushman trackers.
• Visit to Chapman’s Baobab (the campsite of Livingstone, Selous and Baines)
• Visit remote area dwellings / cattle posts to gain insight into local tribal tradition and culture.
• Explore undocumented archaeological sites to search for stone tools and fossils of extinct mega fauna left in the area by early settlements, weather permitting.

Dry Season:
• Extensive usage of 4WD quad bikes
• Explore undocumented archaeological sites to search for stone tools and fossils of extinct mega fauna left in the area by early settlements, weather permitting.
• Night drives to view unique desert wildlife.
• Game walk with Bushman trackers.
• Visit to Chapman’s Baobab (the campsite of Livingstone, Selous and Baines
• A morning spent with the Suricate (Meerkat)

SAMPLE ACTIVITY SCHEDULE
Below is only a suggestion as to what may happen in camp - as daily wildlife sightings tend to throw the schedule right out of schedule.

Summer/Winter
05h00/06h00 - Wake up call with coffee or tea in tent. Full breakfast to be served in the dining area.
07h00/08h00 - Depart on morning activity, returning to camp at approximately 11h30 -12h00.
12h00 - Lunch will be served. From now until afternoon tea, guests will be at leisure.
16h00 - Afternoon tea will be served - this will consist of a selection of sweet and savory snacks.
16h30 - Depart on afternoon activity - sundowners will be served.
19h30 - Return to camp for a pre-dinner drink and snacks.
20h30 - Fabulous three-course dinner, followed by coffee and liqueurs at the campfire.
Jack's Camp is located deep in the Kalahari Desert on the edge of the Makgadikgadi Pans, the largest saltpans in the world. Jack's Camp is a classic desert safari camp accommodating 20 guests in ten large walk-in tents, each with en-suite bathroom with flush toilet and shower. Accommodation is comfortable and in keeping with the character of the Makgadikgadi. Facilities include a mess tent for dining and a tea tent with Persian carpet cushions for socialising. After the rains (December to April), there can be enormous herds of Wildebeest, Zebra and Springbok - with the accompanying predators - on the open grasslands. The summer rains also leave a warm shallow layer of water that entices Waterfowl and Flamingos. Activities are conducted in open 4x4 vehicles custom designed for this terrain and accompanied by knowledgeable guides. In the dry winter months, all-purpose ATV vehicles (a four wheeler motorcycle/Quad bikes) available, allowing guests to travel across the salt pans. Walks with a Bushman tracker and a visit to Chapman's Baobab - the historical baobab tree used by Livingstone, Selous and other early explorers - are activities also on offer.

Mkgadikgadi Pans
The Mkgadikgadi pans consist of two major basins, relics of a massive lake and swampland that existed over much of northern Botswana between about 2 million and 40,000 years ago. On the edge of the western basin, also known as the Ntetwe Pan are Jack's and San camps. Jack's is situated on an isolated island filled with tall fan palms and commiphora trees. Named for the legendary Jack Bousefield, who was a pioneer of these remote wastes, Jack's Camp remains one of the most intriguing and mysterious places in the Kalahari or Kgalagadi. Owned and designed by Ralph Bousefield and Catherine Raphaely, Jack's and nearby San Camp offer guests access to a completely unique area. During the summer months (November to April) the focus is on the thousands of zebra which have migrated from the Boteti River and Mkgadikgadi Pans National Park immediately to the west. During these same months, the pans fill with water and attract numerous species of birds from flamingos to wattled cranes and pelicans. During the dry, or winter months, the migrations move westwards to the water available in the Boteti River but many desert-adapted creatures remain resident. This is the domain of the brown hyaena, a shy and elusive creature, as well as suricates, aardvarks and small bustard species. Ralph Bousefield and his guides have made many important finds in the field of palaeontology, with stone implements and other evidence of Stone Age dwellers. This is an extremely fragile environment filled with fascination and interest. The management and guides have an approach of maximum care for the environment, and this is a destination for the true lover of remote experiences.
bedroom at Jacks Camp
writing / deck area
Interesting bathroom...
BOTSWANA SAFARI ITINERARY

5 NIGHT QUAD BIKE EXPEDITION TO KUBU ISLAND
(3 Nights at Jack’s Camp & 2 Nights at Kubu Island)

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DAY 1
Arrive at Jack’s Camp, pitched on a low grassland knoll amongst an oasis of dignified desert palms and Kalahari acacia.

The camp’s hub is a romantic canvas pavilion of low spires and finials with a fluttering valance beneath its eaves and could be the site for a medieval jousting tourney were it not a deciduous green. Three poles support the main chamber where everyone meets for meals at a long communal dining table.

Ten green roomy and stylish canvas tents with ensuite bathrooms, indoor and outdoor showers (for those who want to feel the Kalahari breeze on their skin) have been fashioned in classical 1940’s style creating an oasis of civilization in what can be the harshest of stark environments...

Persian rugs underfoot, cool cotton sheets and mahogany and brass campaign-style kit from the family safari stores form a striking contrast with the rugged wilderness viewed from the comfort of one’s own veranda.
Head off after tea in the beautiful afternoon light, stop to watch the sun set and listen to an explanation of how the Makgadikgadi pans, the remnants of the world’s largest ever super-lake, were formed.

Return to Jack’s Camp for a delicious dinner.

**DAY 2**

Set off in the morning to visit some of the Kalahari’s most fascinating inhabitants, the meerkats. Due to an ongoing habituation programme, it’s possible for Guests to get up close and personal with these captivating creatures.

Remember, they are not tame – just used to our non-threatening presence.

On chilly mornings, you might well find a meerkat snuggling up to you for warmth. Or, in the absence of a termite mound or tree, using your head as a sentry lookout post...

By spending quality time with these incredibly social, superbly adapted animals, you will be able to see how they interact with each other and their environment. You also get the chance to see the Kalahari Desert through the eyes of a meerkat – which, despite the fact that it’s only a foot off the ground, is a pretty spectacular vantage point, and definitely one of the most special and memorable game experiences you will encounter in Botswana.

After a picnic breakfast, visit a remote cattle post to learn about the traditional culture of the Batswana people.

Close by is the famous Chapman’s Baobab (Also known as the Seven Sisters) which is acknowledged to be the third largest tree in Africa, and was the campsite of early explorers like Livingstone and Selous when they pioneered the area.

This gives you an opportunity to gain a fascinating insight into the history of the early explorers.

Return to camp for a refreshing lunch and siesta.

Uncharted Africa is renowned throughout the industry for menus that emphasise fresh tastes and originality.
After a decadent tea, head off in search of some unique desert species such as aardvark, bat eared foxes, aardwolves, and the elusive brown hyaena, which is the third rarest large carnivore in Africa, with only about 8,000 in the wild.

Brown Hyaenas are the consummate desert specialists, surviving in arid areas where both food and water are scarce. A timid, nocturnal species rarely seen by humans, but in spite of being solitary foragers; they are very social animals, living in clans of up to 10-12 hyaenas.

Enjoy an evening game drive back to Jack’s Camp and a lamp lit dinner.

DAY 3
After an early breakfast, wrap a kikoi around your head in the style of Jack Bousfield and set off on the quad bikes across Ntwetwe Pan for Kubu Island.

The journey to and from Kubu is completely extraordinary. A convoy, driving Indian-fashion ensures low-impact trespass and that you leave as little behind as possible as you barrel across the vast lunar expanses of scorched white earth.

As the day heats up, mirages swim and eddy. Topiaried bay trees appear to hang above shimmering lakes - actually families of ostrich.
Open the throttle and close your eyes and travel, knowing there is nothing to crash into until you fall off the edge of the earth.

Break the journey and your astral reveries for a picnic lunch on the moon!

As the sun begins to drop, squint at a smudge on the horizon - Kubu Island. This is what you have come to see. A granite extrusion island studded with baobabs, one of the most graphically beautiful spots in Botswana and rich with intriguing detail, such as walling, trade and Bushmen beads brought here to barter in pursuit of the salt that ices the surrounding pans. Filigreed with baobab trees like fat, red ballet dancers bigger than buses, older than Christ.

The place has been the holiest secret of the Kalahari Bushmen for longer than anyone knows, a place of power and ritual.

The Staff have set up camp; a cauldron of water bubbles for the shower suspended from a tree. The dining table is set and the drinks tray stands waiting. Your bedrolls replete with hot water bottles and duvets have been arranged on the high places in a five gazillion star bedroom.

Enjoy a star-spangled silver service dinner and fall into bed.
DAY 4
Spend the next day exploring the island and its surrounds.

Not far away is an ancient defense fortification that was only discovered a couple of years ago. Clamber to the top for an awe-inspiring view of the enormous Sowa pan.

Visit the extinct mouth of the Zambezi, which together with various other rivers, once flowed into the Pans. The remaining beach is covered with beautiful water-worn pebbles amongst which you can find semi-precious stones such as garnets and cornelians.

Kubu is close to what is probably the biggest greater and lesser flamingo breeding site in the world.

30,000 flamingo fledge there when water is good and although nests are abandoned during the dry season, the acres of strangely shaped mud mounds are an eerie and strangely compelling sight.

Unhatched eggs remain in some of the thousands of empty nests while many chicks are left to die if they hatch too late to be able to join the long march across the Pans that the young flamingo undertake in search of water. Their remains lie on the pan surface almost petrified by the salt.

DAY 5
Depart from Kubu. Set off once more across the Pans on the quad bikes, ending your desert adventure with a night of comfort back at Jack’s Camp.
WE HAVE BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE ZU/'HOASI PEOPLE OF THE WESTERN KALAHARI FOR MANY YEARS AND ARE PRIVILEGED TO HAVE A SMALL GROUP OF THESE EXTRAORDINARY MEN TO GUIDE OUR GUESTS.

DAY 6
Spend the morning walking with Zu/'hoasi Bushmen trackers.

Uncharted Africa has pioneered and passionately supported cultural tourism in Botswana since the company’s inception in 1993.

It has long been our belief that it is a vitally important tool in terms of preserving this unique, but sadly fast-vanishing, culture. We have been working closely with the Zu/'hoasi people of the Western Kalahari for many years and are privileged to have a small group of these extraordinary men to guide our Guests on a morning’s walking safari.

Offering a window into the past, they teach us how they have survived in this harshest of environments, using their vast and ancient knowledge of plants, animal behaviour and survival skills.

Time for one more Jack’s Camp lunch; before you bid farewell to the camp in preparation for your onward journey.
“MORE SUITED, I WOULD SAY, FOR THE BETTER CLASS OF MAHARAJAH.”

THOMAS PAKENHAM