



CHEESEMANS' ECOLOGY SAFARIS

555 North Santa Cruz Avenue
Los Gatos, CA 95030-4336 USA
(800) 527-5330 (408) 741-5330
info@cheesemans.com
cheesemans.com

Meerkats Extension

August 2 to 7, 2020



EXTENSION OVERVIEW

Extend your stay in Botswana to visit the famed Makgadikgadi Pans in the Kalahari Desert and visit a habituated meerkat colony where a brave meerkat sentinel may sit on your shoulder as it watches for danger. The landscape in this part of Botswana contrasts with what you will see on the main safari. Here, you can stand next to 4,000-year-old baobab trees and ride through the bright white salt pans on quad bikes. These pans stretch as far as you can see and are an amazing camping location for stargazing. Spend your final afternoon visiting a nearby village and their cattle post to learn about life among the local tribes.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Be surrounded by habituated meerkats.
- Camp under the stars on one of the world's largest salt flats.
- Immerse yourself in local culture by visiting a nearby village and eating with the community.

TRIP OPTION: This is a pre-trip extension to our Botswana and Zambia safari on August 5 to 24, 2020 (www.cheesemans.com/trips/botswana-aug2020). The information contained in this itinerary is supplemental to the main itinerary.

*Information in this document is checked at the time of publication and subject to change before your trip. All price estimates are USD per person unless otherwise specified.

DAYS: 6, including estimated travel time. Adds 3 days to the main safari to total 23 days including estimated travel time.

GROUP SIZE: 2+. This group is not exclusive to Cheesemans'.

COST: \$1,945 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare (except round-trip flights between Maun and Gweta), singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 3.

TRANSPORTATION: Open-air safari vehicles and quad bikes. See the *Transportation* section on page 4.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Spend two nights at Planet Baobab and one night camping. See the *Accommodations* section on page 4.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Aug 2–3	Travel to Johannesburg, South Africa.		
Aug 4	Morning flight from Johannesburg to Maun, Botswana, then board a charter flight to Gweta in the Makgadikgadi Pans.	Planet Baobab, Gweta	D
Aug 5	Free morning to relax. Afternoon quad bike ride into the salt pans to the meerkat colony.	Camping, Ntwetwe Salt Pan	B, L, D
Aug 6	Morning search for artifacts and wildlife, then ride back to the lodge. Afternoon visiting local village.	Planet Baobab, Gweta	B, L, D
Aug 7	Flight from Gweta to Maun. Meet the group for the Botswana and Zambia safari and charter flight from Maun to Moremi.		B

DETAILED ITINERARY

Aug 2–3 ~ Fly to Johannesburg, South Africa

Aug 4 ~ Travel to the Kalahari Desert

You'll fly from Johannesburg to Maun to catch your charter flight to the Makgadikgadi Pans, in the Kalahari Desert. Transfer from Gweta Airport to Planet Baobab where you will enjoy a guided walk in the bush and "sundowners." This area is home to a baobab forest containing 4,000-year-old "trees", which are actually succulents.



Meerkats

Aug 5 ~ Ride through the famed

Makgadikgadi Pans

Spend the morning resting at the lodge before you venture out to the salt pans in the afternoon. You'll be driving two-person quad bike as you travel into the bush to view wildlife and the immense baobab landscape. Your guides will point out wildlife as well as geologic and anthropologic points of interests. Make your way to the vast Ntwetwe Salt Pan where you'll spend time with

a habituated meerkat colony, enjoy a barbecue dinner, and camp under the stars. The meerkats are not tame, but have habituated themselves to your non-threatening presence, so if the temperature begins to drop you may find a meerkat snuggling up to you for warmth, or perhaps using you as a lookout post for a better vantage.

Aug 6 ~ Artifacts and local tour

This morning, you'll wake early, grab a cup of coffee and snack, and search for stone tools that remain scattered throughout the slat pans (do not take these). Then ride your quads back into the bush in search of bat-eared foxes, antelope, and kori bustards on your way back to Planet Baobab for a full breakfast and a shower.

You'll spend the rest of the day at the local village of Gweta to experience and learn more about Botswana village culture. Visit a Sekolo (primary school), a Kgotla (traditional governing court), and a cattle post where you'll spend the afternoon learning about local life and be treated with a traditional lunch.

Aug 7 ~ Fly back to Maun to join the main safari

Fly back to Maun this morning to join the other participants for your charter flight to Moremi Game Reserve to begin the main Botswana and Zambia safari (www.cheesemans.com/trips/botswana-aug2020)!

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Cost

Type	Cost per Person
Extension Cost, double occupancy	\$1,945
Single Supplement	\$TBD

Costs are per person, double occupancy, not including airfare (except round-trip flights between Maun and Gweta), singles extra. See *Included* and *Not Included* sections for more details.

This cost will be added to your main safari balance. The payment schedule and cancellation policy are the same as the main safari. See main safari itinerary for complete terms and conditions at www.cheesemans.com/trips/botswana-aug2020.

Included

- Round-trip flights between Maun and Gweta on August 4 and 7.
- Lodge accommodations and camping for the nights of August 4 through 6.
- Meals from dinner on August 4 through breakfast on August 7.
- Camping gear.
- Airport transfers on August 4 and 7.

Not Included

- All airfare (except flights listed as included), airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees.
- Passport and visa fees.
- Gratuities – tipping is, of course, discretionary, however we suggest budgeting about \$45 to \$60 total per participant to be distributed amongst guides and lodge staff.

- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room service, alcoholic and other beverages, items not on the regular menu, etc. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate them on your Reservation Form.

OTHER DETAILS

Climate

The weather in the Makgadikgadi Pans in August tends to be quite cool in the early morning (60°F (15°C) or colder) and warms up nicely to the 70s°F (21°C) later in the day if the sky is clear.

Transportation

This extension includes a day driving two-person quad bikes into the salt pans. Quad bikes are the ecologically favorable way to experience the saltpans since they leave a shallow track that washes away during the rains. All other transportation will be in open-air safari vehicles.

Accommodations

You will stay at Planet Baobab for two nights, with one night of under-the-stars camping (no tent) in between the lodge nights. The camping site will have an enclosed pit-toilet and will not have electricity.

Flights

Airfare, except flights listed as included, is not included in trip costs. Detailed logistical information and the contact information for our recommended flight-ticketing agent are included in the Trip Materials we will send you.

Flights you (or a travel agent) book: Arrive at Maun Airport, Botswana (MUB) from Johannesburg, South Africa (JNB) around midday on August 4 via South African Airways. Depart from the Lusaka Airport, Zambia (LUN) on August 23.

Flights we book for you: Flights between Maun (MUB) and Gweta. The cost of this booking is included in the extension cost. Refer to the Botswana and Zambia safari itinerary for other included flight information (www.cheesemans.com/trips/botswana-aug2020).