

A leopard cub is perched on a thick, dark brown tree branch. The cub is looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. Its fur is a mix of tan and black spots. The background is a dense thicket of trees with golden-brown leaves, suggesting a savanna or woodland environment during late autumn or early winter. The lighting is soft and warm, highlighting the textures of the tree bark and the cub's fur.

Mashatu Photo Safaris

SADC 2026

Letter From the Team

At Tusk Photo, we pride ourselves on providing exceptional safari experiences, where every detail is carefully curated to ensure your journey is nothing short of extraordinary. Our team of expert guides, who possess an intimate knowledge of the local wildlife and ecosystems, will be by your side, ready to share their insights and help you capture unbelievable photos.

Imagine exploring the vast savannahs, witnessing the majestic herds of elephants in Amboseli, or immersing yourself in the remarkable biodiversity of the Serengeti. Picture yourself standing in awe as you witness the raw power of lions on the hunt, or capturing the elegance of a leopard as it prowls through the golden grasslands. With Tusk Photo, these extraordinary moments will become a reality.

We understand that photography is more than just a hobby for you; it's a way to express your creativity and preserve memories that will last a lifetime. That's why we go the extra mile to ensure that you have the best opportunities to capture those unique shots. From providing expert guidance on camera settings and composition to positioning our vehicles strategically for the perfect angle, we are dedicated to helping you achieve your photography goals.

But a Tusk Safari is not just about wildlife and photography; it's about creating cherished memories and forging lifelong connections. Our team is committed to providing you with personalised attention, exceptional service, and a warm and welcoming atmosphere throughout your journey. We want you to feel like part of our Tusk family, sharing laughter, stories, and the sheer joy of exploring the best that nature has to offer.

Allow us to take you on a journey of discovery, where you will witness nature's wonders, capture breathtaking photographs, and create memories that will stay with you forever.

Please feel free to reach out to our friendly team for any further information or to discuss your specific requirements. We are here to assist you every step of the way. We can't wait to welcome you to the Tusk Photo family and share this incredible experience with you.



The Tusk Team



Overview

Capture the Wild Soul of Africa – Discover Mashatu Game Reserve

Mashatu is the epitome of all that defines wilderness areas in Africa. A hidden gem situated in Botswana, Mashatu Game Reserve consists of 42,000 hectares (104,000 acres) of privately owned land in the conserved wilderness area known as the Northern Tuli Game Reserve.

Nestled in the heart of Botswana, Mashatu is a photographer's paradise — a place where nature's raw beauty meets the thrill of the wild. With unspoiled landscapes, diverse wildlife, and minimal human interference, This Mashatu Photo Safari offers a rare opportunity to capture the essence of Africa in its purest form.

From predators to stark landscapes and stunning birdlife, every moment is a chance to create unforgettable images. The reserve's seasonal rains and dramatic light provide unique photographic opportunities that are simply unmatched.

Whether you're a seasoned photographer or an enthusiast, this Mashatu photo safari delivers unparalleled wildlife encounters. Together with our team of expert guides and photo professionals, this safari promises to be more than a photo safari — it's a visual journey into the heart of the wild.

Book your photographic adventure today and let Mashatu inspire your next masterpiece.



What You Can Expect

Join us on this unforgettable wildlife photography adventure through Botswana's iconic Mashatu Game Reserve:

The diversity of habitats is home to one of the largest elephant populations on private property in Botswana. Mashatu provides some of the best big cat photography and viewing in Africa, especially leopards, often found resting in the abundance of huge Mashatu trees. Lion, cheetah and hyena are also found on the reserve, with an array of other species including eland, wildebeest, zebra, impala and bushbuck. Bird photographers will also not be disappointed, with over 360 species recorded. The overall photographic hit rate is one of the highest we know of, with birdlife, predators and large mammals all combining to keep your cameras busy and cards full.

Experience the wild soul of Mashatu, with exclusive access to wildlife hotspots, and a range of photography-focused amenities that will elevate your journey to new heights. Throughout this safari, expect exceptional photographic opportunities ensuring a diverse and captivating portfolio.

Expert Guidance and Learning:

Tusk Photo prides itself on providing more than just a tour; it's an opportunity for growth and learning. Our seasoned photographic hosts, not only well-versed in the intricacies of the terrain but also passionate about photography, will lead you through the landscape, offering insights, tips, and techniques to elevate your craft. Whether you're a novice or an experienced photographer, expect to refine your skills in the art of capturing the wild.

In conclusion, joining this Mashatu Photo Safari is an invitation to step into a realm where nature reveals its truest self, and your camera becomes a storyteller of your journey.



Where You Will Stay

Mashatu Tented Camp is a luxurious yet intimate safari experience nestled within the pristine wilderness of Mashatu Game Reserve. Designed to blend seamlessly with the natural surroundings, the camp offers spacious, elegantly appointed tents with en-suite bathrooms, ensuring comfort without compromising the adventure. Guests can enjoy stunning views of the African landscape, unwind by the camp's fire pit, and savor gourmet meals under the stars. It's the perfect base for those seeking an immersive photographic safari in one of Africa's most untouched wilderness areas.

Dates | Costs | Prices

Dates	Cost	Spaces	Nights
14 - 18 March 2026	ZAR 39900	6	4
18 - 22 March 2026	ZAR 39900	6	4
10 -14 April 2026	ZAR 39900	6	4
25 -29 April 2026	ZAR 39900	6	4
2 - 6 June 2026	ZAR 42150	6	4

Cost:

Our safari experience is priced from R 39900 per person sharing (June date is at Mashatu Tuli Safari Lodge - R 42150), Single supplement ZAR 14000.

Please note that any bank charges incurred during the payment process are not covered by Tusk Photo. We kindly request the full amount indicated on the invoice, including any fees imposed by Paypal if you choose to use this payment method.

Deposit:

To secure your reservation, a 50% deposit of the full price is required within 14 days of making your booking. Once we receive your deposit, your booking will be confirmed. Please make sure to complete this step within the given timeframe to secure your spot.

Balance:

The remaining balance is due at least 9 weeks prior to the safari. If you are making a booking within 9 weeks of the safari, the full price will be payable at the time of booking.

Cancellation Policy:

We understand that plans can change, and in the event of a cancellation, the following fees will apply unless Tusk Photo is able to fill your safari space:

- Cancellation more than 120 days prior to departure: 10% of the full price
- Cancellation 90 - 119 days prior to departure: 40% of the full price
- Cancellation 60 - 89 days prior to departure: 70% of the full price
- Cancellation less than 60 days prior to departure: 100% of the full price

Please note: Your travel plans are made entirely at your own risk, and Tusk Photo cannot be held



Itinerary

DAY 1

- Meet at Pont Drift Border Post and then drive onto Mashatu.
- Enjoy a briefing and afternoon tea, followed by a game drive.

DAYS 2-4

- Experience early morning and late afternoon/evening game drives on open vehicles exploring all the areas has to offer.

DAY 5

- After a morning game drive, enjoy brunch before departing home.
- End of tour

What You Get

INCLUDED:

- Full board accommodation at Mashatu Tented Camp
- All meals
- Selection of Alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks included
- Services of Tusk Photo hosts to assist and guide you
- Game Drives

EXCLUDED:

- Visas
- Telephone calls
- Gratuities
- Purchases of a personal nature
- International Flights to and from Mashatu (Contact us for fly in options)



Photography and Gear

It is not advisable to take photographs of border posts or military/ police posts. Doing so can lead to an unpleasant situation and even arrest. Always ask permission before taking a photograph of the any local African residents; it is a sign of respect. In most cases a small payment is expected. However some cultures believe that the camera steals their soul and we request that you respect and understand their beliefs.

It is advisable to bring the following camera equipment:

- 2x Camera bodies (a backup will mean peace of mind)
- Spare memory cards and batteries
- Long telephoto lens 400/500/600
- Medium telephoto lens 70-200 or equivalent
- Wide angle lens(es) 24-70 and 14-24 or similar
- Flash and battery pack is advisable
- Notebook or additional storage device

Please remember that it is very likely that you could possibly photograph thousands of images over the 5 day period. We therefore strongly advise you to have sufficient storage and battery arrangements in place. If you are unsure of anything please contact us for more details

Tour Info

INSURANCE

- **Travel Insurance:**

While it is highly unlikely, there is a possibility of scheduled flights in and out of your destination being delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. To provide peace of mind and cover any potential flight disruptions or missed connections, we strongly recommend purchasing additional travel insurance.

- **Medical Insurance:**

For your safety and well-being, we highly recommend having medical insurance that covers unforeseen medical emergencies and evacuation. Please let us know in your booking form whether you have taken out any medical insurance for this safari.

Travellers 83 years and older will need to arrange their own comprehensive travel insurance.

PASSPORTS AND CUSTOMS

- Passports are required by all foreign visitors and must be valid for 6 months after the intended length of stay. Please ensure that there are two blank pages per country to be visited.
- South African citizens require no visas to enter Botswana.
- It is advisable to declare any cameras, lenses, laptops and other valuable items when leaving your country. We normally recommend keeping a detailed list of all items including serial numbers and descriptions. This makes the customs process that much quicker as all that is generally required is for the customs official to stamp the document.

MONEY AND CURRENCY

- The currencies accepted in Botswana are Botswana Pula (BWP), US Dollars (USD) and South African Rands (ZAR). ZAR and USD will need to be exchanged in some instances at local rates.
- Banks and foreign exchange bureaux are available at all international airports and in all main towns.
- Credit card payments can be processed at the camps.
- US dollars are widely accepted; however, notes dated before 2003 are no longer accepted. Also, high denomination notes may not be accepted.
- The Botswana Pula does fluctuate against the ZAR: Rates are generally 1.1 to 1.35 to the BWP.

HEALTH

- Mashatu is a low risk Malaria area.
- Please consult your physician before you travel for advice on precautions against malaria.
- Should you require additional advice, we suggest you contact your local travel clinic for consultations regarding Malaria and the Immunisations required for travel to Botswana

LANGUAGES

- Although a lot of the locals speak Tswana or Kalanga, English is the national language of Botswana.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

We understand the importance of accommodating diverse dietary needs, and our team is dedicated to ensuring that we can cater to most dietary requirements. Please provide us with any specific dietary needs in your booking form.

POWER AND ELECTRICITY

220v battery power (charged by the generator / solar) is used for lighting and air-conditioning in guest tents 24hrs a day.

220v plugs available in each tent for the charging of batteries only. Hence bring spare battery, charging unit and adaptors.



CLIMATE

Botswana experiences a warm to hot climate throughout the year. The country's temperatures range from a mean monthly maximum of 29.5°C to 35°C in summer, and 19.8°C to 28.9°C in winter. Summer nights are generally mild, with mean monthly minimum temperatures ranging from 14.6°C to 20.8°C. In winter, nights can be cooler, with temperatures ranging from 2.9°C to 11.6°C.

Rainfall patterns in Botswana exhibit significant regional variation. The northeastern part of the country receives the highest precipitation, with over 650 mm of rainfall annually.

The majority of the rainfall occurs between October and April, which corresponds to Botswana's summer months. Rainfall is typically in the form of localised showers or thunderstorms.

In summary, Botswana's climate is characterised by warm to hot temperatures and a distinct rainy season. The country experiences higher temperatures and greater rainfall in the summer months, whereas winter brings relatively cooler temperatures.

Avg.
Temp
30

Avg. Min
Temp
12

Avg. Max
Temp
35

Avg rain
days p/month
5



CLOTHING AND WHAT TO PACK

For a memorable safari experience, we suggest opting for comfortable, casual wash-and-wear attire. To enhance your game-viewing experience, it is advisable to choose muted colours. Keep in mind that game-drives are typically conducted during the early morning and late afternoon, which can be quite cold, particularly in winter.

To ensure you are well-prepared, we recommend packing the following practical items for your safari:

- Comfortable, casual wash-and-wear clothes in muted colours.
- Long-sleeved shirts for sun and mosquito protection.
- T-shirts for layering.
- Shorts or light skirt for warmer days.
- Jeans or safari trousers for cooler evenings.
- Bring a jacket and sweater for chilly morning and evening game drives.
- Pack a lightweight, waterproof jacket for potential afternoon showers.
- Wear comfortable walking shoes.
- Essential items: sunblock, sunglasses, hat, insect repellent, moisturiser, lip balm.
- binoculars and camera equipment.
- Good quality safari clothing (we opt for Craghoppers Nosilife)

GRATUITIES

Please note that the following gratuity amounts are provided as a minimum guideline, and you are welcome to increase them if you wish:

- Ranger / Guide USD 20 per person per day
- Camp staff USD 10 per person per day

CONNECTIVITY & EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

There is limited to no Cellular and Data connectivity at Mashatu, there is wifi available at the Lodge

Tusk Photo Safaris PTA Office
Tel: +27 12 761 3737 (Office Hours)



Indemnity

Tusk Photo and its staff prioritise your safety and wellbeing during your safari; however, please be aware that we cannot accept liability for any incidents, including but not limited to accidents, loss, or property damage. By completing the Safari Booking form, you acknowledge the inherent risks associated with travel and agree to indemnify Tusk Photo against any claims or liabilities that may arise.

While this document provides comprehensive information, it is not exhaustive. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office. Please note that the information contained herein is correct at the time of compilation to the best of our knowledge.

We Are Excited To Host You on Your Dream Photographic Safari!

