XIGERA
SAFARI LODGE ~ BOTSWANA

Re A Go Amogela Mo Xigera Safari Lodge

Re A Go Amogela Mo or 'welcome to' Xigera Safari Lodge. I was born not far from the lodge, on the western edge of the Okavango Delta. For as long as I can remember, I've been drawn to the bush; to the rhythms of the land, the stories in the tracks, and the deep presence of wildlife that surrounds us in Botswana.

Xigera has always held a special place in that landscape. One of the Delta's original lodges, it has stood rooted in water and wilderness. But over the past few years, something extraordinary has happened. The land has changed. The waters have shifted. And with it, Xigera too has been reborn.

Once known as a "wet camp," Xigera is now a rare lodge, with up to five different daily experiences available on land and water. Game viewing here is abundant and diverse: wild dogs have denned on our land, two lion prides roam nearby, and leopard, cheetah, elephant, and buffalo are frequent guests, sometimes visiting us in the lodge itself.

But the transformation hasn't only been ecological. The new Xigera is a tribute to the Delta in every sense; in its art, its architecture, its cuisine, and in our service and care. No fixed timetables. No forced routines. Everything is designed around our guests. We call it Your safari, Your Story.

This is what makes Xigera truly different. And it's what makes us, as a team, incredibly proud. We are all deeply connected to this land and its heritage, and we cannot wait to share its beauty with you.

Quest Maundo

LODGE MANAGER
On behalf of the Xigera Family

The story of Xigera is one of renewal, rebirth, and legacy. It is a story born from family, guided by purpose, and shaped by a pioneering spirit, one that has always sought out Africa's most soulful wild places.

That same spirit inspired a radical reimagining of what a safari in the Okavango Delta could be. This is Xigera (pronounced kee-jera), named for the Pied Kingfisher that hovers above the Delta's glistening channels.

Every element has been handcrafted to awaken the senses and stir the soul; from sculptural interiors and meaningful design to deeply personal wildlife encounters.

Xigera is also more than a lodge. It is a statement. A bold and imaginative vision of how to savour the Delta.

A line drawn in the sand of luxury travel, one that says: it is possible to honour place, culture, and conservation, while offering something rare, refined, and unforgettable. This is not just a safari. It is Xigera.

African Luxury, Redefined

Xigera is not just in the Okavango Delta, it is of it. Rooted in a landscape of seasonal floodplains, riverine forest, tawny grasslands, and glassy papyrus channels, the lodge rests gently within this World Heritage wilderness, almost hidden beneath a canopy of indigenous trees.

Every architectural detail at Xigera reflects a deep reverence for the Delta. The fluidity of its rooflines mirrors the flight of indigenous birds, the rich textures of dark cladding echo ancient trees.

Each of our 12 suites is a sanctuary of stillness and design, crafted to disappear into nature, designed to awaken the senses.

Positioned for total seclusion, each suite offers uninterrupted views of the Delta's floodplains. Inside, a sense of stillness and spaciousness prevails: separate lounge, bedroom, and dressing areas, all air-conditioned for comfort, and opening onto a private deck with shaded daybeds, where time slows and the wild drifts by.

Crafted with sustainability at its core, Xigera runs on solar power and was designed to tread lightly on the land.

But beyond architecture, Xigera is also a living celebration of African creativity. From the sculpted doors to the woven chairs, every detail has been designed and made by hand. With over 80 artists and artisans contributing, art is not simply placed here, it is part of the experience.

This is African luxury, redefined: intimate, soulful, and deeply grounded in place.

Recognition, Worldwide

Celebrated by leading travel authorities and featured in award-winning documentaries, Xigera continues to set a new standard for meaningful safari experiences:

Travel & leisure 'Worlds Best' Awards

Red Carnation Hotels named 4th best hotel brand in the world - 2024

World Travel Awards

Botswana's Leading Luxury Safari Lodge – 2021, 2022 & 2023

World Spa Awards

Botswana's Best Safari Spa – 2021 & 2022

Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards

No. 6 in the Top 20 Resorts in the Rest of Africa – 2022

Les Nouvelles Esthétiques

Best Safari Spa in Africa – 2022

Robb Report for New Hotel Openings in 2021

Named 'Best of the Best' in Africa – 2021

The Good Web Guide

Winner in the 'Travel' category – 2021

Skift IDEA Awards

Winner for Sustainability – 2021

Elite Traveller Awards

Top 100 Suites – 2021

National Geographic Traveller Hotel Awards

'Good Egg' category winner – 2021

Architectural Digest

Great Design Hotel Award winner – 2021

Travel + Leisure 2021's 'Hit List'

Named one of the 'Best New Hotels' – 2021

Condé Nast Traveler

Hot List - 2021

A Living Gallery of African Art & Design

Xigera is designed to feel. Every space you enter, every object you touch, has been imagined and handcrafted by some of Africa's most visionary creatives.

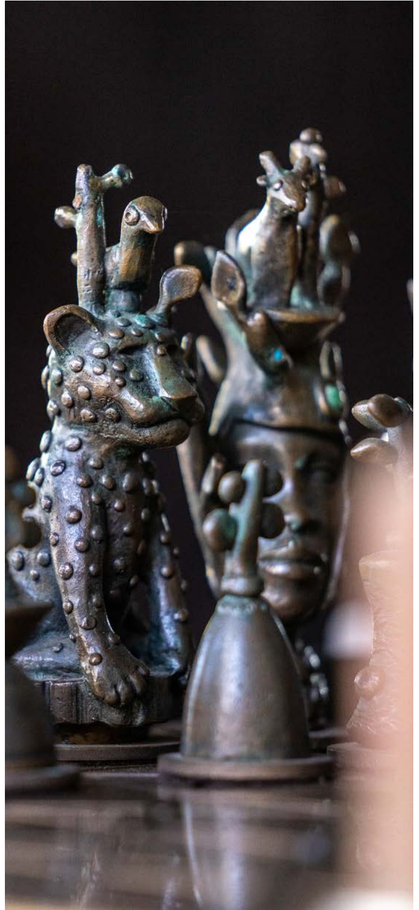
Over 80 artists, designers, and artisans from across the continent have contributed to what is the largest privately-owned collection of contemporary African art in hospitality. But this is not a gallery. It is a living, breathing expression of the Delta.

Beneath a canopy of ancient trees, the lodge's sculptural architecture flows like the Delta itself. Furniture is carved, cast, woven and fired by hand, each piece with a story, a maker, a soul.

In the boma, stories are shared around a totemic fire-pit by Conrad Hicks, forged to echo the elemental heart of the bush. On the decks, human-sized nests by Porky Hefer invite you to curl up above the floodplains, part of the landscape, part of the lodge.

Inside, an open kitchen-dining room transforms every meal into an interactive experience, while the waterside lounge is anchored by a copper-clad fireplace sculpted in the form of a lily; the emblem of Xigera, and the Delta's most iconic bloom.

This is design that immerses. It tells the story of a continent, a culture, and a lodge like no other.



Testimonials

"Xigera Safari Lodge in the Okavango Delta has staked its claim as a repository of African creativity."

- ROBB REPORT

"An unforgettable African Safari in Botswana which blends luxury with sustainability."

- CONDE NAST TRAVELLER

"As honeymoon preferences evolve and couples increasingly seek unique experiences, Xigera stands out as the Ultimate Destination, offering a perfect blend of romance and travel extravagance."

- THE TELEGRAPH

Empowering People, Enriching Communities

People are at the heart of Xigera. Proudly Botswanan and deeply rooted in this land, we are united by purpose: to care for our guests, one another, and the wilderness we call home. Here are just a few of the remarkable people who shape every Xigera journey:

Ikalaheng 'Ike' Mogalakwe

HEAD SAFARI GUIDE

I was born in Maun, on the edge of the Okavango Delta. From my earliest days, the bush felt like home. After completing my studies, I began my journey in tourism, working my way up to Assistant Camp Manager. I've always been drawn to the wild, especially through the lens of my camera. Now, as Head Guide at Xigera, I have the privilege of leading a passionate team and sharing the incredible diversity of our ecosystem, in unforgettable mokoro journeys, game drives or in our cathedral glass-bottom boat cruises. Every day offers the chance to witness something rare, and for us to share it with our guests, a true gift.

Keitumetse 'Katie' Batisane

FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER

I was born and raised in Sebina village and hold an Advanced Diploma in Hospitality & Tourism Management. My career has taken me through many restaurants, but it's here at Xigera that I feel most inspired. I'm passionate about curating experiences that stay with our guests long after they leave. Whether it's the perfect pour or a carefully chosen wine from our Delta-inspired list, we believe a great meal is more than a dish. It's a memory in the making, rooted in time, place, and care.

Ziyaad Brown

EXECUTIVE CHEF

I've has the opportunity to cook in some of Africa's finest hotels and lodges, but it is here at Xigera that I've found something rare: a kitchen that honours place and people equally. My approach is simple; cook with integrity, flavour, and purpose. From wild Kalahari truffles foraged with the San to spinach grown hydroponically in Maun, every ingredient tells a story of sustainability and season. This is farm-to-table reimagined, Xigera-style: real food, real impact, always exceptional.

Malaki Question-Maundo

FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER

I was born in Maun and grew up in Khwai, where the beauty of the Delta shaped who I am. After several years working for the Botswana Government, I realised my true calling was hospitality, welcoming others into the beauty and stillness I love.

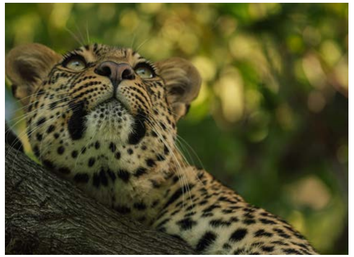
I studied Tourism Management and found my home at Xigera. Here, I lead with heart, helping shape a new generation of future local hospitality leaders. We love welcoming our guests from around the world. Each arrival is a new connection, and our farewells are heartfelt, so I often say ... Re tlaa bonana, we will see each other again.

A Love Letter to the African Bush

Xigera redefines the safari experience; one where immersion in nature meets thoughtful hospitality and an unwavering commitment to conservation. Every aspect of the lodge, from its sculptural design to the way a guest's day unfolds, has been considered to honour Botswana's land, its heritage, its wildlife, and its people.

There are no fixed schedules here. Every experience is tailored to your rhythm, your curiosity. The wildlife is abundant. The freedom is real. We call it: Your safari, Your Story.

Family-owned and deeply rooted in this place, we've invested in Botswana's tourism for over 30 years. Xigera is our love letter to the Okavango Delta, a lodge shaped by reverence for nature, belief in people, and cultural pride.



A Wilderness Wonderland

Xigera offers rare access to some of the richest wildlife viewing in Botswana. From the moment you arrive, the Delta reveals itself, quietly, boldly, unmistakably.

A leopard draped lazily across a tree limb. A pride of lions stretched out in the sun, unfazed by your presence. Wild dogs weaving between islands. Buffalo gathered in the golden light. Here, nature is not a performance, it is a pulse.

When the floods arrive, they awaken everything. Fish eagles call across the water. Papyrus shimmers in the breeze. Red lechwe flash across the floodplains. Spotted hyena track scent trails at dusk. Kudu and wildebeest graze in the soft amber of late afternoon.

And then there are the elephants. The icons of the Delta. This part of Botswana is home to the world's largest population of African elephants, over 130,000 roam free. At Xigera, they are part of daily life, herds wading through channels, feeding beside the decks, or wandering silently through camp.

For birders, Xigera is a marvel. With more than 500 species recorded in the Okavango Delta, the skies and reeds come alive with colour and sound, from the coppery-tailed coucal and wattled crane to the western-banded snake eagle and lesser jacana.

This is Xigera where the wild is not simply observed. It is felt. It is heard. It stays with you.

Touching the Earth Lightly

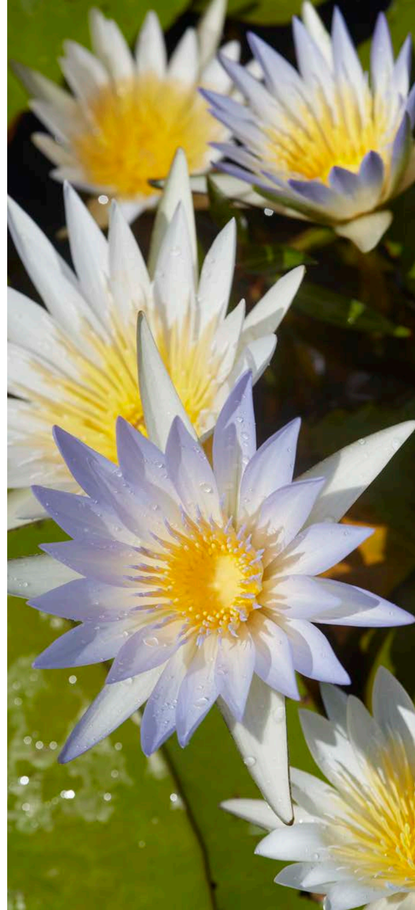
Xigera was built with a single guiding principle: to honour and protect the Okavango Delta. As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this fragile ecosystem demands care, and we meet that responsibility with action.

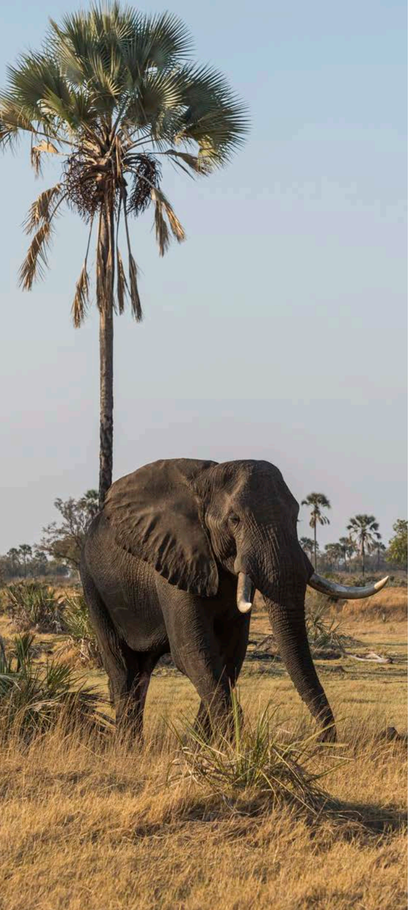
Our lodge is powered by a cutting-edge solar plant, generating 92% of our energy and eliminating the need for diesel generators. Hot water comes from thermodynamic geysers, and our water is purified using reverse osmosis, then re-mineralised, making it safe to drink throughout the lodge.

We operate without single-use plastics, and our onsite composter transforms organic waste into nutrient-rich support for local gardens. Every choice, from infrastructure to ingredient, is made to reduce impact.

Beyond operations, we work hand-in-hand with Botswana's Department of Wildlife and National Parks, supporting conservation and biodiversity monitoring. We are proud partners of Wild Entrust, a local NGO dedicated to applied science, education, and sustainable development.

Sustainability is not a philosophy. It is how we live, lead, and protect what we love.





Conservation in Action

Conservation is central to everything we do. We are proud to work with leading local and international partners on projects that protect Botswana's biodiversity and to try and ensure the Delta remains a sanctuary for generations to come.

We are honoured to partner with Wild Entrust, a Botswana-based not-for-profit organisation that drives conservation through applied science, education, and sustainable development. Together, we support wildlife monitoring and data collection efforts across the region.

Our commitment extends across key conservation partnerships:

- **AI-driven research and wildlife tracking** tools allow us to monitor predator populations non-invasively and with precision.
- Through direct support of **Raptors Botswana,** we help protect endangered birds of prey, and assist in conserving the wattled crane, one of Africa's most threatened bird species.
- In partnership with the **Giraffe Conservation Foundation**, we support studies into giraffe genetic hybridisation within the Delta.
- We work closely with **Botswana's Department of Wildlife and National Parks** to support anti-poaching initiatives and wildlife law enforcement.

Guests also have the opportunity to engage with Botswana's only elephant orphanage, **Elephant Havens,** which rescues and rehabilitates orphaned elephants with the goal of releasing them back into the wild.

Experiences with **Helicopter Horizons** include ethical, guided visits that contribute directly to the organisation's work.

By embracing a low-volume, high-value tourism model, Xigera protects not just place, but possibility, proving that luxury and conservation can work collaboratively together.

Tourism as a Force for Good

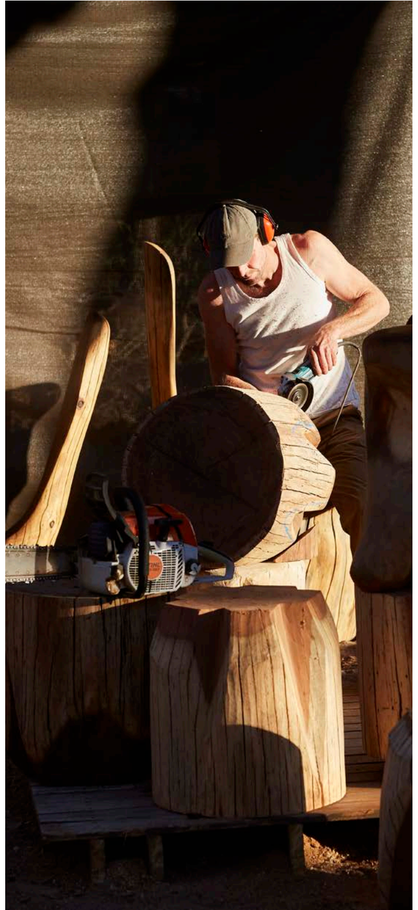
We believe that tourism can and must leave a lasting, positive legacy. Our commitment to uplifting people and communities is woven into everything we do, from how we hire and train, to the way we give back and grow

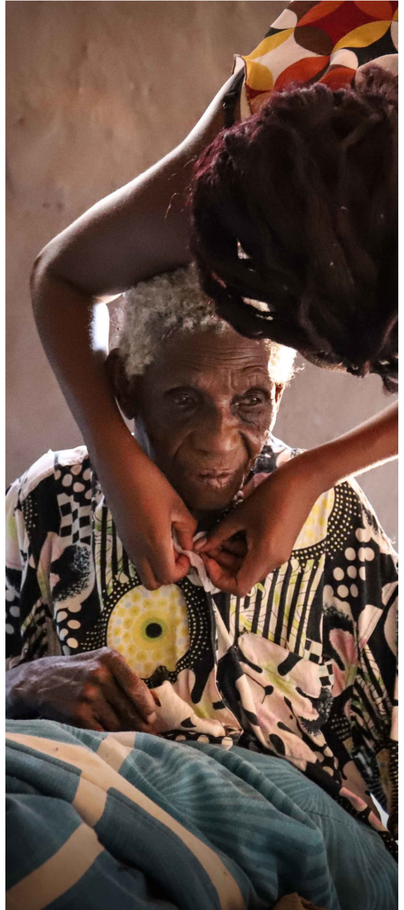
Empowering People, Shaping Futures

Empowering People, Shaping Futures
Our team is proudly local, and our focus is on nurturing talent from within Botswana. Through skills training, leadership development, and global hospitality exchanges, we are shaping the next generation of leaders in tourism. Our guiding academy and chef apprenticeship programmes ensure that Xigera's team are not only exceptional, they are empowered and celebrated

Polokong Centre for Elderly Care

In nearby Maun, we actively support the Polokong Centre, which provides food, clothing, and care for the elderly. Our team volunteers regularly, providing essential support, dignity, and connection to elders who need it most.





Village Lights & Learning

In collaboration with Coaching Conservation, we've supported the distribution of solar-powered lights and conservation-focused learning materials to Habu's primary school learners. With few homes having electricity, this small intervention opens doors to the local youth learning long after sunset

Celebrating Art & Sustainability

Our art tour is not just about aesthetic appreciation, it's about storytelling and values. From recycled materials to fallen woods, many pieces at Xigera reflect our deep respect for sustainability and craftsmanship. Guests are invited to explore this creativity and care through our self-guided or hosted art experiences.

Coaching Conservation Programme

We support conservation education that inspires through play. Through BushRAP and Animal RAP programmes, students from Habu engage with wildlife meaningfully learning about self-respect, empathy, and environmental stewardship in ways that stay with them.

Partnering with Communities

We are proud to partner with Habu Village, one of the Delta's closest communities, supporting sustainable farming, education, and conservation efforts. Our long-term relationship with Wild Entrust enables initiatives that reduce human-wildlife conflict and promote coexistence.

Every action, every initiative, every partnership is rooted in care, connection, and shared purpose.

COLLABORATION

Food Rooted in Place, Made With Purpose

Food here is more than a meal; it's a philosophy, a celebration of land, season, and the people who grow and gather with care.

Our approach honours place and people. It's what we call radius cooking with purpose: sourcing as locally and ethically as possible, supporting small-scale farmers and producers who share our values of sustainability, quality, and community upliftment.

Over 90% of our fresh produce comes from nearby Maun, just 60 miles from the lodge. We work with:

- **Slebtech Farms,** a small, family-run egg farm employing members of the local community and supplying our staff canteen.
- **Bellfrog Farms,** a hydroponic farm that provides tomatoes, herbs, lettuce, and spring onions, using vertical farming techniques well-suited to the Delta's climate.
- **Grow Wild Organics,** a small farm providing quail eggs and seasonal produce.
- **Women-owned cooperatives,** who supply traditional local ingredients and small-batch items.
- **Elliewood Farms,** a sustainable, full-circle farm supplying our lamb and seasonal vegetables. We select and prepare lamb in-house, with butchery and ageing done onsite.
- **Free-range poultry farmers,** whose birds are hormone- and antibiotic-free, raised on natural diets.
- **Sustainable seafood suppliers,** sourcing only seasonal, responsible catches from the Namibian coast.

Our single-source, grass-fed beef is hormone-free and carefully butchered and dry-aged in-house, ensuring quality from source to plate.

Every dish reflects a respect for both origin and impact. This is farm-to-table, reimagined. Real food. Real stories. Always exceptional.

A Place Like No Other

A conscious connection to land, wildlife, and self.

Where We Are

- Located on the western edge of Botswana's Moremi Game Reserve, in the heart of the 15,000 km² Okavango Delta. A UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Accessible via a scenic 25-minute charter flight from Maun, followed by a short vehicle or boat transfer.
- Suspended between two islands and shaded by ancient forest, the lodge rests in nature, offering endless views of the floodplains.

Sleep in Luxury, Designed by Nature

- 12 individually designed, air-conditioned suites, including a two-bedroom Family Suite. Each offering over 180m² of private indoor and outdoor living.
- Crafted to exist in harmony with the Delta, with panoramic views, total seclusion, and interiors that breathe with their surroundings.
- Outdoor gazebos and king-sized daybeds for quiet and tranquillity.
- Indoor and outdoor showers, freestanding bathtubs with open views, and thoughtful touches including in-room safes, flat-screen TVs, and Wi-Fi, always optional, never expected.

The Baobab Treehouse

- A sculptural sanctuary rising 10 metres above the floodplain, open to the stars, surrounded by nothing but nature and night.
- Private, secure, and deeply moving, this is one of Africa's most extraordinary sleepouts.

Crafted With Purpose

- A fully equipped, air-conditioned gym with state-of-the-art Technogym equipment.
- Tranquil outdoor swimming pool with relaxation deck overlooking the Delta.
- Library and gallery spaces with curated books, art and wildlife material.
- The Xigera Shop: a celebration of African fashion, craft, and design.
- The largest privately owned collection of contemporary African art in hospitality, every piece hand-crafted and deeply rooted in story.

The Spa at Xigera

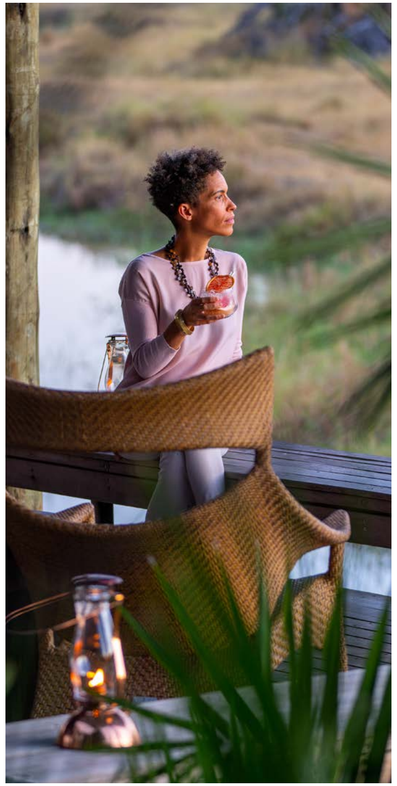
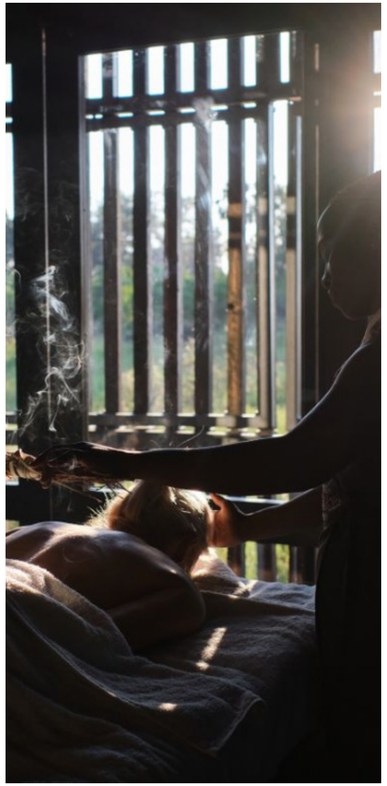
- A sanctuary of stillness.
- Holistic treatments and organic Tata Harper skincare.
- Signature massages, facials, and body rituals inspired by nature and guided by expert hands.
- Mindfulness sessions, guided meditation, and breathwork tailored to individual needs.
- Yoga and Pilates deck for sunrise sessions or private in-suite practice.
- This is wellness, the Delta way: calming, conscious, connected.

A Safari on Your Terms.
We call it: *Your Safari, Your Story.*

- There are no set schedules.
- Wildlife is abundant. Stillness is sacred.
- Every experience is tailored entirely to you.

Experiences Designed Around You

- Game drives at dawn, dusk… or when the moment feels right.
- Mokoro and motorboat excursions through the Delta's glimmering waterways.
- Elevated boat decks for unmatched game viewing.
- Guided bush walks and photographic outings, offering unique, close perspectives of nature.
- Helicopter adventures and scenic flights
- Catch-and-release fishing for rare endemic species (seasonal).
- Wild picnics, firelit bush dinners, and soulful sundowners.
- Yoga, meditation, and sunrise mindfulness…

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Re tlhokomela lefatshe gore
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'We care for the land so that
the land may care for us.'