

The Four Seasons to Visit the Island Safari Lodge:

What to Expect

Maun is well known as the gateway to the Okavango Delta, situated right on the cusp between the Delta and the Kalahari, it is the perfect place to kick off your dream African adventure. Where wildlife and gorgeous scenery merge to create a real-life NatGeo experience. If you are planning a trip to this gem of Northern Botswana, you'll need to know what each season has in store. From the dry season to the rainy season and everything in between, each quarter of the year offers something marginally different. Island Safari Lodge, nestled within its own private reserve, has been a cherished retreat for travellers seeking to experience Botswana's wild heart since 1973. A vintage legacy of a bygone era, the current owners are dedicated to preserving its unique charm, setting it apart from more modern alternatives.

1. Summer (November to February): The Green Season



Summer in Botswana means rain (usually), but don't let that stop you from visiting us, while the days can get hot, with temperatures hovering over 40°C (104°F), the afternoon showers transform the scenery into a luscious paradise. This is the ideal time for avid bird watchers as

the migratory birds flock into the Kalahari and the Okavango Delta, both within easy reach of Island Safari Lodge.

What to Expect:

- Lush vegetation and baby animals
- Spectacular birdwatching (over 500 species in the region)
- Afternoon thunderstorms that pass quickly, leaving the air fresh
- Fewer crowds

Stay at Island Safari Lodge:

Begin your stay at Island Safari Lodge and use our camping and game-driving packages to your heart's content. Island Safari Lodge provides a unique and sought-after kicking-off point for all of your adventuring needs, with the airport not too far from the Lodge, there is a shuttle offered to pick you up and drop you off whenever you require.

2. Autumn (March to May): The Shoulder Season



Autumn in Botswana offers the best of both worlds, as the rainy season tapers off and cooler, more stable weather resumes. The scenery remains green and luscious but the Savanna sun does not beat down as harshly, this is the ideal time if you still want to visit in the quieter off-season but still enjoy the vibrant environment.

What to Expect:

- Pleasant temperatures around 25-30°C (77-86°F)
- Less rain but still a vibrant, green landscape
- There are excellent wildlife viewing opportunities as water sources dwindle, drawing animals to the remaining water before the floods arrive.

Stay at Island Safari Lodge:

With Island Safari Lodge's proximity to the Delta and Moremi Game Reserve, it offers prime access to water and land-based safaris and camping. Take a Mokoro trip up the Delta, and let the cool breezes waft over the river as you explore the swamp lands, or explore Moremi in kitted-out game drive vehicles as you venture forth into the unknown, as trained guides offer interesting facts and unique sightings. After all the excitement is over, relax in the blue, pristine pool at the fully stocked bar at Island Safari Lodge. This is the best time to go to the Central Kalahari, which is also easily accessible from the Island Safari Lodge. At this time of the year, there should be enough water for big herds of animals funneling into Deception Valley, and the predators that prey on them are always lurking around.

3. Winter (June to August): The Peak Season



The peak season begins and ends in Winter, and it's easy to see why. The cool days (20-25°C / 68-77°F) with virtually no rain make this the perfect time for game drives, walking safaris, and exploring the Okavango Delta. Because of the lack of rainfall, animals tend to congregate around watering holes and beside rivers, making it the ideal time for stunning photographic opportunities. Bigger game, like lions, tend to be more active in the cooler periods of the year, making it easier to spot them. With the floods coming in, activities like Mokoro and boating are more likely, opening up a whole different experience.

What to Expect:

- Cooler days and chilly nights (temperatures can drop to frigid -1°C / 30.2°F at night) are most noticeable on an early morning game drive. Dress accordingly.
- Floods come in (June - July to Maun)
- Peak wildlife viewing as animals congregate near permanent water sources and the veldt loses its leaves, allowing for less obstructed viewing
- Spectacular visibility for photography and game viewing
- Thriving tourist season, so book a long time in advance!

Stay at Island Safari Lodge:

Winter is peak season, so book early, Island Safari Lodge tends to be full quickly during these times and you will see why. The lodge is packed with expeditions into Moremi and the Delta, offering the guests first pick of the sightings, with the help of trained guides you are sure to see some spectacular wildlife milling around the plains or even hunting for their next meals. Enjoy warm, cosy nights around the fire, followed by star-gazing sessions under Botswana's crystal-clear winter skies.

4. Spring (September to October): The Pre-Rain Heat



Another shoulder season in Botswana is Springtime, however, it is the hottest time of the year, with temperatures reaching 35-50°C (95-122°F). The heat draws wildlife closer to the water sources, which makes it an excellent time for game viewing, but be warned, hats and sunscreen are required when trekking in this hot climate.

What to Expect:

- Intense heat, especially in October
- Fantastic wildlife viewing, with many animals gathering near the remaining water sources
- Fewer crowds than in the high season

- The Okavango Delta begins to recede, offering more land-based exploration

Stay at Island Safari Lodge:

As the heat intensifies, the heavenly gift of refreshing pools becomes a much-needed reprieve from the beating sun. Island Safari Lodge's shady, riverside terrace takes the edge off of the Kalahari sauna, have a refreshing cocktail at the bar and relax under the canopy of ancient trees.

Conclusion: No matter the season, Maun has something special to offer, from baby animals and migrating birds in summer to thrilling wildlife sightings in winter. And with Island Safari Lodge as your base, you're guaranteed a comfortable, authentic experience, right on the doorstep of one of Africa's most spectacular wildernesses. Island Safari Lodge is one of two facilities that is situated within its own game park. With 10 km of walking trails and some diurnal and nocturnal game species, it is one of the few places you can walk among the Game without being worried about predators. This is a unique experience in Maun.

Note: With weather patterns and El Niño and La Niña, please make sure to contact Island Safari Lodge to make sure the activities you want to do are viable options. Botswana boasts a vibrant and boisterous culture that can be heard from any and everywhere in an urban setting.

Ready for your Botswana adventure? Book your stay at Island Safari Lodge and get ready to experience Maun through the seasons!