

LAUNCHING
15 SEPTEMBER 2024
Bookings Now Open

A CULTURAL IMMERSION

The Tsodilo Hills Sleep-Out Camp

This exceptional overnight expedition from Nxamaseri Island Lodge to the revered Tsodilo Hills offers you an unparalleled opportunity to witness one of the world's most undiscovered UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Stay in the authentic Tsodilo pods raised above the Kalahari Desert and immerse yourself in the rich cultural heritage and breathtaking natural beauty of the region.



Empowering Botswana Through Tourism

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SLEEP-OUT ITINERARY

DAY 1

Early morning activity or leisure time from Nxamaseri Island Lodge. Enjoy a relaxing Spa treatment or take part in an early morning island walk or mokoro experience.

After lunch guests to pack an overnight bag and leave the rest of their belongings in their room and prepare for departure from camp.

14:30 - 15:00 Depart Nxamaseri Island Lodge by boat followed by 4WD closed-vehicle to the sleep-out camp. (Transfer time dependant on water levels. 60-90 min.)
ADD-ON: An optional scenic helicopter transfer (details on right).
 Departure for the helicopter transfer will be confirmed in camp.

16:00 - 18:00 Arrive at the Tsodilo Hills Sleep-Out camp for welcome briefing and orientation. Guests will be welcome to freshen up, enjoy an interpretive guided walk around the camp's wilderness trails before settling in for sundowners on the fire deck to watch the Tsodilo Male Hills colours change.

18:00 - 20:30 As the stars come out the local guides will share an interpretive story into the history of the sacred hills and local bushman tales on the creation of the rock art and the significance of Tsodilo.

Dinner will be cooked and served in traditional-style and can be enjoyed around the fire with drinks before bed.

DAY 2

05:00 - 05:30 Wake up followed by a light breakfast served with tea & coffee. This timing will vary depending on the season.

06:00 - 06:30 Enjoy the morning exploring the wonders of Tsodilo Hills. There are various options available depending on fitness levels and interests of guests. There are a host of trails to choose from and all trails provide an incredible insight into the history of the generations of local tribes who have been visiting the area. Those with good levels of fitness are invited to hike to the summit of the Male Hill (approx. 2-3 hrs total time depending on level of fitness).

10:00 Refreshments and snacks served in the shade of the acacia trees following the trails before returning to Nxamaseri Island Lodge for a well-deserved lunch in camp.

12:30 - 13:00 Arrival Nxamaseri Island Lodge.
 Freshen up in camp and enjoy a wonderful lunch.
 Afternoon activity as desired by the guests.

Add a Scenic HELICOPTER TRANSFER

For a truly remarkable experience, add a helicopter transfer to or from the sleep-out.

- The scenic transfer is about a 10-min flight (we recommend adding an optional 10-mins extra for an aerial view of the Okavango Panhandle and Tsodilo Hills in the distance. The only spot in Africa where two world heritage sites can be seen in one place.
- Scenic helicopter transfers can be booked one-way or return.
- For the ultimate experience request a private Tsodilo sleep-out camp with a helicopter transfer both ways.



TSODILO SLEEP-OUT CAMP

WHAT TO KNOW

Nestled within the awe-inspiring Tsodilo Hills, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its spiritual significance and captivating rock art, the Tsodilo Hills Sleep-Out Camp offers you unprecedented access to the magic of the hills.

Designed to minimise its ecological impact, the camp accommodation is a basic but authentic experience. Each canvas pod is set on elevated platforms beneath the sheltering canopy of Zambezi Teak trees, with the majestic Male Hill – the highest peak in Botswana – serving as a dramatic backdrop.

Bathrooms are “bush toilets” built next to the pods comprising of outside (covered) bucket shower. Camp staff need to be briefed to prepare warm water for showering.

Rooms are small and draw inspiration from the nomadic bushman dwellings, reflecting the heritage of the local community that has inhabited the area for generations. This unique design, built in collaboration with the local community, not only blends seamlessly with the environment but also pays homage to the custodians of this remarkable place.



TOP REASONS TO EXPERIENCE THE TSODILO HILLS SLEEP-OUT CAMP

- The first dedicated sleep-out camp in the UNESCO World Heritage listed Tsodilo Hills.
- Watch the sun set behind the highest peak in Botswana and witness the hills and land dramatically change colour as dusk descends.
- Enjoy a cultural interpretation from the local bushman community and learn about the heritage of this sacred site.
- Sleeping within the hills allows early access to explore the site before the heat of the day sets in.
- Watch sunrise from the highest place in the Kalahari Desert.
- Transport yourself back in time and sit by the fire with locals as they have done for thousands of years. Listening to the sound of the nocturnal wildlife and witnessing the night sky come to life.
- Enjoy a wilderness trail and interpretive walk around the camp property exploring the desert flora and fauna with your local guide.
- Be in the heart of the only place in Africa, where two World Heritage Sites converge – The Okavango Delta and the Tsodilo Hills.

SAFETY

The Sleep Out camp is a wilderness experience. Each canvas pod is elevated on a deck and the tents offer screens to keep out mosquitoes and insects.

While the Tsodilo area see little in the way of large quantities of elephant or predators, the area is still in the wilderness and guests advised to be escorted by guides and camp staff during the evening/early mornings.

CAMP DETAILS & BOOKING NOTES:

- The sleep-out camp has 3 twin/double pods (2 adults per pod maximum) plus 1 family dwelling with 2 pods accommodating a maximum of 2 adults and 2 children (under 16yrs old).
- Maximum number of guests in camp is 8 adults and 2 children.
- Please refer to annual rates sheets for helicopter transfers or private booking surcharges.
- The sleep-out camp expedition is available to all bookings staying 3 nights or more at Nxamaseri Island Lodge (subject to availability).
- Commencing for bookings from the 15th September 2024 and operating all year round.
- Exclusive private use bookings available on request. Supplement applies.

ALL RATES CAN BE ACCESSED
IN THE **AGENT PORTAL**
OR ON REQUEST.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS?

HOW DIFFICULT ARE THE WALKING TRAILS?

Those wishing to summit the Male Hill should have a good level of fitness. The summit takes in just under 400m of elevation from the base to the summit. Rocky areas require good walking shoes and balance and this hike is only suitable for regular walkers/hikers.

Other walking trails can all be customised to the level of fitness but all guests should have the ability to comfortably walk 2 – 3km at a leisurely pace (occasionally over small rocks/sandy paths).

WHAT IF I HAVE WALKING DIFFICULTIES OR LACK OF FITNESS?

Those who wish to still explore the paintings and experience the Tsodilo Sleep Out camp but with walking challenges should liaise with the booking consultant at time of booking to understand the limitations. A vehicle can be prepared to host the guests from painting to painting site with minimal walking required but needs to be pre-planned.

WHAT IS THE WEATHER LIKE?

Like all deserts, the Tsodilo Hills are no exception in seeing massive variances in temperatures all-year.

April – August

You can expect the days to be warm to hot but manageable. 25 to 35 degrees during the day and in the evening the temperatures drop significantly. Occasionally close to freezing and with the easterly winds you can expect it to feel cold at night and in the morning. Extra blankets and hot water bottles are provided.

Early mornings will be very cold and sleeping out in the pods can feel very cold. No matter how seasoned you are to cold weather, make sure you bring a woolly hat to sleep in and warm fleece in case of a cold night wind.

September – November

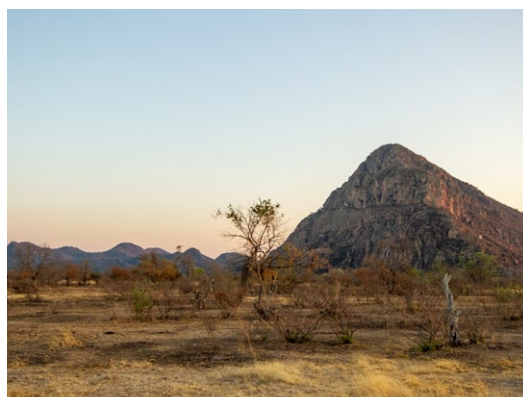
Days will begin to reach extremely high temperatures. The afternoon journey to get to the sleep-out will be extremely hot. 35 to 40+ degrees can be expected daily. The wind can feel like a hot oven. The temperature drops quickly at sunset and the evenings are pleasant to cool. Despite the extreme warm temperatures of the day, the evenings can still be chilly.

November – March

The first rains generally arrive in November and can result in short sharp tropical like storms. There is covered protection from the rain around the camp and the sleep-out pods are water-tight.

Insects can be present around the lanterns and lights at night in the summer months especially after rains. Those who are uncomfortable around flying ants/moths should avoid the summer months for the sleep-out camp.

Days are hot and humid but the colours and light around the area in the summer months is nothing short of spectacular.





WHAT SHOULD I PACK?

As space in the camp is limited you need to pack light. You cannot bring your entire holiday suitcase with you.

We suggest bringing a light foldable duffle bag or backpack in your main bag which can be used to carry your toiletries and overnight things.

- Usual safari gear (camera, binoculars etc.)
- Warm wooly hat
- Warm jacket/fleece
- Walking poles for those who require support for reaching the summit (not compulsory)
- Head torch recommended to help at night/early morning
- Good walking shoes (trail runners also good)
- Long trousers for walking always recommended

IS IT WORTH UPGRADING TO A HELICOPTER TRANSFER?

Yes, for sure! Not only will you maximise your time relaxing/exploring but witnessing the Tsodilo Hills from above as you arrive/depart is a spectacle in itself. Extensions can be added over the Okavango Panhandle where you can witness the only place in Africa where two world heritage sites can be seen at one point. The Tsodilo Hills and Okavango Delta.

If you want the ultimate private remote Sleep-Out experience book out the Sleep-Out privately and request a helicopter there and back (surcharges apply).

IS THERE WI-FI?

There is no Wi-Fi and no cell phone reception. Time to disconnect and become one with nature.

WHAT IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY?

In case of emergency we have a satellite phone and can contact camp and/or emergency support.

I USE A C-PAP MACHINE, CAN I STILL JOIN THE TRIP?

There is no electricity or back-up power. Guest with quiet lithium battery powered c-pap machines may be able to join the Sleep-Out but anybody with pre-existing medical conditions should seek medical advice.