

MTB SAFARI OF A LIFETIME

MASHATU GAME RESERVE

BOTSWANA





EPIC MTB CYCLING SAFARIS

TWO RIDES



4 NIGHTS - THREE RIVERS RIDE

Unique MTB experience, tailored to all levels of rider. Intimate game viewing whilst traversing one of the world's great wilderness and wildlife areas.



7 NIGHTS - RIDE OF THE GIANTS

An extension of the Three Rivers Ride. Experience full emergence in the safari, complete exploration of the diversity of this vast reserve and almost guaranteed game drive sightings of lion, leopard and cheetah (Mashatu Reserve game drive).



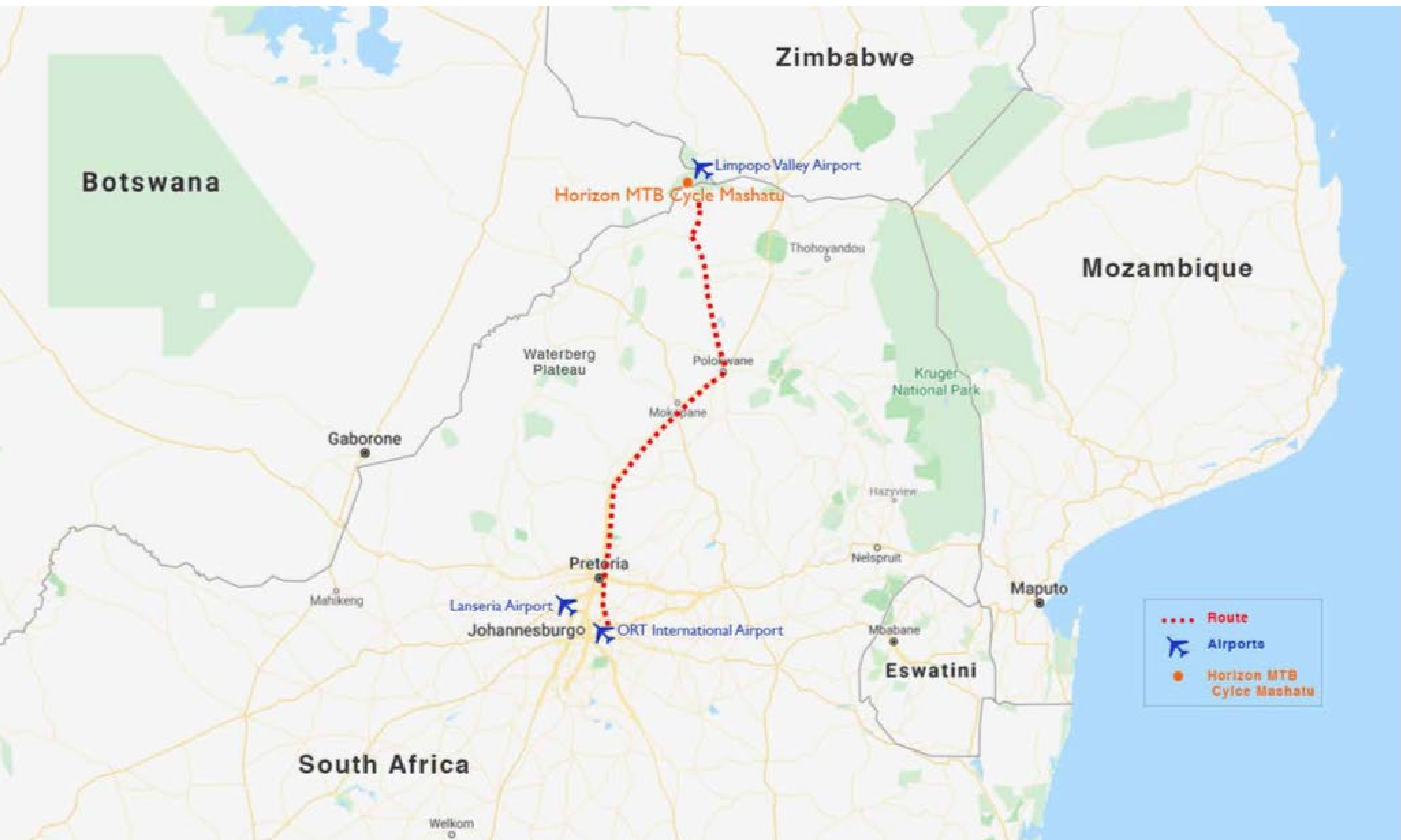
MTB CYCLING SAFARIS MAKING INDELIBLE MEMORIES

Horizon MTB—Cycle Mashatu offers a journey like no other; come join us for the ultimate African MTB safari experience. Our guides are passionate cyclists and specialist field guides who will go out of their way to ensure you have an extraordinary biking holiday experience. Catering for mixed groups, the pace, routes, and distances are tailored to suit individual fitness levels and riding ability.

The rides cover the vast Mashatu Game Reserve, known as the 'Land of the Giants'. This semi-arid landscape, bisected by numerous rivers and flanked by the mighty Limpopo, is famed for its density of elephants, gigantic Baobab trees, impressive rock formations and unsurpassed big cat sightings. Given free rein to cycle across the entire reserve, and using three or more beautifully appointed camps, we are able to tailor each cycling holiday to the needs and ambitions of the group.

Amazing safari, varied topography and abundant wildlife

LOCATION



Horizon MTB Cycle Mashatu is situated in the Northern Tuli Game Reserve on a private game reserve called Mashatu Game Reserve, south eastern Botswana.

Transfers to and from Johannesburg are by plane or road.

For flights to Botswana, the meeting point is the lobby of the Oliver Tambo International (ORT) Airport Intercontinental hotel between 10:00 and 10:30. Strict 10:30 departure. A road transfer takes guests to Lanseria airport to join a charter flight to Limpopo Valley Airfield in Mashatu, Botswana.

For road transfers, collection and transfers from ORT International airport are organised with our partner company Saddlebag Shuttles. The meeting point is the information desk in the international arrival's hall of ORT International airport at 8 am latest. The road transfer (mixed tar and gravel roads) is approximately 6 hours, depending on traffic and stops en route.

TECHNICALITY



Technical difficulty: Moderate



Distances: Between 20 and 50 km a day. A relaxed group will cover about 25km to 30km on a morning ride, with an elevation gain of 100 metres. More advanced riders might cover up to 50km with an elevation gain of up to 150 meters. The aim is to ride 3-5 hours per day at an easy going pace with regular game sightings, and a mid-morning picnic stop, the guides will pace the ride to suit the abilities of the riders.



Time: Maximum 5 hours in the saddle per day. **Altitude:** Between 500 - 650 metres.



Bikes: The bikes are Silverback Stride 29SX 29 inch generic aluminium 12 speed mountain bikes with front shocks. They have a 12 speed SRAM SX Eagle drive train and feature POP geometry, which improves balance, climbing and traction. Small, medium, large and extra-large frames are available. Pedals are flat one side and SPD cleat the other.



Guides: All cyclists are fully guided by local professional guides armed with rifles.



Tracks: Cycling is on paths trampled by herds of elephant for thousands of years, resulting in single track that is often smoother and more free-flowing than any man made equivalent. The complex interlinking network of these trails allows the guides to adjust the route to the groups requirements.





ITINERARY ROUTE



DAY 1 - RECEPTION TO TWO MASHATUS CAMP



DAY 2 - TREE CAMP



DAY 3 - RIDE IN NORTHERN AREAS OF MASHATU
AND BACK TO TREE CAMP



DAY 4 - KGOTLA CAMP



DAY 5 - THREE RIVERS RIDE RETURN TO RECEPTION.
RIDE OF THE GIANTS RIDE IN MMAMAGWA AREA
AND BACK TO KGOTLA CAMP



DAY 6 - TREE CAMP



DAY 7 - LUXURY LODGE



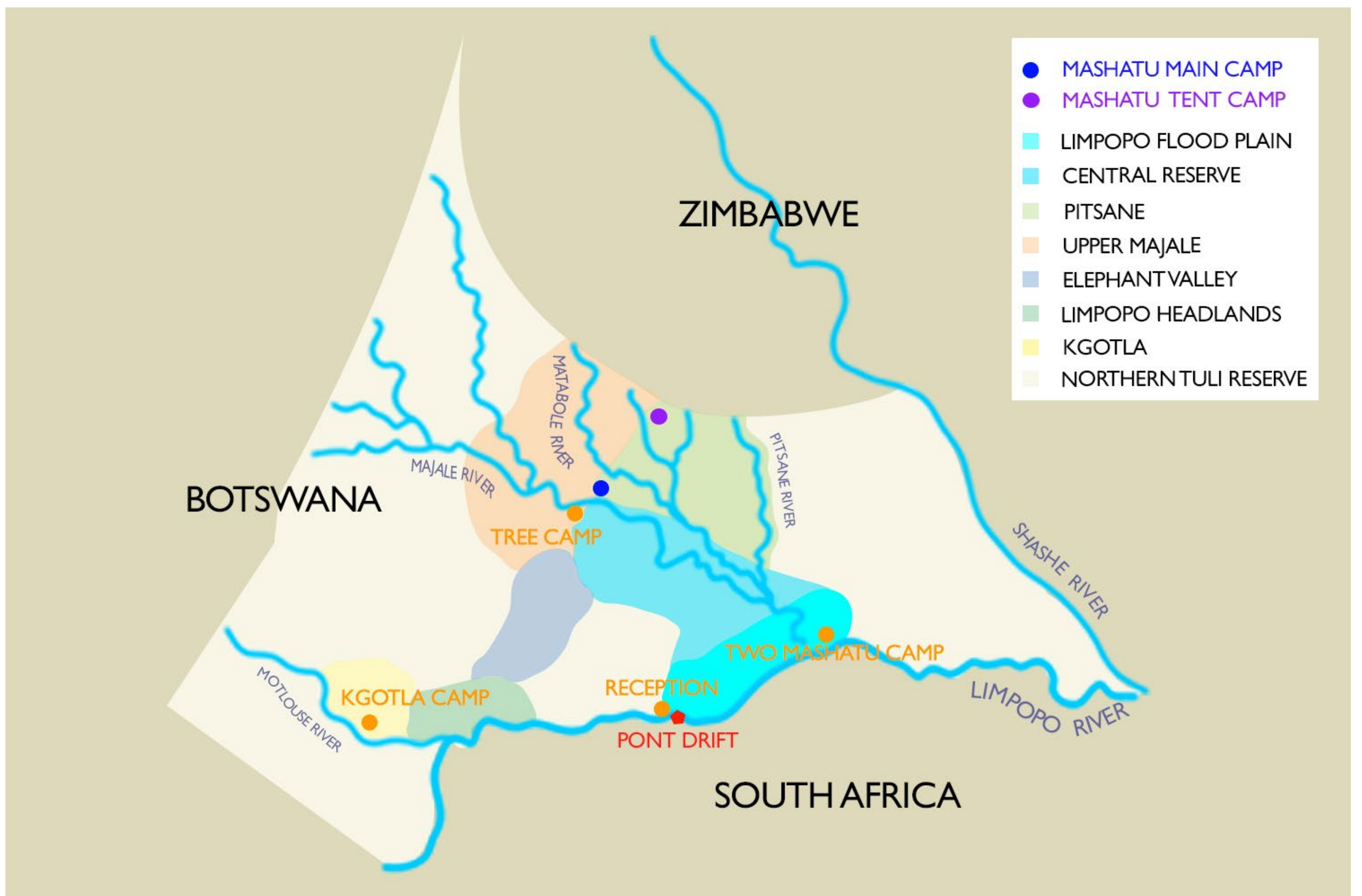
DAY 8 - BACK TO RECEPTION FOR DEPARTURE

Please note that due to changes in weather and other unforeseen events, the itinerary and accommodation used may change.

LOCATION

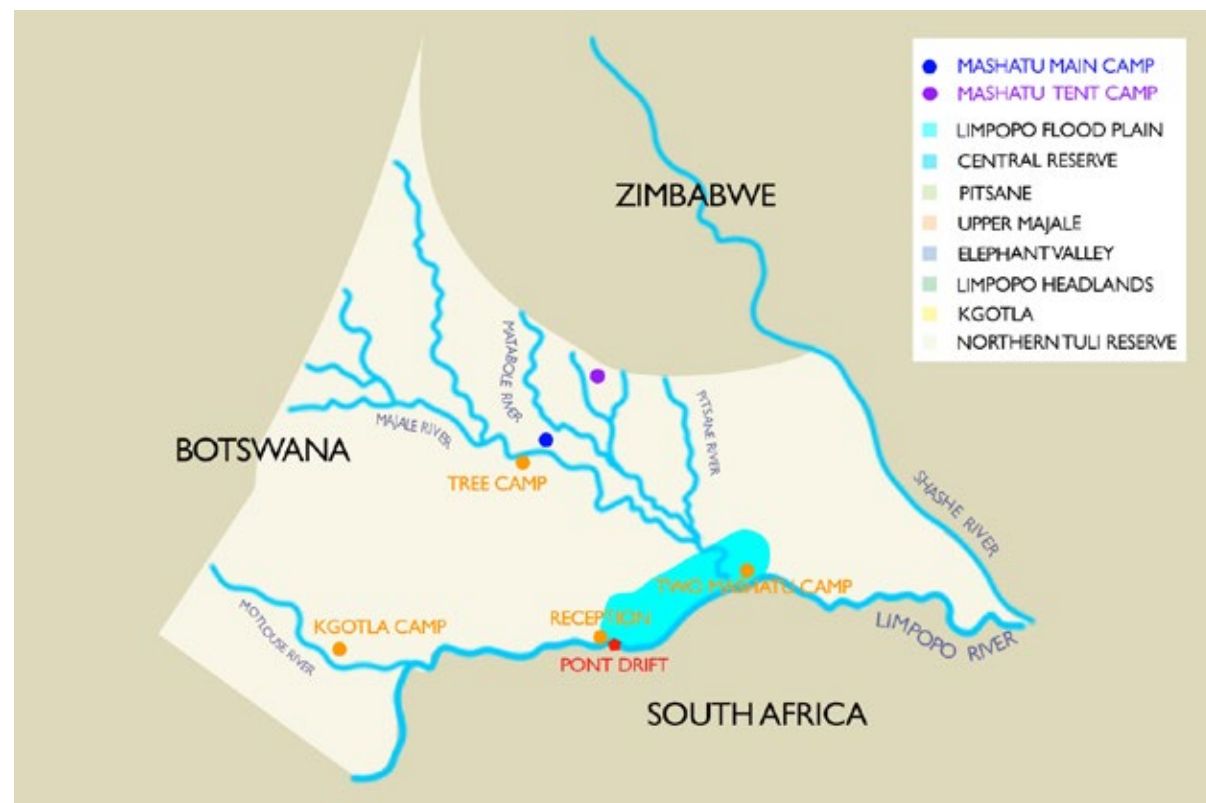


Mashatu Game Reserve, nestled within the Northern Tuli Reserve, is situated at the confluence of the Great Limpopo and Shashe Rivers in the remote eastern corner of Botswana.



Our three camps are in different regions of the reserve, each has a unique setting and distinct topography to be explored: Two Mashatus Camp, Tree Camp, and The Kgotla Camp.

DAY ONE



Guests are met at ORT International Airport in Johannesburg and transferred to Pont Drift Border Post Botswana (approx. 6 hours by car, 1.5 hours by plane), arriving in time for lunch.

That afternoon you will be fitted to your bike before heading off on your first ride across the

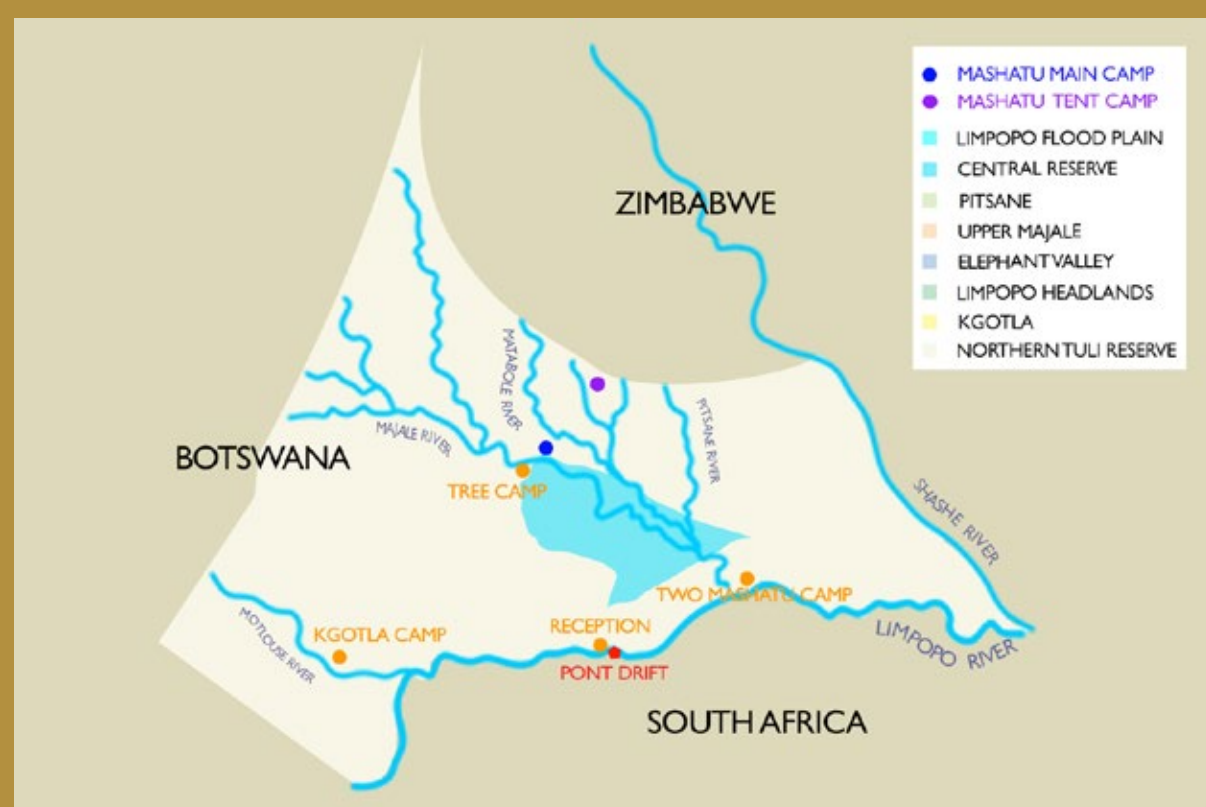
Limpopo floodplains towards our Two Mashatus Camp on the eastern perimeter of the reserve. Mashatu is home to the largest free roaming population of wild elephants on private land in Africa and encounters with these magnificent beasts will form an integral part of your experience cycling through Mashatu. Arrive in time for sundowners.

Distance approx. 20km



DAY TWO

02



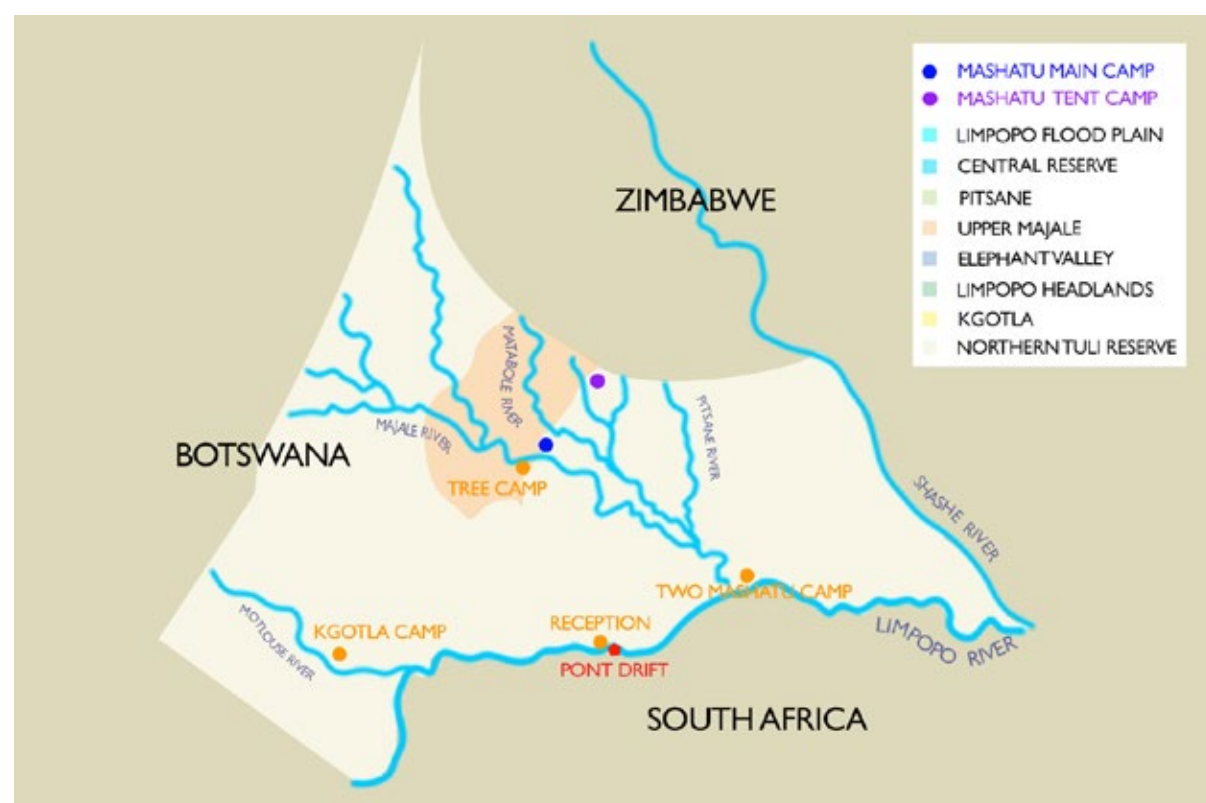
Sunrise and the dawn chorus, with tea or coffee brought to your tent and a light breakfast, marks the start of the day's adventure. From the dense woodland that hugs the Limpopo River the route heads towards the network of rivers that criss cross the centre of the reserve. This fertile area is dense in game all year round, with herds of

wildebeest, zebra, waterbuck and eland easily seen. There are numerous river crossings to navigate, with the guides constantly on the lookout for leopard, lion and cheetah. Having meandered through dense thickets and open plains, up and around gentle hills with vast views back towards South Africa, and past numerous pools surrounded by majestic Mashatu and Leadwood trees, the ride arrives at Tree Camp in time for lunch.

Nestled on the bank of the Majale River, this unique camp built on an elevated deck 4 metres off the ground, provides a safe and comfortable retreat while at the same time allowing you to experience all the sights, sounds and sensations of sleeping in the open within the upper branches of a tree. That afternoon enjoy your game drive exploring the area in search of crocodile, hyena and the big cats.

Distance approx. 20 km

DAY THREE



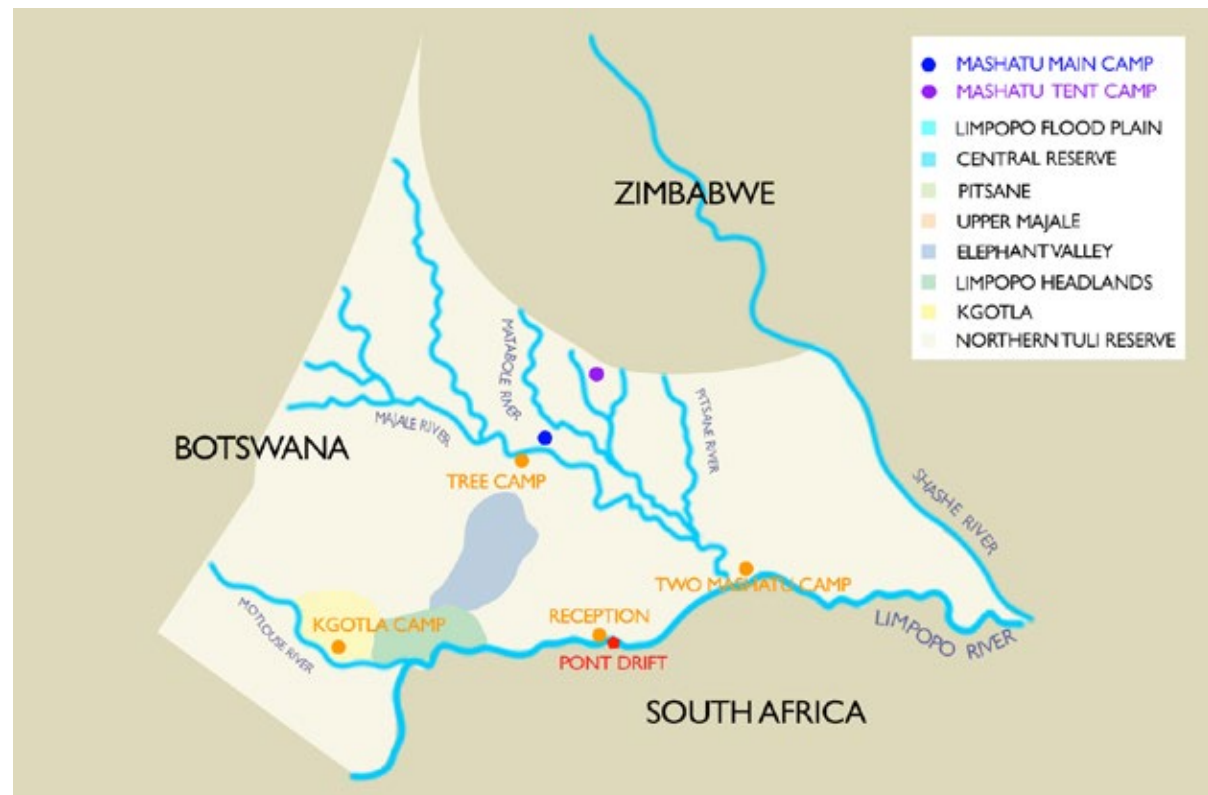
Setting off early is key as it is cooler and leads to excellent game sightings. Giant Baobab trees continue to scatter the landscape as they have for centuries. You will spend the day in excellent cycling country of the Upper Majale area, with some fun riverbanks and rocky routes to add a bit of variety to the day.

Return to Tree Camp for lunch before enjoying a guided bush walk or a sundowner game drive along the north of the Majale River.

Distance approx. 20-45 km

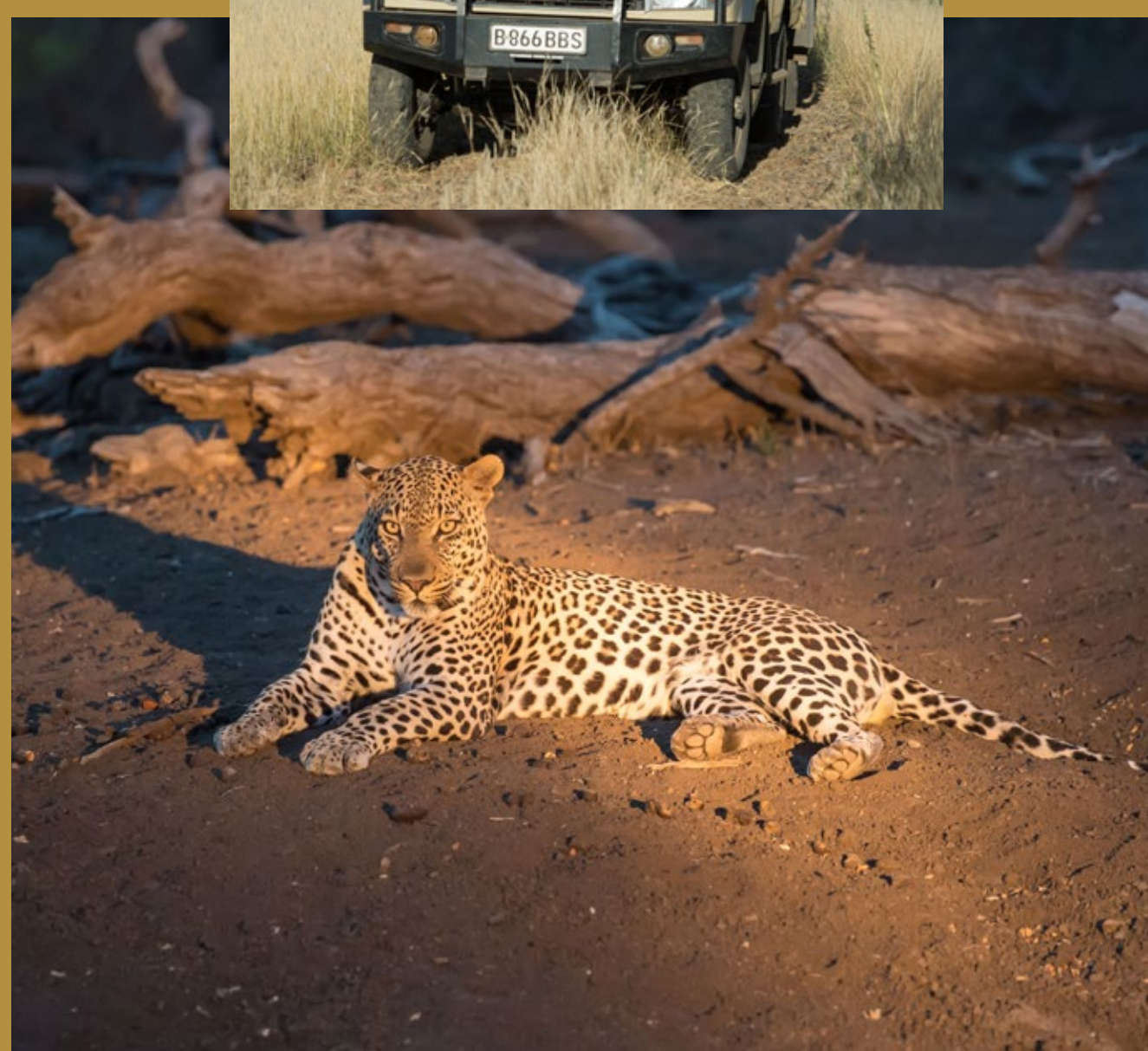


DAY FOUR

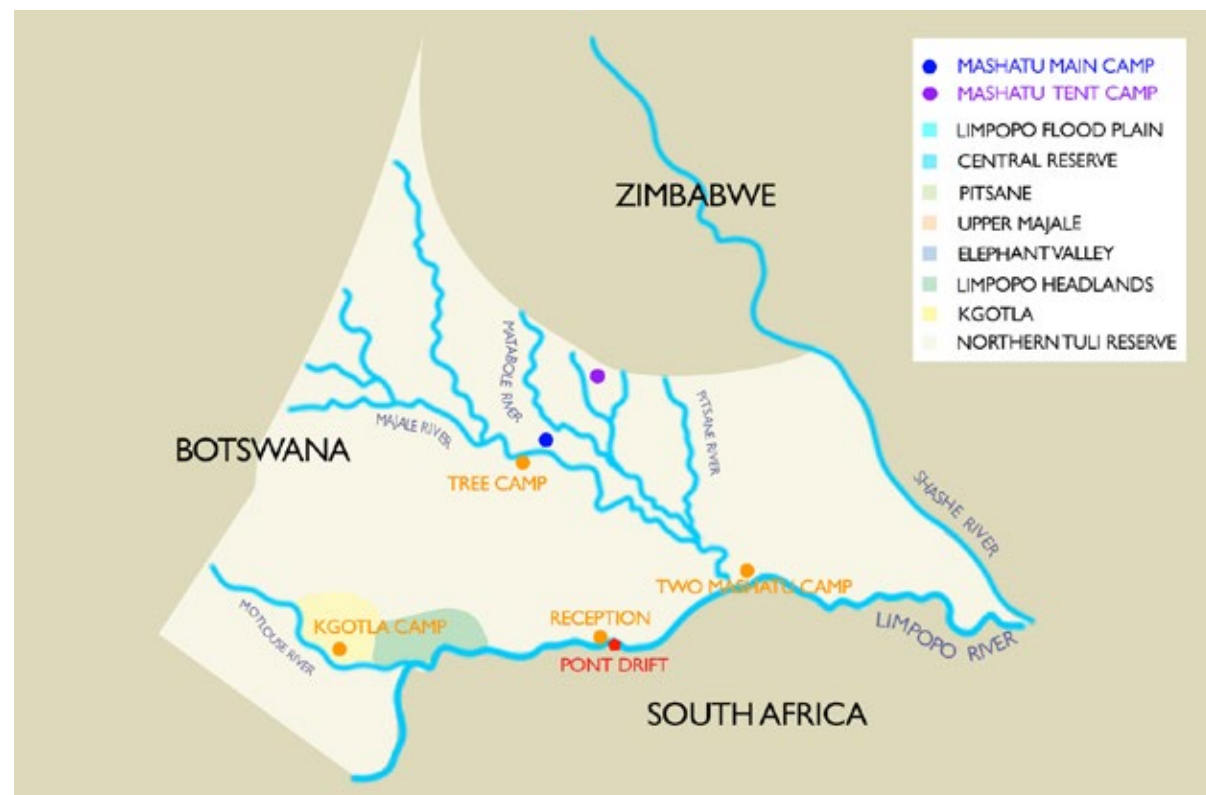


The route bends southwards through Elephant Valley towards the Limpopo headlands. This area provides some faster downhill riding with excellent opportunities of spotting giraffe. As the mighty river is approached, the topography changes dramatically to ancient rock formations synonymous with the famous archeological sites of the Limpopo Valley.

The trail ends alongside the banks of the Motloutse River at an old Leadwood 'Kgotla' (or enclosure used for a traditional law court). In the afternoon, we search for the area's resident lions on a game drive and draw the day's adventures to a close with sundowners at the ancient "Amphitheatre" rocks. Back at the Kgotla, dinner is enjoyed around a large log fire. This open-air enclosure forms the perfect, secure camp for the night and is just about as far away from city life and the modern world as anyone can imagine. Distance approx. 20-45 km



DAY FIVE



For the **Three Rivers Ride** only, enjoy your last cycle in the Limpopo Valley. This is a great opportunity to snap one last picture of elephants and enjoy a long and winding ride through the scattered mustard bush with your guides. You will arrive back at the reception area with plenty time to enjoy a hot shower and a tasty brunch, before saying farewell to Mashatu.

Distance 20 km.

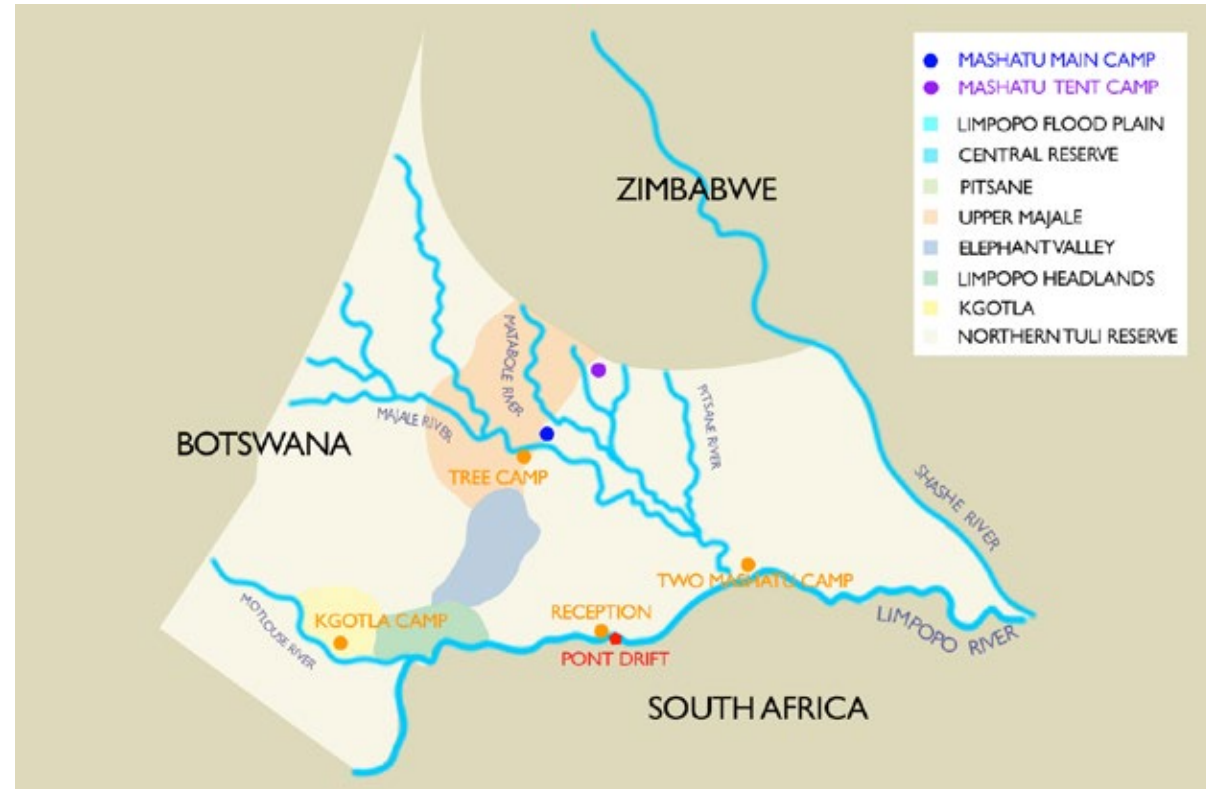
Cyclists on the **Ride of the Giants** continue to explore the Kgotla area, including the many sandstone formations, the famed Solomon's Wall, one of the numerous dolerite dykes in the area. Some of the oldest civilisations in southern Africa settled in this valley. Archaeological evidence in the area includes middle and late stone age tools, rock art and the legendary Mapungubwe Dynasty (1220 AD). Distance approx. 25 km.

In the afternoon enjoy a game drive in one of the most game rich areas of Mashatu. For the most visually stunning and ethereal sundowner, we visit the Mmamagwa Hill. A short climb up this impressive sandstone massif leads to the site of the famed Rhodes Baobab and a rich iron age site of similar period to the nearby Mapungubwe world heritage site. To date these ruins have not been excavated; it is conceivable that similar treasures to those found at Mapungubwe (for example the golden rhino) could be buried here. Sundowners beneath the beautiful Baobab tree with a breath-taking view of the area.



DAY SIX

06

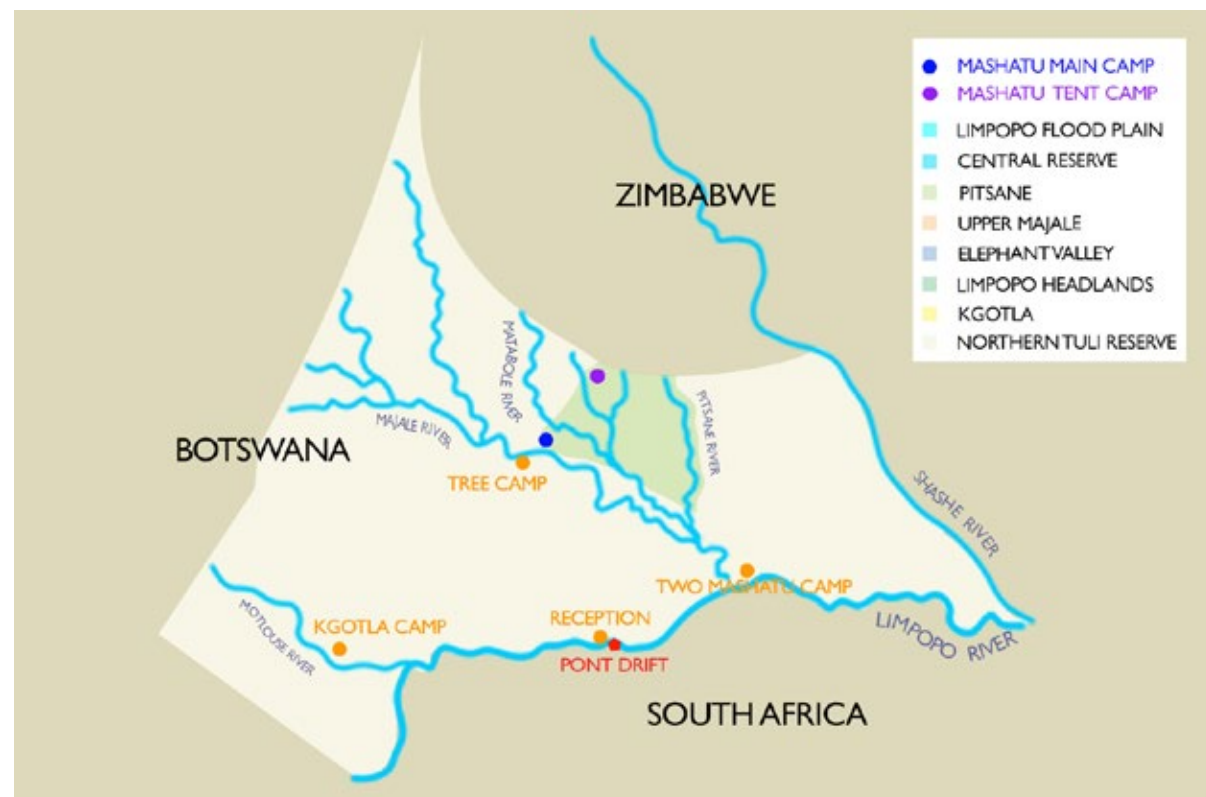


Wind up Elephant Valley along ancient trails stamped into the soil by centuries of migrating elephants, before heading north towards upper reaches of the Majale River. This area is peppered with enormous baobab trees and is one of the more remote areas of the reserve. After an exhilarating cycle through this timeless countryside, enjoy a relaxing lunch at Tree Camp.

An afternoon bush walk or game drive exploring the northern banks of the Majale, Matabole and Jwala rivers. Distance between 20-45 km.



DAY SEVEN



Today's cycling promises abundant game and spectacular views across the Pitsane area. The route follows the historical stagecoach line, called Zeederbergs, which ran from the towns of the Transvaal in South Africa to the newly forged settlements of Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe.

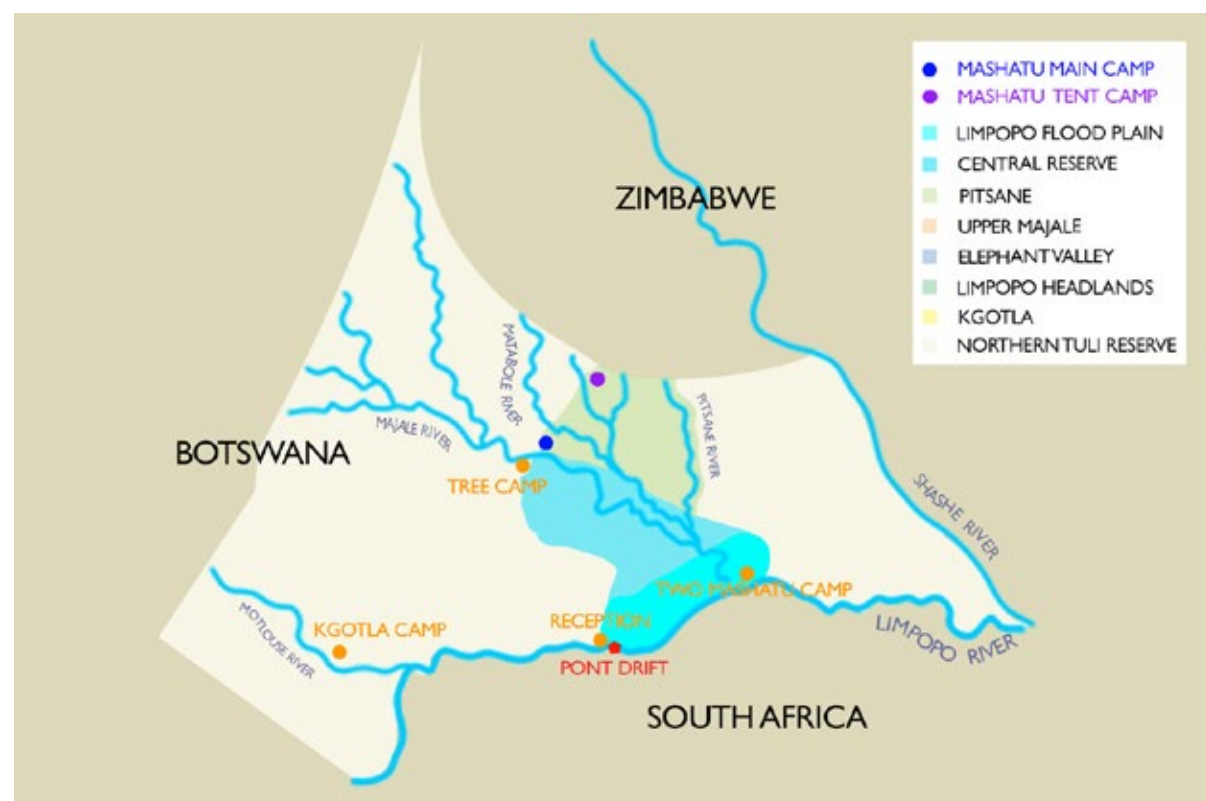
This leads to the upper reaches of the Pitsani River where history has it, there was a skirmish during the Boer war which destroyed Bryce's Store, an old British supply post. By now cyclists are fully attuned to the rhythms of this natural world, with the last vestiges of modern living left far behind. The route then winds its way back to one of Mashatu's luxury camps or lodges for the chance of a well deserved dose of comfort and relaxation.

That afternoon and evening, a game drive hosted by Mashatu Game Reserve takes you in search of the big cats in the Central Reserve. The chances of seeing leopard, lion and cheetah on this drive are some of the best anywhere in Africa.

Distance approx. 20-45 km.



DAY EIGHT



The morning ride takes you back through the Central Reserve and Limpopo Floodplains to your original starting point. Your last cycle in the Limpopo Valley is a great opportunity to snap one last picture of the elephants or a journey of giraffe. The going is easy and mostly downhill, with the mood jovial and relaxed.

What a great way to bring an epic trip to a close. You will arrive back at the reception area with plenty time to enjoy a hot shower and a tasty brunch, before saying farewell to Mashatu.

Distance approx. 15-25 km.





ACCOMMODATION - THE CAMPS

TWO MASHATUS CAMP

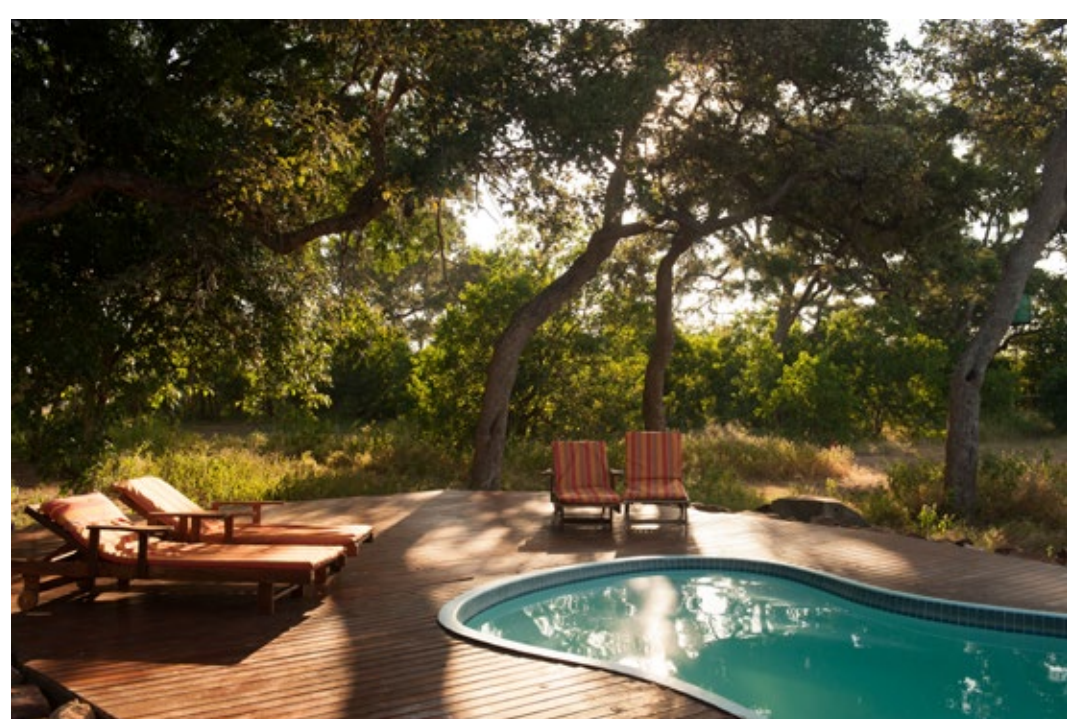
TREE CAMP

KGOTLA

MASHATU CAMP OR LODGE



TWO MASHATUS CAMP



Nestled in the shade of two large Mashatu trees, the heart of the camp has two traditionally built Lala Palm rondavels for dining and lounge areas.

Guest accommodation is in large A-frame walk-in tents set on teak platforms each with en-suite bathrooms. Each tent is private and positioned in the shade of a tree in the bush, not far from the main area. Each tent has a small deck area in front where guests can relax privately during the afternoons.

Two Mashatu also has a small swimming pool under a Mashatu tree for guests to enjoy.



TREE CAMP



This is a very unique camp; any childhood dream of sleeping up in the arms of a tree, will be completely fulfilled here. Nestled in the bough of a giant Mashatu tree and two ancient Leadwood trees, this Seligna deck, 4 metres off the ground, will be your retreat for the night.

Two guests each share an airy and cool sleeping pod. Along a short walkway, shared showers and toilets are under the Leadwood trees.

The spacious dining and lounge area flow from the sleeping pods and overlook the Majale River. This truly extraordinary camp is one that will be remembered and spoken about for years to come.



KGOTLA



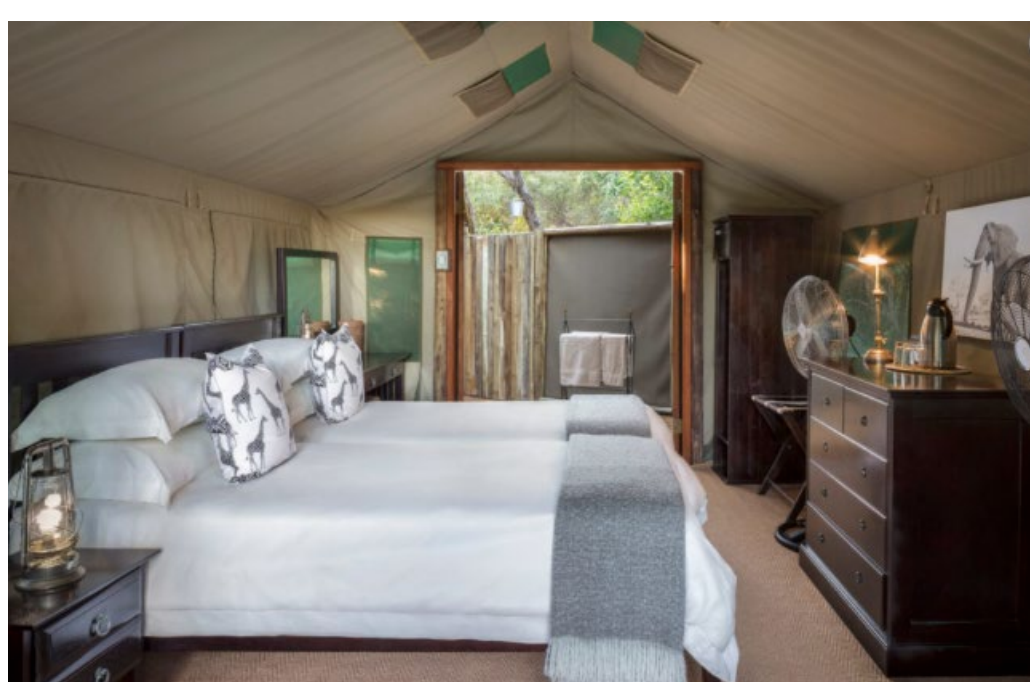
The 'Kgotla' is an old traditional court enclosure from a nearby community, which was relocated to the banks of the Motloutse River on the western periphery of Mashatu. This open-air enclosure, made of Leadwood logs, provides a secure location for a camp.

The camp has hot running water, beautiful open-air showers and flushing toilets: the perfect combination for comfort and an authentic bush experience. Guests sleep on single beds around a large log fire in the centre of the enclosure.

The highlight of this camp to guests is sleeping in the open under the stars and listening to the resonance of an Africa evening..



CAMP OR LODGE



One of the three camps used for the Ride of the Giants Day 7 is Mashatu Tent Camp, as depicted here. It is almost one with the environment; blink and you might miss it! This tented camp is the leisure choice for the guest who seeks the ultimate one-on-one bush experience and who prefers a more intimate environment.

Eight completely private tents are tucked under the branches of enormous trees, accessible via meandering pathways. The tents themselves are spacious, comfortable and large enough that adults need not duck to move around in. Each is mounted on a concrete platform and has its own private outdoor en-suite facilities, including toilet and shower.

Accommodation will be confirmed at time of booking.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



Conservation levy: In Botswana, a conservation levy of \$10 per person per night is payable on arrival (equivalent can be paid in \$, £, €, or Rands).



Group size: Maximum 10 guests. Minimum 2 guests.



Rates: Inclusive of accommodation, guides, bike hire, beverages (local wines and spirits), meals, tea/coffee, game drives and bush walks.



Game Viewing: Plains game, giraffe, hippo, elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah, bat eared fox, wild dog and hyena.



Age restrictions: Children under 16 please enquire, strictly no under 12's.



Tips and merchandise: Payable locally by cash or card.



Helmets: Cycling helmets are mandatory.



JOIN US SOON...

