

Where to stay

All the camps in the Okavango Delta are of the highest standard and it is impossible to single out one as being better than another. They are all run by highly reputable companies and offer only the best. Most of them offer water activities such as boat rides, mokoro rides and fishing, as well as game viewing, birdwatching, walks, etc. I safely recommend all of them, but I can guide the reader by singling out specific activities offered at the different camps. Keep in mind that camps situated within a game reserve or national park have to follow the park rules and therefore are unable to offer night drives, walks or fishing. However, they are often situated in the prime wildlife spots and game viewing is superb. Some of the camps offer special activities such as Elephant interaction, Elephant rides or horse riding.

There is only one camp in the delta where one can do Elephant rides - Abu Camp. It is very up-market and highly recommended. If you want the opportunity to interact with Elephants, I suggest you stay at Stanley's Camp which does the bookings for Grey Matters (*see box below*). Recently White Rhinos have been re-introduced onto Chief's Island in the Moremi Game Reserve and it is probably the only place where one can see these animals in the Okavango. If Rhinos are high on your list of priorities, I suggest a stay at Mombo or Chief's Camp (*see box on "Re-introduction of Rhinos" on pg 228*). For horse riding activities, one has to book through African Horseback Safaris or Okavango Horse Safaris. For more detailed descriptions of each camp refer to the *Bradt Guide to Botswana* by Chris McIntyre.

Grey Matters and the 'Living with Elephants Foundation'

Grey Matters was started by Doug and Sandi Groves in 1994 with their trio of Elephants - Jabu, Thembi and Morula. They have a camp in the Ditshipi area and offer elephant interaction activities through the nearby lodge, Stanley's Camp. In 1999 Doug and Sandi started a non-profit organisation called the 'Living with Elephants Foundation'. The foundation undertakes various projects aimed at ensuring a harmonious relationship between the local population of Botswana and the Elephants. They offer opportunities for school children to interact with the Elephants at no profit. By bringing people into close contact with the Elephants, they create a better understanding of them and an appreciation of their intelligence. I had the opportunity to spend a few days with Doug and Sandi and I was struck by their selfless dedication to Elephants, specifically their commitment to solve the dilemma of these mega-herbivores and the ever-dwindling space

that is available to them. To find out more, contact: Doug and Sandi at:
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Doug and Sandi Groves with one of their Elephants