

Mashatu FAM Trip 29 March to 2 April 2025

Report from Diane Jacobs



Mashatu Game Reserve in Botswana's Northern Tuli Game Reserve covers 42,000 hectares of privately owned land. It is a conserved wilderness area co-owned by Mashatu Investments and the Botswana Development Corporation. Known for its cat sightings, we spotted cats daily during our late March visit this year. The reserve has the following offerings:

Tuli Safari Lodge 4*, Mashatu Lodge 4*, Mashatu Tented Camp 4*, Kolokolo Safari Home 5*

Euphorbia Safari Villas 5*

Top-class accommodation with an incredible river view, surrounded by numerous Euphorbia trees. The property features 8 suites and 1 guide room, perfect for romantic couples, each offering private plunge pools. Rooms are equipped with iPads containing apps for birding and information on flora and fauna. They also serve to communicate with the dedicated villa staff.

At Euphorbia, we visited the Matabele Hide, a unique alternative to a game drive. Guests enjoy close-up views of elephants and birds from the underground hide. A professional photographer offers tips for capturing moments on cameras or cell phones. Snacks and drinks are served before returning to the lodge for dinner. The Fly camp was a trip highlight - spending a night under the stars in one-man tents with luxurious mattresses and clear skies was truly special. A bush dinner at the camp added to this memorable camping experience.

The highlights for me were the people – super welcoming, enthusiastic, dedicated and all the rooms / tents and suites were beautifully appointed and comfortable.

Limpopo Valley Airport is convenient, and I highly recommend taking a flight either to or from there as the road transfer took 5.5 hours - not uncomfortable but time-consuming, which I would prefer spending in the reserve.

I had a wonderful experience and would highly recommend Mashatu to photographers and travelers who enjoy vast landscapes, giant trees, and exceptional cat sightings!