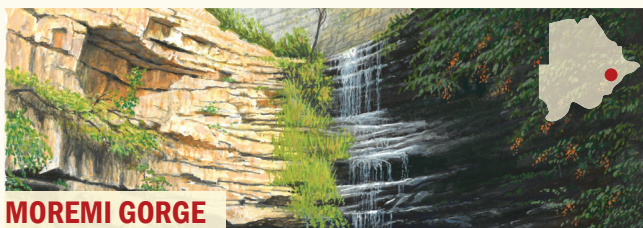


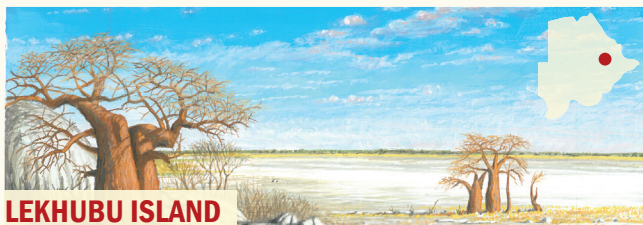
PLACES OF INTEREST In Botswana



MOREMI GORGE

Moremi Gorge is an ancestral place located in the Tswapong Hills in the central part of Botswana. With its ever flowing water which springs from underground, snaking through a mountain range and forming awesome waterfalls and waterholes along the way, the Gorge has the evergreen thick vegetation that makes the view even more extraordinary in an otherwise arid region. The Gorge, which never runs dry, is situated about 60 km east of Palapye. It has five water falls which will take one approximately 2 to 3hrs to traverse from the first to the fifth waterfall.

Our stamp depicts the third waterfall with its green vegetation and some of the fruits of the Broom Cluster fig tree (*Ficus sur*; **Mokoyo** in Setswana) found in that area. It is believed that ancestral people used to feed it to their livestock to make them more fertile.



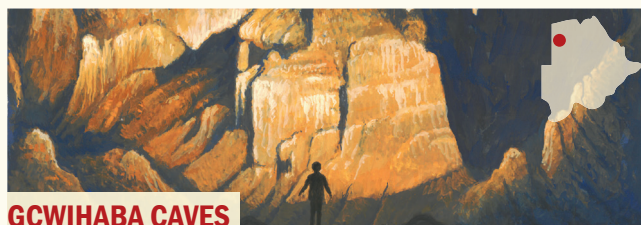
LEKHUBU ISLAND

Lekhubu is situated along the shoreline of the Sua Pan, off the main track between Gweta, Nata and Letlhakane. The island is an ancient, 20-metre high outcrop of rock, surrounded by an equally ancient sea of salt, which was once one of the largest in-land paleolakes in Africa, Lake Makgadikgadi.

The island is made up of large granite boulders, and surrounded by giant, ghostly baobab trees (**Mowana** in

This stamp issue depicts the beauty of Moremi Gorge (an Eden located in the Tswapong Hills in the middle of the dry Central District of the country), Sedudu Island (the controversially disputed piece of land between Botswana and Namibia on the Chobe River), Lekhubu Island (the mystic outcrop of rocks with its iconic baobabs) & the ancient Gcwihaba (Gcwihaba) or “Drotsky’s” Caves (located in the Okavango Delta region, which has been put forward as a World Heritage Site).

Setswana, *Adansonia digitata* - scientific name). For the residents of the area, Lekhubu is a sacred place which is ideal for traditional ceremonies, rituals and customs. The residents still visit the site to ask God for rain and make offerings. Traditional taboos governing the use of the island prohibit removal of rocks, fruits and hunting of animals.



GCWIHABA CAVES

Certainly one of the wildest and most remote destinations in Botswana, Gcwihaba is a fascinating underground labyrinth of caverns and pits, linked passages, fantastical stalagmite and stalactite formations, and beautifully coloured flowstones that appear like waterfalls of rock. The caves, which are situated in the Kalahari Desert some 50km east of the Aha Caves, are also known as Drotsky’s Caves - named after a European local farmer, Martinus Drotsky, who “discovered” them in the 1930’s after being shown them by the local San community.

Some of the caverns are up to 10 metres high, while some are so tiny that one needs to squeeze, or crawl on the belly, to get through them; and some stalactites measure up to six metres in height, meeting their cousin stalagmites to form beautiful organic columns that seem to support the entire cave roof.

Moving from the more commonly used northern entrance, you’ll come across the caves’ most common residents - thousands of bats hanging upside down from the top of the caves.

The caves are home to the large Commersons Leaf-nosed Bat, the tiny Dent’s Horseshoe bat and the Egyptian Slit Faced bat, all of which are completely harmless,

Depicted in the stamp is the diminutive Dent’s Horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus denti*). This bat is dependent on a limited number of caves where it lives during the day. The Gcwihaba Cave contains the largest population of this species (over 10,000 individuals), but these bats move across the region using different caves. The conservation of caves is important to protect other cave dwelling bat species.

Find out more on how to conserve and support bat conservation see AfricanBats NPC (www.africanbats.org).



SEDUDU ISLAND

Sedudu Island (also known locally as “Kasikili Island”) is a fluvial island in Botswana’s Chobe River which borders Namibia. This uninhabited 5km sq. area is submerged by floods during rainy seasons. While touring around the island via the Chobe River by boat, it is a perfect place for visitors to marvel at a truly magnificent African sunset, scenery, birdlife, and prolific wildlife. A common sight on the island which thrills tourists and locals alike, are the very large herds of elephant and buffalo that migrate on and off the island daily, as well as seasonally during the drier months of the year.

The place is not only known for its touristic significance, it also holds some historical interest, arising from the territorial dispute between Botswana and Namibia over rightful ownership of the piece of land, which was resolved in 1999 by the International Court of Justice, which ruled in favour of Botswana. The Botswana National Flag has since been put on the island as a way of showing unimpeded geographical ownership and access for Botswana. ●

