

TRAVEL TIPS

Where: Okavango River, western Delta, from Makwena to Shakawe

When: Mid-September through to mid-November (occasionally as late as December)

What to take: There are numerous accommodation options, from upmarket camps and live-aboard houseboats, to self-catering bungalows or camping wild. Therefore, depending on personal preferences and budget, you'll take either simply your clothing and tackle, or everything including comprehensive camping gear and 4x4 vehicles.

Precautions: Malaria prophylactics or suitable insect repellent and clothes. Correct vehicle documentation, if you're driving. Comprehensive first-aid kit, if you're roughing it.

Websites: www.tourettefishing.com
www.botswanaturism.gov.bw

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best to match the fly to the light- and water conditions with the aim of achieving maximum visibility. This means I go for dark, bulky flies in low light and dirtier water conditions, and brighter, slimmer flies in bright, clear conditions.

When tigerfish are actively feeding and can be seen breaking the surface, good fun is to be had with surface flies. I have found Crease flies perform better than most other surface flies in these scenarios, which is probably due to their profile on the surface. Do not, however, expect to come back with much of your fly! Flies tied Clouser- or bend-back style are recommended as they are less likely to foul-hook barbel.

For those whose bodies are reduced to a jumbled mess of adrenaline-soaked nerves after a couple of hours of tiger-fishing, respite is never far off. The many backwaters and sheltered lagoons offer the perfect locations for relaxing while grabbing a quick bite to eat, maybe a cold drink, and the bonus opportunity to target some of the delta's less ferocious inhabitants. Threespot tilapia, nembwe, African pike and even silver barbel all provide great sport, not to mention a challenge, on light 4/5-wt outfits.

For family members, friends or partners unlucky enough not to be afflicted by your addiction, the western delta is host to some of Africa's finest wilderness and home to many (some quite rare and many endemic) species of mammal and bird. Exploring the numerous islands and channels on foot or by mokoro allows visitors an in depth view into this emerald wilder-



Darren and Jennifer with their spoils – a big barbel and tigerfish – and a nembwe, one of the most exciting sporting species amongst the cichlids.