



Waterfalls and wildlife galore Zimbabwe and Botswana 14 days

14 DAYS FROM EUR 1750 (see details below)

HIGHLIGHTS

• Glorious Victoria Falls • Glimpse into the local lifestyle of Victoria Falls township • Chobe National Park game drive and cruise • Peaceful Okavango Delta on a mokoro • Rhino track and trace in Matopo National Park • Cocooning at Sable Sands Lodge • Sustainable tourism and cultural exchange: visiting the Lukhosi village community and the extinct painted dogs • Exciting game drives in Hwange National Park

THE FACTS:

Tour duration	14 days
Start	Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)
End	Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)
Type of trip	overland lodges and camping safari
Means of transport	minibus (airco), 4x4 safari car
Accommodation	chalets, lodges (eco friendly), tents
Number of participants	6-12 persons
Crew	a driver mechanic and a guide/cook
Catering	breakfast, lunch, dinner (only when indicated on the travel route)

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Flight from Amsterdam/Brussels to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

DAY 2 Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Welcome to Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls! You will be met and transferred to your lodge. This will be Lokuthula Lodges, overlooking the Zambezi National Park or Bayete Guest Lodge. Both lodges have en-suite rooms and a swimming pool, bar and restaurant. In the evening you will meet your guide and the rest of the group for your pre-departure meeting at the lodge. After we have dinner at own cost in the Makuwakuwa restaurant. Together we will enjoy our first typical African dinner of the journey.

Your accommodation: Lokuthula Lodges or Bayethe Guest lodges

DAY 3 Spectacular Smoke that Thunders and chilling sunset cruise

After breakfast you will be taken to the mighty Victoria Falls, known by the local Kololo tribe as Mosi-oa-Tunya, which is 'The Smoke that Thunders'. These are among the most spectacular waterfalls in the world. The Zambezi River, which is nearly 2 km wide at this point, plunges noisily down a series of basalt gorges and raises an iridescent mist that can be seen more than 20 km away. (UNESCO World Heritage)

If you visited the falls yesterday, you can use this day to do an optional activity, such as a lion walk or a helicopter / micro-light flight above the water masses. Late afternoon you have an option of getting on a sunset cruise on the Zambezi river 4 km upstream of the falls. Enjoy the grandeur of a beautiful sunset on the Zambezi and start spotting some of the big five. [B]

Your accommodation: Lokuthula Lodges or Bayethe Guest lodges

DAY 4 To the big herds of elephants in Chobe National Park, Botswana

An early morning departure takes you from Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe on to Botswana. After crossing the Kazungula border into Botswana you immediately jump in a 4x4 safari vehicle right into Chobe National Park for a morning game drive. This third largest park of the country has one of the largest concentrations of game. And is widely known for its spectacular elephant population: it contains an estimated 50,000 elephants, perhaps the highest elephant concentration of Africa. In the afternoon a cruise on the Chobe River will provide a truly unforgettable experience and one of the best ways to view the wildlife and the stunning sunset. [BLD]

Your accommodation: Thebe River Lodge or Chobe Safari Lodge or similar

Travel distance: 100km

DAY 5 Off to the gateway of the Okavango Delta

After an early breakfast we depart for a full day drive to the town of Maun known as the gateway to the Okavango Delta. From here we prepare ourselves for a 3-day / 2-night exploration of one of the most iconic and greatest aquatic landscapes of Africa. There is almost something cinematic about the Okavango Delta, with the rising and falling of its waters, its dramatic wildlife encounters, its soundtrack of roaring lions, maniacal giggling hyenas, growling leopards and grunting hippos, the mysteries concealed by its papyrus reeds and ghostly looking trees. The delta, the up-to-18,000-sq-km expansion of the Okavango River, is Southern Africa's massive outpouring of fertility. The waters never make it to the sea, but they sustain vast quantities of wildlife that shift with the seasons in this mother of waters. (UNESCO World Heritage site)

We will arrive Maun in time for taking an optional scenic flight over the delta (dependent on weather conditions & availability). After dinner we prepare our provisions and daypacks for our excursion. Your trip leader will brief you fully on what supplies are needed, and what to expect prior to your trip to the delta. [BLD]

Your accommodation: The Old Bridge Backpackers / Sitatunga Camp

Travel distance: 600 km

DAY 6 Visiting one of the world's largest inland river deltas

Today you will witness a huge expanse of water, which has travelled from the Angolan highlands, spreading out to form the largest inland delta in the world. Studded with exotic islands, the delta is renowned for its incredible variety of bird life and animals. The region is crowded with many local villages where families live in a traditional way. Some of the villages are very remote and can only be reached by the traditional mode of transport – the mokoro, a dugout canoe.

After an early rise, we pack our expedition vehicle and from Maun we drive north for a couple of hours to reach the mokoro poler's station. From here we take part in a 3-day / 2-night drive in and mokoro excursion into the delta. We meet our 'polers', local guides who are going to manoeuvre us through the waterways by 'poling' the mokoros through the reeds. After some time on the channels, our guides find us a place to camp, situated

in an open outback area with no ablution facilities. Later we will experience the remote wilderness on foot. Tonight we sit on the campfire and share story telling with our local guides. [BLD]

Your accommodation: bush camping
Travel distance: 25 km

DAY 7 Peaceful Okavango delta

A day of rest, relaxation and delta experiences awaits. Today we have the opportunity to partake in a number of activities including swimming, game walks, mokoro cruises and even a chance to try our hands at poling our own mokoro! During the hotter hours of the day you may want to do nothing or challenge your new friends to a game of cards, or chat with your guides about their culture and lifestyle. Or simply lie back and enjoy the sounds of the surrounding wildlife habitat. But make sure you always have your camera ready as you get guided through the dozens of mazes. The network of water pathways covered by thick vegetation beholds a variety of birds and wildlife and waterbuck or other animals living in this water filled paradise. It's a bird lover's paradise, with over 400 species of birds. And there are 70 species of fish and an abundance of wildlife. Your experience in the delta will leave you wanting to explore the whole of Africa! [BLD]

Your accommodation: bush camping

DAY 8 To Nata

This morning after breakfast we bid farewell to the delta. We reunite with our transport just before lunch, and proceed to Nata to cut short our drive the next day. Our accommodation is Nata Lodge, set in an oasis among the Mokolwane palms on the edge of the Makgadikgadi salt pans. [BLD]

Your accommodation: Nata Lodge
Travel distance: 300 km

DAY 9 Back to Zimbabwe

After we had breakfast we head north to Francistown where we will cross the border back into Zimbabwe. Our accommodation is an outstanding Matobo Hill Lodge situated on a private game reserve on the boundary of Matopo National park, a home to black and white rhinos. Matobo Hill is an area of exquisite beauty, the lodge's accommodation units are built upon a granite outcrop with sweeping panoramic views over the surrounding hills. You have a free afternoon to marvel the sunset from the balancing rocks around the lodge. [BLD]

Your accommodation: Matobo Hill Lodge
Travel distance: 335 km

DAY 10 Matopo National park: Rhino track and trace

An early start to explore Matopo National park, home to the largest population of white and black rhinos. The park is one of Zimbabwe's major tourist attractions, less than a twenty minutes' drive from our lodge. Traveling through a dramatic landscape you will see huge granite outcrops in a dramatic and enveloping scenery that is truly extraordinary. Here we will go on a walking safari tracking the rhinos on foot. Once a home to the San (bushman), this area contains the richest source of their rock art found everywhere. We visit a number of caves learning the way of living of this special tribe on the verge of extinction. (UNESCO World Heritage site) [BLD]

Your accommodation: Matobo Hill Lodge/ Farmhouse Matobo Hills.

DAY 11 Short stop-over in Bulawayo and proceeding to Dete Vlei

After breakfast we drive into Bulawayo (the City of Kings), for a short stop over. Here we give you a chance to do some shopping or visit the recommended Natural History museum as we further proceed to the next lovely destination. On the edge of the famous Hwange National Park, on a private concession that boasts stunning views of the dried riverbed named the 'Dete Vlei', stands a rustic eco lodge within the pristine teak and mopani forest called Sable Sands Lodge. Here we have a midday to take in the tranquil which the area and the lovely team of Sable Sands brings. A free afternoon to sit and watch animals come to drink at the solar pumped water hole. [BLD]

Your accommodation: Sable Sands lodge

Travel distance: 311 km

DAY 12 Village walk, back on route and wild dog orphanage

After watching the early morning animals drink and having breakfast, we head to our next two visits, starting with the Painted (or Wild) Dog Conservation near by Hwange National Park. The Wild Dog population in Zimbabwe is one of the last strongholds of the species and this place is committed to their conservation, with the local people. After we will continue to one of our community projects. Meet the people of Lukhosi and learn how they survive in this dry region of Zimbabwe. Here Afari Adventures is conducting a project on building blair toilets for families who don't have any toilets (depending on the season of the year our sustainable project can change). The villagers will prepare lunch. Our final destination for today is the campsite in the heart of Hwange National park, Sinamatella camp. We go back to basics in a 2-day authentic African wild life experience! [BLD]

Your accommodation: bush camping

Travel distance: 119 km

DAY 13 Morning and afternoon game drives in Hwange National Park

Hwange National Park is the largest park in Zimbabwe occupying roughly 14,650 square kilometers. It is located in the northwest corner of the country, about one-and-a-half-hour south from Vic Falls. Hwange boasts a tremendous selection of wildlife with over one hundred species of mammals and nearly 400 recorded bird species.

Today we start the day before sunrise, with an early cup of coffee before setting off to a morning game drive in an open safari vehicle. We will come back to camp for a brunch and return to one of the waterholes where we will spend our afternoon waiting for animals like lions, elephants and all the different types of antelopes to come to drink and take a bath. The elephants of the park are world famous and its population is one of the largest in the world. Our aim is to spot the big five. And we have a good chance! After the heat of the day has cooled down we proceed on a game drive. In the evening we will have our first campfire, where we'll share the experiences of the day as well as other heroic stories. [BLD]

Your accommodation: Bush camping

Travel distance: 45 km

DAY 14 Last game drive and back to Victoria Falls

After breakfast we put down our camp and slowly do a game drive on our way out of the national park. We then proceed to Victoria Falls Airport where we end our trip and bid farewell to each other. Those not flying will be dropped at hotel of choice in town. [B]

Travel distance: 127 km

Activity Package

Listed below are activities and highlights of the trip that form an optional activity package. You will need to purchase this package if you want to partake in what we consider "essential activities" of our tours. The activity package is written in itinerary of your tour. Please do keep in mind if you don't book the package, the activities won't be included. We suggest that you notify us on booking the trip that you will partake in activities so we can arrange in advance to ensure availability. (Payment to be done on the second day at pre-departure meeting)

• Entry to the Victoria Falls	\$40
• Victoria Falls township tour	\$30
• Chobe National Park game drive and cruise	\$160
• Okavango Delta 3 days/2 nights	\$185
• Matopo game drive plus rhino walk	\$170
• 3 game drives in Hwange National Park	\$300
• Lukhosi Village culture exchange tour	\$30
• Painted Dogs Conservation visit	\$10

Total price of USD 925 = EUR 845

Exchange rates are subjected to change.
Only inclusive if you order an activity package.

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14 DAYS / PRICED FROM EUR 1750

EUR 1200 + local payment EUR 550 (for accommodation and meals, payment to be done at the pre-departure meeting)

(Combi Lodge/Camping Safari)

Activity package: EUR 845

Total EUR 2595 trip covered

Single supplement: EUR 300 (only at request not to share)

INCLUDED

- 6 nights in luxury and comfortable lodges, 5 nights camping accommodation
- Meals as per itinerary: 13 x breakfast, 10 x lunch and 10 x dinner
- All transport in an air-conditioned minibus / 4x4 safari land cruiser
- Experienced (Dutch and English speaking) local guide / cook and a driver mechanic
- Camping and kitchen gear (sleeping bags NOT included)

NOT INCLUDED

- Travel insurance and visa if necessary
- Flights
- Pre and post tour accommodation
- Optional activities and excursions
- All drinks, tips and curios
- All personal expenses