

Southern Adventure

11 days | Victoria Falls to Johannesburg

ACCOMMODATED OVERLAND TOUR: Explore some of Southern Africa's most stunning wildlife and scenery on this 11 day Accommodated Overland tour. Departing Victoria Falls and heading south through the beautiful and changing wilderness of Botswana you'll reach Kruger National Park, with a plethora of animals, before finishing in Johannesburg

Highlights and Inclusions

Trip Highlights

Victoria Falls - Explore the breathtaking UNESCO-listed Victoria Falls • Kasane & the Chobe National Park - Discover the incredible wildlife roaming this amazing landscape • Maun (Gateway to the Okavango Delta) • Okavango Delta - Take a boat ride propelled by a traditional Mokoro Poler • Blyde River Canyon & God's Window - Take in one of the world's largest canyons from a number of viewpoints • Kruger National Park - day and nighttime game drives in South Africa's most famous game reserve Johannesburg - extend your stay to explore the city

What's Included

- Park entry - Victoria Falls NP. Park entry and game drives - Kruger NP • All road taxes and tolls • Arrival transfer from Victoria Falls Airport on day 1 • 11 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 4 dinners • 10 nights 2 - 3* hotels & permanent tents • 2 days /1-night Okavango Delta Excursion (camping) • A fully equipped overland truck for transportation and game drives • Services of 3-person crew (leader, driver, cook) • Chobe National Park boat cruise

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas • Tipping - an entirely personal gesture • Optional activities - Check our Trip Notes for optional activities available on this tour

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Victoria Falls

Today offers free time to explore the amazing Victoria Falls. You might want to sign up for one of the numerous adventures and adrenaline options available or simply take in the beauty of the falls and surrounding area at the viewing platforms.

Adrenaline junkies can bungee from the Victoria Falls Bridge connecting Zimbabwe and Zambia or abseil down the Batoka Gorge - neither activity is for the faint hearted! All year round, flights in fixed wing, micro light and ultra-light aircraft or helicopters provide an aerial perspective over this magnificent World Heritage Site. White water rafting on the Zambezi is world class. Beside the excitement of the Grade 5 rapids, there are the "floats," where there is time to admire the scenic cliffs and the occasional wildlife on the riverbanks.

Overnight - Victoria Falls (B)

Day 2: Kasane

Victoria Falls - Kasane. Today we depart Zimbabwe and cross the border into Botswana. Heading to Kasane we reach our accommodation situated on the banks of the Chobe River. Forming the border between Botswana, Namibia and Zambia we will take a boat cruise down the Chobe River in search of the abundant wildlife found along the banks of the river within Chobe National Park. Returning to our accommodation this afternoon you'll be able to relax by the river whilst enjoying the sunset and hopefully spotting some of the local bird life.

Overnight - Kasane (B)

Day 3: Nata Region

Kasane - Nata Region. Departing Chobe, we head for the Nata Region, travelling through a sparsely populated area where donkeys roam freely. This afternoon there will be the option of partaking in a salt pan drive. One of the world's few untouched wildernesses, the salt pans are vast and impressive.

Overnight - Nata Region (B, L)

Day 4: Maun

Nata Region - Maun. This morning we set off for Maun, our journey taking us along the edge of the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park. Upon arrival in Maun we'll start our preparations for the following day by packing up our day bag - your trip leader will brief you on exactly what you are recommended to bring with you.

Overnight - Maun (B, L)

Day 5: Okavango

Delta Maun - Okavango. Today we rise early and head north to the Mokoro poler's station. Along the drive we'll see a number of local villages where families have lived in a traditional way for many years. Mokoros are dugout canoes maneuvered through the waterways by local guides who "pole" them through the reeds. After a leisurely glide through the delta we reach our accommodation for the night. The afternoon and evening will offer the chance to relax with a cold drink or take a dip in the delta. The Okavango Delta, travelling from the Angolan highlands, is the largest inland delta in the world and is studded with lushly vegetated islands and unique bird life, with over 400 avian species.

Overnight - Okavango Delta (B, L, D)

Day 6: Maun

Okavango - Maun. This morning we have the opportunity to take a game walk through the delta before we take a mokoro ride back to our vehicle in time for lunch. From here there will be an optional scenic flight over the vast expanse of water (dependent on weather conditions & availability). This afternoon we continue back to Maun.

Overnight - Maun (B)

Days 7-8: Blyde River Canyon

Maun - Palapye - Blyde River Canyon. It's an early start on day 8 as we make our way to the small town of Palapye, located about halfway between Francistown to the north and Gaborone to the south. It's a popular stopover town for those enroute to South Africa.

On day 9 we head for the South African border and continue to our accommodation in the Blyde River Canyon. The canyon, which is named after the Blyde River running through it, is 26km long and averages 800m in depth. The canyon forms the northern edge of the impressive Drakensberg Mountains. We'll visit some of the most beautiful viewpoints including the Three Rondavels and God's Window. (Please note at each viewpoint you will be asked to pay a small fee to support the local community).

Overnight - Palapye (1) Blyde River Canyon (1) (B:2, L:2, D:1)

Days 9-10: Kruger National Park

Blyde River Canyon - Kruger. On day 10 we travel to Kruger National Park. Covering an area of 19,485 sq km, Kruger National Park is one of the most famous national parks in the world. And for good reason - with over 146 mammal, 500 bird, 114 reptile and 33 amphibian species, you're sure to see some incredible nature today. This evening enjoy a night game drive, which gives you the opportunity to witness the more nocturnal animals that might not be active during the day.

On day 11 we head deeper into Kruger National Park in search of the amazing wildlife in the area. You can hope to see hippo, giraffe, zebra, impala and many more fascinating creatures.

Overnight - Kruger National Park (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Day 11: Johannesburg

Kruger - Johannesburg. After breakfast we begin our journey to our final destination, Johannesburg. Arriving into the city later this afternoon we'll unload and bid farewell to one another. We suggest you extend your stay by a few days to partake in some of the activities available in Johannesburg. **Post tour accommodation can be booked upon request. (B, L)**

Please Note

This itinerary should be used as a guide only and may vary from day to day depending on road & weather conditions, political situations and group decisions. All prices & Local Payments are subject to change. Due to Tourism Laws in some of the countries we visit, there may be a truck and crew change during the trip.

Accommodation

During this tour you'll stay in a mixture of 2-4-star hotels, permanent tented camps as well as some fixed camping tents. All accommodation will have fixed beds and you won't be required to erect any tents. Your accommodation during your trip will have a mixture of en-suite and shared washroom facilities.

For your excursion into the Okavango Delta accommodation will be provided in mobile tented camps and therefore during this night may be a little more basic than other accommodation during the tour.

Things to Bring

- A rucksack/back pack is the best luggage to bring as your main bag
- For extra comfort, bring a travel pillow
- A towel
- Spare camera batteries/film and dust bag
- Mosquito spray (with active DEET ingredient)
- Your own personal first aid kit
- A torch
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- Antibacterial wipes
- A photocopy of your passport data pages
- Your Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate
- Your travel insurance policy details
- Hat, sunglasses & sunscreen
- Warm clothing - raincoat, warm hat, socks, gloves etc as across Africa wet/dry and hot/ cool climatic periods change invariably.

Transport on Tour

Our overland vehicles are custom built converted Mercedes Benz or MAN trucks that have seating space for our passengers and a storage area for luggage and all trip equipment. The trucks seat between 27-30 passengers on our camping trips. Most seats are forward facing, though some models have a combination of forward, backward and some inward facing seats with tables. Vehicles have sliding glass windows, and the seating area is raised providing a great advantage for game viewing and photography. Seats are cushioned and there is storage space for personal items like cameras, snacks and day packs in the seating area.

Meals on Tour

Meals and menus vary as food is purchased enroute and is subject to produce that is available seasonally in the areas we travel through. As we support the local communities along the way, fresh produce is mostly purchased direct from the producer or local grower and therefore has an organic appearance. Our safari cooks are able to offer a wide variety of menus with the ingredients available, even if the produce on offer is not of the same selection as what you may be used to back home. The breakfast spread consists of bread (toast when time allows), spreads and cereals with a hot breakfast every few days. Lunches are mostly prepared en-route with a supply of 'build your own' sandwich ingredients available. Dinners (when included) are cooked in the evenings on arrival at the campsite. A wide array of dinner menus are on offer during your safari, consisting of curries, stews, pastas, BBQs and even roasts!

On certain days lunch and dinner is not included and will need to be paid for at your own expense. Please check your itinerary for the day by day meal inclusions.

Participation on Tour

All of our overland safaris are participation trips meaning that all passengers are expected to help out around camp. The crew members running the trip will set up a rota system that will be followed. One day you may be on cleaning duty, the next day you may be on cooking duty and so forth. This is not only to make the trip easier for all involved but also for you as the passengers to get to know one another while on trip.

Budgeting

Africa is not as cheap as many people believe and we recommend that you budget between US \$50-70 per day for expenses such as drinks, snacks and curios. Budget more if you plan on buying a lot of souvenirs and budget for your optional excursions and visas separately.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Passports & Visas

Please ensure that you have at least two blank pages in your passport, plus an additional blank page for each visa/African country you are visiting. If travelling on one of our longer overland safaris we recommend that you have at least 12 blank pages in your passport. Please also note that your passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the end date of your trip. Any visa information provided in this document is for general guidance purposes only, visa requirements and fees are subject to change. It is essential that you check current entry requirements with each relevant embassy/ consulate prior to departure. Visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not of Africa Travel Co.

Booking Your Flights

When booking your departure flight, you should allow time at the end of your African safari for any unexpected delays. We recommend that you book your onward flight no earlier than 24 hours after the end of your safari. In the case of our longer overland camping safaris (22 days or more) we advise against making any firm arrangements for at least 48 hours after the scheduled departure date. We can help to arrange post tour accommodation upon request.

Allergies/Likes/Dislikes

Whilst all will have done to accommodate everyone, sometimes the choice available is limited as your cook may be making the best of very limited availability, so some flexibility may be required when encountering something you're not particularly fond of or have chosen not to eat as a lifestyle choice. Should you possess allergies which will result in a medical emergency or a life-threatening situation then please ensure you speak to your cook on arrival so you can discuss the options available whilst en-route. This will ensure also that they are fully aware of what you can or cannot eat and make adjustments.

Botswana Country Guide

Visa

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not Africa Travel Co, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Africa. UK, Ireland, Australian, New Zealand, USA, Canadian and South African citizens do not require a visa for entrance into Botswana.

The few countries that do require visas; mostly Eastern European and Asian Nationals, need to obtain them prior to arrival at the border. Visas are not issued at Botswana ports of entry, if you arrive without a visa, immigration officials will refuse you entry to Botswana. The border crossings we use in Botswana include: Muhembo (Botswana/Namibia border) Kazangula (Botswana/Zimbabwe or Zambia border) Groblerberg/Martin's Drift (South Africa/ Botswana)

Botswana Tourism Levy from 1st June 2017 - postponed until further notice from the 1st June 2017 a tourism levy of \$30USD is payable when entering Botswana. Payment is taken at the border in US dollars cash, debit or credit card. The Levy is valid for a 30-day period and can be used for multiple entry. Please note this Levy has been postponed until further notice.

Vaccinations

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Botswana from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Polio, Diphtheria, Hepatitis A and Tetanus is strongly recommended. Rabies may also be recommended. There is the risk of malaria in certain areas of Botswana so it is very important to check with your doctor before you go, to see whether malarial medication is required for the areas you are visiting. A valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate is also required if travelling into Botswana and you have previously been in an infected country.

Currency & Banking

The currency of Botswana is the Botswana Pulas (BWP) 1 Pula = 100 Thebe. Notes are in denominations of BWP10, 20, 50 and 100. Coins are in denominations of BWP1, 50, 25, 10, 5, 1.

There are no restrictions on the import of local or foreign currencies, provided they are declared on arrival. Export of local currency is limited to BWP50 and foreign currencies up to the amount declared on arrival. It is easy to change most forms of currency including US\$, GB£, Euros and South African Rand. The best place to change money in Botswana is the bureau de changes as banks charge commission to change either cash or travellers cheques.

ATMs are available in all main towns, cities, shopping centres and most petrol stations. MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Diners Club are all widely accepted. Travellers cheques should be in US Dollars or Pound Sterling to avoid additional exchange rate charges. Proof of identity may be requested in some instances, so it's useful to carry a passport or some form of photo identification. In large cities travellers cheques can incur a high surcharge. Banking hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1530, Sat 0830-1100

Time & Voltage

Time Zone - Botswana is 2 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight saving time is not observed. The standard voltage is 220 - 240V. Primary sockets require a 'Type M' - South African, electrical plug which has three thick circular pins. You will need a voltage converter and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances.

Climate

Botswana's climate is mainly temperate. During the summer months (October-April) the weather can be very hot with daytime temperatures of around 30 Celsius and higher. The rainy season (typically lasting from January to March) can be hot with temperatures still in the mid 30's and only dropping to around the mid 20's overnight. Winter (May - September) brings a cool change yet is still reasonably warm and mostly pleasant with an average temperature of around 25°C. Early mornings and evenings may be cold and frosty especially in the Kalahari region. The amount of rainfall decreases the further you travel west or southwards during the winter and rainy season months.

South Africa Country Guide

Visas

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not Africa Travel Co, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Africa. UK, Australian, USA and Canadian citizens do not require a tourist visa for South Africa for stays of up to 90 days.

Since 16th January 2017 all New Zealand passport holders have been required to obtain a visa prior to travelling to South Africa. New Zealanders arriving in South Africa on or after 16th January 2017 should ensure they have the correct visa.

Nationalities who don't require a visa are able to get an entry stamp at the border on entering South Africa. Please contact your local South African embassy to find out if you require a visa prior to entering SA. If you are subject to visa requirements, you must apply and receive your visa before your departure for South Africa, visas are not issued at South African ports of entry.

The border crossings we use in South Africa include:

Noordoewer (South Africa/Namibia border) Groblerberg/Martin's Drift (South Africa/ Botswana) Lebombo (South Africa/Mozambique) Oshoek (Swaziland/South Africa).

Travelling with Children to or through South Africa

From 1 June 2015 parents travelling with children into or out of South Africa or transiting in South Africa will be asked to show the child's unabridged (full) birth certificate which lists the child's details and both parents' details. The abridged (short) birth certificate which only lists the child's details won't be accepted. Uncertified copies of birth certificates or copies of the parents/guardian's identification will not be accepted. A parental contact affidavit (PCA) must have a certified copy of the parent's/ guardian's identification (ie passport) attached to it.

Where only one parent is accompanying a child, parental or legal consent for the child to travel (eg an affidavit from the other parent or – if applicable – a death certificate) is required and there are other requirements for children travelling unaccompanied or with adults who are not their parents. If you are travelling with children (under 18) it is essential that you contact the South African High Commission or the South African Department of Home Affairs for further information relating to these regulations. If you do not carry the correct documentation you will not be allowed to enter the country. Obtaining the correct paperwork is the responsibility of the traveller and not Africa Travel Co.

Health & Vaccinations

You should seek medical advice before travelling to South Africa from your local health practitioner and ensure that all you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide tetanus, diphtheria, polio, hepatitis A (for stays over 4 weeks) and hepatitis B (for stays over 3 months) are recommended. A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over one, coming from infected areas.

A low malaria risk occurs in northern parts of Mpumalanga (as well as Kruger National park, northern and northeastern parts of KwaZuluNatal). If travelling to these regions and/or the countries north of South Africa, where there is a high malaria risk, we strongly recommend that you take anti-malaria medication. Precautionary measures to take to prevent contact with mosquitoes include: insect repellent, cover up at sundown, sleep under a mosquito net and wear long sleeve clothing and long trousers in the evenings.

Currency

The currency in South Africa is Rand (ZAR; symbol R) 1 Rand = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of R200, 100, 50, 20 and 10. Coins are in denominations of R5, 2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10 and 5 cents.

Obtaining local currency within South Africa is very easy. ATMs are widely accessible and very reliable and offer the best rates of exchange. International credit cards are accepted in almost all shops, restaurants, hotels and game reserves. Bureau de changes offer a quick and commission free service but are only found in the main centres such as Cape Town and Johannesburg.

Travellers cheques can be changed at banks. These should be in US Dollars or Pound Sterling to avoid additional exchange rate charges. Please note that proof of identity may be requested in some instances, so it's useful to carry a passport or some form of photo identification. Travellers cheques can be difficult to exchange and tend to attract high commission fees.

Banking hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1530, Sat 0830-1100.

Rand can be used in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, so if you are travelling on one of our overland safaris ample money for these three countries can be obtained prior to beginning your trip in Cape Town or Johannesburg. The Rand and Namibian dollar are tied to each other on an equal level and can be used interchangeably in Namibia. The Rand can also be easily converted to Pula in Botswana at good rates.

Time & Voltage

Time Zone - South Africa is 2 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight saving time is not observed Standard voltage is 220-230V. Primary sockets require a 'Type M' - South African, electrical plug which has three thick circular pins. You will need a voltage converter and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances.

Climate

Climatic conditions generally range from Mediterranean in the south western corner of the country to temperate in the interior plateau, and subtropical in the northeast. A small area in the northwest has a desert climate. Most of the country has warm, sunny days and cool nights. Rainfall generally occurs during summer (November-March), although in the southwest, around Cape Town, rainfall occurs in winter (from June-August). Temperatures are influenced by variations in elevation, terrain, and ocean currents.

Zimbabwe Country Guide

Visas

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not Africa Travel Co, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Africa.

UK, Ireland, Australian, New Zealand, USA and Canadian passport holders require a visa to enter Zimbabwe, these visas are available at the border for the following costs: Australian, New Zealand and US citizens: US\$30 single/ \$45 double entry visa. British and Irish is US\$55 single/\$70 double. Canadians can only obtain a single-entry visa at the border for US \$75. South African passport holders can obtain a visa for free. Visas can be brought using post 2003 US\$ notes, GBE or South African Rand.

KAZA Visa

Zimbabwe and Zambia have re-introduced the popular, and much-awaited KAZA (KavangoZambezi) "Uni-Visa", which allows visitors to stay in either (or both) countries for up to 30 days for a single payment of US\$50. The UniVisa is available at Harare, Victoria Falls, Lusaka and Livingstone International airports, the Victoria Falls land border (Zimbabwe/ Zambia) and the Kazungula land border (Zimbabwe/Zambia/Botswana). The border crossings we use in Zimbabwe include: Kazangula (Botswana/Zimbabwe)

Vaccinations

Seek advice from your doctor or travel clinic at least six weeks prior to departure about what vaccinations you require. Typically, the list includes typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio, hepatitis A and B (for stays over 4 weeks).

In Zimbabwe a malarial risk exists from November to June in all areas below 1200m and throughout the year in the Zambezi Valley. We strongly recommend that you take your anti-malaria medication. Other precautionary measures to prevent contact with mosquitoes include: insect repellent, cover up at sundown, sleep under a mosquito net and wear long sleeve clothing and long trousers in the evenings.

Yellow fever: A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over one year of age coming from infected areas.

Currency

The Zimbabwean Dollar was abandoned in April 2009. The country has adopted a multi-currency scheme; the US Dollar and South African Rand can be used for domestic transactions. Zimbabwe is essentially a cash-only society now with ATMs pretty useless for the foreigner and credit cards only used in a handful of places. We recommend bringing enough cash to cover your stay in Zimbabwe (in either USD or ZAR) especially in the smaller denominations (US \$1-20 and ZAR10 - 200) as there is always a shortage of change and shopkeepers will often refuse larger bills. Please also be aware it is illegal to leave Zimbabwe with over \$1000 (or equivalent) in cash.

Zimbabwe introduced Bond Notes into circulation on 28 November 2017 which will be used alongside the US dollar and other currencies. These Bond Notes will be at a 1:1 parity with the US dollar. However, they are only legal tender within Zimbabwe and as such can only be used there. These Bond notes will be in \$2 and \$5 denominations and there will also be a new \$1 Bond coin.

Banking hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri - 0800-1500 , Wed 0800-1300 and Sat - 0800-1130. In major towns/cities most banks have an ATM. American Express, Diners Club and Visa cards are widely accepted. Major foreign currencies can be exchanged at bureau de change and banks at the official exchange rate. Please also be aware it is illegal to leave Zimbabwe with over \$1000 (or equivalent). As of June 2016 it is becoming increasingly difficult to withdraw money from ATMs in Zimbabwe.

There is a cash limit of \$500 per day - however a lot of banks are not replenishing the ATMs. It is strongly advised that you bring enough money with you before you enter Zimbabwe and don't rely on getting any whilst there. Travellers cheques are accepted at banks, these should be in US Dollars or Pound Sterling to avoid additional exchange rate charges. Most banks will want to see your passport and proof of purchase receipt before cashing your travellers cheques. Please Note: Travellers cheques can be difficult to cash so do not rely upon them as your sole source of funds.



Time & Voltage

Standard voltage is 220-240V. Primary sockets require a 'Type G' - British plug, or 'Type D' - old English plug or Indian plug. You will need a voltage converter and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances. Zimbabwe is 2 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight saving time is not observed.

Climate

Although located in the tropics, temperate conditions prevail all year round in Zimbabwe as the climate is moderated by altitude and the inland position of the country. Zimbabwe has a rainy season from November/ December to March, during this time days are hot and sunny with possible afternoon thunderstorms. By April and May most of the rain is gone, skies are clear and days are sunny and warm. Night time temperatures drop dramatically between June and August although daytime temperatures remain pleasantly warm. Late August sees the start of the hot and dry season which continues until October.