

Cape to Falls - 22 days

go guide

don't leave home without it



From Cape Town to the adventure capital of the world, Victoria Falls, travelling through Namibia and Botswana along the way. Take in some of Southern Africa's best game parks and reserves on this exciting 22 day adventure.



WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET

Trip Highlights

- **South Africa:** Cape Town - extend your stay to explore the city. The Cederberg Area and the Gariep River.
- **Namibia:** Fish River Canyon, the world's 2nd largest canyon. Namib Naukluft National Park - Sossusvlei & Dune 45 (optional). Etosha National Park, Namibia's finest wildlife sanctuary. Swakopmund, a charming colonial coastal town. Damaraland - Cheetah Park and Spitzkoppe. The lush Kavango region.
- **Botswana:** Chobe National Park, famous for its herds of elephants. Boat cruise along the Chobe River. Okavango Delta (optional excursion).
- **Zimbabwe:** UNESCO Listed Victoria Falls, one of the natural wonders of the world.

What's Included

- Arrival transfer from Cape Town Airport on day 1
- 1st night pre expedition dorm accommodation at Ashanti Lodge, Cape Town
- All camping fees & appropriate equipment
- 20 breakfasts, 15 lunches and 15 dinners
- Services of 3 person crew (leader, driver, cook)
- Transport in fully equipped expedition truck
- Park Entry & Game drive - Etosha NP and Chobe NP
- Chobe River boat trip
- All road taxes & tolls

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Sleeping bag and roll mat - please bring your own
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- Optional activities

Local Payment

USD \$560

The local payment is a cost per person which needs to be paid in US Dollars cash only. It is this payment which in part covers the park fees and other inclusions such as meals as detailed under 'what you get'. The local payment also covers your arrival transfer and 1st night's accommodation. Please note that due to exchange rate fluctuations in the US dollar, the local payment amount may be subject to changes. This payment will be collected by your tour leader at the Welcome Meeting on day 1.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Cape Town

Saturday. Welcome to Cape Town, South Africa! You will be met in the arrivals hall of Cape Town Airport by our representative holding an on the go tours/Africa Travel Company sign and transferred to the Ashanti Lodge - 11 Hof Street, Gardens,

Cape Town, Ph (+27-21) 423 8721. At 17.00pm today there is a pre departure meeting today at the lodge, where you will meet your guide and the rest of the group. Your accommodation tonight is in a dormitory, upgrades can be requested upon arrival, subject to availability. **Overnight - Cape Town**

Day 2 : Cederberg Mountains

Cape Town - Cederberg. Leaving Cape Town, we head around Table Bay and continue north through the wheat growing 'bread basket' of South Africa. We cross the Piketberg Pass into the rich fruit growing area along the Olifants River, named for the vast Elephant herds that used to roam in this fertile valley. Tonight is spent in a picturesque campsite with a view of the surrounding wine farms. This afternoon we have the opportunity to sample some of the nectar of the gods after taking a short walk in the surrounding vineyards to explore the exquisite views of the Cederberg Mountains. Tonight we camp under a canvas of stars - the perfect way to begin our African adventure. **Overnight - Cederberg Mountains (L, D)**

Day 3 : Gariep River



Cederberg - Gariep River. From the Cederberg we travel further north through the region known as Namaqualand, well known for its prolific display of Namaqua wildflowers that occur each spring. After stopping for supplies in the small mining town of Springbok, we continue on through the desert area of the Richtersveld to the Gariep River, the natural land border between South Africa and Namibia, where we camp at a beautiful campsite on the

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This Go Guide has been compiled with care and good faith. It gives an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the traveller and on the go and their affiliates. Any costs shown are subject to change though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of on the go

updated on 19-01-2012



South African bank of the river. **Overnight - Gariep River** (B, L, D)

Day 4 : Fish River Canyon

Gariep River - Fish River Canyon (Namibia). This morning we have the option of a half-day canoe trip on the beautiful Gariep River, affording us the opportunity of some bird watching or just a scenic and relaxing paddle. After lunch we cross into Namibia where, after a short drive, we reach the Fish River Canyon. At 161 km long, 27 km wide and about 550 m deep, it's the second largest canyon in the world. The outer canyon was formed by tectonic activity, while the erosion of the Fish River formed the inner canyon. A road follows the eastern rim, giving us access to several viewing points from where we can take in the spectacular vistas. **Overnight - Fish River Canyon** (B, L, D)

Day 5 : Sesriem



Fish River Canyon - Sesriem. An early start today, heading north we travel into the Namib-Naukluft desert, one of the oldest in the world. We base ourselves at Sesriem, a good place to experience the Namib and its many moods. A short distance away is Sossusvlei, surrounded by a dramatic sea of sand dunes reputed to be the highest in the world. Magnificent views of the desert can be seen from the top of the dunes, some over 300 m high. Make sure you look up at the stars tonight; the desert puts on a show like nowhere else in the world! **Overnight - Sesriem** (B, L, D)

Day 6 : Namib Naukluft N.P.

Sesriem - Solitaire. This morning we enter the Namib-Naukluft National Park where we spend the morning exploring this amazing area. View the sunrise from the top of Dune 45 - a truly memorable experience. Following our sunrise experience you will have the option to take the desert shuttles a further 5kms into the desert where you can take a walk to Sossusvlei and explore the surrounding area. An optional guided walk is available at an additional cost. After our leisurely morning exploring the desert and its dunes, we exit the park and head to our next destination, the small settlement of Solitaire; a slice of Apple Crumble from the one and only store is a must for all cake lovers! **Overnight - Solitaire** (B, L, D)

Days 7-9 : Swakopmund



Solitaire - Swakopmund. After breakfast on day 7 we head off in a north-westerly direction to meet the Atlantic Ocean at Walvis Bay. Our drive takes us across the Tropic of Capricorn – the 'imaginary line' that shows the southernmost point of direct sun, and signals the southern hemisphere's mid-summer day. From Walvis Bay, we follow the coast for some 35 km to arrive at Namibia's prime holiday resort - Swakopmund where we enjoy 3 nights of rest, relaxation and a little bit of adrenalin for those that are keen! Accommodation will be in dormitories for the next 3 nights, upgrades into private rooms are possible, but depend on availability and can be booked with your trip leader.

Founded by the Germans in 1892, their colonial influence is still evident today. Swakopmund has a selection of excellent coffee shops, restaurants & bars as well as many arts and crafts shops selling Namibian curios. There are fine beaches to walk along as well as a great museum, aquarium and galleries to visit. Alternatively, the lovely beach and promenade make for a great relaxing walk – though bathing in the ocean waters may be somewhat chilly! Some of our fellow passengers may leave us in Swakop, to be replaced by new passengers joining us for the rest of our trip.

Optional excursions include sky diving, quad biking, sand boarding, scenic desert flights, dolphin cruises, fishing trips, golf, horse riding and more. An activity briefing will be held on arrival in Swakopmund (see price guide at the end of this Go Guide). **Overnight - Swakopmund** (B:3)

Day 10 : Spitzkoppe

Swakopmund - Spitzkoppe. Our departure from Swakopmund takes us to the 'Matterhorn of Namibia' - Spitzkoppe. The 1728 m high rock formation, one of Namibia's most recognised landmarks, is well known as an ancient San sacred site. The area we camp in is managed by the local community who offer local guides for guided walks to the San Rock Art at an additional cost. Explore the surrounding area and its San rock paintings or simply enjoy the magnificent views. Tonight we bush camp (no ablution facilities) under the African stars. **Overnight - Spitzkoppe** (B, L, D)

Day 11 : The Cheetah Park

Spitzkoppe - Cheetah Park. Today's drive takes us further north through the Namibian countryside to the Cheetah Park - a private farm dedicated to conserving Namibia's cheetah population. While

Cheetah are endangered in Africa, Namibia has a high population of wild, free roaming cheetah who cause immense damage to some of the local farms by hunting their livestock. As such, there are many local farmers who have offered a sanctuary to those that have been trapped, or injured. We get to meet the resident cheetahs, a photo opportunity not to be missed! **Overnight - Cheetah Park** (B, L, D)

Days 12-13 : Etosha N.P.



Cheetah Park - Etosha. After stopping briefly in Outjo to stock up on supplies, we head to Etosha National Park. Covering 20 000 km², Etosha is Namibia's premier nature and wildlife reserve. Situated around the Etosha Pan with a large variety of animal and bird life, the extensive network of gravel roads affords us the opportunity of accessing even the most remote areas of the park. After lunch, and once it has cooled off a bit, we spend the remainder of the day exploring the park's southern area. Keep an eye out for the striking Oryx and Springbok as these are endemic to desert National Parks! Tonight's camp is situated just outside the park's boundaries, only 10kms from Anderson Gate. Perhaps a quick dip in the pool or a sun downer on the deck before dinner, followed by a relaxing evening in this interesting bar.

The following day we make our way 150 km across the park, keeping a look out for the many different mammals, reptiles, birds and insects in the various regions. As the vegetation types change, so does the animal and bird life that relies on it, and so different sections of the Park offer a variety of different game options. After a full day of game viewing, we spend the evening relaxing at our camp in the north of the park, Namutoni. After dinner why not head to the waterhole where you can sit and observe the animals may come to drink in the evenings. **Overnight - Etosha N.P.** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Days 14-15 : Divundu & Maun

Etosha - Divundu - Maun (Botswana). From Etosha, we head in a north-easterly direction toward Namibia's Caprivi Strip, and the lush Kavango region of northern Namibia. We stop at the border town of Rundu for supplies before heading to our spectacular campsite located on the banks of the Kavango River – Watch the sun go down from the deck over the river, but keep a watch for the occasional hippo grazing on the lawn!

Following the Kavango River south, we enter Botswana on day 15 and travel east along the course of the Okavango River to the southern reaches of the Okavango Delta and our destination,



Maun. Maun is the starting point for travel into the Delta and it is from here that we set off to explore the Okavango Delta. Tonight we prepare our provisions and packs for our 2 night excursion. We suggest bringing along a smaller daypack on your trip as this can be used to pack the supplies needed for this short excursion. Your trip leader will brief you fully on what is needed, and what to expect prior to your trip to the Delta. **Overnight - Divundu (1), Maun (1)** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Days 16-17 : Optional Okavango Delta

Maun - Okavango Delta (optional). The Delta is 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 and is unique to Southern Africa.

Here we have the opportunity to take the optional 3 Day / 2 Night Drive In Mokoro Excursion into the Delta. 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. The Delta region is studded with many local villages where many 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. Mokoros are dugout canoes manoeuvred through the waterways by local guides who "pole" them through the reeds. At the Mokoro station, we meet our 'Polers' and pack our supplies before heading out into the waterways. After a couple of hours along the waterways, our guides find us a place to camp, and later in the afternoon we set off on an afternoon game walk, allowing us to experience The Delta wilderness. The camp is situated in an open wilderness area with no ablution facilities.

For those who'd prefer not to explore The Delta, spend the next 2 days at the lovely campsite relaxing by the swimming pool or challenging each other to a game of volleyball. There is also a crocodile farm nearby that has it's feeding times open to campsite visitors. The driver and cook remain behind in Maun during the excursion.

Enjoy rest, relaxation and Delta experiences on day 17. 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! There is also ample time to relax and rest during the hotter hours of the day, so 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 wilderness. **Overnight - Maun OR optional Okavango Delta** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Day 18 : Maun



Okavango Delta - Maun. This morning affords us a final opportunity for a game walk before packing up and setting off back to Maun. After our Mokoro ride and vehicle transfer, we arrive back in the afternoon and have the chance to complete our picture of the Okavango Delta by taking an optional scenic flight over The Delta (dependent on weather conditions & availability). **Overnight - Maun** (B, L, D)

Days 19-20 : Chobe N. P.

Maun - Chobe - Kasane. We travel east and then north to the town of Kasane where we set up camp on the banks of the Chobe River. The Chobe River forms a border between Botswana and Namibia and Zambia and is the main water source to the Chobe National Park.

The next morning we have a chance to sleep in or explore the town of Kasane. After lunch, we take a boat cruise along the Chobe River. Elephant, hippo and many bird species can all be viewed from the boat and listen out for the resident hippos! Once we return and are packed and prepared, we leave for an overnight excursion into Chobe National Park. Chobe is one of Botswana's premier game parks, renowned for its large elephant herds. Spend the afternoon in search of wildlife while we game drive to our camp within the park where we spend the evening surrounded by the night-time noises of the local wildlife. Look out for the rare Sable and Roan Antelope on your game drive, with their majestic backward slanting horns, or try keep a count of the Lilac Breasted Roller's that swoop by!

Should we not be able to stay in Chobe National Park due to lack of availability at the bush camp, this excursion will be replaced with an overnight trip in the bushveld of the Lesoma Valley which is situated in the Kasane Forest Reserve adjacent to the Chobe NP and the Matsetsi Game area of Zimbabwe. Lesoma is equally rich in wildlife and affords a similar experience to the above. **Overnight - Chobe (1), Kasane (1)** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Day 21 : Victoria Falls



Kasane - Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe). After our night in the bush, we head out early to continue our search for wildlife, before packing up the camp and heading back to Kasane, and Victoria Falls. Once returning to camp, we get back on our truck and continue to the border of Zimbabwe. Once we've completed border formalities, we have a short drive to the nearby Victoria Falls. Named after the famous World Heritage site and Water Falls, the town of Victoria Falls is situated on the Zambezi River and surrounded by the Victoria Falls National Park. Our campsite is conveniently situated in the centre of town, and within walking distance of the adventure booking agents, restaurants and shops. A 20 minute walk down the main road takes you to the entry point to view the falls, which are situated between Zimbabwe and Zambia. Victoria Falls, or Mosi-oa-Tunya (the Smoke that Thunders), was named by David Livingstone on his explorations, and is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. At 1700 m wide and around 100 m high, this is the world's largest sheet of falling water and a memorable sight on any African Safari! After our adventure activities briefing (see price guide at the end of this Go Guide for options), the afternoon is spent relaxing at the campsite's swimming pool, viewing the Victoria Falls, or exploring the many sights and delights of this town. **Overnight - Victoria Falls** (B)

Day 22 : Victoria Falls

Saturday. After breakfast, we exchange addresses and part ways, having just experienced a trip of a lifetime! We suggest booking additional days after your trip to take advantage of the optional excursions available at Victoria Falls.

Optional excursions include elephant back safaris, horseback safaris, walking with lions, a visit to the crocodile ranch, boat cruises and golf at The Elephant Hills Resort. Adrenalin 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.(B)

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Please Note

This expedition is run in conjunction with Africa Travel Company.

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.

Things To Bring

- A sleeping bag and roll mat
- For extra comfort, bring a travel pillow
- Spare camera batteries/film and dustbag
- 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 etc as across Africa wet/dry and hot/cool climatic periods change invariably.

Budgeting

In budgeting for your holiday, we recommend US \$160 - \$210 per person per week for an African safari. Budget more if you plan on buying a lot of souvenirs. This amount should be sufficient to allow for expenses such as drinks, snacks, small entry fees, occasional meals out and accommodation and meals away from the truck - for example on the island of Zanzibar.

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 On The Go.

Botswana Country Guide

Visa

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.

Vaccinations

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Botswana from your local health practitioner and ensure that all you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. Typically the list includes typhoid, tetanus, polio, hepatitis A and B (for stays over 4 weeks) and meningitis.

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers arriving from infected areas or who were in transit through infected areas (unless they remained onboard or at the airport).

Certain areas of Botswana have a risk of malaria and these are; northern parts and southern provinces of the country and the Okavango Delta area – if travelling to these regions we strongly recommend that you take your anti-malaria medication. Adequate measures to avoid mosquito bites, such as nets and creams and covering up after sundown, are also essential.

Currency & Banking

USD 1 = BWP 7.4 GBP 1 = 11.7 EURO 1 = 10.2 AUD 1 = 7.6

Subject to fluctuation.

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.

Namibia Country Guide

Visas

UK, Ireland, Australian, New Zealand, USA, Canadian and South African citizens do not require a visa for stays of up to 90 days in Namibia.

Very few countries require Namibian visas. Those that do require a visa must obtain it prior to departure. Visas are not issued at Namibia ports of entry, if you arrive without a visa, immigration officials will refuse you entry to Namibia.

Health & Vaccinations

You should seek medical advice 6 weeks before travelling to Namibia from your local health practitioner and ensure that all you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guideline tetanus, typhoid, diphtheria, polio, hepatitis A, hepatitis B are usually recommended.

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over one year of age arriving from infected areas or who were in transit through infected areas (unless they remained on-board or at the airport).

There is a low malaria risk in the north eastern region of Namibia, although if travelling on one of our overland tours, the countries north of Namibia have a high malaria risk, therefore 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.

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Tap water in Namibia is considered safe to drink in all larger cities, outside main cities it is advisable to check first. Hospital facilities are generally very good in towns and cities but in rural regions medical facilities are limited.

Currency

USD 1 = 8.1 GBP 1 = 12.8 EURO 1 = 11.1 AUD 1 = 8.3

Subject to fluctuation.

The currency of Namibia is the Namibian Dollar (\$NAD) 1 \$NAD = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of \$NAD10, 20, 50, 100 and 200. Coins are in denominations of 5, 10, 50, \$NAD1, \$NAD5.

It is possible to change money and use ATMs in all sizeable towns. Bureau de Changes offer quicker and commission free service but are only found in Swakopmund and Windhoek. ATMs are widely accessible and very reliable and offer the best rates of exchange for cards.

The Rand and Namibian dollar are tied to each other on an equal level and as such the Rand and Namibian dollar can be used interchangeably in Namibia. However Namibian dollars are not accepted in South Africa.

All unused Namibian Dollars need to be exchanged to South African Rand before leaving Namibia. The Rand can then be used in Botswana or South Africa. Namibian Dollars can be changed to Rand at banks and bureau de changes and swapped over in some shops.

Banking hours: 09:00 to 15:30. Some close between 13:00 and 14:00

Time & Voltage

Time Zone - Namibia is 2 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight saving time is not observed.

Standard voltage in Namibia 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

Namibia's climate is typical of a semi-desert region, with hot days and cool nights. Namibia is blessed with an average of 300 days of sunshine a year. Temperatures are cooler along the coast and on the central plateau. Rainfall is typically low in Namibia and normally only occurs during the summer months from December to March, mostly in the form of heavy thunderstorms. During the winter months from May to September days are typically warm but temperatures can drop below freezing at night.

South Africa Country Guide

Visas

UK, Australian, New Zealand, USA and Canadian citizens do not require a tourist visa for South Africa for stays of up to 90 days.

Very few nationalities require South African visas prior to entry into the country. Most nationalities 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.

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 KwaZulu-Natal). 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.

Tap water in South Africa is considered safe to drink in all urban areas and most rural areas. There are exceptions, such as in parts of the Kruger National Park, and in areas near the Namibian border, including the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. These areas – and most others where the water's not drinkable – are well-marked with signs.

Hospital facilities are generally very good in towns and cities but in rural regions medical facilities are limited.

Currency

USD 1 = ZAR 8.3 GBP 1 = 13 EURO 1 = 11.3 AUD 1 = 8.4

Subject to fluctuation. South African currency 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

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, GB£ or South African Rand.

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.

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 bureaux de change and banks at the official exchange rate.

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.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

We offer a number of locally operated optional activities and excursions on each of our expeditions. We feel that offering optional excursions affords a greater degree of flexibility, independence and choice to our travellers. To help you budget, below is a selection of optional excursions available on this trip.

Please note the following:

All prices are in US Dollars and are subject to change. Where activities occur away from your base, there may be an additional transfer cost.

Travellers cheques may be accepted for the Serengeti/Ngorongoro Excursions, although they are subject to a surcharge of at least 5%.

All accommodation and activities in Victoria Falls must be paid for in US\$ cash (GBP & ZAR also accepted at a lower rate).

All optional excursions are offered by 3rd parties and independently of on the go. They are undertaken at your own risk and on the go take no responsibility for personal loss/injury caused.

Gorilla Trekking - the price varies dependant on where gorilla trek takes place ie Uganda, DRC or Rwanda.

Botswana

- 3 day Okavango Delta Excursion US \$160
- Chobe National Park Game Drive US \$40
- Scenic Flight Over Okavango (5 per plane) US \$85

Namibia

- Quad Biking US \$90
- Sky Diving US \$350
- Sossusvlei Guided Walk US \$35
- Township Tour US \$75

South Africa

- Abseiling Table Mountain. Pre/Post tour US \$100
- Cape Point day trip. Pre/Post tour US \$90
- Gariep River Canoeing (min 4) US \$40
- Township Tour Cape Town half day. Pre/Post tour US \$65
- Whale Viewing (seasonal). Pre/Post tour US \$90
- Wine Tasting Cederberg US \$10
- Wineland day trip. Pre/Post tour US \$90

Zimbabwe

- Bungee Jump (111m) US \$132
- Elephant Back Safari US \$130
- Entry to Vic Falls National Park US \$30
- Full Day Adrenaline (min. 10) US \$150
- Helicopter Over The Falls 15 mins US \$130
- Horse Riding 3 hours US \$75
- Microlight Over The Falls 15 mins US \$150
- Rafting & Boarding Combo US \$165
- Rafting On The Zambezi US \$130
- Walk With Lions - Vic Falls US \$130

Cape to Falls - 22 days

updated on 19-01-2012