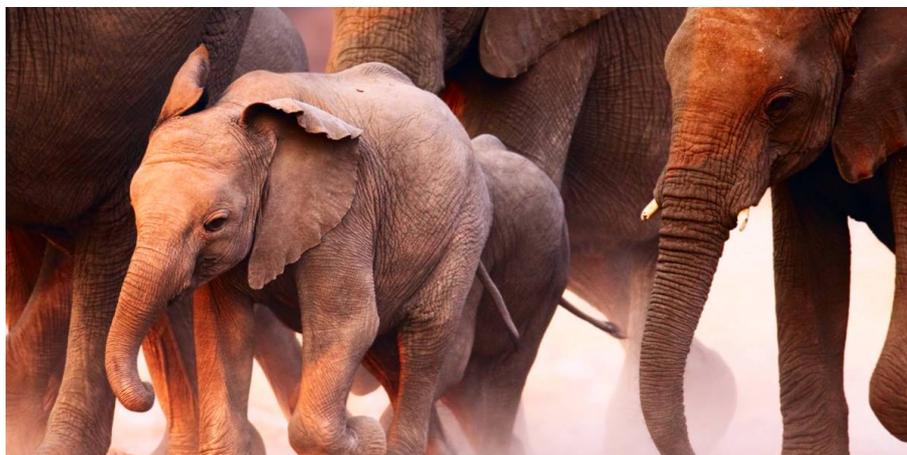


Namibia, Botswana and Falls

15 days | Swakopmund to Victoria Falls



Embark upon an amazing 2 week adventure in Southern Africa. From Swakopmund take in the highlights of Namibia and Botswana before reaching the spectacular Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. Witnessing incredible landscapes, wonderful wildlife and much more along the way.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Victoria Falls - UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Chobe River - crocodiles, hippos and elephants
- Chobe National Park - home to Africa's largest amount of elephants
- Mahangu National Park - lots of exotic birds and mammals
- Eastern Caprivi - place where four countries meet
- Okavango Delta - world's largest inland delta
- Etosha National Park - plethora of wildlife and floodlit water holes
- Omaruru - enjoy wine tasting at a local distillery
- Swakopmund - adrenalin capital of Namibia

What's Included

- 14 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 6 dinners
- Airport transfers on days 1 and 15
- 14 nights mid-range lodges, chalets, tented camps
- Transport in Quantum minibuses, Toyota Land Cruisers or a 4x4 safari vehicle
- Services of an experienced local guide/driver
- Park entrance fees
- Entrance and tasting at Kristall Kellerei distillery
- Game Drives Etosha and Mahangu National Park
- Himba Village Walk
- Okavango Delta Mokoro ride
- Chobe River boat cruise

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- Drinks and items of a personal nature

DETAILED ITINERARY

Days 1-2 : Swakopmund



Welcome to Namibia, upon arrival at Walvis Bay Airport, you'll be met and transferred the 45 minutes north to Swakopmund for your overnight stay. The following day is at leisure to partake in optional activities or soak up the atmosphere of this little quaint German town and enjoy its beauty and beaches.

Overnight - Swakopmund

Day 3 : Spitzkoppe Bushmen Paintings

Swakopmund - Omaruru. Leaving the cold Atlantic coastline behind, we then head inland across the desert plains to Spitzkoppe, an iconic group of curved granite mountains with vivid colours. After a walk amongst the boulders to view the ancient Bushmen paintings and engravings. We continue on the town of Omaruru where we overnight. Once a mission station, the settlement has great historic significance and has evolved into an artistic hub for local crafts and small industries.

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Distance: 310km
Departure: 08h00

Please note air conditioning may not be available when travelling through Namibia due to poor road conditions. **Overnight - Omaruru (B, L)**

Day 4 : Himba Village Tour



Omaruru - Kamanjab. On our journey today we stop by a local distillery and small wine cellar in Omaruru to taste some home grown produce. Later we head off towards Kamanjab where we explore a Himba village in the afternoon. This will be a journey of culture exchange, learning and understanding the ways of the last traditional tribe in Namibia, the Ova-Himba.

Distance: 330 km
Departure: 07h00

Please note air conditioning may not be available when travelling through Namibia due to poor road conditions.

Overnight - Kamanjab (B, L, D)

Day 5 : Etosha National Park

Kamanjab - Etosha. Today we head to Etosha National Park. Etosha Game Park was declared a National Park in 1907 and it is home to approximately 114 mammal species, 340 bird species, 110 reptile species, 16 amphibian species and, surprisingly, one species of fish.

Distance: 280 km
Departure: 08h00

Please note air conditioning may not be available when travelling through Namibia due to poor road conditions. **Overnight - Etosha National Park (B, L, D)**

Days 6-7 : Etosha Game drives



We fill the next 2 days with game drives in the hopes of spotting some of the Big Four as well as cheetah, giraffe, zebra and the numerous different types of antelope the park has to offer. Our nights are spent at the flood lit waterholes encountering the park's various nocturnal animals as they come to drink.

Distance:
Day 6 - 100km
Day 7 - 150km
Departure: 08h00

Please note air conditioning may not be available when travelling through Namibia due to poor road conditions. **Overnight - Etosha National Park (B:2, L:2)**

Day 8 : Kavango River

Etosha - Kavango River, Namibia. Our journey continues east as we drive along the Caprivi Strip to the town of Rundu. We make our way to Kaisosi River Lodge and spend a relaxing afternoon at our lodge on the banks of the Kavango River. Optional activities such as a visit to the Mbunza Living Museum, a traditional cultural school and communal business for the local Kavango people, or a sunset cruise are available. Alternatively just relax by the pool with a sundowner listening to the sounds of Mother Nature.

Distance: 435 km
Departure: 08h00

Please note air conditioning may not be available when travelling through Namibia due to poor road conditions.

Overnight - Zambezi Region (Caprivi Strip) (B, L)

Days 9-10 : Okavango Delta



Kavango River - Okavango Delta, Botswana. We leave Namibia for Etsha13, on the western border of the Okavango Delta in Botswana. Unlike other deltas, it flows into the Kalahari Desert without reaching the coast, which makes it unique. The next day is spent exploring the network of water pathways floating through thick vegetation in mokoros (traditional dugout canoes), discovering a variety of birds and wildlife. We stop at a secluded island to take a guided walk hoping to spot elephants, waterbuck or other animals living in this water filled paradise.

Distance: 380km
Departure: 08h00

Overnight - Okavango Delta (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Day 11 : Zambezi Region (Caprivi Strip)

Okavango Delta - Caprivi, Namibia. Leaving Botswana, we drive up the western border of the Okavango Delta before crossing back into Namibia and driving through the Caprivi to our camp on the banks of the Kwando River. Enroute to camp you will go on a game drive to the Mahangu National Park which is rich in fauna and flora. In the park you have the chance of spotting game such as sable and roan, elephants, hippos, buffalos, and many types of antelope. For bird watchers the Mahangu National Park offers more than 420 different bird species.

Distance: 385km
Departure: 08h00

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Overnight - Zambezi Region (Caprivi Strip)
(B, L, D)

Days 12-13 : Chobe National Park



Caprivi - Chobe NP, Botswana. On day 12 we head along the Caprivi and cross the border back into Botswana to Kasane, the gateway to the Chobe National Park, which is the second largest national park in Botswana covering 10,566 km². After settling in to our lodge, you will have the remainder of the day at leisure or to partake in optional activities.

The next day, we rise early for a morning game drive in the Chobe National Park, which has one of the greatest concentrations of elephant found on the African continent. In the afternoon we go on a cruise on the Chobe River, a truly unforgettable experience and one of the best ways to view the wildlife and the spectacular sunset.

Distance: 265km

Departure: 09h00 **Overnight - Chobe National Park** (B:2, L:1, D:1)

Day 14 : Victoria Falls



Chobe National Park - Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Continuing our trip we leave Botswana and drive to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. On arrival we will enjoy a tour of Victoria Falls or Mosi oa Tunya - "the

smoke that thunders" and a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River.

Distance: 90km
Departure: 09h00

Overnight - Victoria Falls (B, L)

Day 15 : Victoria Falls

Our safari ends after breakfast, when you will be transferred to Victoria Falls Airport. We hope to welcome you again one day on another of our African adventures.

We recommend extending your stay in Victoria Falls if you want to enjoy the many activities on offer. Post tour accommodation can be booked upon request. (B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

Pension A La Mer

Just a stone's throw from the beach, Pension A La Mer is a charming accommodation. Rooms are simple, but comfortable with bright furnishings and excellent ensuite facilities. This warm and friendly pension offers a number of excellent activities including dolphin cruises, desert tours and scenic flights - so be sure to enquire about them. This accommodation is perfectly located in downtown Swakopmund close to the beach as well as lots of bars and restaurants.



Omaruru Guest House

In the quaint town of Omaruru, the Omaruru Guest House offers comfortable accommodation and a friendly service. Guest

rooms are stylish with hard wood flooring and excellent modern amenities. The guest house boast from a refreshing outdoor pool, on site restaurant and complimentary Wi-Fi. At the front of the property you can find the Bambu Wellness Boutique Spa - a perfect stop for some pampering when in the desert!



Oppi Koppi Restcamp

An oasis in the desert, Oppi Koppi Rest Camp is the ideal place to stop when visiting Namibia's northwest. Bungalows are well furnished with fans in every room and tea and coffee making facilities. The camp prides itself on it's friendly bar, which serves a good range of cold beers, other alcoholic beverages and ice cold Jagermeister. The out door pool is a great place to cool off from the Namibian heat before settling down for a delicious meal in the evening. The camp is situated just outside Kamanjab in northwest Namibia.



Okaukuejo Resort

With a popular waterhole for game viewing and a range of luxury chalets and standard rooms Okaukuejo Resort is the perfect place for relaxing and game viewing. Guest rooms range from Bush Chalets to Premium Waterhole chalets (which overlook the animals' drinking place). Evenings are a great time to relax at the waterhole and watch the amazing wild life come down for their evening drinks - you could even take your own beverage and join in with the drinking. Okaukuejo is accessed from the southern entrance of the park and is about 17km in.

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Namutoni Resort

Refurbished in 2007, Namutoni Rest Camp offers a luxury camp within Etosha National Park. Rooms are tastefully decorated all with private terraces to the front and rear. Namutoni is home to the famous German fort which overlooks the King Nehale waterhole. There are also a number of shops and restaurants for guests to enjoy. On an evening why not head up the wooden walkway to the water hole and watch the animals come down to drink. This resort can be found on the eastern side of world famous Etosha National Park.



Kaisosi River Lodge

On the banks of the Okavango River, Kaisosi River Lodge consists of a number of beautiful thatched chalets. All chalets are comfortable with en suite facilities and have private terraces or balconies. There are two outdoor pools to enjoy as well as a friendly bar area. Delicious meals are served in the restaurant or for that special occasion why not take advantage of the floating breakfast on the river option. The lodge enjoys the perfect position on the Okavango River near the Caprivi Street.



Camp Kwando

A beautiful African style camp, Camp Kwando has thatched island tents and

chalets on stilts. All rooms are well appointed including en suite facilities and a private deck. Meals are served just by the river and it is possible to see resident crocodiles and hippos pass by. Jump in the outdoor pool for a refreshing dip between game drives. The camp is located on the banks of the Kwando river in the Eastern Zambezi region.



Guma Lagoon Camp

Set in shade gardens, Guma Lagoon Camp offers beautiful canvas chalets each with their own private view of the water. Each chalet contains beautiful teak beds and en-suite bathrooms. In the mornings guests can take a walk down to the main decking area to watch the sun rise over the lagoon with a steaming hot cup of complimentary tea or coffee. The lodge is situated along the banks of the Guma Lagoon on the northwestern side of the Okavango Delta.



Chobe Safari Lodge

Situated on the banks of the Chobe River, Chobe Safari Lodge is an excellent gateway to Chobe, Victoria Falls and the Zambezi Region. Rooms are spacious, with excellent facilities and private balconies. The restaurant serves a fantastic array of African and International cuisine. The Cocktail and Sedudu Bar is a great place to relax with a cocktail as the sun sets. The lodge is in Kasane, just 5 kilometres from Chobe National Park.



A'Zambezi River Lodge

A'Zambezi River Lodge features imaginative African-style architecture with sweeping curved buildings that are complimented by attractive gardens. Nestled besides the river, the lodge provides a quiet ambience for guests to enjoy nature and the facilities provided from award-winning restaurants to an outdoor pool with its own bar. The tastefully decorated rooms are well-equipped with modern conveniences from air-con to satellite TV. The hotel is minutes from Victoria Falls town (5km) and the mighty falls themselves.



Please Note

This tour is operated in conjunction with our trusted partner and you will join travellers who booked through different operators, not solely On The Go.

Falls, Botswana and Namibia is a small group, non-participation lodge safari. Non participation meaning that you will not be required to assist with the preparation or cooking of food and general safari duties. These safaris run with a minimum of 4 and maximum of 12 passengers, accompanied by a guide who is also the driver.

Swakopmund Optional Activities

Below is a list of some of the most popular optional activities on offer in Swakopmund. Pre-booking is recommended to avoid disappointment. The rates are per person and are quoted in South African Rand. All activities are subject to availability and may require a minimum amount of passengers to operate.

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Namibia, Botswana and Falls

Certain activities only operate at specific times of the year. Please contact our reservation office for further information. Should you wish to partake in an activity that is not listed below, we will gladly assist you with rates and reservations.

- Quad biking (2 hours) - R 650.00
- Sand boarding lie-down - R 500.00
- Sand boarding standing up - R 600.00
- Living Desert Tour - R 800.00
- Tandem Sky Diving - R 2800.00
- Shore fishing - R 2000.00
- Boat fishing - R 1600.00
- Township Tour - R 550.00
- Pelican point kayaking - R 850.00
- Marine dolphin catamaran cruise - R 850.00

*Please note prices are subject to change

Vic Falls Optional Activities

Below is a list of some of the most popular optional activities on offer in Victoria Falls. Pre-booking is recommended to avoid disappointment. The rates are per person and are quoted in US Dollars. All activities are subject to availability and may require a minimum amount of passengers to operate. Certain activities only operate at specific times of the year. Please contact our reservation office for further information. Should you wish to partake in an activity that is not listed below, we will gladly assist you with rates and reservations.

- 15 Minute Helicopter Flight - \$ 150 (excl. levies) \$15 to be paid locally
- 22 Minute Helicopter Flight - \$ 235.00 (excl. levies) \$15 to be paid locally
- Boma Dinner - \$ 56.00
- Dinner Cruise - \$ 78.00 - \$10 river usage fee to be paid locally
- Bungee Jump - \$ 168.00
- Horse Back Safaris (novice) - \$ 90.00
- Rafting (full day, low/high water depending on seasonality) \$ 120.00
- Flying Fox (Cable Slide) - \$ 47.00
- Gorge Swing - \$ 100.00
- Zip Line - \$ 74.00
- Canopy Tour - \$ 58.00

*Please note prices are subject to change

Departure

The Falls, Botswana and Namibia safari departs from A'Zambezi River Lodge in Victoria Falls.

Please note that the daily departure times are a guideline only and are subject to change due to seasonal variations, as well as unforeseen circumstances. The final decision rests with your guide who will advise you at what time you will be departing each day.

On the evening of day 1, there will be a meeting presented by your guide, at 18h00 at your lodge. It is imperative that all clients attend this meeting so as not to miss out on any critical information.

Whilst it is our every intention to adhere to the above mentioned itinerary, there may on occasion be a necessity to make alterations in order to make the tour more enjoyable or practical. Therefore please treat the itinerary as a guide only.

Transport

Jenman Safaris uses fully equipped Quantum minibuses, Toyota Land Cruisers, 12-seater 4x4 safari vehicles or other appropriate vehicles with comfortable seating, large windows for game viewing, a music- and PA-system and air-conditioning. All luggage, besides hand luggage and photo equipment, is carried on the vehicle or trailer roof racks to ensure maximum comfort in the vehicle. For transfers between Kasane and Victoria Falls (or vice versa), 2x4 vehicles may be utilised.

Please note due to Namibia's rugged terrain and tough road conditions air conditioning may not be available at all times when travelling through Namibia.

Travelling Times and Distances

All travelling times are affected by road conditions, border crossings, detours and weather conditions, therefore on certain days travelling times may be longer than anticipated especially where there is a lot of distance to be covered. Please keep in mind that the time it takes to travel 100 km in your home country is not equivalent to the time it takes to travel 100 km on African roads,

therefore we encourage you to sit back and enjoy the spectacular scenery Africa has to offer. Where possible additional stops will be made to ensure your travelling comfort at all times.

Accommodation

We make use of mid-range typical African standard lodge accommodation. Accommodation is situated either in national parks, on the banks of a river, or in other places of interest. The accommodation will be a mix of lodges, chalets and tented camps. All of them offer a private bathroom with a shower/bath and toilet. Some properties are equipped with swimming pools and/or bar and restaurant areas.

Spending Money

Clients are advised to bring enough money to cover the purchase of curios, tips, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, water and additional entertainment. US Dollars, Pound Sterling, South African Rand and Botswana Pula are the most practical and convenient currencies.

Meals

Where included most breakfasts and dinners will be enjoyed in the restaurants of the various accommodation establishments, however on certain nights the guide will provide an authentic meal for the group, which will be enjoyed together in the evening, often around a camp fire. Please advise us of any special dietary requirements in advance.

First Aid

Our guides are trained in basic first aid and the vehicle is equipped with a comprehensive medical aid kit. Preventative Malaria medication should be taken before the trip and throughout its duration, although it is advisable to consult a doctor prior to departure.

Luggage

Maximum baggage allowance: 15 kg. Jenman Safaris stipulates this luggage allowance, as an overloaded vehicle is a danger to both the clients and the guide. This does not include photographic equipment and a small daypack. Please bring a backpack or soft barrel bag, not a suitcase. Don't bring too much clothing,

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as there are washing opportunities along the way. Please adhere to the allowance specified as space for luggage is limited.

Insurance

It is compulsory for all travellers to have insurance covering their personal requirements, medical expenses and personal possessions. This is to be arranged before leaving your home country.

Packing

- Shorts, t-shirts, sun hat, ,
- Light trousers/jeans
- Long sleeved tops
- Windbreaker
- Warm clothes (May – August)
- Walking shoes & sandals
- Swimming costume
- Camera
- Torch & spare batteries
- Mosquito protection
- Towel

Namibia

'Namibia' means 'open plains' in the ancient Khoikhoi language. It is a sought after tourist destination defined by endless sunshine, scenic beauty and unusual and contrasting topography. Namibia is sandwiched between two deserts - the Namib Desert, said to be the oldest in the world, on its western coastline and the Kalahari Desert in the eastern interior. Northern Namibia features the great Etosha National Park, with the country's largest concentration of game and in the south the majestic Fish River Canyon plunges 550 m and extends for 160 km. Between these four highlights lies over 820 000 km² (the size of France & Britain combined) of contrasting scenery.

The world's highest dunes are found in haunting scenery inspiring sombre reflection. Pre-historic rock art, the ancient fossil plant, *Welwitschia mirabilis* and fossilized dinosaur footprints are preserved in the ancient, rocky mountain ranges. Many of the features of this country are of particular scientific interest and attract scientists from all over the world.

Namibia is the first country in the world to include protection of the environment and sustainable utilization of wildlife in its

constitution. About 15, 5% of the country has been set-aside as national parks. In these areas, rare and endangered species of animals, birds and plant life are preserved and protected. They serve as a living reminder to us all, and to the generations of the future, of how it once was in Africa.

Fish River Canyon

The Fish River Canyon is surely one of the natural wonders of Africa, as well as the second largest natural gorge on the continent. It is a 161 km long, 27 km wide ravine with a maximum depth of 550 m, surrounded by high, forbidding cliffs, and gashed into the plateau with startling abruptness. There are many awesome viewing sites to this breath-taking and immensely powerful natural phenomenon, along a 56 km stretch between its northernmost & southernmost points.

Sossusvlei

The visual spectacular in the Sossusvlei area is unsurpassed. Amongst the continuous towering dunes as far as the eye can see is arguably the highlight of the Namib Desert, the Sossusvlei, an enormous clay-pan, enclosed by dunes. After a heavy rainfall, rare in this area, the vlei fills with water and, as the clay layers are virtually impermeable to water, a turquoise lake remains for quite some time.

The dunes and their rich tints vary from pale apricot to vivid reds and oranges, and contrast vividly with the dazzling white surfaces of the white clay pans, or lakes, below.

During the rainy season one of the larger of these pans creates a haven for water birds, often including flamingos. Even during the dry season, Oryx, springbok and ostriches can be seen feeding off the sparse vegetation along the watercourses.

The dunes of the Namib Desert developed over a period of many millions of years and are shaped by strong-multi-directional winds. It is thought that the vast quantities of sand were carried into the Atlantic Ocean by the Orange River. The surf pushed the sand back onto land and coastal dunes formed. Dunes have subsequently shifted inland and northwards. Wind continuously re-stacks the sand of the huge shifting dunes of the Namib Desert. It tirelessly forces the grains of sand on the

flat windward slope upwards to the crest of the dune. Here they fall down in the wind shade. The leeward slope, therefore, is always considerably steeper than the windward side.

Sesriem Canyon

Erosion of many centuries has incised a narrow gorge through which the Tsauchab River disappears dramatically down a steep gorge in the plain. This gorge, Sesriem Canyon, about 1 km long with pools along the ways and a 30-40 m pool at its end. These pools of water on a gravel bed in an otherwise arid region, attracts many birds and animals.

Namib-Naukluft National Park

The Namib-Naukluft National Park is an incredibly unusual and diverse "super-conservation" area. There is nothing quite like it. It's probably the most unusual in the world – an ancient land with an ageless spirit. It covers almost 50 000 km² and is ranked as the 4th largest in the world (the largest nature conservation area in Namibia) with landscapes including an impressive mountain massif, desert plains, high sand dunes, deep gorges and an estuarine lagoon. In truly African light show there is often clear and sometimes sudden shift in the mood of the moment, as light, textures and shadows give desert landscapes entirely new characters. Survivors in this harsh landscape include the Oryx, springbok and zebra as well as the *Welwitschia mirabilis*, an odd-looking desert shrub. One large, protected specimen is estimated at 1500 years old.

Swakopmund

A true oasis and respite from the solemn desert and its monotonous heat. A seaside holiday resort full of old-world charm and modern amenities, from the quaint German colonial influences to a funky Internet café. The tranquil setting includes promenades, palm trees and beautifully tended public gardens, the Swakopmund museum (covering natural history, mineralogy, botany, historical and ethnological aspects), the National Marine & Research Centre, an aquarium, a public library, an Olympic sized, heated indoor swimming pool and a grassed golf course in a desert setting. This 'middle of the desert' feel is one of its attractions – one can enjoy the wild expanse of the adjacent

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desert and sea and yet be within easy reach of the creature comforts of Swakopmund's hotels, restaurants, bars and a much-needed laundries!

There is plenty to see and do and activities include quad biking, sand boarding, rock & surf fishing and skydiving. There is also a tannery, manufacturing well-known kudu leather shoes, a brewery producing fine beers in the German tradition.

Cape Cross Seal Colony

The Cape Cross Seal Colony is north of Swakopmund. During breeding season as many as 200 000 Cape fur seals (the world's largest fur seal) gather in the cold waters along this coast. The numerous islets and isolated parts of the shore are used as nurseries for their young.

Brandberg

About 100 km further south lay the imposing Brandberg massif, the highest peak in Namibia at 2574 m. Besides being a major challenge to rock climbers the Brandberg is most famous for rock paintings. One of the paintings discovered in 1917, can be viewed on an overhang in Maack's Shelter, named after this first discoverer. In 1955 however, Breuil, a well-known French archaeologist and historian copied, described and named the painting as the 'The White Lady', thinking that the figure resembled a lady of Greek or Egyptian origin. Although 'The White Lady' has since been the subject of much controversy, scientists now seem to agree that the painting portrays a young man. This is due to the lower part of 'his' body being painted white, a magical hunting spell, as was customary to the Himbas and the Hereros.

This area is also the haunt of the extremely rare Desert Elephant, one of the true natural wonders of the world, surviving as they do in this thirsty land. This is also one of the few places in the world where animals are completely wild in a mountain desert landscape. With the help of locals these elephants can be tracked – an experience not easily forgotten.

Kamanjab Himba Village

The name Kamanjab means Rock and it has been directly translated from Otji-Herero. A visit to the Himba Village of the very well-known guide and translator Jaco will take you on a journey of cultural exchange, learning and understanding of the last traditional tribe in Namibia, the Ova-Himba. Jaco is an Afrikaans speaking white male, but lives for several years now with his Himba family and speaks Otji-Herero fluently. He was adopted in the Himba culture by an old chief Tjskume Bhahona that lives in the mountains at Onkongko near Opuwo. After spending a lot of time with his new family Jaco decided to come home to his family farm near Kamanjab where he was still farming with goats sheep and nguni cattle, the old chief then asked Jaco if he can send some of his people with him to come and help him on his farm, Cauas Okawa to look after his goats and cattle. They built a traditional village for themselves and do their farming and also planting during the raining season. Please take note that they only allow persons that are really interested in the culture and want to have a cultural exchange, not only to take photos and go. You'll experience the milking ceremony, find out more about their beliefs around the holy fire and their ancestors, and their herbal medicine and smoke bath. The meaning of jewellery pieces and hairstyles is to imitate the status of each tribe member and their close relationship to nature, their cattle and their children.

Etosha

Consisting of over 22 000 km² of saline desert, savannah and woodlands, the Etosha National Park is one of the largest game reserves in Africa and one of the major sanctuaries for wildlife. Its definitive feature is the Etosha Pan, a vast shallow depression of about 5 000 km². This great, white expanse locals call 'great place of dry water', often shimmers with mirages and herds of game can be seen within this eerie setting.

There are 144 mammal species in the park, including elephant, giraffe, blue wildebeest and black rhino, predators such as lion, cheetah, leopard, wildcat, hyena and jackal. The black rhino population of 300 is one of the few growing populations in the world

and the local elephant are reputed to be the largest in Africa - the tallest standing at 4 m at the shoulder. Their tusks however are relatively small due to genetic defects and mineral deficiencies in their diet.

The majestic eland, the tiny, shy Damara dikdik (45 cm high) and the striking gemsbok, with its dramatic black and white markings are common. Bird life is prolific and some 340 species have been identified, including Namibia's national bird, the vividly coloured crimson-breasted shrike. During the more rainy seasons Etosha is also one of the most important breeding grounds for flamingos. Etosha is also known for its expert game management and attentive protection of the unspoilt environment.

Caprivi

A part of the Caprivi previously known as the Golden Triangle is a pristine wilderness area, practically untouched by any. The area was formerly under government jurisdiction – a 'no man's land' so wild that both private landowners and even nature conservation officials had no authority until the early-nineties. The land was finally handed over to nature conservation officials who now have prominent presence in the area. A spectacular part of this area is well known as 'The Horseshoe', a meandering part of the Kwando River now cut-off to form the flow to form a horseshoe teeming with game. A 10-12 km drive through swamp and savannah takes you directly there while the return trip follows the Kwando River. Not only are hippos abundant in this area, but also a resident pride of lions. The Horseshoe is also on the buffalo migration route north. Other animals to be seen are elephant, giraffe, hyena, tebe, lechwe, kudu and over 400 identified bird species.

Botswana

The San were among the first human inhabitants of this region before the Setswana migrated southwards and slowly occupied the region from the 16th century onwards, until early in the 19th century. By mid-century missionaries arrived, including David Livingstone and Robert Moffat, and by 1885 the territory was a British protectorate. Botswana gained its independence in 1966

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Namibia, Botswana and Falls

and has been the most stable democracy in Africa. The first president ruled from 1966 until his death in 1980, the second till 1994 (re-elected twice, then resigned) and the third from 1998. The country has a strong currency with one of the highest per capita incomes in Africa, maintains a neutral international political stance. It is heavily reliant on mining (especially diamonds) & tourism and maintains close ties with its neighbour South Africa, an economic powerhouse for the region.

Wildlife is abundant in Botswana and includes lion, giraffe, leopard, antelope, elephant, crocodile and ostriches. Botswana is semiarid and has an average annual (summer) rainfall of 640 mm (about 25 in) in the north to less than 230 mm (less than 9 in) in the Kalahari. Drought is therefore not uncommon and the vegetation is mostly savannah. Geographically Botswana is relatively flat (the average elevation of about 1000 m) and can be viewed (for all intents and purposes) as three major regions as follows: Chobe National Park in the north, another outstanding wilderness area of enormous diversity – lion and elephant can be viewed from river cruises or 4x4 game drives. The Okavango Delta is a vast marshland and one of the largest inland river deltas in the world – 15 000 km² of wilderness and prime safari area. The Kalahari Desert in the central and south-western regions occupies over half the land area of Botswana. It is a mystical, harsh and unspoiled landmass. The salt pans of north-central Botswana and the Tuli block in the far eastern corner of Botswana are also areas of significance.

Okavango Delta

The Okavango Delta in northern Botswana near Maun incorporates the Moremi Game Reserve and is a unique wildlife paradise - one of the finest in the world. It is one of the largest inland river deltas in the world. This unsurpassed natural environment is a maze of waterways, islands and reed banks creating a perfect place for lion, elephant, leopard, buffalo, giraffe, hyena, wild dog, kudu, impala, roan, zebra, lechwe, hippo, and crocodile, amongst others. There are 440 bird species in the delta and fish species are also abundant, including tiger fish, sharp-

toothed catfish, barbell and bream. Travel through the swamps and surrounding areas is generally by open 4x4 game viewing vehicle or a peaceful meander in a 'Mokoro', a flat-bottomed dugout canoe. The Delta is hot throughout the year with temperatures ranging from about 14°C in January to 24°C in July. Rainfall averages 525 mm annually, but varies greatly from year to year. Water levels and flooding reach a maximum between March and July, after rains at the source and the usual 15 000 km² can expand to approximately 22 000 km² in high-rainfall years.

Chobe National Park

Chobe is approx. 11 000 km² of wilderness area watered by the Chobe & Savuti Rivers and thus attracting huge concentrations of game. This includes lion and some of the highest concentration of elephant in Africa – an estimated population of around 25 000 in winter. Game viewing is renowned and in the Northern areas near Kasane, both the riverboat game viewing experience and the 4x4 vehicle option are popular. In addition the spectacular annual summer migrations of plains game, especially Zebra, is a highlight, as well Giraffe, Warthog and numerous antelope including Sable, Roan, Oribi, Reedbuck, Lechwe and the colourful Chobe Bushbuck. Bird watching opportunities in Chobe are ample and include some 350 species including the awesome African Fish Eagle, the rare Pell's Fishing Owl, saddle-billed storks, long-toed Plovers, pink-backed Pelicans, African Skimmers, Bradfield's Hornbills and Carmine Bee-eaters. In addition, the sunsets are spectacular.

Zimbabwe

This is a country blessed with great natural beauty, game reserves and mineral wealth. The diverse landscape changes from mountainous to wilderness to typical Bushveld. The country is also home to large animals and a large bird population. Zimbabwe is a country located in the southern part of the continent of Africa, between the Victoria Falls, Zambezi River, Kariba Dam and the Limpopo River. Zimbabwe is bordered by South Africa to the south, Botswana to the

west, Zambia to the north and Mozambique to the east.

Victoria Falls

'So lovely it must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight' said David Livingstone of the supreme Mosi-oa-Tunya ('The smoke that thunders'). This legendary traveller first saw the Falls from the Zambian side and his memory is enshrined in the nearby town of Livingstone. The views from the Zimbabwean & Zambian side are quite different, varying dramatically depending on the season and water flow. The Falls are over a mile in length and boast the largest curtain of water in the world - over 500 million litres of water per minute go over the falls and drop 100 m at Rainbow Falls on the Zambian side. Not surprisingly is it the seventh wonder of the world and fast becoming one of the top adventure destinations in the world.

The river is divided into a series of braided channels that descend in many separate falls. Below the Falls the river enters a narrow series of gorges, which represent locations successively occupied by the falls earlier in their history. Since the uplifting of the Makgadikgadi Pan area some two million years ago, the Zambezi River has been cutting through the basalt base rock, exploiting weak fissures, and forming a series of retreating gorges. Seven previous waterfalls occupied the seven gorges below the present falls, and Devil's Cataract in Zimbabwe is where the next cut back will form a new waterfall that will eventually leave the present falls lip high above the river in the gorge below.

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

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Namibia, Botswana and Falls

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.

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. Your tour leader can help to arrange post tour accommodation locally upon request.

Allergies/Likes/Dislikes

Whilst all will 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 an 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 On The Go Tours, 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.

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Namibia, Botswana and Falls

Travelling with children in Botswana

The Ministry of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs informs the general public that it has imposed requirements for minors (children under 18) travelling through the country's ports of entry.

Effective from the 1st October 2016 minors travelling through the country's borders will be required to produce certified copies of unabridged birth certificates in addition to their valid passports. In the event that one parent is not travelling with the child, the other parent's affidavit consenting to such travel should be availed. However, an affidavit will not be required if the father's name does not appear on the child's birth certificate."

To summarise the above, should families be travelling with children below the age of 18 they will require the following:

- Valid Passports
- Certified unabridged birth certificates for all minors below the age of 18
- An Affidavit signed by the non-travelling parent should the minor be travelling with one parent

Unfortunately these regulations are very strict therefore we urge all parents travelling to Africa with their children to contact all relevant embassies well prior to departure to ensure they have the correct documentation as if you do not, there is a high chance you will be denied entry.

Namibia 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 On The Go Tours, 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 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.

The border crossings we use in Namibia include:

- Noordoewer (South Africa/Namibia border)
- Muhembo (Namibia/Botswana border)

Under 18s Travelling to Namibia

Parents travelling to Namibia with children (under 18) 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 will not be accepted.

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 your Namibian Embassy 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 On The Go Tours.

Health & Vaccinations

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Namibia from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Polio, Diphtheria, Hepatitis A & B and Tetanus is strongly recommended. Rabies may also be recommended.

There is the risk of malaria in certain areas of Namibia 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 Namibia and you have previously been in an infected country.

Currency

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

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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.

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 On The Go Tours, 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, GB£ or South African Rand.

KAZA Visa

Zimbabwe and Zambia have re-introduced the popular, and much-awaited KAZA (Kavango-Zambezi) "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:

Kazungula (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. Credit cards only used in a handful of places, however all major hotels will now accept this payment. 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 bureaux 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.

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Zambian Airport Departure Tax

NOTES FOR THOSE FLYING OUT OF LIVINGSTONE AIRPORT IN ZAMBIA

An airport departure tax is in place for all flights departing from Zambian airports. It will no longer be included on the ticket and will now be collected in Zambian Kwacha cash direct from the passenger. The amount payable is currently K28,000 for Domestic Flights and K56,000 for International Flights and is payable on departure from all Zambian airports. Passengers need to have ZMK cash available for this tax. Please note, departure taxes are subject to change.

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