

Best of Botswana & Victoria Falls

12 days | Victoria Falls to Victoria Falls or Kasane



SMALL GROUP ACCOMMODATED

SAFARI: See the best of Botswana's wildlife and much more besides on this 12-day lodge safari, departing from Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. Enjoy included game drives in Chobe National Park and Moremi Game Reserve, watch the sunset over the Makgadikgadi salt pans and ride a mokoro along the waterways of the Okavango Delta. Relaxing each night in comfortable lodges, permanent tented camps and hotels.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Victoria Falls - visit the thundering waterfall independently and opt for a helicopter ride over the site
- Makgadikgadi Salt Pans - watch the sunset over the desolate lake bed and spot the wildlife which calls the area home
- Moremi Game Reserve - spot all of the famous Big Five on safari during several included game drives
- Okavango Delta - explore the famous waterways of the Delta by

traditional mokoro canoe and on foot

- Caprivi Strip - venture into Namibia to explore the Caprivi Strip, a birdwatcher's paradise alongside the Zambezi river
- Chobe National Park - cross Botswana's most famous national park, stopping often to see some of Africa's iconic species

What's Included

- 11 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 9 dinners
- 11 nights mid-range (3-4 star) lodges, hotels and permanent tented camps. Please Note: Accommodation named, may be subject to change but will be of a similar standard
- Victoria Falls International Airport arrival transfer and departure transfer to Kasane or Victoria Falls International Airport
- Transportation in a 16-seater Mercedes Sprinter vehicle (with comfortable reclining seats, air-conditioning, USB ports and sliding windows)
- Makgadikgadi Salt Pans National Park sightseeing
- Moremi Game Reserve - morning and afternoon game drives into the game reserve and concession, in open 4x4 vehicles

- Okavango Delta - mokoro excursion, boat excursion and game walks on the smaller islands (subject to water levels)
- Chobe National Park - morning game drive in an open 4x4 vehicle and a sunset game viewing boat cruise on the Chobe river
- Escorted by an experienced local guide/driver

What's Not Included

- Victoria Falls NP entrance fee and excursions
- International flights and visas
- Optional activities, additional meals and drinks
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture

Local Payment

USD \$230 pp, to be paid in cash

The local payment is a cost per person which needs to be paid in US Dollars cash. This payment covers national park fees and activities. 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 guide at the Pre Departure Meeting on day 1.

DETAILED ITINERARY

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Days 1-2 : Exploring Vic Falls



Upon arrival at Victoria Falls International Airport, you will be met and transferred to our hotel. Check-in, freshen up, and explore the local markets and optional activities before the pre-departure meeting at 15:00 in the foyer of the hotel. Day 2 is free to further explore the area or enjoy some of the optional activities available. Optional activities include Victoria Falls helicopter experience, bridge slide, sunset cruise and guided tour of the falls.

Accommodation: Sprayview Hotel (or similar) **Overnight – Victoria Falls** (B:1)

Day 3 : Mighty Makgadikgadi



Victoria Falls – Nata region (Botswana). Leaving Zimbabwe, we cross the border into Botswana and journey for approximately six hours to the Nata region. Late afternoon we visit the Makgadikgadi Pans for a truly unforgettable sunset over what remains of an ancient 6500km² lake. Our accommodation tonight is a lodge located at the edge of the salt pans.

Travelling Distance: approx 400kms (6hrs)
Accommodation: Nata Lodge (or similar)

Overnight – Nata region (B, D)

Days 4-5 : Moremi Game Reserve



Nata region – Moremi. After breakfast, we embark on a 3-hour drive to Maun, the gateway to the Okavango Delta and Moremi game reserve. Here we change from our overland vehicle into open 4x4 vehicles and travel on to our accommodation situated at the edge of Moremi game reserve. Moremi is lush and varied, with shallow flooded pans, plains, and forests. It is one of Africa's finest areas for wildlife, with particularly high game densities including all major naturally occurring herbivore and carnivore species in the region and over 400 species of birds. Our days are spent enjoying morning and afternoon game drives in the private concession and inside Moremi.

Travelling Distance (day 4): approx 400kms (6hrs)

Accommodation: Shokomoka Safari Lodge (or similar)

Overnight – Moremi (2) (B:2, L:1, D:2)

Day 6 : Maun

Moremi – Maun. A 2-hour transfer takes us back to Maun today. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure, with an optional 1 hr scenic flight over the vast Okavango Delta (own expense).

Traveling Distance: 70kms (2hrs)
Accommodation: Cresta Maun Hotel (or similar)

Overnight – Maun (B, D)

Days 7-8 : The Okavango Delta



Maun – Okavango Delta. Driving round the Okavango pan handle, we traverse to the northwest of the Okavango Delta on day 7 and arrive at our lodge on the edge of the Delta.

The following day we head out to explore the Delta by boat, mokoro and on foot. Enjoy a 30-minute boat trip up the channels of the Delta to an island where we board mokoros (traditional canoes) to explore the lush waterways of the Okavango. Keep your eyes peeled for elephants, crocodiles and other wildlife. We return to the island for lunch and a guided game walk (subject to water levels) before returning by boat to the lodge. As well as traditional African species, the Delta is a haven for rare birdlife, so remember your binoculars!

Traveling distance (day 7): approx 350kms (5hrs)

Accommodation: Swamp Stop (or similar)

Overnight – Okavango Delta (B:2, L:1, D:2)

Day 9 : Nipping to Namibia

Okavango Delta – Caprivi Strip (Namibia). Departing the Delta, we cross into Namibia and continue to the Eastern side of the Caprivi Strip. We arrive at our lodge overlooking the flood plains of the Zambezi River, where there is time to relax and enjoy the tranquil surroundings.

Travelling distance: approx 500kms (7hrs)

Accommodation: Zambezi Mubala Lodge (or similar)

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Overnight – Zambezi Region (Caprivi Strip) (B, D)

Days 10-11 : Chobe National Park



Caprivi Strip – Kasane (Botswana). Crossing back into Botswana, we spend the next two nights at Chobe Safari Lodge on the banks of the Chobe River. Chobe is famous for its beautiful scenery, magnificent sunsets, and abundance of wildlife and birdlife. Enjoy the afternoon with an optional game drive. On day 11 we enjoy an included morning game drive in an open 4x4 safari vehicle and a sunset game-viewing cruise on the Chobe River.

Our lodge is situated in Kasane on the banks of the Chobe River and shares a border with Chobe National Park. Right on the doorstep is the meeting of four African countries: Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Travelling distance (day 10): approx 120kms (2hrs)

Accommodation: Chobe Safari Lodge (or similar)

Overnight – Kasane (B:2, D:2)

Day 12 : Victoria Falls



Kasane – Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe).

After your scrumptious breakfast, check out and proceed to the foyer of the lodge where you will be met and

transferred to either Victoria Falls or Kasane International Airport for your onward journey.(B)

BEFORE YOU GO

Please Note

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

Best of Botswana & Falls is a small group, non-participation lodge accommodated 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 16 passengers, accompanied by a tour leader who is also the driver.

COVID-19 Vaccination requirements

As of 01 November 2021 it is a condition of travel, as detailed in our Terms & Conditions that all travellers over 18 years provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

We recognise any vaccine that has been authorised for use in the country where the vaccine was administered. This includes vaccines such as AstraZeneca, Covaxin, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Pfizer–BioNtech, Sinopharm, Sinovac and Sputnik.

In all instances, you must be fully immunised. This means you must receive the full dosage of the COVID-19 vaccine and allow a minimum of 14 days before travelling in order for immunity to take effect. Each COVID-19 vaccine has different dosages and timeframes for immunisation, so please check the related medical advice associated with your vaccine. Children under 18 years are not required to provide evidence of vaccination to travel at this time.

If you are unable to be vaccinated due to medical reasons, you may apply for an exemption. Exemptions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. To apply, you must provide supporting documentation from a medical professional.

Proof of COVID-19 immunisation must be provided to us **no less than 4 weeks prior to travel**. We accept COVID-19 digital certificates, NHS Covid Pass or Vaccination Record Cards e-mailed to info@onthegotours.com or you can upload your vaccination history yourself via our traveller login. <https://www.onthegotours.com/Login>

The information you will need to upload includes: Administering national authority or government, document No, name of Vaccine, date/s of vaccination.

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.

Please also note that your passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the end date of your trip.

Visa requirements and fees are subject to change. It is essential that you check the 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.

Local Payment

Please note that this tour has a local payment, this is to cover local park fees and activities. The Local Payment amount is noted under Exclusions and it is payable to your guide in US dollar cash on your day of arrival.

Optional Activities

During your tour there will be various optional excursions available to you. Please note these optional activities are operated by independent third-

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party suppliers. Some of these activities involve outdoor adventure, and as such contain an element of risk. You should only participate in activities that you feel comfortable you can handle. Please remember to check if your travel insurance covers these adventure activities. On arrival there will be a detailed description of each activity to read through before booking.

Please note rates quoted below are a guideline only and are subject to change. Payable locally with cash or debit/credit card.

BOTSWANA

Maun Scenic Flights (fixed wing - Moremi Air):

Please note rates quoted as a guideline only and are subject to change and is dependant on current rates of exchange. They are also quoted on a full plane. As the numbers decrease in the plane the cost p/person rises.

- 45 min Okavango Delta scenic flight - BWPI035 pp + BWP80 departure tax pp
- 1 hr Okavango Delta scenic flight - BWPI150 pp + BWP80 departure tax pp

Swampstop Scenic Helicopter Flights (3 pax per flight)

- 30 mins Okavango Delta scenic flight - USD200pp
- 45 mins Okavango Delta scenic flight - USD270pp

Chobe National Park

- Chobe NP Game Drive: USD46pp + USD12 park fees (3 hrs)

ZIMBABWE - Victoria Falls

Below rates exclude national park entrance fees

- Adventure Pass - USD302pp + park fees:

Any 2 of the following Wild Horizons Activities & a sunset cruise for almost free! - 'Big 5' Night Drive + Dinner, Half day Highwire Pass, 13 min Helicopter Flight

- Guided Tour of the Falls - USD21pp + USD30 entrance fee

- 12-13 min helicopter flight - USD150pp + USD15 park fee
- 25-30 min helicopter flight - USD284pp + USD15 park fee
- 15 min microlight flight - USD150pp + USD15 Government fee
- Sunset Cruise - USD45pp + USD10 River fees
- Ra-ikane, Luxury Sunset Cruise - USD75pp + USD10 River fees
- Wild Horizons Malachite Dinner Cruise - USD86pp + USD10 River fees
- Flying Fox - USD50pp + USD3 park fees
- Zip Line - USD80pp + USD3 park fees
- Gorge Swing - USD100pp + USD3 park fees
- Canopy Tour - USD61pp + USD3 park fees (2-2.5 hrs)
- Bungee Jump - USD160pp excl transfers
- Horse Riding Zambezi National Park USD95pp + park fee (2.5-3 hrs)
- Bicycle Tours USD45pp (2hrs)
- White Water Rafting (grade 5 rapids) including lunch
 - Low Water (10 Aug - 25 Dec) - USD120pp + USD10 River fees (7 hrs)
 - High Water (26 Dec - 09 Aug) - USD120pp + USD10 River fees (6.5 hrs)
- Livingstone Island (Jul - Nov) in Zambia
 - L/stone Island Breakfast Breezer - USD115pp
 - L/stone Island Lunch - USD180pp
 - L/stone Island High Tea - USD155pp

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.

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.

Botswana Country Guide

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 BWPI0, 20, 50 and 100.

Coins are in denominations of BWPI, 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 \$, GBE, 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,

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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.

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.

Zimbabwe Country Guide

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

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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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