



Zimbabwe and Botswana – an Expedition in the Heart of Africa

TRIP DOSSIER

This is a tour for keen explorers with interests in African nature and culture. You should not mind the inconveniences involved in camping, and you should have some experience in camping

HIGHLIGHTS:

Gweru Antelope Park (Zimbabwe)

Quietly tucked away just 10 km from the city of Gweru, Antelope Park has more than 23 species of wildlife and over 150 varieties of birds which can be viewed on the back of an elephant, on horseback or on foot accompanied by lion cubs.

Nata (Botswana)

The area is renowned for its excellent bird watching with a Bird Sanctuary near the town. Nata Bird Sanctuary is home to more than 165 bird species including flamingos, kingfisher, ostrich, eagles, bustards and pelicans. It is also a refuge for various species of wildlife which include species of antelope such as hartebeest, kudu, reedbuck, springbok and steenbok - and springhares, jackals, foxes, monkeys and squirrels eland, gemsbok and zebra.

Maun (Botswana)

The gateway to the Okavango Delta The Okavango supports a unique ecosystem that boasts an abundance of animal and plant life.

Ntwetwe and Nxai Xini Pans, (Botswana):

Vast desert, uninhabited areas.

Chobe National Park (Botswana)

The park has probably the largest Elephant population in the world; It is also known for its large herds of buffalo and is home to great numbers of other game species.

Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) The mighty waterfall, also known by the Batonga people as "The Smoke that Thunders"

TRIP PLAN:

Day 1 Departure

Departure from your country would usually be a day before the tour starts. Especially for travelers from Europe and the Americas.

Day 2 & 3: Gweru, Antelope Park (Zimbabwe)

Arriving in Harare (Zimbabwe) the group will be met at the airport by our crew. We will immediately board the vehicle and make our way to Antelope Park in Gweru. The highlights of the visit to the park include walking with lions and 'swimming with elephants'. The park is particularly well known for its lion breeding project and walking with lions. You can choose what optional activities you would like to participate in or you can

just sit by the pool and enjoy the African sunshine. *Please note, some of the activities mentioned, as well as a number of other optional activities are offered at an extra charge.*

Day 4: Nata (Botswana)

Transfer to Nata, we will spend the rest of the day in the area. Accommodation at Nata Lodge.

Day 5-8: Maun - Sitatunga, Okavango Delta (Botswana)

Our destination today is Maun, the gateway to the Okavango Delta. Once we arrive we will set up a camp at Sitatunga campsite. The following morning we make our way into the fertile plains of the Okavango Delta. The impressive Okavango River spills its waters into the Kalahari Desert to create the world's only true inland deltas. We set up a camp on some of the islands in the Delta and spend the next two days exploring its waterways by foot or by dugout canoes (mokoros). We will be tracing many different species that rely on the Okavango for their survival as well as simply enjoy the remoteness and tranquillity of the area. *Some of the activities are offered at an extra charge.*

Day 9: Gweta (Botswana)

In the morning we head east to the small town of Gweta. Gweta is not the attraction but rather the Ntwetwe and Nxai Xini Pans. The pans are a vast,

unspoiled moonscape area of nothing on earth. The pans are an area the size of Switzerland, with not a single human inhabitant. The 360 degree view of flat, white horizon is quite breathtaking! *Upon arrival you will be briefed on the optional activities on offer at an additional charge, and have a chance to explore the Ntwetwe and Nxai Xini pans.*

Day 10: Kasane (Botswana)

Our destination today will be Chobe Safari Lodge near the Chobe National Park. *Among the optional activities on offer, at an additional charge are: the game drives in the Chobe National Park and river cruises along the Chobe River.* Chobe offers excellent game and bird viewing opportunities.

Day 11 & 12: Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)

Transfer to Victoria Falls town, which is the home of one of the seven wonders of the world - the mighty Victoria Falls. Victoria Falls is also known as the adventure capital of Southern Africa offering a wide variety of adventure activities for you to enjoy. *These activities are offered at an additional charge. Some of them include: White water rafting, bungee jumping, Victoria Falls National Park, Jet Boating, River Cruises, Horse Trails, Gorge Swing, Helicopter flight and many others.*

Day 13: Departure from Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)

This is our final morning together in Africa. Today we say our last goodbyes and make our way to the airport well ahead of your flight departure time.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Days 2 - 9: Camping in tents. Please bring **a sleeping bag**. Days 11 and 12: Luxury tents. Full board from noon on day 1 to breakfast on day 12 (depending on flight times).

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

All transport, Guide Services, Penguin Travel representative.

EXCLUDED FROM THE PRICE

Visas, Vaccinations, Insurances. Airport exit fees. Optional Activities like walking with lions, bird watching etc. are not included in the tour price. You are welcome to contact us about the variety and prices of optional activities.

RECOMMENDED VACCINATIONS:

We recommend the following vaccinations, but please contact your personal doctor for advise as well: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Hepatitis A, Malaria pills (malarone, lariam or similar).

VISAS:

Visas are required, and may be obtained upon arrival for certain nationals, please ask or check in advance. Visa for Zimbabwe costs approx. 50 EUR. And for Botswana 50 EUR as well. You will need to bring 2 photos per visa.

AIRPORT EXIT FEES:

30 USD are to be paid at Victoria Falls Airport upon departure

EXPERIENCE NEEDED:

You should have some experience in camping.

WHAT TO BRING:

SLEEPING BAG (mattresses are provided), Comfortable shoes and light clothes. Shirts with long sleeves. Thin but long trousers. Hat. Sun tan oil. Mosquito repellent.

MONEY MATTERS

The Currency in Zimbabwe is called Zimbabwe Dollar, ZWD. The currency in Botswana is called Pula BWP. For current exchange rates please check: <http://www.oanda.com/currency/convert/>

TOUR DIFFICULTY

These tours include longer bus rides, and some trekking which is a little harder, normally on a challenging terrain. You should be fit in good condition.

MINIMUM GROUP SIZE: 8 persons

GENERAL FACTS ABOUT Zimbabwe



Area: 390 757 sq. km.
Population: Approx. 12 523 000
Largest city: The Capital: Harare
Time zone: Greenwich Mean Time (Summer) + 2 hours
Telephone Code: 263

Official language: Shona, English
Religion: Mainly Traditional beliefs

(Data per December 2009)

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Official language: Africaans, English
Religion: Christian, Islam, Hinduism

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Have a nice trip!