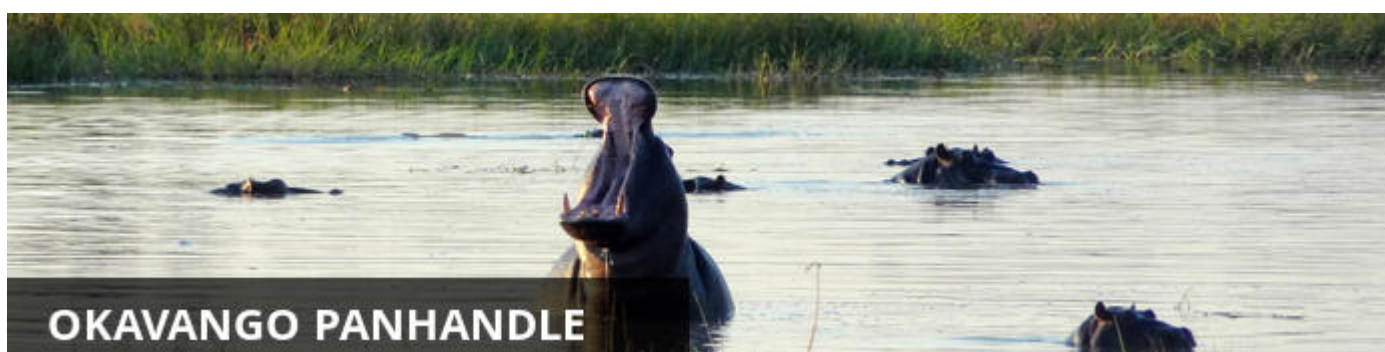




Four Rivers





KWANDO RIVER



KATIMA MULILO



LIVINGSTONE (VICTORIA FALLS)



VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE

Four Rivers

Maun - Ghanzi - Okavango Panhandle - Kwando River - Katima Mulilo - Livingstone (Victoria Falls) - Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

11 Days / 10 Nights

6 Persons

Reference: 180901

Date of Issue: 29 January 2019

23 August 2019 - 02 September 2019



[Click here to view your Digital Itinerary](#)

Introduction

Enjoy a genuine cultural experience in the open spaces and quiet peace of the Kalahari in the company of the wonderfully open and friendly San people. This is a unique opportunity to journey into and around the incredible Okavango Delta water system, then see Victoria Falls from both sides.

Accommodation	Destination	Start	End	Basis	Room Type	Duration
Royal Tree Lodge	Maun	23 Aug	24 Aug	HB	3x Twin Room	1 Night
Dqae Qare San Lodge	Ghanzi	24 Aug	25 Aug	FI	3x Twin Room	1 Night
Xaro Lodge	Okavango Panhandle	25 Aug	27 Aug	FI	3x Twin Room	2 Nights
Nambwa Tented Lodge	Kwando River	27 Aug	28 Aug	FI	3x Twin Room	1 Night
Caprivi Houseboat Safari Lodge	Katima Mulilo	28 Aug	29 Aug	FI	3x Twin Room	1 Night
The River Club	Livingstone (Victoria Falls)	29 Aug	30 Aug	FB	3x Twin Room	1 Night
Stanley & Livingstone Boutique Hotel	Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe	30 Aug	2 Sep	B&B	3x Twin Room	3 Nights

Key

HB: Half Board

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

FB: Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

FI: Fully Inclusive

Price

A\$9,835 per person sharing twin.

Fully escorted

(Tour operates with minimum 4 / maximum 6 persons)

Day 1: Friday, 23 August

Royal Tree Lodge, Maun

Maun

Set on the banks of the beautiful Thamalakane River in northern Botswana, Maun is the third largest town in this spectacularly scenic southern African country. Maun is the starting point for most expeditions into the Okavango Delta and as a result, has developed into a bustling metropolis that is considered Botswana's tourism capital. Area attractions include a renowned riverboat that offers cruises up and down the Thamalakane River; the forest groves of the Maun Game Reserve; and Moremi Game Reserve, home to hippos, lions and rhinos. Maun also serves as the jumping off point for many safaris and air charters as well as offers 4x4 rentals. Don't miss the Nhabe Museum exhibiting the local history, art and culture of the Ngamiland region.

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
23 Aug		Maun Airport [MUB]	Royal Tree Lodge		Transfer

Overnight: Royal Tree Lodge [View iBrochure](#)

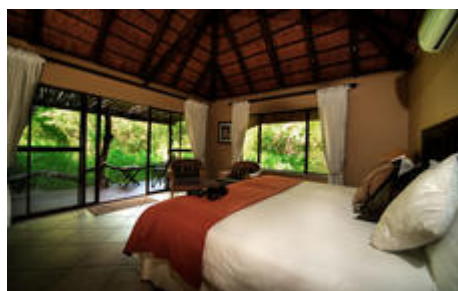
Royal Tree Lodge is a private game reserve located twenty minutes from the iconic safari town of Maun, the gateway to the Okavango Delta.

The lodge is situated on a private reserve on the banks of the Thamalakane River with an abundance of wildlife including giraffe, zebra, springbok, ostrich, eland, gemsbok and kudu as well as an extensive variety of bird life.

Guests will indulge in comfort and relaxation in one of Royal Tree Lodge's well appointed, private tented chalets or romantic thatched honeymoon suites. World class cuisine served by candlelight on the lodge's expansive teak deck, is the perfect way to conclude a day's safari.

At Royal Tree Lodge, it's not just about luxurious accommodation and old world hospitality. Marked walking trails invite guests to create their own adventure allowing safe, intimate interaction with wildlife. For the more adventurous, set off on a horse back safari, scenic flight over the delta, or mokoro canoe trip down the river.

Finish off the day with a warm drink around the communal fire as personal safari hosts and Royal Tree Lodge managers share life stories from over 80 years of combined safari experience.



Basis

Half Board

Day 2: Saturday, 24 August Dqae Qare San Lodge, Ghanzi

Ghanzi

Situated 300 kilometres southwest of Maun and just north of the Trans-Kalahari highway, which runs from Lobatse in Botswana to Walvis Bay in Namibia, the small town of Ghanzi is sometimes referred to as the 'Capital of the Kalahari'. It serves as the administrative centre of the Ghanzi district which covers a vast area of cattle ranches and farmland in the west of Botswana. The Ghanzi area has a number of lodges which focus on cultural tourism as well as wildlife viewing - here you can experience the fascinating world of the San Bushmen as they explain to you how they forage, hunt and find water in this harsh environment.

Day Itinerary

DAY 2: MAUN TO D'KAR / TRAVEL DAY

Accommodation: Dqae Qare Farm

Your safari begins at 14h00 at Maun Airport where you will be met by your Letaka Safaris guide. Once you are settled in to the comfortable, air-conditioned vehicle you will begin to journey to Dqae Qare Farm. Here you will be hosted and entertained by the San D'Kar community where you will enjoy a genuine experience of the open spaces and quiet peace of the Kalahari in the company of the wonderfully open and friendly San people.

During the evening, guests will have the opportunity to enjoy Traditional Dancing with a variety of dances being demonstrated and the trance (healing) dance, while not guaranteed, is a definite possibility depending on your level of involvement. The trance dances are the backbone of San culture, binding the community, and are an exceptional and unique experience. The ladies keep the rhythm by clapping and singing their polyphonic chant to build the energy, while the healers (mostly men) dance with the rattles to enter trance and heal the participants.

Meals (D)

Activities (Traditional Dancing)

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
24 Aug		Royal Tree Lodge	Dqae Qare San Lodge		Transfer

Overnight: Dqae Qare San Lodge

Dqae Qare San Lodge offers a unique Kalahari experience as it is owned and run by the San people (Bushmen). Set up as a social enterprise the Lodge supports the local San D'Kar community through employment and is a crucial project in the San's quest for cultural survival. As a guest of the San at Dqae Qare you will enjoy all the benefits of the excellent accommodation, traditional cuisine and extensive adventure and cultural activities. The Lodge is located on 7500 hectare game farm owned by the San which includes a range of plains game from giraffe to warthog and including leopard, cheetah and brown hyena.

As a celebration of San culture, the community delight in sharing their culture and extraordinary knowledge of the Kalahari with guests through bush walks, traditional dancing, fire making, craft making, trapping and storytelling or experience everything and more over a full day Bushman Experience. Accommodation consists of 15 en-suite rooms and an extensive campsite under the Camel thorn trees. Wild camping on the farm is also possible or at the Far Campsite 10km south of the Lodge. Our excellent meals, often with wild foods sourced off the farm, can be booked by lodge guests and campers.



Basis

Fully Inclusive

Day 3: Sunday, 25 August
Xaro Lodge, Okavango Panhandle

Okavango Panhandle

Situated in the northwestern area of the Okavango Delta, the Panhandle is a stretch of the Okavango River that follows a more-or-less straight course for approximately 70 kilometres before entering the wetlands. This deep channel serves as the main water source feeding the delta and offers excellent tiger and bream fishing, while the surrounding woodlands and the river's shallow waters teem with a myriad of birds. The Okavango Panhandle is dotted with several villages and serves as a gateway to the scenic Tsodilo Hills, some 40 kilometres west, with their various tribal cave paintings, some dating back as far as 20 000 years. There are also a number of well-established riverside camps that provide comfortable tourist accommodation. Visitors can enjoy excellent fishing, first-class birding, boating on the Okavango river and game viewing in the Mahangu National Park.

Day Itinerary**DAY 3: D'KAR TO OKAVANGO PAN HANDLE / TRAVEL DAY****Accommodation: Xaro Lodge**

You will have the opportunity to enjoy an additional activity this morning such as a bush walk and tracking before we depart around 10am. Arriving in Shakawe we will leave our vehicle for boats for our transfer to the lodge, where you have time to orientate yourself before heading out for an afternoon boat cruise.

Meals (B, L, D)

Activities (boat cruise)

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
25 Aug		Dqae Qare San Lodge	Xaro Lodge		Transfer

Overnight: Xaro Lodge

Xaro Lodge is a sister lodge of Drotsky's Cabins and is also situated near Shakawe, Botswana, in the western panhandle of the Okavango Delta. The lodge is a must visit for birding enthusiasts. Species that are spotted regularly include the Pel's fishing owl, skimmers, carmine bee eaters, egrets, herons, kingfishers and boubous. The river boasts seventeen species of fish, most notable are the tiger fish and bream. Xaro Lodge offers boating cruises, on which guests have the opportunity to see hippos, crocodiles and might even be lucky enough to sight the elusive sitatunga. At Xaro Lodge meals are served in the dining room. After dinner cigars and brandy around the campfire or in the bar are bound to spark memorable conversations. On hot days the swimming pool offers a welcome respite.



Basis

Fully Inclusive

Day 4: Monday, 26 August Xaro Lodge, Okavango Panhandle

Day Itinerary

DAY 4: OKAVANGO PAN HANDLE / FULL DAY

Accommodation: Xaro Lodge

Enjoy an opportunity to spend the day exploring this UNESCO World Heritage area by boat and on foot.

Meals (B, L, D)

Activities (boat cruise and island walk)

Basis

Fully Inclusive

Day 5: Tuesday, 27 August Nambwa Tented Lodge, Kwando River

Kwando River

Meandering through the spectacular Caprivi Strip in northwest Namibia, the Kwando River rises from the central Angolan highlands forming the boundary between Namibia, Zambia and Angola. The area surrounding the Kwando River is known for its protected game reserves, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. It offers excellent game viewing with the perennial waters of the river attracting plentiful wildlife including large herds of elephant, hippos, crocodiles, red lechwe, turtles, zebra, impala, spotted-necked otters and over 400 species of bird. Visitors can enjoy a relaxing stay at one of the many lodges set on the banks of the river and soak up the spectacular views of wild Africa. Popular activities include: game viewing, bird watching, fishing, and camping.

Day Itinerary

DAY 5: OKAVANGO PAN HANDLE TO KWANDO RIVER / TRAVEL DAY + BORDER CROSSING

Accommodation: Nambwa Tented Camp or similar

Today we will exit Botswana and enter in to Namibia and the lush Caprivi strip.

Traveling east through the Caprivi we will arrive at Nambwa Tented Camp, our accommodation for the night. The only lodge situated inside the Bwabwata National Park and where you will have the opportunity to head out on a game drive in the afternoon.

Please check if you require a pre-organised visa for Namibia prior to travel

Meals (B, L, D)

Activities (game drive)

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
27 Aug		Xaro Lodge	Nambwa Tented Lodge		Transfer

Overnight: Nambwa Tented Lodge [View iBrochure](#)

Nambwa Tented Lodge is within the heart of KAZA and the only lodge uniquely situated inside the Bwabwata National Park. The Lodge offers ten luxurious tents nestled high in the majestic Jackalberry, Sausage and Knobthorn trees. Respecting the elephants' right of way, the lodge is built in exquisite comfort above the African Wildlife. An entirely authentic walkway joins these luxurious tented suites of exquisite comfort, tastefully decorated where natural colors evoke a gentle balance of serenity. The decadently spacious tented suites open completely and emanate a feeling of vastness. From the privacy of your large open-air deck watch the sky illuminate with hues of purple and amber and reenergize for the days adventure ahead.



Basis

Fully Inclusive

Day 6: Wednesday, 28 August Caprivi Houseboat Safari Lodge, Katima Mulilo

Katima Mulilo

Situated on the southern banks of the Zambezi River, the small town of Katima Mulilo serves as the capital of the Zambezi region. This riverside town is surrounded by lush vegetation, tropical birds and cheeky monkeys. Katima Mulilo is the service centre for the Caprivi and serves as the commercial hub for the East Caprivi region. Visitors can enjoy an array of interesting attractions including the vibrant street market, where arts and crafts, such as traditional grass-woven baskets, wood carvings, clothes and jewellery, are sold.

Day Itinerary

DAY 6: KWANDO RIVER TO KATIMA MULILO / TRAVEL DAY

Accommodation: Caprivi Houseboat Safari Lodge or similar

You will have some leisure time this morning where you can enjoy the peace of the lodge or head out on another activity (not included) before departing and continuing further east almost to Katima Mulilo where we will stay overlooking the Zambezi River upon which we will enjoy a sunset cruise before dinner.

Meals (B, L, D)

Activities (sunset cruise)

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
28 Aug		Nambwa Tented Lodge	Caprivi Houseboat Safari Lodge		Transfer

Overnight: Caprivi Houseboat Safari Lodge

Rustic thatched en-suite chalets on the banks of the Zambezi River - equipped with a ceiling fan and mosquito nets. The chalets are built with reed walls and have canvas curtains opening up along the front, to give you that "sleeping in the open" feeling.



Basis

Fully Inclusive

Day 7: Thursday, 29 August

The River Club, Livingstone (Victoria Falls)

Livingstone (Victoria Falls)

Located a few kilometres from the Zambezi River in southwestern Zambia, the bustling town of Livingstone is famous as the home of the magnificent Victoria Falls. One of the original natural wonders of the world, the World Heritage Site is known locally as 'The Smoke that Thunders'. This spectacle is accessible from both Zambia and Zimbabwe and is an ideal place to combine game viewing and water sports. There is excellent fishing, a terrifying bungee jump and arguably the best commercial whitewater rafting in the world. Visitors can hike around the falls or try ziplining or the bridge swing. Those seeking more leisurely activities can take sunset cruises along the river, with champagne and snacks included, meander through the vibrant local Livingstone Market, or discover the region's history and archeology at the Livingstone Museum.

Day Itinerary

DAY 7: KATIMA MULILO TO LIVINGSTONE / TRAVEL DAY + BORDER CROSSING

Accommodation: The River Club

The border crossing in to Zambia can be a true African experience as a multitude of permits are required for vehicles however, the drive itself between Katima Mulilo and Livingstone is relatively short at around 3 hours but do expect some waiting at the border where you can people watch.

Once through, you will continue in to The River Club where you will stay for 1 night. Time permitting, you may enjoy join a complementary sunset cruise on the mighty Zambezi River and/or the facilities and activities on the property.

Meals (B,D)

Activities (Afternoon river cruise)

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
29 Aug		Caprivi Houseboat Safari Lodge	The River Club		Transfer

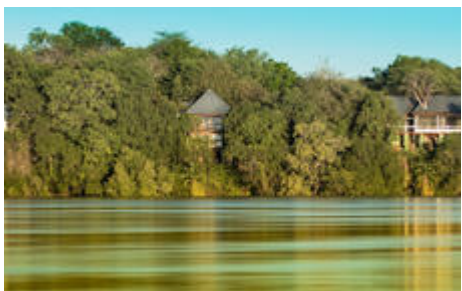
Overnight: The River Club [View iBrochure](#)

The River Club is defined by the value we attach to lasting memories, genuine hospitality, the historical preservation of Livingstone, Zambia, and our commitment to our local community.

We offer a truly authentic local experience within the context of Livingstone and the natural heritage of the Zambezi River and Victoria Falls with an unrivalled presence. Our mission is achieved when engaging service, synergy with our community and attention to detail elevate each stay - turning moments into memories for our guests.

Eleven spacious, private suites are individually set within the tree line along the edge of the magnificent Zambezi River. From their elevated positions, the suites are perfectly situated to gaze across the river to the Zambezi National Park on the opposite bank, home to an array of wildlife and birds in an area of abundant natural beauty.

A host of activities await young and old, on property as well as in the nearby area. Located only a short distance from the historical town of Livingstone and renowned Victoria Falls, The River Club is the perfect retreat for families, honeymooners or those looking to complete a safari circuit in Southern or East Africa.



Basis

Full Board

Included

Accommodation, daily breakfast, lunch, dinner, afternoon tea, house-drinks (beer, wine, soft drinks), laundry, Wi-Fi, facilities on property: croquet, tennis, snooker, boules & nature trail.

Day 8-11: Friday, 30 August to Monday, 2 September Stanley & Livingstone Boutique Hotel, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Resting on the southern banks of the Zambezi River at the western end of the eponymous falls, this popular tourist town is compact enough to walk around and makes an ideal base for travellers exploring the seventh wonder of the world, the unfathomably vast Victoria Falls. About two-thirds of the falls can be viewed from the Zimbabwean side and, while the falls are undoubtedly the star attraction, the area provides both adventure seekers and sightseers with plenty of opportunities to warrant a longer stay. Popular activities include scenic flights over the falls in helicopters or microlights, bungee jumping off the Victoria Falls Bridge, white-water rafting (seasonal), and day trips to Chobe National Park. The town itself offers some excellent accommodation and restaurant options as well as an eclectic variety of African curios and authentic art sold by friendly Zimbabwean locals who are wonderfully welcoming and eager to help you enjoy your stay.

Day Itinerary***DAY 8: LIVINGSTONE TO VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE / TRAVEL DAY + BORDER CROSSING******Accommodation: Stanley & Livingstone Boutique Hotel***

You may enjoy a shared guided tour of Victoria Falls (Zambian side), a Tour of Livingstone Town, a Game drive in Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park or a visit to the local village from The River Club. Due to the range and number of additional activities available from Livingstone, these have not been included in the itinerary and guests will have the morning to do as they wish (for more information on the availability activities and if you would like to pre-book, please contact us).

Farewell to Zambia as we head across the Victoria Falls Railway Bridge on the ferry into Zimbabwe.

Due to its location, Stanley & Livingstone is set apart from the hustle and crowds of Victoria Falls town whilst still offering guests the chance to both view the magnificent falls from the Zimbabwe side, and the chance to spot rhino, along with many other wildlife, at the waterhole in front of the hotel.

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
30 Aug		The River Club	Stanley & Livingstone Boutique		Transfer

Hotel

Overnight: Stanley & Livingstone Boutique Hotel [View iBrochure](#)

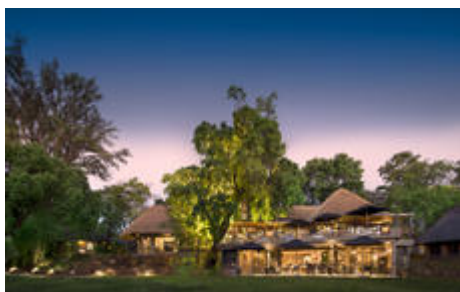
A quiet retreat in one of the continent's most loved destinations

When you stay at Stanley & Livingstone Boutique Hotel, Victoria Falls is yours to explore – or to pause in on an active Southern African itinerary.

Our Hotel's thoughtful comforts, attentive service, and excellent food enhance your experience by ensuring you are very well taken care of – a hallmark of Stanley & Livingstone.

At a glance

- 16 Luxury Suites with two sets of Inter-leading Suites, perfect for families
- Mack & Madi kids' programme to surprise and delight youngsters of all ages
- An excellent restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner in the dining room, on the hotel terrace, or out in the gardens
- Hotel terrace looking onto the gardens, with tables set out for meals, coffees, and sundowners
- Lounge and bar with a menu of expertly brewed MORE coffees and a selection of premium beers, wines, champagnes, spirits, and specialty cocktails
- Garden swimming pool with umbrella-shaded loungers, serviced by the restaurant and bar
- Private Travel Concierge to organise activities and take care of any last-minute travel arrangements
- Complimentary Wi-Fi access throughout the hotel
- Complimentary shared transfers between the hotel and Victoria Falls town, Victoria Falls Intl Airport, or Livingstone's Harry Mwanga Nkumbula Intl Airport

**Basis**

Bed & Breakfast

Day 11: Monday, 2 September

End of Itinerary

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
2 Sep		Stanley & Livingstone Boutique Hotel	Victoria Falls International Airport [VFA]		Transfer

Basis

Bed & Breakfast

Urgent Contact Numbers

Company Name	Telephone	Email Address	Contact Person
Experiential Travel	+61418325812	info@experiential.travel	Neville Jones

Service Provider Directory

Service Provider	Ref. Number	Telephone	Address
Caprivi Houseboat Safari Lodge		0026466252287	Hippo Road Katima Mulilo Zambesi Region Namibia
Dqae Qare San Lodge		+267 72 527 321	Portion 1 of Farm Rusplaas #60NK S 21 38 15 E 21 49 25
Nambwa Tented Lodge		+264 81 125 2122	Bwabwata National Park, Zambezi Region, Namibia
Royal Tree Lodge		+267 680 0757	
Stanley & Livingstone Boutique Hotel		+2632132841005	Stanley & Livingstone Private Game Reserve Ursula Road Victoria Falls Zimbabwe
The River Club		+260 21 3327457	Farm 1519a Nakatindi Road Livingstone 60469 Zambia
Xaro Lodge		+267 7280 4746	Xaro Lodge Okavango Delta Botswana 11000

Travel Information

The information in this document is provided by the operators and other parties. It may not accurately reflect your experience.



Situated in the southern reaches of Africa, Botswana is renowned for its pristine wilderness areas characterised by deep lagoons, wetlands, lush palms, rugged hills and desert plains scattered with scrubland. The country's primary tourist drawcard is undoubtedly the vast red expanse of the Kalahari Desert and its remarkably beautiful Okavango Delta, the largest inland delta in the world. These natural wonders provide a tranquil haven for an abundance of African wildlife to thrive. Other highlights include the impressive Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, where visitors are privy to massive zebra migrations during the flood season; the Savuti plains, which host large prides of lions; and the Tsodilo Hills, where 4500 rock paintings form a unique record of human settlement over many millennia.

Banking and Currency

Currency

Botswana's currency is Pula (which means 'rain' in Setswana). It is divided into 100 thebe (which means 'shield' in Setswana). Travellers' cheques and foreign currency may be changed at banks, bureaux de change and authorised hotels.

The US dollar, Euros, British Pound and the South African Rand are the most easily convertible currencies (and accepted by some establishments - but, generally, then an inflated rate of exchange will be applied).

Banking

Seven main commercial banks, as well as a number of foreign exchange bureaux, operate in Botswana. Operating hours are Monday to Friday 08h30 to 15h30 and Saturday 08h30 to 10h45.

Full banking services are available in major towns, although ATMs are sprouting up all over the country. Most credit cards are accepted at hotels and restaurants. Cultural sites and community art and craft outlets usually only accept cash.

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Public transport in Botswana is geared towards the needs of the local populace and is confined to main roads between major population centres. Although cheap and reliable, it is of little use to the traveller as most of Botswana's tourist attractions lie off the beaten track.

Driving off the main roads in Botswana is only recommended to experts in 4x4 vehicles, that are equipped correctly. Most lodges offer transfers or they can be arranged. If, however, you will be driving in Botswana: your home driving licence will be accepted (with an official English translation if necessary; driving is on the left side of the road; and the national speed limit is on tarred roads is 120km/h and 60km/h in towns and villages.

Be sure to watch out for wild animals on the roads!

There are major airports in Maun, Kasane and Gaborone, while smaller charter flights are used to get to the other top attractions and camps.

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

Tap water is considered safe to drink, although outside main cities and towns, visitors are advised to check first and sterilise water if in any doubt. Bottled water is available in most tourist centres. Filtered water is available at most camps and shops offer bottled water - it is advised to be well stocked of bottled water if you are travelling off the beaten track. Milk is pasteurised, and dairy products, local meat, poultry, seafood, fruit and vegetables are generally safe.

Safari lodges and camps serve international-style cuisine, generally of an extremely high standard, along with local beer and imported wine and spirits. Good restaurants and bars can be found in main towns, often within hotels. Beef and goat are very popular meats. Elsewhere, food is more basic: millet and sorghum porridge are the local staples.

A discretionary 5 to 10% tip is typical for restaurant bills. In many places, a service charge is automatically added. It is customary to tip the game guide and lodge staff while on safari.

Climate and Weather

Botswana's climatic pattern is typical of southern Africa, although its rainfall is less than countries further east. The rains in Botswana come mostly between December and March, when average minimum temperatures are in the low 20°s. Some days will be bright and sunny, some will have afternoon thunderstorms, and some will just be grey.

As with Namibia, April and May in Botswana are generally lovely, with the sky clear and the landscape green. Night temperatures start to drop during these months, especially in the Kalahari. Note that places in and around the Okavango tend to have less extreme, more moderate temperatures than the drier areas of the Kalahari.

From June to August the night-time temperatures in drier areas can be close to freezing, but it warms up rapidly during the day, when the sky is usually clear and blue. It's now very much 'peak season' for most safari areas: the land is dry in most areas so the animals congregate around the few available water sources.

This continues into September and October, when temperatures climb again, drying the landscapes and concentrating the game even more. This is the best time for big game safaris – although October can feel very hot, with maximum temperatures sometimes approaching 40°C.

November is difficult to predict, as it can sometimes be a continuation of October's heat, whilst sometimes it's cooled by the first rains; it's always an interesting month.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

In summer, lightweight, lightcoloured cottons are preferable. Avoid synthetic materials and black clothing, as they increase perspiration and discomfort. In winter, wear trousers, longsleeved shirts / blouses and jerseys. From May – August, night temperatures can fall below zero degrees celsius, so warm jerseys and jackets are vital, especially on morning and evening game drives. Garments of neutral colours that blend with the bush and forest are advisable for safaris and game viewing. Bring a lightweight jacket and/or jersey for unexpected temperature changes or rain. Closed, comfortable walking shoes or gym shoes are a must in all seasons. Special attention should be given to protection from the sun. Bring a sunhat, good quality sunscreen, sun lotion and polarised sunglasses. Wide brimmed sun hats are essential.

Electricity and Plug Standards

Electrical sockets (outlets) in Botswana are the "Type M " South African SABS1661 ("Large" 15 amp BS-546) sockets. This is actually an old British standard. The "Type M " South African plug and socket is not to be confused with the "Type D " Indian plug and socket. In pictures, they look very similar, but the South African type is much larger than the Indian type, and they are physically incompatible. If your appliance's plug doesn't match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to plug in. Travel plug adapters simply change the shape of your appliance's plug to match whatever type of socket you need to plug into.

Electrical sockets (outlets) in Botswana usually supply electricity at between 220 and 240 volts AC. If you're plugging in an appliance that was built for 220-240 volt electrical input, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need.

But travel plug adapters *do not change the voltage*, so the electricity coming through the adapter will still be the same 220-240 volts the socket is supplying. If you need to use appliances that are not compatible with 220-240 volt electrical input, you will need a voltage converter.



Located in southwestern Africa, Namibia boasts a well-developed infrastructure, some of the best tourist facilities in Africa, and an impressive list of breathtaking natural wonders. Visitors can explore the capital of Windhoek and discover the lovely coastal town of Swakopmund boasting remnants of the country's German influence, reflected in the architecture, culture, cuisine and the annual Oktoberfest celebrations. To properly appreciate this extraordinary country, you will have to venture out of the cities to explore the remarkable natural landscapes Namibia has to offer. These include: the impressive Fish River Canyon; the vast Etosha National Park teeming with abundant wildlife, such as lions, desert-adapted elephants and the Hartmann's Mountain Zebra; the hauntingly beautiful Kalahari Desert; and of course the Namib Desert stretching for over 2000 km along the magnificent Atlantic Coast. Namibia is an ideal destination for travellers seeking an unforgettable African experience in a uniquely beautiful untamed wilderness.

Banking and Currency

Currency

Namibia uses the Namibian Dollar (N\$) this is linked on a one to one exchange with the South African Rand. The Rand is legal tender in Namibia, but the N\$ cannot be used in South Africa.

If you are wishing to purchase currency before arriving in Namibia, it is easiest to buy Rand as the Namibian Dollar is seldom available in banks outside of Namibia.

Banking

Banks are found in most towns, and are generally open from 09h00 to 15h30 on weekdays and 08h30 to 11h00 on Saturdays. Closed on Sundays and public holidays. Most of them offer foreign exchange services - with cash, bank and credit cards as well as travellers cheques.

You can also obtain cash from many of the ATMs. Several international banks have branches in main city centres. Always advise your bank that you are travelling outside of the country as they might block your purchases if they have not been informed.

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Public transport in Namibia is geared towards the needs of the local populace, and is confined to main roads between major population centres. Although cheap and reliable, it is of little use to the traveller as most of Namibia's tourist attractions lie off the beaten track.

It is easy to travel around Namibia by car, and a 2WD vehicle is perfectly adequate for most journeys. However, long distances, poor mobile phone coverage outside of main towns and infrequent petrol stations that only accept cash mean that planning ahead is vital.

There are major airlines that fly into Windhoek and Swakopmund. Other destinations are reachable by car or charter flight.

Namibians drive on the left and all signposts are in English. Seat belts must be worn at all times and talking in a mobile phone while driving is prohibited. The general speed limit is 120km/h on tarred roads outside of towns and 100km/h on gravel roads. In built up areas, the speed limit is 60km/h.

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

Traditional Namibian cuisine is rarely served and so the food at restaurants tends to be European in style and is, generally, of a very high standard.

Namibia is very meat-orientated, and many menu options will feature steaks from various animals. However, there is usually a vegetarian and seafood section offered by most camps and restaurants.

In the supermarkets you'll find pre-wrapped fresh fruit and vegetables (though the more remote the areas you visit, the smaller your choice), and plenty of canned foods, pasta, rice, bread, etc. Most of this is imported from South Africa.

The water in Namibia's main towns is generally safe to drink, though it may taste a little metallic if it has been piped for miles. Natural sources should usually be purified, though water from underground springs and dry riverbeds seldom causes any problems. However, filtered and bottled water are readily available in most towns and all camps, lodges and hotels.

Climate and Weather

Partially covered by the Namib Desert, one of the world's driest deserts, Namibia's climate is generally very dry and pleasant – it's fine to visit all year round. Namibia only receives a fraction of the rain experienced by countries further east. Between about **December to March** some days will be humid and rain may follow, often in localised, afternoon thunderstorms. These are more common in the centre and east of the country, and more unusual in the desert.

April and especially **May** are often lovely months in Namibia. Increasingly dry, with a real freshness in the air, and

much greenery in the landscape; at this time the air is clear and largely free from dust.

From **June to August** Namibia cools down and dries out more; nights can become cold, dropping below freezing in some desert areas. As the landscape dries so the game in the north of the country gravitates more to waterholes, and is more easily seen by visitors. By **September and October** it warms up again; game-viewing in most areas is at its best, although there's often a lot of dust around and the vegetation has lost its vibrancy.

November is a highly variable month. Sometimes the hot, dry weather will continue, at other times the sky will fill with clouds and threaten to rain – but if you're lucky enough to witness the first rains of the season, you'll never forget the drama.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

Namibians have a somewhat relaxed attitude to dress codes. A jacket and tie is very unusual. In fact, long trousers and a shirt with buttons are often quite adequate for a formal occasion or work wear. A pair of sensible shoes, jeans and a t-shirt is recommended.

During the day it is generally hot, so pack light weight loose fitting clothes in natural fabrics, such as linen or cotton, that will keep you cool and are easy to wash and dry.

Avoid blue clothing - the tsetse flies are drawn to the colour blue, and their bite can give you African Sleeping Sickness.

Long sleeved shirts and long trousers will protect you against mosquitoes at night.

Electricity and Plug Standards

Current is 220/240 volts at 50 cycles per second. A three-point round-pin adapter plug should be brought for your electrical appliances. Such adapters are also available at major airports.



This unique, peanut-shaped country, once known as Northern Rhodesia, offers visitors an authentic African experience complete with adrenalin pumping adventure sports, a variety of fascinating cultural activities, and an abundance of indigenous wildlife, which finds refuge in Zambia's vast national parks. Spend your evenings enjoying the spectacular site of the world's largest waterfall, the Victoria Falls, while sipping on sundowners after an exhilarating day of whitewater rafting down the rapids of the mighty Zambezi River. If that sounds a little too adventurous for your taste, take a houseboat cruise along the exquisite Lake Kariba while watching wild elephants drink at the riverbank as you try your hand at catching the elusive tiger fish. However you choose to spend your time in this unique country, you are bound to leave with a heavy heart and a desire to return again soon to this exceptionally beautiful Southern African country.

Banking and Currency

Currency

Zambia's unit of currency is the Kwacha (ZMW), formally ZMK which was rebased in 2013. The denominations are K100, K50, K20, K10, K5 and K2. It is subdivided into 100 *ngwee*. Coins available are K1, 50 ngwee, 10 ngwee and 5 ngwee.

However, some prices are quoted in US\$. It is therefore possible to use dollars and pounds as well.

Banking

In the cities and larger towns, you can change cash and travellers cheques at branches of Barclays Bank and Standard Chartered Bank. Larger branches have ATMs that accept Visa. Foreign exchange offices are easy to find in cities and larger towns.

Banks are generally open on weekdays from 08h15 to 15h30 and 08h15 to 12h00 on Saturdays. Banks are closed on Sundays and public holidays.

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Proflight flies from Lusaka to Mfuwe (South Luangwa), to Livingstone and the Copperbelt and also does charters. Various air charter companies will fly to any of the many airstrips around the country and most of the areas worth visiting are accessible by air.

Public Transport

There are many taxis available. Prices are negotiable. There is a good bus service to Chipata, Livingstone, the Copperbelt and Harare, but they don't always follow strict schedules. The main bus terminus is in Dedan Kimathi Road in Lusaka where one can inquire about timetables. Other private bus companies offer more reliable services to Livingstone, Harare and Johannesburg.

Travel by Bus

Long range buses frequently leave from Lusaka to all the main towns. The intercity bus terminal can be found one road up from Cairo Road at the station.

Minibuses and taxis, local transport – all painted blue – can be jumped on at pretty much any juncture. They're not expensive and you can always find a minibus that won't cost too much to buy all the seats in it to get your own private minibus to wherever you want to go but you'll have to negotiate.

Travel by Road

Zambia has 38,763 kilometres of roads, about 10,000 kms of which are tarred and another 8000 kms are gravel road. The rest range from reasonable to bad dirt roads.

If you're doing a vehicle trip through Zambia it is a good idea to carry a range of tools and essential spares with you.

Be really careful, especially if travelling at night for road markings are usually non-existent. Do watch out for animals in the road, vehicles without lights, pedestrians, unannounced roadworks, bad drivers and broken down trucks with no warning triangles. If you see a tree branch in the road, slow down immediately – these are improvised warning triangles and there's bound to be a truck or car in the middle of the road up ahead.

Be sure to have all your vehicle papers on hand as you're bound to encounter a few roadblocks.

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

Zambia's native cuisine is based on nshima, a cooked porridge made from ground maize normally accompanied by some tasty relish, perhaps made of meat and tomatoes, or dried fish. Safari camps will often prepare nshima if requested, and it is almost always available in small, local restaurants.

Camps, hotels and lodges that cater to overseas visitors tend to serve a range of international fare, and the quality of food prepared in the most remote bush camps is typically excellent.

Water in the main towns is usually purified, provided there are no shortages of chlorine, breakdowns, or other mishaps. The locals drink it, and are used to the relatively innocuous bugs that it may harbour. If you are in the country for a long time, then it may be worth acclimatising yourself to it. However, if you are in Zambia for just a few weeks, then try to drink only bottled, boiled, or treated water in town.

Out in the bush, most of the camps and lodges use water from bore-holes. These underground sources vary in quality, but are normally perfectly safe to drink.

Climate and Weather

The rains in Zambia come mostly in December, January, February and March though the further north you are, the earlier the rains arrive and the later they leave. Eastern areas and higher areas generally receive more rain than western and lowland areas.

By April and May most of the rain has faded away, leaving a landscape that's still green, but starting to dry out. Nighttime temperatures start to drop, especially in higher and more southerly locations.

In June, July and August the nights become much cooler, but the days are clear and warm. Make sure you bring warm clothes to wrap up if you're out at night, as some nights get very cold! Most of Zambia's small 'walking bush camps' open at the start of June, when the roads have dried out sufficiently to allow access. This is the start of the 'peak season' for these countries – with often cloudless days and continually increasing game sightings.

Into September and October the temperatures climb: the lower-lying rift valleys – Lower Zambezi, Mana Pools and Luangwa Valley – can get very hot in October. However, you'll see some superb game as the animals concentrate around the limited water sources.

November is variable; it can be hot and dry like October, or it can see the season's first downpours. Often it's a very interesting month as you can see both patterns on successive days.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

Zambia has mild winters and the summer days can be scorching hot. Lightweight casual clothes can be worn all year round, with a jacket or jersey for early winter mornings and evenings.

On safari keep clothes to neutral colours - khakis, browns and greens. A sunhat, sunscreen, sunglasses and insect repellent are a must.

Electricity and Plug Standards

Current is 220/240 volt at 50 cycles per second. Both square and round wall plugs are used.



A nation of spectacular natural beauty, friendly people and rich culture, Zimbabwe's status as one of Africa's leading safari destinations was dampened for years by its political instability. But now that the country is transcending its strife and returning to a state of equilibrium, it is once again emerging as a vacation highlight of the continent. Victoria Falls – known to locals as 'The Smoke That Thunders' – is one of the seven natural wonders of the world and the sheer power of this massive body of water plunging into the Zambezi Gorge is awe-inspiring and unforgettable. Lake Kariba, with its game-rich shores and islands, is an idyllic safari spot featuring mind-blowing sunsets; Hwange National Park is known for its huge herds of elephants; and a kayak trip down the Zambezi through the Mana Pools National Park will appeal to the intrepid traveller, providing close encounters with crocodiles, hippos and a host of other wildlife.

Banking and Currency

Currency

Zimbabwe uses US\$ as well as its own unit of currency, the Zimbabwe Bond Dollar. It is advised to carry small denominations of change with you, however it is best to pay for as much as possible outside of the country. US\$ work best and are widely accepted in supermarkets, and for curios, accommodation, activities and gratuities. South African Rand and Euros are only accepted in some places in Victoria Falls. Do not plan on being able to use cash machines in Zimbabwe to draw money. Before leaving home please exchange all the money that you will need for your trip, plus extra, into US\$. Most of this should be in 1, 5, 10 and 20 denominations because change is not always available. In an emergency you can try Barclays Bank, Stanbic Bank or Standard Chartered Bank as they will infrequently accept foreign debit cards for withdrawing cash.

Banking

Banks in Zimbabwe are open for business Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 08h00 to 15h00, on Wednesdays from 08h00 to 13h00 and Saturdays from 08h00 to 11h30. They are closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.

Only VISA and MasterCard are accepted in Zimbabwe, however it should be noted that very limited facilities will have credit card machines, and the connection is not always reliable so it is advisable to carry cash as back up.

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Taxis are safe and reliable, and can be booked through your hotel front desk. Taxis in cities travel within a 40km radius of the city. Always take a taxi at night.

Major airlines fly into Victoria Falls, Harare and Bulawayo. Charter flights are available to most attractions and camps.

Zimbabwe has a good road infrastructure, by African standards, although potholed. Between major towns, there are frequent road blocks. Traffic drives on the left side of the road.

If you are driving yourself around Zimbabwe, be sure to check on fuel availability in advance. If you are covering long distances within the country, ensure you carry extra fuel in 5 or 10lt metal containers in case of emergency. Fuel is generally available, but supply can fluctuate. Fuel is only available for cash.

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

Zimbabwe's native cuisine is based on sadza, a cooked porridge made from ground maize which is normally be accompanied by some tasty relish, perhaps made of meat and tomatoes, or dried fish. Safari camps will often prepare sadza if requested, and it is almost always available in small restaurants in the towns.

Camps, hotels and lodges that cater to overseas typically serve a variety international fare, and the quality of food prepared in the most remote bush camps is usually excellent.

If you are driving yourself around and plan to cook, then get most of your supplies in main towns. There are a number of South African shopping chains operating in Zimbabwe which will generally have all that you will need.

Water in the main towns is usually purified.. The locals drink it, and are used to the relatively innocuous bugs that it may harbour. If you are in the country for a long time, then it may be worth acclimatising yourself to it. However, if you are in Zimbabwe for just a short period of time, then try to drink only bottled, boiled, or treated water available in towns and from all camps, lodges and hotels.

Climate and Weather

In Zimbabwe, the rains come principally in **December, January, February and March**; the further north you are, the earlier the precipitation arrives and the later it leaves. Zimbabwe's higher eastern areas usually receive more rainfall than the lower-lying western ones.

By **April and May** most of the rain is gone, leaving a verdant setting, which is starting to dry out. Especially in more southerly and higher locations, the night-time temperatures start to drop.

The nights in **June, July and August** become much cooler, so don't forget to bring some warmer clothes, in case you want to spend an evening outside; the days are still clear and warm. For Zimbabwe, this is the start of the 'peak season'– days are often cloudless and game sightings continually increase.

Into **September and October** the temperatures rise once again: Zimbabwe's lower-lying rift valley – Mana Pools – can get very hot in October. During this time, you'll see some fantastic game, as the Zimbabwe's wildlife concentrates around the limited water sources.

November is unpredictable; it can be hot and dry, it can also see the season's first rainfalls – and in this respect it's a very interesting month, as on successive days, you can see both weather patterns.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

When in Zimbabwe the cardinal rule is to wear casual, comfortable clothes during the day as temperatures can get very hot. It is advisable to wear light loose fitting clothing, such as cotton or linen, as they are cool and easy to wash. Warmer clothes are advised for the evenings and rainwear for the wet season.

A brimmed hat and sunglasses are a good idea year round. Long sleeved shirts and long trousers will also guard against the scorching sun rays. It is recommended you wear light shoes, especially if your itinerary entails a lot of walking.

For safaris, please remember to wear appropriate clothing and shoes. Earth colour clothes, such as browns, greens and tans are advisable.

Electricity and Plug Standards

Current is 220/240 volts at 50 cycles per second. Both square and round plugs are used.

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