

Botswana Untouched

13 days | Johannesburg to Victoria Falls



From Jo'burg to Victoria Falls, game drive through Botswana's finest national parks, go in search of white rhinos at Khama Sanctuary, ride a mokoro through the Okavango Delta and discover the vast salt pans of Makgadikgadi.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Marakele National Park - enjoy a sunset game drive in search of lions, elephants and the world's largest colony of Cape vultures
- Khama Rhino Sanctuary - visit this community-run sanctuary, which works to conserve endangered black and white rhinos
- Makgadikgadi Pans - wander through the impressive baobab groves and learn about the ecology of this spectacular salt pan
- Okavango Delta - cruise the waters of the Okavango aboard traditional mokoro canoes, keeping your eyes peeled for wildlife
- Moremi Game Reserve - spend a full day on safari in the reserve, which includes part of the Okavango Delta and is teeming with animals

- Chobe National Park - look out for some of the numerous elephants which inhabit the reserve whilst on a game drive in the park
- Chobe River - sail along the Chobe River in search of elephants, hippos and crocodiles, then watch a spectacular African sunset
- Victoria Falls - admire the thundering cascades and take the time to enjoy lots of optional excursions including helicopter rides and bungee jumping

What's Included

- 12 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 8 dinners
- 12 nights mid-range lodges and permanent tented camps
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and 13
- Transportation from Johannesburg to Maun and Kasane to Victoria Falls in a closed vehicle. Transportation from Maun to Kasane in a fully equipped open sided Land Cruiser or other appropriate vehicles
- Game drives in Marakele National Park, Khama Rhino Sanctuary, Khwai River Region, Chobe National Park and Moremi Game Reserve
- Chobe River Sunset Cruise
- Okavango Delta Mokoro Trip
- Entrance to Victoria Falls and Zambezi River Sunset Cruise

- All park entrance fees, government taxes and levies

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- Optional activities

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Johannesburg

On arrival in Johannesburg, you will be met and transferred to the Safari Club. You have the remainder of the day at leisure. This evening you will meet your guide and the rest of the group for your pre-departure meeting at 18h00.

Overnight - Johannesburg

Day 2 : Marakele National Park

Johannesburg - Marakele National Park. An early morning departure from Johannesburg takes us via Pretoria, Thabazimbi and through the Limpopo Province to Marakele National Park in the heart of the Waterberg Mountains. All the large game species from Elephant and Rhino to the big cats as well as an amazing variety of birds including the largest colony of endangered Cape Vultures in the world, have settled here. We will head out on a sunset game drive in the evening before enjoying an evening meal prepared by our guide around

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the campfire and spending our first night in the African wilderness.

Distance: 290 km
Departure: 09h00

Overnight - Marakele National Park (B, L, D)

Day 3 : Khama Rhino Sanctuary



Marakele National Park - Khama Rhino Sanctuary. Our destination today is the Khama Rhino Sanctuary via the Martin's Drift border post. The Khama Rhino Sanctuary Trust is a community based wildlife project, established in 1992 to assist in saving the vanishing white rhino, restore an area formerly teeming with wildlife to its previous natural state and provide economic benefits to the local Botswana community through tourism and the sustainable use of natural resources. We explore the sanctuary on an afternoon game drive in search of white rhinos.

Distance: 380 km
Departure: 08h00

Overnight - Khama Rhino Sanctuary (B, L)

Day 4 : Makgadikgadi Pans



Khama Rhino Sanctuary - Makgadikgadi Pans. Today we travel towards the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park area of Botswana. After settling into our accommodation, we take a stroll with our guide through the surrounding

baobab grove. He will explain the local ecology, geology and the unique biology of the baobabs, which are in fact not trees but the largest succulents in the world.

Distance: 470 km
Departure: 07h00

Overnight - Makgadikgadi & Nxai Pan NP (B, L, D)

Day 5 : Maun

Makgadikgadi Pan - Maun. This morning we head off to Maun, the gateway to the Okavango Delta. Enroute we travel via Nxai Pan, a fossil lake that is part of the greater Makgadikgadi system. Covered in nutritious short grasses and small islands of acacia trees, Nxai Pan attracts vast numbers of desert herbivores as well as carnivores including lion, leopard, cheetah and wild dog. After our Nxai Pan excursion we continue our journey to Maun. The name Maun is derived from the San word "maung", which means "the place of short reeds".

Distance: 215 km
Departure: 06h00

Overnight - Maun (B, L)

Day 6 : Okavango Delta



Maun - Greater Moremi. After breakfast we will be picked up by our local Botswana guides and take a short drive to the mokoro station. From here, we will float in these traditional dug-out canoes through the thick vegetation of the Okavango Delta discovering a variety of birds and wildlife. Unlike other deltas, it flows into the Kalahari Desert without ever reaching the coast. After this spectacular excursion, we make our way to our camp, which is situated in the Greater Moremi area. After settling into our camp, we will enjoy dinner and embark on a night game drive in the private concession –

a fantastic opportunity to spot some nocturnal animals that are more difficult to encounter during the day.

Distance: 150 km
Departure: 08h00

Please note: the camp is solar powered, and cameras and mobile phones can be charged in the communal areas should the power levels allow it. At night the paths to your tents will be illuminated by lanterns and your guide will escort you back to the privacy of your tent.

Overnight - Greater Moremi (B, L, D)

Day 7 : Greater Moremi

We have the opportunity to spend the day on game drives. In our open 4x4 vehicle we will explore the western side of the Moremi Game Reserve on morning and afternoon game drives hopefully spotting a variety of game that frequent this region. Game viewing is seasonal; depending on the time of the year you may see different species in different areas. The best time for game viewing is the end of the dry season or spring from August to November. During this season, in order for us to offer the best game viewing possible, extra driving may be required due to the animals migrating closer to the river. In the summer, birdlife can also be viewed in abundance with exceptional sightings of wildfowl and raptors.

Distance: 150 km
Departure: 07h00

Overnight - Greater Moremi (B, L, D)

Day 8 : Moremi Game Reserve

Today we head back into the famous Moremi Game Reserve known as one of the most beautiful and varied reserves in Africa with an unprecedented concentration of wildlife. The full day is spent in the unspoiled nature of reserve which is home to a great diversity of plant and animal life - making it a 'must see' for a Botswana Safari. It contains - within its boundaries - approximately 20% of the Delta, and a vast range of habitats, acacia forests, floodplains, reed beds, lagoons, enduring wetland through mopane forest and dry savannah woodland.

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Distance: 120 km

Departure: 07h00

Overnight - Greater Moremi (B, L, D)

Day 9 : Chobe National Park



Khwai River - Kasane. We have to get up early, as this will be the longest day of our safari with a full day ahead of us (approx 10 hours driving). We leave the camp in the Greater Moremi area and transit through the national parks of Moremi, Savuti and Chobe to Kasane, the gateway to the Chobe National Park. Keep an eye out for the wildlife in this area. Our lodge is situated on the bank of the Chobe River a short distance from its confluence with the mighty Zambezi River at Kazungula.

Distance: 165 km

Departure: 07h00

Overnight - Kasane (B, L, D)

Day 10 : Chobe game drive

We start the morning with an exciting game drive in the Chobe National Park, which along with many species of big game, boasts the largest concentration of elephant in Africa. We enjoy game viewing by boat on the Chobe River in the afternoon, watching elephants, hippos, crocodiles and a variety of birds without having to reach for our binoculars – you'll be near enough for close-up photographs, as well as having the chance to witness a spectacular African sunset.

Distance: 100 km

Departure: 07h00

Overnight - Kasane (B, D)

Days 11-12 : Chobe - Victoria Falls



Kasane - Victoria Falls. Our journey takes us into Zimbabwe, home to one of the seven natural wonders of the world, the mighty Victoria Falls. In the afternoon we embark on a tour of the mighty Victoria Falls, known by the local Kololo tribe as Mosi oa Tunya- "the Smoke that thunders. In the afternoon we have a relaxing sunset cruise on the mighty Zambezi River, basking in the afterglow of the day. You have the rest of the day and the next day at leisure to partake in one of the many activities on offer.

Distance: 95 km

Departure: 09h00

Overnight - Victoria Falls (B:2, L:1, D:1)

Day 13 : Victoria Falls

Your journey ends today and you will be transferred to Victoria Falls Airport in time for your departing flight. We hope to welcome you again one day on another of our On The Go adventures.(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.

The Safari Club

African-themed Safari Club is a luxurious yet homely accommodation close to Johannesburg airport. With just 17 rooms all uniquely styled to represent a specific

area on the continent it is easy to make yourself at home here. The hotel boasts a beautiful garden and serves fantastic food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The friendly bar is the perfect place to relax in the evening whilst sipping on a tasty beverage or two. The hotel is situated just a 4 minute drive from the airport - so it is the ideal place to start, or finish, your African adventure.



Tlopi Tented Camp

Serowe Hotel

Well located in the historic town of Serowe, Serowe Hotel tastefully blends old world charm and homely atmosphere with modern conveniences. The hotel includes 15 newly appointed rooms with air conditioning and en suite facilities. The hotel also has a refreshing outdoor pool, poolside bar, pizza oven and the fantastic Heidi's Bar. The renowned Khama III museum is nearby and the lodge offers informative outings to this museum.



Planet Baobab Lodge

The Planet Baobab Lodge is a unique oasis-like lodge in the heart of Botswana's baobab capital. Guests can choose between a traditional Bakalanga hut made from mud or a traditional grass hut made in the way bushmen once did. The use of natural materials indigenous to the region mean that air-conditioning is unnecessary and only the mud huts are en suite. After a day on safari, relax with a cold drink besides the pool and feast on delicious dishes from all over Africa.

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Thamalakane River Lodge

Situated on the banks of the Thamalakane River with magnificent views of the surrounding scenery, this lodge features African-inspired accommodation amidst the Botswana landscape. The spacious chalets have a unique 'skylight' wall to maximise the views. Its location on the river means that guests can watch water fowl and birds at their leisure from the public areas. The lodge's acclaimed restaurant is not too be missed with superb food and wine to match the superb surroundings.



Bedouin Bush Camp

Offering a secluded and authentic African bush experience, this unfenced mobile camp is located in close proximity to Moremi Game Reserve. The camp is solar powered and provides a homely communal dining and bar area. Comfortable tents are positioned under large Acacia trees and covered with Bedouin-style fly-sheets, giving the camp a distinctive nomadic appearance. Equipped with twin beds, mosquito screening and en-suite bathrooms, you'll be able to listen to the remarkable night sounds of the bush whilst enjoying the comforts of your safari tent.



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 beside 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 from different operators, not solely On The Go.

Botswana Untouched is a small group lodge safari. This safari will run with a minimum of 4 and maximum of 12 passengers, accompanied by a guide who is also the driver.

Arrival

The Botswana Untouched Lodge Safari departs from the Safari Club in Johannesburg.

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 one, there will be a meeting presented by your guide, at 18h00, at the Safari Club. It is imperative that all passengers 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

You will be transferred from Johannesburg to Maun in a closed vehicle. From here your journey will continue in a fully equipped open sided Land Cruiser or other appropriate vehicle with comfortable seating for maximum game viewing. An off-road trailer is fitted with a field kitchen. 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.

Travelling Times & 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 great 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.

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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 with en-suite bathrooms. Some properties are equipped with swimming pools, restaurants and/or bar areas.

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.

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

Things to bring

- Walking shoes and sandals
- Light trousers/jeans
- Swimming costume
- T-shirts
- Shorts
- Sun hat
- Windbreaker
- Warm clothes (May – August)
- Long-sleeved shirts
- Torch & spare batteries
- Water bottle
- Camera
- UV protection
- Mosquito protection
- Towel

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. It is advisable to consult a doctor prior to departure.

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 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 neighbor 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 semi-arid 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 southwestern 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.

Khama Rhino Sanctuary

In 1989 a group of Serowe residents conceived the idea of a wildlife reserve near Serowe. Serwe Pan, then a cattle post, had been a traditional hunting area teeming with wildlife and the residents wished to re-establish it to its earlier splendour. In 1993 the Ngwato Land Board allocated the land around Serwe Pan to the Khama Rhino Sanctuary Trust.

The site was chosen due to its excellent habitat for rhinoceros, central location and proximity to a Botswana Defence Force (BDF) base, which provides the Sanctuary with 24hr protection. Covering approximately 4,300 hectares of Kalahari sandveld, the Sanctuary is centred around Serwe Pan - a large grass-covered depression with several natural water holes. Serwe Pan provides prime habitat for white rhinoceros and other grazing animals, whilst the denser vegetation in the southern area of the Sanctuary is favoured by browsing animals such as giraffe.

The Sanctuary is a community trust governed by a Board of Trustees who are elected from the local communities of Serowe, Paje and Mabeleapodi. The Vice President of Botswana, Lt. Gen.S.K.I. Khama, Paramount Chief of the Bamangwato, is Patron of the Trust.

The Sanctuary lies 25km north of historic Serowe on the Serowe-Orapa road. Serowe, one of the largest traditional villages in Africa, is the birthplace of Botswana's first President, the late Sir Seretse Khama. Paje and Mabeleapodi are two small picturesque villages within fifteen kilometres of the Sanctuary.

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

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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 Beeeaters. In addition, the sunsets are spectacular.

Makgadikgadi Pans

The lesser-known Makgadikgadi Pans National Park is situated between Maun and Nata in Botswana. The shimmering salt pans of Makgadikgadi are the size of Switzerland and most of the time appear as a glaring, white, endless plain. When the rain comes a dramatic change takes place as the pans come to life with frantically feeding water birds and great herds of game. The best time to visit this area to coincide with the migration is from December to March or in the dry season from April to October when the pans are dry.

The park contains four main vegetation types: riverine woodland, scrubland, pure grassland and salt pans. The pans support palm groves and peculiar looking Baobab trees whose branches look more like roots, giving rise to the name 'upside down tree'. These are interspersed with short spiky yellow grass found on rises between the pans, known as 'prickly salt grass'. This grass is extremely saline resistant to the extent that salt crystals can sometimes be seen on the leaves. The interior of the reserve comprises scrub and grassland with a few 'islands' of Real Fan Palms and Camel-thorn Acacia.

From April to November game such as Springbok, Gemsbok, Wildebeest and Zebra move slowly from the pans area in the south east of the park, to the Boteti River in the west.

During this migration animals accumulate in their thousands. The heavily wooded areas beside the river also contain shy antelopes like Duiker and Bushbuck.

Maun

Maun is the gateway to the Okavango Delta and one of the best safari experiences you will have. Countless safari and air-charter operators have offices here, thus it is busy with people coming and going especially around the airport. The best time to go is during the winter months from May to October when there is little or no rainfall and the days are warm and cloudless. Nights can be cold though so take a jacket. November to April can be very hot, with most of the rainfall between December and February. Maun has developed rapidly from a rural frontier town and has spread along the wide Thamalakane River. It now boasts good shopping centers, hotels and lodges as well as car and 4x4 vehicle hire. However, it still retains a rural atmosphere and local tribesmen still bring their cattle here to sell and you could see antelopes grazing the riverbanks.

Moremi

In the centre of the Okavango Delta is the Moremi Wildlife Reserve, a 3,000 km² paradise. Proclaimed a wildlife reserve by the Tswana people in 1963, Moremi is undoubtedly one of the world's most pristine wilderness areas. The foresight of the local community has ensured that nature has flourished undisturbed, offering a glimpse of the divine, a veritable Garden of Eden. Moremi is a place of lily-covered wetlands, grass plains and forests, where even at the busiest time of year you're likely to be the only spectators at a most dramatic animal sighting.

Moremi consists of a network of waterways surrounding two large islands, Chiefs Island in the west and Mopane Tongue in the east. The area's diverse ecosystems, riverine woodland, flood plains, wetlands and reed beds, mopane forest and dry savannah woodland are all flourishing, broken only by the occasional jeep track. This diversity of habitats provides rich pickings for an impressive variety of animals and around 550 bird species. As Moremi is a fenced reserve, game viewing

is impressive throughout the year. However, the cool dry winter months from March to September are an ideal time to visit, as the chances of seeing lion, elephant, leopard, hyena, eland, kudu, roan antelope, giraffe, zebra, impala and buffalo are excellent. On the sandy riverbanks and wetlands, sightings of hippo and crocodile are commonplace.

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 also 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 habitat for lion, elephant, leopard, buffalo, giraffe, hyena, wild dog, kudu, impala, roan, zebra, lechwe, hippo and crocodile, amongst others. There are approx. 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 done 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 approx. 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.

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.

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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 traveler 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 cascade over the falls and drop 100 m at Rainbow Falls on the Zambian side. Not surprisingly it is the seventh natural 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

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 be 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 a 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

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Botswana Untouched

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.

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.

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

Since 16th January 2017 all New Zealand passport holders have been required to obtain a visa prior to travelling to South Africa.

Nationalities who don't require a visa are able to get an entry stamp at the border on entering South Africa. Please contact your local South African embassy to find out if you require a visa prior to entering SA. If you are subject to visa requirements, you must apply and receive your visa before your departure for South Africa, visas are not issued at South African ports of entry.

The border crossings we use in South Africa include:

Noordoewer (South Africa/Namibia border)
Groblerberg/Martin's Drift (South Africa/Botswana)
Lebombo (South Africa/Mozambique)
Oshoek (Swaziland/South Africa)

Under 18s Travelling To Or Through South Africa

Parents travelling with children (under 18) into or out of South Africa, or transiting in South Africa 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 or copies of the parents/guardians identification will not be accepted. A parental consent affidavit (PCA) must have a certified copy of the parent's/guardian's identification (ie passport) attached to it.

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 the South African High Commission or the South African Department of Home Affairs for further information relating to these regulations. If you do not carry the correct documentation you will not be allowed to enter the country.

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Obtaining the correct paperwork is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours.

Please note: From the 11th November 2019, only a valid passport will be required for foreign minors travelling to South Africa.

Health & Vaccinations

You should seek medical advice before travelling to South Africa from your local health practitioner and ensure that all you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide tetanus, diphtheria, polio, hepatitis A (for stays over 4 weeks) and hepatitis B (for stays over 3 months) are recommended.

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over one, coming from infected areas.

A low malaria risk occurs in northern parts of Mpumalanga (as well as Kruger National park, northern and northeastern parts of KwaZulu-Natal). If travelling to these regions and/or the countries north of South Africa, where there is a high malaria risk, we strongly recommend that you take anti-malaria medication. Precautionary measures to take to prevent contact with mosquitoes include: insect repellent, cover up at sundown, sleep under a mosquito net and wear long sleeve clothing and long trousers in the evenings.

Currency

The currency in South Africa is Rand (ZAR; symbol R)

1 Rand = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of R200, 100, 50, 20 and 10. Coins are in denominations of R5, 2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10 and 5 cents.

Obtaining local currency within South Africa is very easy. ATMs are widely accessible and very reliable and offer the best rates of exchange. International credit cards are accepted in almost all shops, restaurants, hotels and game reserves.

Bureau de changes offer a quick and commission free service but are only found in the main centres such as Cape Town and Johannesburg. Travellers cheques can be

changed at banks. These should be in US Dollars or Pound Sterling to avoid additional exchange rate charges. Please note that proof of identity may be requested in some instances, so it's useful to carry a passport or some form of photo identification. Travellers cheques can be difficult to exchange and tend to attract high commission fees.

Banking hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1530, Sat 0830-1100.

Rand can be used in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, so if you are travelling on one of our overland safaris ample money for these three countries can be obtained prior to beginning your trip in Cape Town or Johannesburg. The Rand and Namibian dollar are tied to each other on an equal level and can be used interchangeably in Namibia. The Rand can also be easily converted to Pula in Botswana at good rates.

Time & Voltage

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

Standard voltage is 220-230V. Primary sockets require a 'Type M' - South African, electrical plug which has three thick circular pins. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances.

Climate

Climatic conditions generally range from Mediterranean in the south western corner of the country to temperate in the interior plateau, and subtropical in the northeast. A small area in the northwest has a desert climate. Most of the country has warm, sunny days and cool nights. Rainfall generally occurs during summer (November-March), although in the southwest, around Cape Town, rainfall occurs in winter (from June-August). Temperatures are influenced by variations in elevation, terrain, and ocean currents.

Zimbabwe Country Guide

Visas

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

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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.

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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