

BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE 17 DAYS SELF-DRIVE SAFARI



for 2 – 4 guests

This 17-day trip combines the most exciting **highlights** in **Botswana** and **Zimbabwe**: the endless expanses of the **Makgadikgadi salt pans**, abundant wildlife experiences in the two most famous parks of Botswana, **Moremi Wildlife Park** and **Chobe National Park**, and in Zimbabwe the **Hwange** and **Matopo National Parks**, and of course the impressive **Victoria Falls**. If you don't dare to take on the sandy roads in Botswana, then book this safari as a guided tour.



Itinerary

Day 1

Flight Johannesburg – Maun

We pick up our rental car, after our arrival, and drive to our first accommodation on the outskirts of the city. Depending on the time of arrival, we will have time to relax after checking in at the lodge or to take a short stroll through the city.

Although officially still a village, Maun has developed rapidly from a rural frontier town and has spread along the Thamalakane River. It now has shopping centres, hotels and lodges, although it retains a rural atmosphere and local tribesmen continue to trade their cattle.

Maun Lodge in Maun (DBB)

Day 2 + 3

To the Makgadikgadi Pans

Today we drive eastwards towards Nata, not far and the whole way on good tarred roads. Nestled under gigantic and often more than 4000 years old Baobab trees, Planet Baobab is ideally situated at the edge of Ntwetwe Pan to explore the endless vastness of the famous Makgadikgadi salt pans the following day

(included). During a barbecue evening we can admire the fantastic southern starry sky.



The next day we are booked on a trip to the Makgadikgadi salt pans. The pans are the remains of the formerly enormous Makgadikgadi Lake, which used to cover an area larger than Switzerland, but it dried up several thousand years ago. In the rainy season, this area of endless pans interspersed with grass plains is transformed into the destination of huge zebra and wildebeest herds on migration. Our excursion includes a picnic lunch and short drive to Baines Baobab. These are huge primeval trees in southern Africa (all included in the price).

Planet Baobab (Day 2 DBB / Day 2 FB)

Day 4 + 5

Okavango Delta / Moremi Park

It's going back to Maun and we proceed via Mogogelo Village and Khwai Village to our camp.

Although just under 5,000 square kilometres in extent, it is a surprisingly diverse reserve, combining mopane woodland and acacia forests, floodplains and lagoons. It is home to nearly 500 species of bird (from water birds to forest dwellers), and a vast array of other species of wildlife including Cape buffalo, Angolan giraffe, black rhinoceros, lion, elephant, hippopotamus, zebra, cheetah, hyena and red lechwe. On the second day an exciting Game drive awaits us in this unique environment (included in the price).

Sango Camp (Day 4 DBB / Day 5 FI)



Day 6

Savuti Marsh Area

The Savuti Wetland is located south of Linyanti in the western part of the Chobe Park. It is one of the best areas for game viewing. In 2010, after about 30 years of drought, the Savuti Channel brought water to the marsh lands and attracted many animals, including elephants, giraffes, waterbucks, lions, hyenas, jackals and cheetahs. Today it has dried up again, leaving waterholes as the only water source in the area where still many elephants are found. The ride through Chobe Park can only be done with a 4x4 in deep sand.

The deluxe Ghoha Hills Safari Lodge is located high up on the Ghoha Hills and offers a wonderful view of the vast Savuti area and a waterhole where lions and elephants often quench their thirst. A game drive in an open jeep is included in the price.

Ghoha Hills (FI)

Day 7

Kasane / Chobe National Park

Travel through the Chobe park to Kasane and return of rental car. Transfer to our lodge on the banks of Chobe river. On an optional boat cruise in the afternoon we can experience and see animals like elephants, crocodiles, buffalo, hippo and maybe also lions on the riverbanks.

The Garden Lodge on the Chobe River (DBB)

Day 8

Lodge near Chobe Park and Chobe river / Botswana

In the morning we get on an open safari vehicle and take part in a game drive in Chobe National Park (included in price). Interesting sightings of elephants, hippo and with a bit of luck hundreds of buffalo on an island in the river can be seen. Afterwards we are taken to our next accommodation, via boat transfer. In the afternoon we go on a boat cruise on the Chobe River and see a lot of animals and wide variety of birds.

Zovu Elephant Lodge (FB)



Day 9

Chobe River / Botswana

Today we take another boat trip along the Chobe National Park and see many elephants and other wildlife (included in the price). The boat will be able to approach the elephants and other animals within a few meters. Everyone comes to the water to quench their thirst; giraffes, buffalos, sable antelopes and many more.

Zovu Elephant Lodge (FB)

Day 10

Transfer to Victoria Falls

Transfer to Zimbabwe. The lodge is situated on a hill at the edge of the Zambezi National Park, only 3 km from the famous waterfalls. From the lodge we have a magnificent view of the African bush and a waterhole

that attracts wildlife. The unique atmosphere with a drink at sunset is unforgettable.

Victoria Falls Safari Lodge (BB)



Day 11

Victoria Falls

We stay another night at this beautiful lodge. Shuttle service to the waterfalls available, where huge masses of water cascade over a width of 1700 meters down into the pools 110 m below (entry to the falls is not included).

In the afternoon we can book different activities like a visit to the crocodile farm, white river rafting, sunset boat trip or a scenic helicopter flight over the waterfalls (optional).

Victoria Falls Safari Lodge (BB)

Day 12 + 13 + 14

Transfer to Hwange Nationalpark

The Khulu Lodge is located in the forestry area on the outskirts of Hwange National Park, famous for its exhilarating up-close sightings of the Presidential Elephant Herd. The Lodge comprises of a Main Thatched dining and lounge area overlooking a waterhole which is frequented by elephants, predators like the African wild dog and a number of plains game species like the rare sable antelope.

The rooms are elegantly built on stilted wooden platforms offering elevated views of the open floodplain and watering hole. All activities such as game drives, game walks or a cultural tour to the small village of Dete are included. Don't be afraid if we splash in the pool and approach some elephants to quench their thirst in the same pool. Africa at its best!

Khulu Lodge near Hwange National Park (FI)

Day 15 + 16

Transfer to Matobo National Park

Our exclusive, privately owned safari lodge is located in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Matobo Hills, the oldest National Park in Zimbabwe, tucked away into an ancient Bushman's shelter. The granite domes and castle kopjes echo the essence of tranquillity and majesty of untamed Africa, where wildlife and birdlife species thrive in prolific numbers. Famous for its healthy population of endangered rhino, the area is one of the most sought-after destinations within Zimbabwe. Again, all activities are included. We can decide, if we prefer to visit the famous tomb of Cecil Rhodes or the ancient rock art sites, go on a guided walk or just relax beside the rock pool or the spa.

Amalinda Lodge (FI)



Day 17

Flight Bulawayo – Johannesburg – Europe

Transfer to the airport of Bulawayo. Return to Europe on night flight out of Johannesburg.

Price on request

Included:

Accommodation/ Meals/ Activities as indicated
Toyota Hilux 2.5TD 4x4, double cab vehicle, zero excess
All transfers
BB = Bed & Breakfast DBB = Dinner, Bed& Breakfast
FB = Full Board FI = Fully Inclusive

Not Included:

Flights
One-way fee of rental car from Maun to Kasane (can only be paid directly)
Meals not mentioned
Visa for Zimbabwe (ca. USD 30) and entrance to the falls (ca. USD 30)
Tips, Entrance fees, drinks and fuel

Note:

Guests can request alternative accommodation or change the itinerary to their individual requirements. Should some of the lodges be fully booked, we will be able to find suitable alternatives. This could influence the final price of the tour.

Tour Operator in Namibia

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