

# THE GRAND EXPLORER

South Africa, Namibia,  
Botswana, Zimbabwe



21 day small group safari  
(basic accommodation)

This epic small group journey travels through South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe. Visit Namibia's Fish River Canyon, the second largest canyon in the world, Sossusvlei in the Namib Desert and the wildlife rich Etosha National Park. In Botswana cruise along the waterways of the Okavango Delta and Chobe River. Your final destination is the UNESCO listed Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.





#### Cost includes:

- transport in a 12 seater custom-built safari vehicle, open 4WD vehicles in Botswanan parks, mokoro canoes, motorised boat on Chobe River
- two English speaking driver-guides, local Botswanan guides
- comfortable accommodation as specified in chalets, guesthouses, permanent tented camps and lodges
- 20 breakfasts, 16 lunches and 11 dinners
- mokoro safaris in the Okavango Delta
- guided tour of Victoria Falls
- Chobe River boat safari
- all park fees and government taxes
- listed excursions as hosted by the safari operator and local operators.

#### Cost excludes:

- visas and international flights
- international airport taxes if applicable
- drinks, dining rooms tips, portorage, personal travel, baggage and medical insurance
- telephone bill, laundry and any items of a personal nature
- meals not listed

**B - breakfast**  
**L - lunch**  
**D - dinner**

#### Cape Town to Victoria Falls

**Accommodation:** basic / standard

**Product code:** SUNA21

**Departs:** selected Wednesdays

#### Itinerary overview:

- Day 1: South Africa, Cape Town - Sweetest Guesthouse
- Day 2: South Africa, Cederberg - Western Cape Nature Conservation
- Day 3: South Africa, Gariep River - Felixe Unite Cabanas
- Day 4: Namibia, Fish River Canyon - Canon Mountain Camp
- Day 5: Namibia, Namib Desert - Desert Camp
- Day 6: Namibia, Namib Desert - Desert Camp
- Day 7: Namibia, Swakopmund - Hotel Pension a lar Mer
- Day 8: Namibia, Swakopmund - Hotel Pension a lar Mer
- Day 9: Namibia, Damaraland - Brandberg White Lady Lodge
- Day 10: Namibia, Etosha - Tarentaal Guest Farm
- Day 11: Namibia, Etosha - Tarentaal Guest Farm
- Day 12: Namibia, Windhoek - Klein Windhoek Guest House
- Day 13: Namibia, Kalahari - Dqae Qare San Lodge
- Day 14: Botswana, Okavango Delta - Guma Lagoon
- Day 15: Botswana, Okavango Delta - Guma Lagoon
- Day 16: Botswana, Maun - Island Safari Lodge
- Day 17: Botswana, Makgadikgadi Pans - Nata Lodge
- Day 18: Botswana, Chobe National Park - Thebe River Safaris
- Day 19: Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls - Shearwater Explorers Camp
- Day 20: Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls - Shearwater Explorers Camp
- Day 21: Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls - tour ends

Please note this tour includes a few long days with early starts, which are necessary in order to visit all the listed regions over a 14 day period. Driving hours, estimated border procedures and general timings may vary from the original itinerary due to the nature of travel in Africa and local conditions.



# Cape Town to Victoria Falls Grand Explorer

## Day 1: Cape Town, South Africa

After an early morning tour briefing at the guesthouse, you join the tour group and depart at 8:00 am to visit the African penguin colony in Boulders where you can walk among the penguins on raised boardwalks. Following your penguin encounter we continue on to Cape Point Nature Reserve, home to 7750 hectares of rich and varied flora and fauna located at the tip of the Cape Peninsula. Then we head to the beaches of Hout Bay for some relaxation. On return to Cape Town you can sample some of the city's culinary wonders at a local restaurant in the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront (own expense). **Sweetest Guesthouses - twin room.**

## Sweetest Guesthouses

The guesthouses are individually decorated houses located near the popular V&A Waterfront. Tour group passengers may be spread amongst any of the houses, which are within easy walking distance of each other. The tour group will all enjoy breakfast in the same house. All rooms are twin with en suite facilities.

Cape Town is one of the world's most picturesque tourist destinations and is a city offering a mix of attractions. Situated amidst majestic mountains and surrounded by pristine white beaches, the city is truly very beautiful. Often called the 'cosmopolitan hub of Africa', Cape Town is home to a rich cultural and historical heritage, vibrant restaurants, scenic cruises and world-class, affordable shopping. Take a tour which visits Table Mountain, the Malay Quarter, the city centre, Company Gardens (Dutch East India Company) and the Castle of Good Hope. Or stroll around the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront.

## Day 2: Cederberg, South Africa

From Cape Town we head north to the rugged landscape of Cederberg. This area is a massive rock wilderness with giant sandstone boulders that have been sculpted by wind and rain into bizarre and artistic shapes. We explore the rugged landscape of the area on foot before relaxing in chalets for the evening. **Western Cape Nature Conservation - two bedroom chalet with shared bathroom between two rooms (BLD).**

## Western Cape Nature Conservation

Managed by the Western Cape Nature Conservation authority the Cederberg has six new cottages built in 2015. These modern two-bedroom cottages have a double bed in the main bedroom, two single beds in the other room and a sleeper couch in the living area. Each cottage has one bathroom with a shower and toilet, a terrace with beautiful views over the mountain and inside fire place.

## Day 3: Gariep River, Namibia

We make our way into more arid landscapes. On entering Namibia we stay at a lodge on the Gariep River, the natural land border between South Africa and Namibia. Namibia's southern border river flows quietly and peacefully and the river valley is hardly affected by tourism. The riverbed is sandy, the water clean and clear. There is free time for swimming and relaxing, or you can venture down the river in canoes (own expense). **Felix Unite Cabanas with en suite (BLD).**

## Felix Unite Cabanas

Felix Unite offers accommodation in cabanas for guests wanting to ride the rapids, or simply relax in this stunning region. There are 17 en suite cabanas, two family en suite cabanas sleeping four each, and a honeymoon suite. Each cabana has air conditioning with mini coffee bars.





Communal areas feature grassed grounds, a restaurant, bar and swimming pool. The camp is situated halfway between Cape Town and Windhoek. With breathtaking views overlooking the river, the camp is only 13 kilometres from the Namibia and South Africa border.

#### Day 4: Fish River Canyon

Fish River Canyon, situated along the lower reaches of the Fish River, is one of the most impressive natural beauties in the southern part of Namibia. With its depth of up to 550 metres, the Fish River Canyon is the second largest canyon in the world. We make our way to the canyon and in the afternoon watch a spectacular sunset over the canyon's rim. **Canyon Mountain Camp - chalet with en suite (BLD).**

#### Canyon Mountain Camp

Canyon Lodge sits at the base of the picturesque Dolerite Hills within Gondwana Canyon Park, just 20 km from Fish River. Built around an old farmhouse, it is a charming, rustic lodge. The rooms have been designed well to fit in amongst and between huge granite rocks and they have lots of character. The lodge's main area has quite a 'cosy farmhouse' atmosphere. It is the ideal place to stay for exploring Fish River Canyon. A considerable walk from the main area, in a peaceful and isolated spot down a long pathway past the chalets, is a stunning turquoise swimming pool with beautiful views. Comfortable loungers and plenty of shade make this a good place to relax, and there's also an honesty bar and towels for guests to use. Activities arranged by Canyon Lodge are similar to those at Canyon Village, and include a sunrise walk, a morning hike (6 km), a drive to Fish River Canyon, horse-back riding and a sundowner drive or walk.

#### Days 5-6: Namib Desert

The parched Namib Desert has endless orange dunes blown into sharp ridges by the sand-shifting wind at Sossusvlei, forming a gateway into the Namib Desert. We will walk to Sossusvlei, explore Sesriem Canyon and from the comfort of our lodge outside the national park, watch dramatic sunsets over the world's highest sand dunes.

**Desert Camp - permanent tents with en suite (BLD).**

#### Desert Camp

Nestled under centuries old thorn trees, Desert Camp has an unsurpassed 360 degrees view over the desert landscape and surrounding mountains. An absolute must for the nature lover and photographer. Facilities at the main building include a fully stocked and serviced bar with big screen television, a sparkling swimming pool and two communal bomas.

#### Day 7: Swakopmund

Swakopmund is a popular seaside resort with a slightly nostalgic atmosphere, characterized by numerous colonial buildings. Founded by the Germans in 1892 their colonial influence is still evident today. The town has a selection of excellent coffee shops, restaurants and bars, as well as many arts and crafts shops selling curios. There are fine beaches to walk along as well as a great museum, aquarium and galleries to visit. Swakopmund is also the adventure activity capital of Namibia. **Hotel Pension a la Mer - twin room with en suite (BL).**

#### Hotel Pension a la Mer

Hotel Pension a la Mer is situated in the heart of Swakopmund only minutes away from the beach and historical jetty. The hotel offers charming accommodation in 23 en suite bedrooms. Genuine hospitality is offered, along with generous breakfasts and plenty of local knowledge to assist you in choosing from Swakopmund's plethora of activities.



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### Day 8: Swakopmund

Today is free to explore the town. Swakopmund is Namibia's seaside mecca with a small town appeal. It is surrounded by the ocean on one side and the desert on the other and therefore offers some fascinating day experiences. Try dune boarding, and quad biking on enormous sand dunes or sea kayaking amongst other exciting adventures (own expense). **Hotel Pension a la Mer - twin room with en suite (B).**

### Day 9: Damaraland

Namibia is a land of great contrasts and Damaraland demonstrates this with stark plains, petrified forests and ancient valleys leading to rocky outcrops and the soaring peaks of the Brandberg Massif Mountains. Damaraland is one of the most scenic areas in Namibia, a huge, untamed, ruggedly beautiful region. Here there are prehistoric water courses with open plains and grassland, massive granite koppies and deep gorges. Animals such as elephant, black rhino, giraffe, ostrich and springbok have adapted to survive the harshness of the sun-blistered, almost waterless desert spaces. **Brandberg White Lady Lodge - chalet with en suite (BLD).**

### Brandberg White Lady Lodge

Brandberg White Lady is a great value lodge located in an ideal position to explore the sights of Damaraland. The stylish chalets and bungalows at the lodge are spread over an area in the river valley, among large, shady trees. Every unit includes an en suite bathroom, ceiling fans and a private veranda. The lodge has a good restaurant, pool and curio shop.

### Days 10-11: Etosha National Park

Once a vast lake fed by the Kunene River, the pan that is Etosha National Park dried up thousands of years ago when the river waters chose a new course. Covering 20,000 sq kms, Etosha is Namibia's premier nature and wildlife reserve offering big game park. We take game drives around the huge pan to find elephant, herds of antelope and lions around the waterholes. Etosha's appeal lies in its waterholes. Due to the arid nature of the park, animals are forced to drink at the parks supplied waterholes which attracts a diverse variety of species. It is not unusual to see lion, drinking next to elephant and grazers. Large herds of zebra and springbok attract predators and the waterholes provide a chance to hunt at both dusk and dawn. Here you stay at a lodge on the outskirts of the national park. **Tarentaal Guest Farm - twin room with en suite (BLD).**

### Tarentaal Guest Farm

Decorated in African safari-style, the rooms at the guest house adjoin an open dining room where meals are enjoyed with a panoramic view of the surroundings. Above the dining room is an open-air tower room where sundowners are served at sunset. Rooms are twin share with en suite facilities and there is a swimming pool and telephone.

### Day 12: Windhoek

The nation's capital, beautifully situated in a valley, combines the architecture of a modern city with numerous buildings in the style of the German colonial era. The charm of the city of Windhoek lies in its harmonious blend of African and European cultures and the friendliness of its people. We visit the cosmopolitan capital and enjoy a restaurant meal (own expense). **Klein Windhoek Guest House - standard room with en suite (BL).**





### **Klein Windhoek Guest House**

The guesthouse is situated in one of Windhoek's best suburbs in a quiet area next to the Klein Windhoek Riverbed. Guest have access to the fully licensed Riverview Restaurant, a swimming pool and free Wi-Fi. All rooms have en suite bathrooms.

### **Day 13: Kalahari, Botswana**

Leaving Namibia we cross the border into Botswana. We take a walk with the local San bushmen to learn about their ancient way of life and fascinating bush skills. You stay overnight in grass huts in the heart of the Kalahari.

**Dqae Qare San Lodge - chalet with en suite (BLD).**

### **Dqae Qare San Lodge**

Dqae Qare San Lodge is a unique Kalahari experience as it is owned and run by the San people and supports the local San D'Kar community. As a guest of the San at Dqae Qare you are making a crucial ethical statement. As a celebration of San culture, the community share their culture and extraordinary knowledge of the Kalahari with guests through bush walks, traditional dancing, fire making, craft making, trapping and story telling.

### **Days 14-15: Okavango Delta**

We depart the desert lands of the Kalahari and enter the waterways of the Okavango. The Okavango Delta is the only inland delta in the world. Instead of flowing into the sea, the annual flood of fresh water spreads over 15,000sq km of the Kalahari sand in a maze of lagoons and channels. We journey deep into the Okavango Delta in mokoros, or dugout canoes. In the Delta you have two nights at a tented camp enjoying game walks, swimming and birdlife in this pristine wilderness area. **Guma Lagoon - canvas chalet with en suite (BLD).**

### **Guma Lagoon**

Guma Lagoon Camp is situated on the north-western side of the Okavango River along the banks of the Guma Lagoon in Botswana. The Okavango River is known as one of the best freshwater sport fishing rivers in Southern Africa, and Guma Lagoon Camp is no exception. Teeming with a vast variety of fish species, the lodge is a paradise for fishing enthusiasts. The lagoon is also home to an abundance of birds and waterfowl which you can view from the comfort of your accommodation, or from a traditional dugout canoe on a mokoro excursion.

Accommodation is provided in 10 large canvas chalets each with their own private view of the lagoon. Each chalet can accommodate two people and offers lovely teak beds, en suite bathrooms with hot showers and flush toilets. Mosquito nets and towels are also provided and extra bedding can be provided to accommodate children. Awake in the morning with the sunrise over the lagoon streaming into your chalet. Start the day by wondering down to the main area to sit on the deck over the lagoon with a tea or coffee.

### **Day 16: Maun**

We return to Maun, the gateway to the Okavango Delta. Maun originated as a cattle outpost but it has evolved into the capital of Botswana's tourist industry. Your lodge for tonight is situated on the banks of the Thamalakane River. After settling in there is time to relax this afternoon at the swimming pool. **Island Safari Lodge - twin room with en suite (BL).**

### **Island Safari Lodge**

Island Safari Lodge is set on a 300 acre private island reserve, ten kilometres from Maun Airport. It is situated on the banks of the Thamalakane River under a canopy of beautifully lush and green Okavango trees, overlooking a floodplain of fields and water that are frequented by an abundance of birdlife. The lodge comprises of 12 Chalets all with en suite showers, set in the lodge gardens. Facilities include and on site restaurant and swimming pool.



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### Day 17: Makgadikgadi Pans

This morning you farewell the wet wilderness of the Delta and head towards the shimmering, dry salt pans of Makgadikgadi. The pans are massive, about 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 zebra, wildebeest and springbok. **Nata Lodge - twin share room with en suite (BL).**

### Nata Lodge

Nata Lodge is an oasis set among mokolwane palms on the edge of the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans. It is ideally situated close to the entrance to the Nata Sanctuary and is just off the main road. The property includes 10 safari tents with en suite facilities built on raised wooden platforms which are nestled under marula trees. The shady trees surrounding the lodge is a hive of activity, with a bird feeding area and active water feature providing bird watchers the opportunity to view a variety of species from either the pool deck, open bar or restaurant.

### Day 18: Chobe National Park

After breakfast we head to the banks of the Chobe River where you stay tonight. The Chobe River flows lazily along the northern boundary of Chobe National Park attracting some of the largest herds of elephant in Africa. This afternoon brings a highlight of your trip to Chobe, a game viewing 'sundowner' safari cruise. During the cruise it is common to see large numbers of elephant and other wildlife, including hippo and a multitude of birdlife as they quench their thirst at the end of the day. **Thebe River Safaris - twin room with en suite (BL).**

### Thebe River Safaris

Thebe River Safaris Lodge for the perfect accommodation option during your visit to the Chobe. Offering a family room and twin rooms nestled around a tranquil courtyard, all our rooms are en-suite and offer convenient amenities such as air-conditioning, refreshment stations and complimentary WiFi to ensure you have a perfect stay. Guests can also make use of our swimming pool which overlooks the beautiful Chobe River.

### Days 19-20: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

We drive to Victoria Falls for a two night stay on the Zimbabwe side of the Falls. Magnificent Victoria Falls is one of the seven natural wonders of the world. David Livingstone first viewed the Falls in 1885 and named them after his Queen. The scene he encountered was a mile-wide (1.6 km) sheer basalt fault line over which the mighty Zambezi tumbled to a depth of 100m, creating a cloud of spray. The next two days are spent relaxing or participating in a myriad of optional excursions available. Walk down to Victoria Falls National Park for a self-guided tour of the Falls (national park entry fee included).

Optional excursions include: sunset boat cruises, game drives in the Zambezi National Park, animal interactions and high tea at the Victoria Falls Hotel. Adrenalin junkies can bungee from the Victoria Falls Bridge connecting Zimbabwe and Zambia or abseil down the Batoka Gorge. All year round flights in micro lights or helicopters are available to provide an aerial perspective over this magnificent world heritage site. White water rafting on the Zambezi is world class. Beside the excitement of the grade 5 rapids, there are the "floats," where there is time to admire the scenic cliffs and the occasional wildlife on the riverbanks. Your Tour Leader will discuss these excursions with you once on tour (additional costs apply). **Shearwater Explorers Camp - twin room with en suite (B).**





### Shearwater Explorers Camp

Explorers Village offers the modern pioneer a perfect haven from which to investigate Victoria Falls. Having operated activities in the Victoria Falls area for over 30 years, Shearwater has built the Explorers Village merely 400 m from the Victoria Falls, 100 m from the epicentre of the Vic Falls town with its craft and curio markets and bohemian cafes. Comprising of 42 private chalets with en suites and serviced dome tents, the village represents value accommodation at its finest - clean, cool, relaxing, elegant, excellent traditional food, ice cold drinks, a pool to cool off at the end of a day's adventure and exceptionally friendly hosts ready to welcome you and guide you through your Vic Falls experience.

### Day 21: Victoria Falls

Today your tour ends this morning after breakfast **(B)**.

#### Tour information:

**Please note that the times in this itinerary are a guideline only and are subject to change due to seasonal variations, as well as unforeseen circumstances. The final decision rests with your guides who will advise regarding timings for each day. 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.**

**Solo travellers:** Those wishing to share a room/tent will be matched with another same-gender traveller to help keep the holiday affordable. If you prefer not to share, then if availability permits a single supplement fee can be paid for single rooms or tents.

**Age policy:** Children aged 12-17 are accepted on all scheduled tours when travelling with an accompanying adult. There is no upper age limit on this tour, however, clients older than 65 years of age at time of travel require a medical certificate stating they are fit and healthy enough to join an adventure travel group tour.

**Two crew:** Having two group leaders is the key to any safari. On this safari you will travel with two qualified and registered field guides (Field Guides Association of SA). Two guides as crew, not a guide and a driver, means interesting trips with maximum knowledge and information. Our guides have a passion for Africa, the people the wildlife.

**Transport:** A custom-built safari truck with 12 forward facing seats is used on tour. In the national parks of Botswana open-sided 4WD vehicles are used to make the most of game viewing opportunities.

**Travelling times and distances:** All travelling times are affected by road conditions, border crossings, detours and weather conditions, therefore on certain days travelling times may be longer than anticipated especially where there is a lot of distance to be covered. Please keep in mind that the time it takes to travel 100 km in your home country is not equivalent to the time it takes to travel 100 km on African roads, therefore we encourage you to sit back and enjoy the scenery.

**Accommodation:** In most cases accommodation is in national parks, on the banks of a river, or in other places of interest. The accommodation will be a mix of lodges, guest houses, chalets in camp sites and tented camps. Most have a private bathroom with a shower and toilet. Some properties are equipped with swimming pools, restaurants and bar areas. At times accommodation listed in the itinerary may be replaced by accommodation of a similar standard.



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**Meals:** The tour leaders do the shopping and meal planning for each group. He/she will always try to obtain fresh produce wherever possible. A rough idea of what these will consist of is: Breakfast: cereals or coffee and toast or the occasional fried breakfast, Lunch: cheese, cold meats, salads on bread or rolls, Dinner: braais (local barbecue), potjies (stews), stir fries etc. We use regular plates, cups and cutlery. All cooking and eating utensils will also be provided. On occasion we will eat out at a local restaurant, or at the lodge's restaurant, as this gives us a taste of the local cuisine. These are usually paid for by yourself – see the meal inclusions listed on your itinerary.

**Travel insurance:** Please note that travel and cancellation insurance is mandatory for every guest travelling on this tour. All insurance is solely the responsibility of our guests. Please ensure you arrange your own insurance with protection for the full duration of your journey to cover personal injury, damage and loss of personal items, including but not limited to camera equipment and other electronic items, medical expenses, repatriation expenses and loss of luggage. *Visit our website ([www.thisisafrica.com.au](http://www.thisisafrica.com.au)) for a travel insurance quote.*

**Making your travels meaningful:** We are supporters of Pack for a Purpose, which is an initiative that allows you to give to the communities you are visiting to make a lasting impact. Simply use a small amount of space in your luggage to pack supplies needed by our community projects. Log onto [www.packforapurpose.org](http://www.packforapurpose.org) for more information.

### Important information:

- It is the responsibility of the client to be at the tour departure point at the time assigned by the tour operator.
- On completion of the tour, flights must be booked taking into consideration the time recommended by the tour operator.
- The tour operator has the right to use an alternative or replacement vehicle if necessary.
- Prices park fees and applicable government taxes and levies may be changed without prior notice. Any change is beyond our control and any increase levied will be passed on.
- As prices are calculated in foreign currencies it may become necessary to add a currency surcharge.
- Please refer to our terms and conditions for amendments and cancellation policies if necessary.

