

WILDLIFE BREAKAWAY

Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia

**THIS IS
AFRICA**

TRAVEL WITH
EXPERIENCE

15 day small group safari
(standard & deluxe accommodation)

This journey of discovery starts and ends in Victoria Falls and visits several of Botswana's main game viewing regions, including Moremi Game Reserve, the Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park. You also game drive in Zimbabwe's Hwange and stay in a chalet on the Kwando River in Namibia. This small group safari includes three and four-star accommodation at a variety of lodges and tented camps.





Cost includes:

- meet and greet services with assistance at Victoria Falls airport
- return transfer to Victoria Falls airport
- all safari transport and game drives in 4x4 safari vehicle
- English speaking driver-guide
- accommodation as specified
- 14 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 11 dinners
- park fees and government taxes.
- game drives in Greater Bwabwata National Park, Moremi Game Reserve, Chobe National Park and Hwange National Park
- guided tour of Victoria Falls
- Zambezi River sunset sail with snacks and refreshments
- mokoro ride and guided bush walk in the Okavango Delta
- view Makgadikgadi Pans from lookout
- Nata Bird Sanctuary visit
- Chobe River boat safari

Cost excludes:

- **compulsory park fees / activities payment of USD350 per person***
- visas and international flights
- drinks and meals not listed, dining room tips, porterage, laundry
- personal travel, baggage and medical insurance

***A compulsory activity payment of USD350 per person is applicable to this tour. This is paid to This is Africa in AUD and is added to your This is Africa invoice at time of deposit. The activity payment is applicable to year of travel and may vary if you travel in a year other than that in which you booked.**

Victoria Falls to Victoria Falls

Accommodation: standard

Departs: selected dates

Itinerary overview:

- Day 1: Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls - Ilala Lodge or similar
- Day 2: Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls - Ilala Lodge or similar
- Day 3: Namibia, Caprivi Strip - Camp Kwando or similar
- Day 4: Botswana, Okavango Delta - Guma Lagoon Camp or similar
- Day 5: Botswana, Okavango Delta - Guma Lagoon Camp or similar
- Day 6: Botswana, Greater Moremi - Bedouin Bush Camp or similar
- Day 7: Botswana, Greater Moremi - Bedouin Bush Camp or similar
- Day 8: Botswana, Greater Moremi - Bedouin Bush Camp or similar
- Day 9: Botswana, Nata - Nata Lodge or similar
- Day 10: Botswana, Kasane - Chobe Safari Lodge or similar
- Day 11: Botswana, Kasane - Chobe Safari Lodge or similar
- Day 12: Zimbabwe, Hwange National Park - Sable Sands or similar
- Day 13: Zimbabwe, Hwange National Park - Sable Sands or similar
- Day 14: Zimbabwe, Hwange National Park - Sable Sands or similar
- Day 15: return to Victoria Falls airport

B - breakfast

L - lunch

D - dinner

Wildlife Breakaway 15 day small group safari

Day 1: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

On arrival at Victoria Falls Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the afternoon may be spent at leisure enjoying one of the many activities available in Victoria Falls. This evening you will meet your guide and the rest of your group at the lodge at 6.00 pm for your pre-departure meeting. **Ilala Lodge or similar - standard room.**

Ilala Lodge

One of the most popular properties in Victoria Falls, Ilala Lodge is ideally situated on the Zimbabwean side of the Zambezi River, where it is within walking distance of the Falls themselves, the town of Victoria Falls' markets and restaurants and the iconic Victoria Falls Hotel. This family run lodge features colonial décor and landscaped gardens providing an aura of days gone by. Wild animals, such as warthog and impala, often graze on the hotel lawns and restaurant diners can see and hear the majestic roar of 'the smoke that thunders' in the background. Guests can enjoy a la carte cuisine in The Palm Restaurant, featuring tranquil views and a wide-open terrace. The two swimming pools, pool bar and shaded grounds offer respite from the region's humidity and having undergone recent renovations, Ilala Lodge has a fresh, clean look.

Day 2: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Spend the day exploring Victoria Falls. Victoria Falls has become a mecca for travellers who enjoy the great outdoors. Adventurers can enjoy bungee jumping, zip lining, white water rafting, a swing over an adjacent valley and scenic helicopter rides over the Falls. Culture buffs can join informative visits to a nearby township, rural village or a cultural dinner show at The Boma restaurant (additional costs apply).

Your guide will take you on a tour of the mighty Victoria Falls. Victoria Falls represents one of the most spectacular natural wonders of the world. The local people call it 'Mosi-oa-Tunya' - the smoke that thunders. There is a magic about the Falls manifested in the towering column of spray when the river is high. Victoria Falls is 1,708 metres wide, making it the largest curtain of water in the world. It drops between 90m and 107m into the Zambezi Gorge and an average of 550,000 cubic metres of water plummet over the edge every minute. Remarkably preserved in its natural state, Victoria Falls inspires visitors as much today as it did David Livingstone in the 1860s. The Falls and the surrounding area has been declared a national park and a World Heritage Site.

This afternoon you board a traditional East African Dhow for a sunset sail on the Zambezi River. Enjoy a meze platter and refreshing beverages while you watch for hippo, Nile crocodile and elephant. As you sail down-river, watching the incredible orange sunset, you really do feel that you are in Africa. The sunsets here are stunning, with the red soil of nearby Namibia providing deep orange skies. Your evening is at leisure. **Ilala Lodge or similar - standard room (B).**

Day 3: Victoria Falls to Caprivi Strip, Namibia

After breakfast we cross the border into Namibia and head to our camp located on the Kwando River. Compared to much of Namibia this region is lush due to wetlands which attract abundant wildlife and a source of water for local villagers. Enjoy watching the sunset from camp with the chance of seeing Nile crocodiles and hippo. **Camp Kwando or similar - chalet with en-suite bathroom (BLD).**





Day 4: Caprivi Strip to Okavango Delta, Botswana

Rise early for a game drive in the Greater Bwabwata National Park, which extends from the Kavango River in the west to the Kwando River in the east and incorporates the Mahangu Game Reserve. Elephant, roan, kudu and buffalo are amongst the animals likely to be seen as well as prolific birdlife.

We cross the border into Botswana and head to the western edge of the Okavango Delta. Unlike other deltas, the Okavango flows into the Kalahari Desert without reaching the coast, which makes it unique. The Delta forms as rain water from the Angolan highlands flows out over the flat Kalahari Desert sands, forming a delicate, green oasis for birds and wildlife. **Guma Lagoon Camp or similar - permanent tent with en-suite bathroom (BLD).**

Guma Lagoon Camp

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 known 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 water fowl 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. Wonder down to the main area and sit on the deck over the lagoon with a complimentary cup of tea or coffee.

Day 5: Okavango Delta, Botswana

Today is spent exploring the network of water pathways through thick vegetation in mokoros (traditional dugout canoes), discovering a variety of birds and wildlife. Local guides will take you deep into the heart of the Okavango Delta for a unique game-viewing experience. We have the opportunity to stop at a secluded island to take a one-and-a-half hour guided walk hoping to spot elephant, waterbuck and other animals living in this water-dense paradise. **Guma Lagoon Camp or similar - permanent tent with en-suite bathroom (BLD).**

Day 6: Greater Moremi, Botswana

After breakfast we head south via the gateway town of Maun to our camp which is situated in a private concession in the Greater Moremi area. This large area is renowned for its concentration of mammals and it is not unusual to see many different types of wildlife during just one game drive. 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. **Bedouin Bush Camp or similar - semi-permanent tented camp with en-suite (BD).**

Bedouin Bush Camp

Experience one of Botswana's finest game viewing areas in an unfenced, mobile bush camp located on a private concession in close proximity to the Moremi Game Reserve, a 2 hour drive from Maun. Twelve comfortable tents are positioned privately under big Acacia trees, offering travellers an authentic and secluded African bush experience. The camp is also equipped with a homely and communal dining and bar area. The tents are covered with Bedouin-style fly-sheets, offering guests protection from Botswana's weather conditions and fashioning the camp with a distinctive nomadic appearance & atmosphere.

Wildlife Breakaway 15 day small group safari

Listen to the remarkable night sounds of the bush from the comfort of a safari tent equipped with twin beds, soft pillows and duvets. Doors and windows are fitted with mosquito screening and insect repellent is provided. To limit the camp's impact on the environment yet still afford the necessary comfort in the bush, the en-suite bathrooms are equipped with flush toilets and hot bucket showers. Please note that 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.

Day 7: Greater Moremi, Botswana

Spend the morning and afternoon exploring the Greater Moremi area by 4WD on game drives on the lookout for wildlife. **Bedouin Bush Camp or similar - semi-permanent tented camp with en-suite (BLD).**

Day 8: Moremi Game Reserve, Botswana

Known as one of the most beautiful and varied reserves in Africa, Moremi has diverse and plentiful wildlife. One-hundred years after explorer David Livingstone called this land 'a country full of rivers', the environment and wildlife in the Moremi area were under threat. It was the local Batawana people that had this region proclaimed Moremi Game Reserve in 1963, making Moremi the first protected reserve of the Okavango Delta. As a sign of gratitude, the reserve is named after a Batawana tribe member, Chief Moremi III and his wife.

Today is spent on game drives in a 4WD vehicle in the unspoiled natural surrounds of Moremi Game Reserve, which is home to a great diversity of plant and animal life. The reserve covers approximately 20 per cent of the Okavango Delta and includes a vast range of habitats, from acacia forests, floodplains, reed beds, lagoons and enduring wetland, through to mopane forest and dry savannah woodland. **Bedouin Bush Camp or similar - semi-permanent tented camp with en-suite (BLD).**

Day 9: Greater Moremi to Nata, Botswana

Leaving the bush behind us we travel east towards the Makgadikgadi Pans, once a large river-fed lake which has become saline and empty. This area incorporates a multitude of salt pans and vast grass plains dotted by palm islands and forms the Great Makgadikgadi which comprises the largest area of salt pans in the world, covering some 37,000 square kilometres. We arrive at our lodge in the late afternoon. **Nata Lodge or similar - permanent tent with en-suite (B).**

Nata Lodge

Nata Lodge is an oasis set amongst mokolwane palms on the edge of the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans. 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 are a hive of activity, with a bird feeding area and an active water feature providing guests with the opportunity to view a variety of wildlife from the pool deck, open bar or restaurant. The helmeted guineafowl, crested Francolin, yellow hornbill, pied and arrow-marked babblers, Meyers parrot and paradise whydah are just some of the species found around the lodge.

Day 10: Nata to Kasane / Chobe, Botswana

After breakfast we head off to the Nata Bird Sanctuary, where you have the opportunity to enjoy the magnificent view over the Sowa pan, which is part of the Greater Makgadikgadi Pans. (Please note a visit to the pans is subject to the road conditions and water levels as well as time constraints).





After breakfast, we continue our journey north to Kasane, the gateway to the Chobe National Park. Chobe, which is the second largest national park in Botswana and covers 10,566 square kilometres, has one of the greatest concentrations of elephant found on the African continent. The afternoon is at leisure to partake in optional activities, or to relax by the pool. **Chobe Safari Lodge - standard room (BD).**

Chobe Safari Lodge

On Botswana's far northern border lies the Kwando, Linyanti and Chobe river system forming a series of lakes, islands and floodplains. This area forms the Chobe National Park and is home to Chobe Safari Lodge. The lodge has recently undergone renovations and the lodge now boasts great new dining, swimming and bar areas. The lodge offers luxury accommodation, an extensive spa treatment centre, river boat cruises, game drives and fishing trips. The vast dining terrace and pool areas flow down to the river offering great views of the Chobe regions famous sunsets and a cool setting during hot days. Chobe Safari Lodge has all the facilities of a five star resort at a three star price and is great value for those wishing to visit the Chobe River and Park.

Day 11: Chobe National Park, Botswana

Start your morning with a game drive in Chobe National Park. An early morning safari allows us the opportunity to view animals in the dry interior of the park, which is home to the many predators that inhabit the park. After our game drive we return to the lodge, with time to relax and enjoy the lodge facilities.

This afternoon we join a boat safari on the Chobe River starting at around 3.00 pm. Watch for elephant, hippo, Nile crocodile and a variety of birds, making for excellent up close photo opportunities. Chobe is credited as the best place in Africa to see elephants, particularly in the water. Individual herds sometimes number in the hundreds and there are over 100,000 elephant in the park. Elephants especially enjoy the native grasses that grow on the islands within the river system. **Chobe Safari Lodge - standard room (BD).**

Days 12 - 14: Hwange National Park

Today we depart Botswana as we head back towards Victoria Falls, before turning south to our lodge in a private concession near to Hwange National Park. The next days are spent exploring this wildlife rich area. This afternoon you can partake in an optional game drive if time allows. Over the following two days, we will have plenty of time to explore this vast wilderness on game drives. Hwange National Park is one of Africa's finest havens for wildlife and is home to vast herds of elephant, buffalo, and zebra and has a very large concentration of giraffe. It is also home to many predators and endangered species plus varied birdlife. We will also visit the Painted Dog Conservation Centre to witness the work that is done to protect these endangered species. **Sable Sands - chalets with en-suite bathroom (BLD).**

Sable Sands

On the edge of the famous Hwange National Park, on a private concession that boasts stunning views of the dried riverbed stands a rustic eco lodge within the pristine teak and mopani forest called Sable Sands. Sable Sands has 16 traditionally thatched 'rondavels' with en suite bathroom, making the lodge the perfect blend of ancient culture, nature and modern convenience. This forest home also has a solar powered swimming pool for those hot African days and a tree house to relax in and breathe in the pure untainted air. In the main gazebo there is the dining area, lounge, library and bar all overlooking the beautiful solar pumped waterhole in the Dete Vlei which is frequented by a host of wildlife visitors. You have the exciting opportunity to see sable antelope, zebra and thirsty herds of elephant and buffalo, and if you are really lucky you might even spot a lion, cheetah, painted dog, jackal and more. In front of the gazebo is a large outdoor fire pit where guests can have dinner under the stars with a glowing red campfire blazing beside them.

Wildlife Breakaway 15 day small group safari

Day 15: Victoria Falls

This morning we return to Victoria Falls, where our trip began fifteen days ago. You will be transferred to Victoria Falls airport for your onward arrangements. (*Outbound flights should not depart before 1.00 pm*). **(B)**.

Important 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 guide who will advise you the 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.

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 spectacular scenery Africa has to offer. Where possible additional stops will be made to ensure your travelling comfort.

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. Most of them have a private bathroom with a shower and toilet. Some properties are equipped with swimming pools and/or bar areas. At times accommodation listed in the itinerary may be replaced by accommodation of a similar standard due to non-availability or a change to the contracted properties.

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.

Park fee and activity payment: A pre-payment of USD350 per person is required on this safari. It will be used by your tour leader to pay for some of the operational costs incurred on safari, such as park fees. Prices for 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.

Solo travellers: A single supplement fee is payable for a single room or tent.

Visas: The onus is on the client to organize all visas required to visit the countries stated on the itinerary. A multiple entry visa for Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana is available for this tour.

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 to save 20% on your travel insurance www.thisisafrica.com.au*





Making your travels meaningful: We are proud members 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 for more information.

Optional excursions: Pre-booking is recommended for optional excursions to avoid disappointment. All activities are subject to availability and may require a minimum amount of passengers to operate. Certain activities only operate at specific times of the year or on certain days of the week only. Please ask your travel consultant for details on optional excursions.

Below is a list of some of the most popular optional activities:

Optional activities in Victoria Falls:

- 15 Minute Helicopter Flight
- 22 Minute Helicopter Flight
- Boma Dinner incl. transfers
- Sunset Cruise
- Dinner Cruise
- Bungee Jump
- Historical Bridge Tour
- Canopy Tour
- Flying Fox (Cable Slide)
- Gorge Swing
- Zip Line
- Canoeing (full day)
- Rafting (full day, low water)
- Rafting (full day, high water)

Optional activities at Guma Lagoon:

Scenic Helicopter Flight 25 Minutes (available from 1 May – 31 October)