

BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE ESCAPE

Zimbabwe, Botswana

10 day small group safari
(deluxe accommodation)

**THIS IS
AFRICA**

**TRAVEL WITH
EXPERIENCE**

Botswana and Zimbabwe's top game reserves are experienced during this heavily wildlife-focussed, small group safari staying at deluxe game lodges and tented safari camps. Enjoy game drives in Moremi Game Reserve, Kuzuma Forest Reserve and Hwange National Park, along with a Chobe River boat cruise, tour of Victoria Falls and a Zambezi River sunset cruise.





Cost includes:

- meet, greet and transfer services on arrival at Maun airport
- departure transfer to Victoria Falls airport
- all safari transport and game drives in 4WD safari vehicle
- choice of game drives, game walks, mokoro rides or boat cruise in Moremi Game Reserve
- game drives in Kazuma Forest Reserve and Hwange National Park
- boat safari on Chobe River
- painting experience in Hwange
- guided tour of Victoria Falls
- Zambezi River sunset sail with snacks and refreshments
- Potjiekos experience meal
- English speaking driver-guide
- accommodation as specified
- 9 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 8 dinners
- park fees and government taxes.

Cost excludes:

- visas and international flights
- drinks and meals not listed, dining room tips, porterage, laundry
- personal travel, baggage and medical insurance

Maun to Victoria Falls

Accommodation: deluxe lodges and tented camps

Departs: selected dates April to November

Itinerary overview:

- Day 1: Botswana, Maun - Thamalakane River Lodge or similar
- Day 2: Botswana, Moremi Game Reserve - Moremi Crossing or similar
- Day 3: Botswana, Moremi Game Reserve - Moremi Crossing or similar
- Day 4: Botswana, Kazuma Forest Reserve - Camp Kuzuma or similar
- Day 5: Botswana, Kazuma Forest Reserve - Camp Kuzuma or similar
- Day 6: Zimbabwe, Hwange National Park - Nantwich Lodge or similar
- Day 7: Zimbabwe, Hwange National Park - Nantwich Lodge or similar
- Day 8: Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls - Ilala Lodge or similar
- Day 9: Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls - Ilala Lodge or similar
- Day 10: Ends - Victoria Falls airport

On completion of this safari why not fly directly from Victoria Falls to another African destination? Consider extending your African adventure to include cosmopolitan Cape Town and the city's nearby winelands and Garden Route. Or for more wildlife viewing, fly to Nairobi and witness the great wildebeest migration in Kenya's famous Masai Mara Reserve. Ask a consultant for details.

B - breakfast

L - lunch

D - dinner

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Day 1: Maun

On arrival you are met at Maun airport and transferred to your riverside lodge where you meet your fellow travellers. **Thamalakane River Lodge or similar - chalet. (D).**

Thamalakane River Lodge

Located on the banks of the Thamalakane River en route to the famous Moremi Game Reserve, Thamalakane River Lodge is a popular resort-style lodge. En suite stone chalets, some with private splash pools, are positioned in the shade of the riverine forest, overlooking the river. Chalets, public areas and the generous swimming pool take advantage of the 180-degree view of the riverbanks lined with reeds visited by an array of birds. The widely acclaimed restaurant serves a la carte and buffet style meals from an ever-changing menu. Dusk is a spectacular time at Thamalakane with the sun setting the river ablaze as it slowly dips behind the trees. Perfect for sundowner drinks. Frequented by travellers preparing to visit the Okavango Delta and its impressive game reserves, this lodge is our favourite in this region.

Days 2 - 3: Greater Moremi Game Reserve

Transfer to Maun airport where you will take a short scenic flight to Moremi Crossing, located near the southernmost part of Chief's Island. Arrive on a small palm-fringed island called Ntswi. Your time on Moremi Game Reserve is at your own leisure, with the freedom to partake in one of the many optional activities on offer as hosted by your lodge, such as a half or full day mokoro ride, boat cruises, guided bush walks and game drives (all weather and water level dependent).

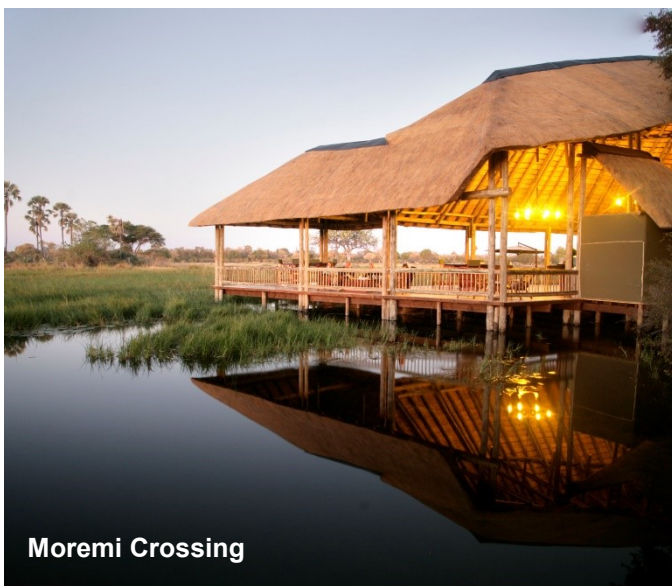
This region of the Okavango Delta is renowned for its concentration of mammals and it is not unusual to see many different types of wildlife during just one game drive. Game viewing is seasonal. Depending on the time of year you may see different species in different areas. The best time for game viewing 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. **Moremi Crossing or similar - luxury tent (BLD).**

Moremi Crossing

Sitting near the most southern part of Chiefs Island on a small palm fringed island surrounded by the Moremi's seasonal floodplains, Moremi Crossing offers a deluxe game experience at standard pricing. Accommodation is in 16 vintage safari tents, each with its own private wooden deck. Tents have their own eco-friendly outdoor shower heated by solar power and a family and honeymoon tent are both available. Activities offered include mokoro trips with game walks, bush walks with picnic lunch, wilderness camping, sunset motorboat cruises and fishing. Moremi Crossing is 100% eco-friendly and accessible from Maun by a short 20 minute flight.

Day 4: Chobe River, Kazuma Forest Reserve

After breakfast, our light aircraft transfer takes us 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. On arrival we enjoy a lunchtime boat safari on the Chobe River which allows us to see such sights as elephant swimming and animals coming down to drink at the river, before we continue to the Kazuma Forest Reserve for our two night stay at a luxury tented camp. **Camp Kuzuma or similar - luxury tent. (BLD).**



Camp Kuzuma



Camp Kuzuma

Camp Kuzuma offers 10 custom built, large, open plan luxury tented suites which are positioned under a canopy of mopane trees. Night time noises filter through canvas walls and well-used animal trails bring unexpected visitors to thrill and delight. Each suite exudes a romantic and nostalgic ambiance with safari memorabilia throughout. All suites are luxurious spaces and tastefully decorated with use of crisp white linens and spacious king-size beds. En suite bathrooms offer high back Victorian baths, double basins with 'his and hers' inside showers and outside showers. The camp is located in the private forestry area of the Kuzuma Plains where an abundance of wildlife roams, in particular large cats. A spectacular diversity of wildlife moves through this immense wilderness, including breeding herds of elephant, leopard, lion, spotted hyena, giraffe, buffalo, roan antelope and sable, to name a few.

Day 5: Kazuma Forest Reserve

Enjoy a morning game drive in Kazuma Forest Reserve, which borders Chobe National Park in Botswana and Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe. Look out for numerous species of mammals. Camp Kuzuma is known for its elephant trails with these giants often drinking right outside the camp at their extensive waterhole. Your afternoon is at leisure. **Camp Kuzuma or similar - luxury tent. (BLD).**

Day 6: Hwange National Park

This morning we farewell Botswana and drive to Zimbabwe where we stay for two nights on the border of Hwange National Park where you join a game drive this afternoon. Your lodge is ideally situated in the northern reaches of the park overlooking a nearby dam with wildlife viewing available from the lodge itself. **Nantwich Lodge or similar. (BLD).**

Nantwich Lodge

Nantwich is a unique, intimate eco-lodge reclaimed from a bygone era ideally suited to true safari lovers who want to get off the beaten track and discover the pristine wilderness and abundant wildlife of Northern Hwange National Park. Perched high on a bluff overlooking a large dam with resident crocodile and hippo, the lodge boasts one of the best views in the park. Built from the foundations of the previous lodge, and using as many eco principles as possible, the refurbished lodge embodies the very essence of conservation and responsible tourism by re-purposing, preserving and celebrating the natural heritage of the site.

Day 7: Hwange National Park

We spend today on a game drive where we will enjoy a wholesome lunch whilst taking in the beautiful fauna and flora of the park. Hwange National Park is one of Africa's finest havens for wildlife and is home to massive herds of elephant, buffalo, and zebra and has a large concentration of giraffe. It is also home to many predators and endangered species plus varied birdlife. We end the day off with a special safari painting experience where you will learn to paint whilst the sun sets over the horizon. **Nantwich Lodge or similar. (BLD).**

Day 8: Victoria Falls

Today you farewell Hwange and drive north to one of the seven natural wonders of the world. 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 or rural village. Your lodge is located in town close to the cafes and markets and the famous Victoria Falls Hotel. **Ilala Lodge or similar - standard room. (B).**

Botswana & Zimbabwe Escape

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 9: Victoria Falls

Your guide will take you on a tour of the mighty Victoria Falls this morning. 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 enjoy a Potjiekos, local stew, cooking lesson riverside before boarding an 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. Dinner is your slow cooked Potjiekos as we farewell Africa with this traditional favourite. **Ilala Lodge or similar - standard room (BD).**

Day 10: Victoria Falls

After breakfast we head back to Victoria Falls airport where you farewell your fellow travellers. **(B).**

Important information:

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. Whilst it is our 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.

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.



Victoria Falls



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.

Park fees. Park fees are included. 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 Botswana and Zimbabwe is available for this tour.

Travel insurance: Please note that travel and cancellation insurance is mandatory for every guest travelling on this tour. 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)