

## Namibia & Botswana Uncovered

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**Country(ies):** Botswana , Zimbabwe , Namibia

**Tour type:** Overland

**Transport:** Overland expedition vehicle, 4x4 safari vehicles

**Group size:** Min: 4 | Max: 20

**Days:** 12 days

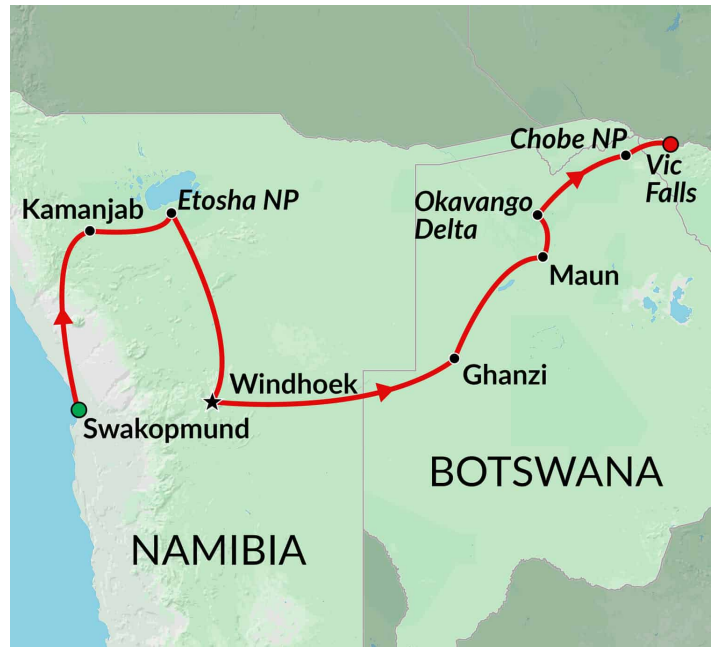
**Start Location:** Swakopmund, Namibia

**End Location:** Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

**Meals:** Breakfasts - 11, Lunches - 11, Dinners - 11

**Highlights:**

Swakopmund, Spitzkoppe rock formations, Brandberg rock paintings, Etosha National Park, Okavango Delta, Moremi Game Reserve, Savuti Game Reserve, Chobe National Park, Victoria Falls



# Itinerary

## Day 1: Swakopmund to Khorixas

Our exploration of the desert continues with a trip up north, where the hot desert sands meet the cold waves of the Atlantic Ocean. We'll stop at seaside holiday town of Wlotskabaken for a photo opportunity before heading to the Lichen Fields for a viewing and talk by your guide on the Lichen Colonies. The road then continues away from the coast and takes us towards the Khorixas area where we will explore the Twyfelfontein Rock Engravings and the Petrified Forest in the Kunene Region with a local guide.

**2025 note: Please not that from 2025 the visits to Twyfelfontein Rock Engravings and the Petrified Forest will be replaced with visits to Brandberg and White Lady.**

**Route:** Swakopmund to Khorixas (via Cape Cross)

**Facilities - Camping:** Campsite with shared ablutions

**Facilities - Accommodated:** Two per room with en-suite bathroom

**OVERNIGHT:** NWR: Khorixas

**MEALS:** Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** Extra day in Swakopmund - pre-tour Single room supplement accommodated (NAOVNB) Single room supplement camping (NAOVNB)

## Day 2: Khorixas to Etosha National Park

With vast salt pans, savanna and woodland, Etosha is one of Africa's finest game parks. At 18 000 sq km, it is one of the biggest Parks in Southern Africa. Etosha means "great white area", which refers to the large dried pan in the middle of the Park. We will spend the afternoon exploring the park in the Nomad Truck.

**Route:** Khorixas to Etosha National Park

**Included Highlight:** Afternoon game drive in truck

**Facilities - Camping:** Campsite with shared ablutions

**Facilities - Accommodated:** Two per room with en-suite bathroom

**OVERNIGHT:** NWR: Okuakuejo

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 3: Etosha

Today we are out on safari in Etosha National Park, one of Africa's premier game reserves. It is known for a distinctive feature – a massive salt pan that is found in the middle of the park which is so big that it can be seen from space.

The salt pan, as well as the smaller ones surrounding and adjoining it, attracts wildlife to its banks in numbers. We explore this unique wilderness on an afternoon game drive.

**Included Highlight:** Afternoon game drive in truck

**Facilities - Camping:** Campsite with shared ablutions

**Facilities - Accommodated:** Two per room with en-suite bathroom

**OVERNIGHT:** NWR: Okaukuejo

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 4: Full-Day Safari in Etosha

Today we spend the entire day traversing Etosha on a game drive. A safari in the African bush provides the opportunity to see something different at every moment, and we enjoy the anticipation of seeing unique sightings around every corner.

**Route:** Etosha National Park

**Included Highlight:** Morning Game drive, Afternoon Game drive

**Facilities - Camping:** Campsite with shared ablutions

**Facilities - Accommodated:** Two per room with en-suite bathroom

**OVERNIGHT:** NWR: Namutoni

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 5: Etosha to Divundu

We leave the white sands of Etosha behind and venture towards the Kavango River for our overnight stop in Divundu.

**Route:** Etosha National Park to Divundu

**Included Highlight:** Walk through Windhoek with your guide

**Facilities - Accommodated:** Two per room with en-suite bathroom

**Facilities - Camping:** Campsite with Shared Ablutions

**OVERNIGHT:** Mahangu

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 6: Divundu to Maun

Prior to departing for Maun, we enjoy a leisurely boat cruise on the beautiful Kavango River. We then cross the border into Botswana and head towards the gateway to the Okavango Delta, the town of Maun. We overnight in Maun before heading for our next adventure – The Okavango Delta

**Route:** Divundu to Maun

**Included Highlight:** Morning boat cruise

**Facilities - Camping:** 2024: Campsite with Shared Ablutions, 2025: Two per room with en-suite bathroom

**Facilities - Accommodated:** Two per room with en-suite bathroom

**OVERNIGHT:** Sedia hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 7: Okavango - Khwai Conservation Area

You will be separated from the truck for the next 2 nights and it is therefore important that you pack/gather your personal belongings which you may need, before we depart Maun. Please pack lightly and only take what you need for the following two nights. Today we make our way towards the Okavango Delta. Early risers will have the opportunity to go on an optional scenic flight over the Delta (time and weather permitting). After your optional flight, you will be collected from Maun and will be transferred to the Khwai Conservation area in smaller safari type vehicles. Our guide will prepare us on what to expect for our afternoon mokoro excursion into the Okavango Delta .

**Route:** Maun to Khwai Conservation area

**Optional Activity:** Okavango Delta scenic flight

**Facilities - Camping:** Campsite with shared ablutions

**Facilities - Accommodated:** Permanent tent with en-suite bathroom

**OVERNIGHT:** Khwai Tented Camp

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 8: Moremi Game Reserve Area

Today is a full day game drive as we spend most of our day on safari in the Moremi Game Reserve in search of the species that roam the plains. Expect some bumpy roads as we traverse this wilderness area in our 4x4 vehicles. Offering habitats from wetland, open water to the grasslands and Savannah woodland, we hope to see as many species of fauna and flora possible. This evening we arrive back at Khwai to share and compare all the amazing sightings while on safari

**Included Highlight:** Full Day Game Drive Moremi Game Reserve

**Facilities - Camping:** Campsite with shared ablutions

**Facilities - Accommodated:** Permanent tent with en-suite bathroom

**OVERNIGHT:** Khwai Tented Camp

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 9: Khwai to Nata

Today's journey from Khwai to Nata passes the Botswanan salt pans. You will pack up camp and depart at first light on the open 4x4 safari vehicles before meeting the truck in Maun . The scenic drive from Maun to Nata showcases some of Botswana's breathtaking landscapes and the rich cultural heritage. Keep an eye open as there is always a chance of a wildlife encounter or two before reaching your overnight destination in Nata. This afternoon, after our arrival in Nata, we enjoy a guided drive to the Nata pans, which forms the breeding ground for a host of water birds including pelicans and flamingo in their thousands (birds dependant on seasonal migratory patterns)

**Route:** Khwai Conservation Area to Nata

**Included Highlight:** Afternoon pans drive

**Facilities - Camping:** Campsite with shared ablutions

**Facilities - Accommodated:** Two per room with en-suite bathroom

**OVERNIGHT:** Nata lodge

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 10: Chobe National Park

Those who have chosen to take the optional game drive in Chobe National Park will start early for their morning safari in open 4x4 vehicles. They'll return to camp for lunch before we all head out in the afternoon for a leisurely boat cruise which should afford us great views of some of the many elephants that make this park home (Chobe has some of the highest concentrations of African elephant on the planet)..

**Included Highlight:** Chobe National Park boat cruise

**Optional Activity:** Chobe National Park game drive

**Facilities - Camping:** Campsite with shared ablutions

**Facilities - Accommodated:** Two per room with en-suite bathroom

**OVERNIGHT:** Thebe River Safaris

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 11: Victoria Falls

Today we enter Zimbabwe and make our way to one of nature's most awe-inspiring destinations – the Victoria Falls.

The Victoria Falls are formed at the point where the Zambezi tumbles down over 100m-high basalt cliffs into the gaping ravine below. Simply marvelling at the raw force and power of the Falls is enough to keep you occupied for the day, but you may also choose to visit the shops and restaurants of Victoria Falls Town, or to try one of the many adventure activities on offer.

**Route:** Kasane to Victoria Falls

**Optional Activity:** Victoria Falls entry fee, Zambezi Sunset Cruise

**Facilities - Camping:** 2024: Pre-erected dome tent with camper beds, 2025: Two per room with en-suite bathroom

**Facilities - Accommodated:** Two per room with en-suite bathroom

**OVERNIGHT:** Shearwater Explorers Village

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 12: Tour ends in Victoria Falls

Today is the last day of the tour. You have the chance to end off with a bang by trying out some more adventure activities at Victoria Falls. Bungee jumping, rafting on the river, a helicopter flight over the Falls– take your pick from all these and more.

**Optional Activity:** Visit the Vic Falls, Zambezi Sunset Cruise, Bungee Jump, Helicopter Flights, White Water Rafting

**OVERNIGHT:** Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** Extra day in Victoria Falls - post-tour

**Included:**

- 11 nights accommodation in hotels/lodges/guesthouses
- All transport on a fully equipped 25-seat expedition vehicle
- All 'included highlights' as mentioned in the itinerary
- 2 truck crew (driver/guide plus assistant/cook)
- Local guides for sightseeing tours and activities as per the itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

**Excluded:**

- International Flights (available on request)
- Visa fees if required
- Optional activities (see itinerary)
- Travel Insurance (compulsory, available on request)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips for guides & drivers
- Entrance fees and activities not mentioned above
- Any other items not mentioned above

## Notes

This tour forms part of our longer [Grand Southern Safari tour](#) which starts in Cape Town and travels through South Africa and Namibia before joining this tour in Swakopmund and continuing together to Victoria Falls.

# Options

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Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements - full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

## Single room supplement accommodated (NAOVNB)

Min numbers: 1

This option books a single room in all the accommodation throughout the tour. Room shares are not available on this tour, so if you are single traveller then you will need to add this option to your booking.

**Note:** Single rooms are not generally available for the Okavagano Delta excursion due to the size of the property visited. Instead, accommodation here is on a twin-share basis.

## Extra day in Swakopmund - pre-tour

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the start of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Airport transfers are not included, but are available as an additional option. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

**Note:** Single room and peak season supplements apply.

## Options available while on tour (NAOVNB | SAOVOC | SAOVWW)

Min numbers: 1

These options are available while you are on the tour from local activity providers who your booking will be with. Prices are given as a guide and are subject to change.

### Botswana

- **Maun**
  - 1hr Scenic Delta Flight (min 4) | \$80 to \$200
- **Chobe NP**
  - Game Drive | BWP400 to BWP600

### Zimbabwe

- **Victoria Falls**

- Bungee Jump | \$150 to \$170
- Helicopter Flight over the Falls (min 3) | \$160 to \$180
- Full day White Water Rafting (High water) | \$150 to \$170
- Zambezi Sunset Cruise (inc transfers) | \$40 to \$70

## Departure airport transfer in Victoria Falls

Min numbers: 1

This option adds a departure airport transfer in Victoria Falls to your Overland tour with us. You will need to also book at least one night of post-tour hotel accommodation with us in order to book this transfer.

Note: We subcontract our airport transfers, so your transfer representative will not have any information about your tour with us, or be able to assist you beyond the transfer itself.

## Arrival airport transfer in Swakopmund

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an arrival airport transfer in Swakopmund to your Overland tour with us. You will need to also book at least one night of pre-tour hotel accommodation with us in order to book this transfer.

Note: We subcontract our airport transfers, so your transfer representative will not have any information about your tour with us, or be able to assist you beyond the transfer itself.

## Extra nights in Victoria falls post-tour

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the start of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Airport transfers are not included, but are available as an additional option. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

**Note:** Single room and peak season supplements apply.

## Single room supplement camping (NAOVNB)

Min numbers: 1

This option provides single travellers with a single room in the hotels/guesthouses used during the tour as well as a private single tent. Single travellers happy to share a same-sex twin room and tent do not need to pay the supplement.

This supplement does not apply if you choose the Okavango Delta upgrade on this tour. You should expect to share a tent during that excursion.



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## 1. Accommodation

We provide two options for the accommodation on this Overland tour, both available on the trip. Each option stays in the same place each night, just using a different level of accommodation. On some nights both options will use the same rooms or tents - please see the itinerary for details.

**Camping:** As the name suggests, the majority of your time will be spent camping. We include easily erected tents and camping mattresses; all you need to bring is a sleeping bag & towel (and pillow if you need one). Some nights spent in towns and cities may be spent in hotel or lodge rooms instead of camping - please see the itinerary for details. Prices are based on 2 sharing so if you are travelling as a single passenger you should expect to share a tent with another traveller of the same sex. During hotel stays, all couples will be given a private double room. Friends booking together will also share a room. Triple rooms are not generally available.

**Accommodated:** This level is designed to bridge the gap between a basic camping tour and an expensive lodge holiday. So, we use good quality hotels, lodges and camps rated at the local 2 to 4-star level, with the majority of rooms en-suite. In some places more basic properties with separate bathrooms, or permanent safari tents may be used. We aim always to use accommodation that is in keeping with the local area so there is a good variety. Local star ratings may vary slightly from international standards. Accommodation is based on twin or double rooms, chalets, bungalows or safari tents. All couples will be given a private double room. Friends booking together will also share a room.

**Note** - Accommodation providers are subject to change without notice. The properties listed are our preferred options, but sometimes due to availability or other issues with the property, we may substitute another property of similar standards.

Please check the Single Room Supplement option for details on room sharing options and charges for solo travellers on this tour.

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## 2. Transport

This tour is run in conjunction with our local partners in South Africa. You will travel in one of their specially designed overland trucks throughout this tour, giving you a great vantage point from which to enjoy the scenery and incredible wildlife. Our professional and knowledgeable local guides will help to make your experience unforgettable and fun. The maximum number of people on this tour is 20 (the trucks have 25 seats)

The vehicles we use are amongst some of the finest on the road. However, do not forget the nature of an adventure tour. This is not a bus trip. Nor do we provide up-market tours. These are still tours aimed at the adventurous traveller. Though the vehicles are comfortable with large windows and great visibility, there are no onboard toilets or air-conditioning.

Each expedition vehicle is fitted with the following:

- Freezers to keep food fresh in the African heat.
- Individual seats with seat belts and ample leg-room
- Overhead luggage racks.
- Lockers for your backpacks (~35 cm square, 80cm deep)
- A safe for your valuables.
- A well-stocked first aid kit is on hand for emergencies.
- Reading material (fiction & field guides), games and recreational gear to keep you well entertained.
- I-pod/MP3 points
- Charging facilities for cameras, batteries etc
- PA System
- Kitchen and stove
- Water tank
- Cooler boxes
- Table for food preparation

- Hand-dishwashing facilities

Partaking in an adventure tour in Africa involves covering hundreds if not thousands of kilometres in a truck, and our tours are as much about this journey as they are about the destinations we visit. Use your time in the truck to talk to your fellow travellers, play card games, have a drink, walk around, take note of the world passing by your window and make the most of this unique opportunity to step out of your comfort zone.

Some roads you travel on will be smooth and easy while others could take up to an hour to cover 1 kilometre (though this is very rare on this route unless there has been extreme recent weather). There is just no telling what could happen with road, rainfall, traffic and other conditions that may exist that will either increase or decrease the amount of time you spend on the road so take your watch off, put your iPad away, turn off your phone and just relax. An average driving day could take anything from 4-5 up to the whole day. We will stop for shopping, bathroom breaks, photo stops, activities and a whole lot more. However, if you are looking to only experience specific destinations and are not interested in the journey, perhaps overland adventures are not for you.

Some game safaris are carried out using 4x4 jeeps/safari vehicles - see your tour itinerary for details. These may be open-roofed or enclosed. You must not leave the vehicle or lean out through windows without express permission from the guide.

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### 3. Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

We are committed to being a small group operator, as we feel this gives everyone in the group the best chance to get to know their fellow travellers and to hear and make the most of their guide. So, the expedition vehicles we use on our South & East Africa overland adventure tours have a maximum of 25 seats and on this tour will carry a maximum of 20 travellers.

In South & East Africa we provide fully trained, local English-speaking tour leaders, drivers and crew for all our tours. This tour will feature 2 crew – a driver, and tour leader. Between them they will help with the cooking, washing up, clearing away, cleaning of the truck etc. You may assist with this if you wish, and a limited amount of help is expected and appreciated (eg. Washing your own plates & cutlery) but you are not obliged to do any more than that unless you wish to. The tour leaders are not specialist licensed guides however, but during the tour we may also use a variety of local guides for activities and tours included in the itinerary.

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### 4. Locally Available Options

On all our Overland tours we strive to strike a balance between including plenty of meals, tours and activities and being accessible and affordable.

The main tour price covers all your accommodation, transport, most meals and a range of tours and activities. In addition, there are further **Locally Available Options** on this tour. These have been chosen to give you more of a taste of what is available in the region and sometimes to offer an adrenaline rush during a relatively sedate tour. All these local options are offered and operated by professional local activity providers and Encounters Travel is not responsible for your booking or time while taking any of these options. Prices for these options may be given on our website, but please bear in mind that are given as a guide only and may vary seasonally and can change from time to time. Availability is subject to seasonal daylight hours and our time-keeping that day.

Please check the Options section for more information and prices.

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### 5. Destination Guides

#### Swakopmund - Day 2

Founded in 1892 by German settlers, Swakopmund was intended to be the main harbour of German South-West Africa. Increased traffic between Germany and its colony necessitated the establishment of a port of its own, as Walvis Bay, located 33 kilometres south, was in British possession. The choice fell to a site north of the Swakop River where water was readily available. There is a strong German architectural influence in the town, with its

Bavarian-style buildings, including the Altes Gefängnis prison, designed by Heinrich Bause in 1909 and the Wörmannhaus, built in 1906 with a prominent tower, now a public library.

The area is called Swakopmund and is formerly known as 'Tsoakhaub'. This word originated from the Namaqua culture. Directly translated, it means "excrement opening" which is an offensive but accurate description of the waters of the Swakop River when it flooded, carrying masses of mud, sand, vegetation and animal corpses to the Atlantic Ocean. The name was changed to "Swachaub" by German settlers and with the proclamation of Swakopmund as an independent district of German South-West Africa in 1896, the present way of writing Swakopmund (meaning Estuary of the Swakop in German) came into use.

Surrounded by the Namib Desert on three sides and the cold Atlantic waters to the west, Swakopmund enjoys a temperate climate. Rainfall is rare but the cold Benguela current supplies moisture to the area in the form of fog that can reach as deep as 140 km inland. The fauna and flora of the area has adapted to this phenomenon and now relies upon the fog as a source of water.

Swakopmund is well known for adventure sports including: skydiving, sandboarding and quadbiking. Your guides will be able to assist you in deciding on a suitable activity, alternatively, spend the day exploring the town and enjoying the various coffee shops and souvenir shops.

### **The Himba People - Day 3**

The Himba are descendents of the Herero people and still speak a dialect of the old Herero language. There are about 20,000 – 50,000 Himba people living in the Kunene region, where they have recently built two villages at Kamanjab. The Himba are semi-nomadic pastoralists who breed cattle and goats in this dry, rugged, and mountainous area. They are some of the most photographed people in the world, due to their striking style of dress and their traditional lifestyle. Their appearance is characterised by scanty goat-skin clothing, and they are heavily adorned with jewellery of shells, copper and iron, according to the tribal hierarchy. The distinctive red colour of their skin and hair is a mixture of butter, ash and ochre (otjize) which protects them from the harsh desert climate.

Typically the women take care of the children, do the milking and other work, whilst men take care of the political tasks. The villages are made up of family homesteads – huts built around a central fire and livestock enclosure. Both the livestock and fire are pivotal to the Himba belief in ancestor worship, the fire representing ancestral protection of the living community.

Situated about 20 km outside of town, a guided tour around the village will not only give you an in-depth insight into the life and ways of the last traditional tribe in Namibia, the Ova-Himba, but an amazing photographic opportunity as well. You will find out about the milking ceremony, the smoke bath, be informed on the beliefs around the holy fire, ancestors and herbal medicine. You will also learn about the jewellery and hairstyles to imitate the status of each tribe member and their close relationship with nature, their cattle and children. The income generated from these excursions, helps to sustain the tribe from day to day, buying food and supplies, medicine (if necessary) and taking care of the children. Please take note that the village is not for show or a human zoo, you will be allowed inside these amazing peoples' home and have a cultural exchange. Please respect their lives and ways as they would respect yours and in this way help preserve their culture and traditions.

### **Etosha National Park - Days 4-5**

Etosha Pan National Park is a large endorheic salt pan which forms part of the Kalahari basin. It is a 120 km long dry lake bed, which is protected by the Etosha National Park home to some of the most phenomenal game viewing in the world. One of the elements that make the Etosha National park tours so memorable is that the camps sites within the park are built on the edge of water holes, so you can spend peaceful evenings with good company as the sun goes down watching the animals come down to the waterhole to drink. On the Nomad Etosha National Park tour we will take you on several game drives that utilise an elevated truck to provide the best possible game viewing. There are optional night drives for you to take part in, and although they are not included in the Etosha National Park tours they are highly recommended. The optional game drives are taken with expert guides who have an abundance of local knowledge. The Etosha Pan is a truly beautiful and unique place with game viewing that you will not see anywhere else in the world, the facilities are world class to make for a comfortable and memorable stay. The natural beauty and abundant wildlife will provide countless photo opportunities to make your friends jealous. Game viewing can never be offered with guarantees, as you are dealing with wild animals you can never be certain of how they will behave. We can guarantee that on our Etosha Pan national park tours you will meet people and have experiences with them that will form the basis of lifelong friendships.

### **Windhoek - Day 6**

Namibia is one of Africa's most beautiful regions – the desert landscape is a photographer's dream; known for its

sweeping, red-gold dunes, sparse vegetation and abundant wildlife. Windhoek is one of the country's busiest cities – known for its alluring diversity and cosmopolitan feel, the metropolis attracts myriad visitors each year. Tours to Namibia are a wonderful way to immerse yourself in the area's vibrant culture and heritage. Wonder through the town and gaze at an array of stately buildings, including the impressive parliament buildings and Hero's Acre. If you're historically inclined, then ensure that you pop into the plethora of museums on offer, including the National Desert & Delta – North 2015 14 days | NASV - Accommodated ? Last Updated: Jul 30, 2015. Downloaded: Aug 9, 2015 7 Library and National Art Gallery. If you're in need of some rest and rejuvenation, then visit the serene National Botanical Gardens to immerse yourself in the tranquillity of the gorgeous grounds. Botanists will delight in the numerous plant species on offer which attract plenty of exquisite insects and prolific bird life. Windhoek offers a captivating blend of African and European influences – the country gained independence in 1990 and exudes its own unique character and charm. With a reputation for being extremely safe and well-cared for, this is a place where you can wonder around without feeling insecure and anxious. Make sure that your itinerary includes a trip to the smallest functioning cathedral in Southern Africa – St Georges, and look out for Das Reiterdankmal – a towering bronze sculpture of a horse commemorating those lost in colonial wars. Stroll down Robert Mugabe Avenue to admire Alte Feste – one of the city's oldest buildings that was built in 1890. Once military headquarters, today, it serves as an intriguing state museum, housing an array of memorabilia that commemorates Namibia's journey to independence. If you have little ones, then make sure that you visit the delightful Zoo Park which is an ideal hot spot for picnics. With a pond and a playground on offer, the beautiful park is sure to be a hit with your kids. Windhoek is an ideal place for families – with a reputation for being a close-knit, friendly community, the city has a host of amenities on offer for young and old alike. If you're embarking on Windhoek tours, then make sure you see as many of the impressive, historically significant sites as possible.

### **Botswana - Day 7**

As we cross the Botswana border we'll start to see villagers, cattle, donkeys and sheep along the side of the highway. Sometimes the donkeys and cows sit in the middle of the road and any amount of horn blowing won't get them out of the road. Independent since 1966, Botswana (formally a British protectorate) has three of the world's richest diamond mines and this has made Botswana quite a wealthy nation. Now 40 years old, it is known as the African success story. Politically stable and with the foresight to invest in education, healthcare, high economic standards and without the racial issues that have plagued other countries, Botswana has the best economy in sub-Saharan Africa. The government has employed a strategy of high income - low impact tourism. This is where they reduce the number of tourists entering any area of the country by charging a lot more than neighbouring countries, thereby making it more restrictive for the budget traveller.

### **Bushman (San) people - Day 7**

The Bushmen of Southern Africa are the oldest indigenous inhabitants of Southern Africa and have lived off the land in symbiosis for hundreds of years. They have much to offer our modern way of living in terms of a sustainable existence with nature. Bushmen tours give you the opportunity to interact with this fascinating culture and get a true understanding of how they have survived in the harsh environment through an understanding of nature. The San people have inhabited large parts of Southern Africa including the regions and deserts of southern Namibia and Botswana. They are known colloquially as bushmen, this however is a broad term used to describe indigenous people of Southern Africa, the people native to the area that our bushmen tours stop in have, however, developed a way of life that is as unique. Our tours into Botswana are renowned as some of the most rewarding you can do, yet they can be so much more rewarding by taking part in one of the bushmen adventures with Nomad tours. Learning about local culture is an important aspect of travelling to any country. Many of our Botswana overland tours offer the opportunity to interact with a traditional village of San people that still live very much the way that they did many generations ago. It is not included in the tours and needs to be decided on before-hand. Some people feel it is unethical to treat the villagers as a spectacle however it provides an education for the visitors and much needed funding for the conservation of the area and their way of life.

### **Maun - Days 8-10**

Maun, the fifth largest town in Botswana, is known as the tourism capital and the gateway to the Okavango Delta. It is an eclectic contrast of modern buildings and traditional huts. Now home to over 30,000 people, the town was founded in 1915 as the tribal capital of the Batawana people. It originally serviced the local cattle ranching and hunting operations of the area, and had a reputation as a hard-living 'Wild West' town. With the growth of the tourism industry and the completion of the tar road from Nata in the early 1990s, Maun developed swiftly, losing much of its old town character. However, it is still infamous for its infestation of donkeys and to lesser extent, goats. These animals can be seen wandering around freely as the local farmers arrive in the innumerable taxis to sell their wares on the kerbside. With the influx of tourism dollars, the typical traditional rondavels (round huts) of

the past have been replaced by square but modestly sized cinderblock homes roofed with tin, or sometimes tiles. It is not unusual to see mud rondavels with satellite dishes, attesting to the increasing affluence of Botswana, and the increasing reliability of power and communications in the town. This striking contrast of the traditional and the modern is also evident in the multilevel air-conditioned shopping centres incongruously surrounded by potholes, dusty parking lots and lively market places.

### **Okavango Delta - Days 8-10**

The Okavango Delta is Botswana's most popular tourist destination. Every year, more than 11 cubic kilometres of water flow from the Okavango River into the Delta, irrigating more than 15 000 square kilometres of the Kalahari Desert, making it the largest inland delta in the world. Here, you'll find yourself exploring a lush paradise home to Africa's most beautiful wildlife and bird species while submersing yourself in pure tranquility and an African landscape unlike any Desert & Delta – North 2015 14 days | NASV - Accommodated ? Last Updated: Jul 30, 2015. Downloaded: Aug 9, 2015 9 other. Exploring the Okavango Delta is a must for any tourist visiting Botswana. Here, you'll have an endless list of activities to participate in, truly making the most of your time in this paradise. Boat trips, canoeing and fly-overs are among the most popular, however you can also go fishing and walking safaris depending on the time of year. As the Okavango is a seasonal delta, you'll find yourself facing a different environment during the summer and winter months. The rain falls at the beginning of the year. Explore the beautiful region of the Okavango Delta with us and see it's beautiful wildlife, landscapes and be enchanted by its relaxed atmosphere and people.

### **Chobe National Park - Day 12**

The Chobe National Park is situated in the north west of Botswana and is undoubtedly the country's most beautiful and popular nature and game reserve. It has one of the largest concentrations of wildlife in Africa, making it an ideal location for African safaris and its the third largest park in Botswana, after the Central Kalahari game Reserve and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. The Chobe National Park can be divided up into four sections, making it a true rarity and an explorer's paradise. It can be divided up into the Serondela area, Savuti Marsh area, the Linyanti Marsh and the dry hinterland. Wherever you go in the park, you'll be able to observe a variety of wild animals and bird life, and can even explore an area in search of a Desert & Delta – North 2015 14 days | NASV - Accommodated ? Last Updated: Jul 30, 2015. Downloaded: Aug 9, 2015 11 specific animals or bird. There is an incredibly large elephant population in the Chobe National Park; tours through the park will show you some of the park's 120 000 elephants. Nomad Tours will take you on the adventure of a lifetime through the Chobe National Park. Travel with us, and prepare to be enchanted and amazed by the abundance of wildlife in the park; embark on a sunset cruise, take the perfect wildlife photographs and watch a family of elephants playing in a waterhole.

### **Victoria Falls - Days 13-14**

Victoria Falls is undoubtedly one of Africa's most beautiful treasures. They border Zimbabwe and Zambia and are the region's most visited tourist hotspot. The falls are by no means the world's biggest waterfall, however their length and the vast volume of water which find its way to the falls via the Zambezi river makes them the world's largest waterfall. Victoria Falls was named after Queen Victoria by the first European explorer who set their sights on them, David Livingston, however up until then, and still today locally, the falls were known to be The Smoke That Thunders, "Mosi-oaTunya". The entire volume of water in the Zambezi river travels into Victoria Falls, flowing into its first gorge, creating a spectacle and a true sight to be seen. In fact, you don't even have to be close by to the falls. Aptly getting its name as The Smoke That Thunders, the falls spray water into the air which can be seen for miles, including in the surrounding game reserves and national parks. Victoria Falls safaris are among the most popular activities to participate in when visiting the falls. Guests can embark on bush safaris – on foot, horseback or in a vehicle – and embark on a Zambezi cruise along the waters before the falls. While on these Victoria Falls safaris guests will have the chance to see crocodiles, hippos and other African wildlife. Travel to Victoria Falls with Nomad Tours for an unforgettable and inspiring vacation in Southern Africa. Not only will you be able to see one of the Seven Wonders of the World and a truly beautiful world heritage site, but you'll be able to participate in exciting activities such as white water rafting, canoeing, bungee jumping, and an authentic Victoria Falls safari.

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**Note:** Please [download an up-to-date copy](#) of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.

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