

Your passport to adventure

Okavango & Chobe

Country(ies): South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe

Tour type: Overland

Transport: Overland expedition vehicle & 4x4 safari

jeeps

Group size: Min: 4 | Max: 20

Days: 8 days

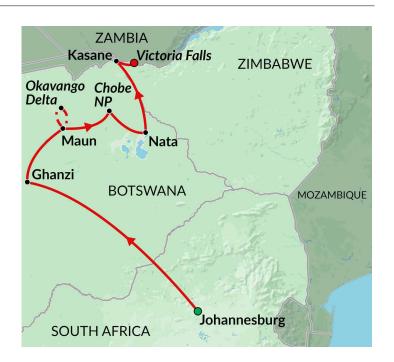
Start Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

End Location: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Meals: Breakfasts - 7, Lunches - 6, Dinners - 5

Highlights:

Kalahari Desert, San bush people, Okavango Delta, Moremi Game Reserve, Savuti Game Reserve, Chobe National Park, Victoria Falls



Itinerary

Day 1: Johannesburg to Palapye

We start our tour early this morning in Johannesburg, as we travel through the North-West Province until we reach the Botswana border. After completing border formalities we'll carry on through the Trans-Kalahari highway until we reach our overnight accommodation.

As we depart Johannesburg first thing this morning you will need to book at least one night's pre-tour accommodation.

Route: Johannesburg to Palapye

Facilities - Camping: 2024: Campsite with shared ablutions, 2025: Two per room with en-suite

bathroom

Facilities - Accommodated: Rooms with en-suite bathrooms

OVERNIGHT: Cresta Palapye

MEALS: Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: Extra day in Johannesburg - pre-tour Single room supplement camping (SAOVOC) Arrival airport transfer in Johannesburg (free shuttle) Single room supplement accommodated (SAOVOC)

Day 2: Palapye to Maun

Today we head north through the stark yet striking landscapes of the Central Kalahari desert towards the gateway of the Okavango Delta . Along the way, you'll pass by several smaller towns and villages, offering glimpses into everyday life in Botswana . A notable point of interest on our route is the Orapa Diamond Mine, an imposing testament to Botswana's mineral wealth. This mine, which is a collaborative venture between De Beers and the Botswana government, is counted among the world's most extensive diamond mines. It serves as a critical economic pillar, contributing considerably to Botswana's GDP and export earnings . Beyond Orapa, our journey skirts the southern end of the Makgadikgadi Pans N ational P ark before reaching our overnight destination in Maun, so keep an eye out for an array of wildlife that moves between the watering holes

Route: Palapye to Maun

Facilities - Camping: 2024: Campsite with shared ablutions, 2025: Two per room with en-suite

bathroom

Facilities - Accommodated: Rooms with en-suite bathrooms

OVERNIGHT: Sedia Hotel / campsite

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

EXTRAS:

Day 3: Okavango Delta - 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 for Maun today as there is limited time in Maun for re-packing and storing. 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 mokoro excursion into the Okavango Delta

Route: Maun to Khwai Conservation area

Optional activity: Scenic Flight over Okavango Delta

Included Highlight: Sunset Mokoro Excursion

Facilities - Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Facilities - Accommodated: Two per permanent tent with en - suite bathroom

OVERNIGHT: Khwai Tented Camp **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS: Options available while on tour (SAOVSH)

Day 4: Okavango Delta - Moremi Game Reserve

At first light, you will be picked up from the hotel for our drive to the South gate to enter Moremi Game Reserve. As we journey through the Okavango Delta ecosystem of channels and lagoons, sightings of different bird and animal populations will become more frequent.

The game viewing routes may vary according to the professional guides, particularly when high floods are experienced as certain routes may be closed.

Included Highlight: Moremi Game Reserve full day excursion

Facilities - Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Facilities - Accommodated: Two per permanent tent with en - suite bathroom

OVERNIGHT: Khwai Tented Camp **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 5: Nata

Today, our journey will take us across the Northern stretch of the Makgadikgadi Pans where we can view beautiful examples of the iconic Baobab tree. We are also afforded the opportunity to enjoy a guided afternoon excursion to the Pans and Nata sanctuary to appreciate the stunning views and have an unforgettable sundowner.

Route: Khwai to Nata

Optional Activity: Makgadikgadi Salt Pans (Nata Sanctuary)

Facilities - Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Facilities - Accommodated: Rooms with en-suite bathrooms

OVERNIGHT: Elephant Sands **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 6: Chobe National Park

We journey from Kalahari sands of Nata to Kasane and arrive in time for lunch and a quick siesta before we head out in the af ternoon to explore the Chobe National Park from the river, enjoying a leisurely boat cruise which allows us an up close and personal experience with the many elephants that frequent the river in the afternoons

Route: Nata to Kasane

Included Highlight: Chobe National Park Boat Cruise Optional Activity: Chobe National Park Game Drive Facilities - Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Facilities - Accommodated: Rooms with en-suite bathrooms

OVERNIGHT: Thebe River Safaris **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: Options available while on tour (SAOVSH)

Day 7: Kasane to Victoria Falls

This morning we travel across the border, a short distance to Victoria Falls, after an unforgettable time at Chobe National Park. Upon arrival to Victoria Falls, you will have the opportunity to book some exciting optional activities. Victoria Falls offers a wide selection of activities to suit both adrenaline junkies and the more relaxed traveller. Choose from craft markets or a delicious High Tea at the Victoria Falls Hotel.

Route: Kasane to Victoria Falls

Optional Activity: Visit to the Victoria Falls, Bungee Jump, Gorge Swing, Sunset Cruise,

Helicopter Flights, Boma Dinner Experience

Facilities - Accommodated: Two per Room with En-suite Bathroom

Facilities - Camping: 2024: Campsite (pre-erected dome tent with camper beds) with Shared

Ablution, 2025: Two per room with en-suite bathroom

OVERNIGHT: Shearwaters Explorers Village

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Options available while on tour (SAOVSH)

Day 8: Tour ends in Victoria Falls

The day is yours free to take on activities that best suits your style - from rafting the mighty Zambezi River or enjoying a scenic flight over the falls below. Additional nights accommodation and departure airport transfers are available on request. A 2-day transit option is also available departing tomorrow to take you back to Johannesburg if you would like to fly out from there, or have further onward travel plans in South Africa.

Optional Activity: Visit the Victoria Falls, Bungee Jump, Gorge Swing, Zambezi Sunset Cruise, Helicopter Flights, White water rafting, Boma Dinner Experience

OVERNIGHT: N/A MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Options available while on tour (SAOVSH) Extra nights in Victoria falls post-tour Departure airport transfer in Victoria Falls Victoria Falls to Johannesburg transit accommodated Victoria Falls to Johannesburg transit camping

Included:

- 7 nights accommodation either camping or in hotels/lodges/guesthouses
- All transport using our 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: 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 7 dinners

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

Options

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.

Extra day in Johannesburg - 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.

Single room supplement camping (SAOVOC)

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.

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 Johannesburg (free shuttle)

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an arrival airport transfer in Johannesburg to your Overland tour with us (arriving at Johannesburg airport). This is operated as a free of charge shuttle provided by the Garden Court at OR Tambo Airport

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.

Departure airport transfer in Johannesburg

Min numbers: 1

This option adds a departure airport transfer in Johannesburg 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.

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 accommodated (SAOVOC)

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: The price shown is a low season price. Slightly higher prices may apply during high and peak seasons - the exact price for your dates will be shown on the online booking form and is always available on request.

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

Min numbers: 1

These options are availabile 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

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.

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

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.

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.

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, cleaning 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.

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 very 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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Note: Please $\underline{\text{download an up-to-date copy}}$ of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.