ENCOUNTERS TRAVEL

Your passport to adventure

The Grand Southern Safari

COUNTRY(IES)	Botswana , Namibia , Zimbabwe , South Africa
TOUR TYPE	Overland
TRANSPORT	Overland expedition vehicle, 4x4 safari vehicles
GROUP SIZE	Min: 4 | Max: 20
DURATION	20 days
STARTS	Cape Town, South Africa
ENDS	Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
MEALS	Breakfasts - 19, Lunches - 17, Dinners - 16

TOUR ROUTE MAP **20 Days**

ROUTE: **Cape Town** (Start) → **Citrusdal** → **Orange River** → **Keetmanshoop** → **Dune** → **Namib Naukluft National Park** → **Swakopmund** → **Brandberg Mountain** → **Etosha National Park** → **Popa Game Park** → **Rundu** → **Divundu** → **Maun** → **Moremi Game Reserve** → **Khwai** → **Chobe** → **Kasane** → **Victoria Falls** (End)

HIGHLIGHTS

Cape Town, Orange River, Cederberg Region, Fish River Canyon, Giants Playground, Sesriem Canyon, Namib Desert, Dune 45, Swakopmund, Brandberg rock art, Etosha National Park, Okavango Delta, Moremi Game Reserve, Savuti Game Reserve, Chobe National Park,

Itinerary

DAY 1 Cape Town to the Cederberg

Travel from Cape Town to Citrusdal and experience the change from the busy metropolitan area to the rural landscapes of the Western Cape interior. The road leads towards the Cederberg foothills and citrus-growing country, where the atmosphere becomes noticeably quieter. A traditional dinner after arrival provides a relaxed introduction to the area and a pleasant finish to the first overland section.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Cape Town to Citrusdal**
  Depart Cape Town and travel north into the Cederberg region, known for rugged mountains and vast rooibos farmlands. Continue to Citrusdal for your overnight stay.

- **Traditional Dinner in Citrusdal**
  Enjoy a traditional South African dinner at your lodge in Citrusdal. This is a great opportunity to meet your fellow travellers and sample local hospitality.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Marcuskraal	Dinner

DAY 2 Namaqualand to the Gariep River

Travel overland from Citrusdal to the Orange River and watch the scenery shift from cultivated valleys to the drier landscapes of the north. Mountain country and broad plains accompany the journey, with seasonal flowers possible after favourable rains. Reaching the river marks a noticeable change from the greener terrain around Citrusdal.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Citrusdal to Orange River**
  Travel north through Namaqualand as the scenery becomes increasingly arid and desert-like. Continue to the Orange River, arriving at your riverside accommodation.
- **Seasonal Spring Wildflowers**
  If travelling in July–September, experience the colourful carpets of wildflowers that blanket Namaqualand. These blooms are unique to the region and attract visitors from around the world.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Felix Unite Cabanas	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 3 Namibia: Gariep (Orange River) to the Fish River Canyon

Travel from the Orange River towards Fish River Canyon and move deeper into southern Namibia’s arid landscapes. On arrival, explore the rim on foot and take in the scale of the gorge from above. The walk remains focused on the viewpoints and geological setting, while the earlier transfer highlights the change from a gentler river environment to the much more rugged terrain surrounding the canyon.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Orange River to Fish River Canyon**
  Leave the Orange River and travel inland into southern Namibia towards the Fish River Canyon. Arrive near the canyon rim to explore the dramatic landscapes.
- **Follow Fish River Canyon Rim**
  Visit viewpoints along the edge of the Fish River Canyon and take a relaxed guided walk. Enjoy sweeping views into one of Africa's largest and most impressive canyons.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
Schutzenhaus Guesthouse	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner	Orange River Canoe Trip

DAY 4 Quiver Tree Forest, Giants Playground, Namib-Naukluft National Park

Travel from Keetmanshoop and stop at the Quiver Tree Forest and Giants Playground, where distinctive vegetation and geological formations provide a memorable introduction to southern Namibia. Continue north-west through increasingly remote terrain towards the Namib-Naukluft area. The drive combines two specific natural visits with a longer overland transfer, allowing the surrounding desert scenery to become progressively more dominant.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Keetmanshoop to Namib-Naukluft**
  Travel from Keetmanshoop deeper into Namibia's interior, passing farmlands and desert plains. Continue towards the Namib-Naukluft region where the dunes of the west begin to appear.
- **Visit Quiver Tree Forest and Giants Playground**
  Explore the Quiver Tree Forest and the unusual dolerite formations at Giants Playground. These natural features create one of Namibia's most iconic geological landscapes.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Hammerstein Lodge	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 5 Sossusvlei Dunes - Namib-Naukluft National Park

Start the day at Dune 45 before continuing by 4x4 into the Sossusvlei and Deadvlei area. The vast dunes and dry clay pans provide the main focus of the morning, with each stop revealing a different perspective on the Namib’s scale and colour. Afterwards, visit Sesriem Canyon and walk through or view the narrow formation, adding a different geological element to a day centred on the landscapes of Namib-Naukluft.

ACTIVITIES

- **Climb Dune 45 in Namib-Naukluft**
  Begin the day early with a climb up Dune 45 for panoramic sunrise views over the Namib Desert. The shifting colours of the dunes make this one of Namibia's most famous experiences.
- **4x4 Shuttle to Sossusvlei and Deadvlei**
  Join a 4x4 shuttle to explore Sossusvlei and Deadvlei, home to ancient camelthorn trees and vast salt pans. Walk among iconic desert scenery shaped by towering red dunes.
- **Explore Sesriem Canyon**
  Explore Sesriem Canyon, carved over centuries by the seasonal Tsauchab River. Walk along the canyon floor and admire the narrow rock formations.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Boesmans Camp	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 6 Swakopmund

The route leaves the desert landscapes of Namib-Naukluft and travels west across open gravel plains towards Swakopmund, stopping at the Tropic of Capricorn along the way. A guided desert walk explores the plants, animals and adaptations that allow life to survive in this arid environment. The journey then continues to Namibia's Atlantic coast and the cooler surroundings of Swakopmund.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Namib-Naukluft to Swakopmund**
  Travel west across the desert, pausing at the Tropic of Capricorn before continuing to Swakopmund. Arrive in this coastal town known for its adventures and German-inspired charm.
- **Guided Desert Walk in Namib Desert**
  Join a local expert for a guided excursion into the desert environment. Learn about the flora and fauna adapted to survive in this harsh but fascinating landscape.
- **Explore Tropic of Capricorn Marker**
  Stop at the iconic Tropic of Capricorn road marker for photos. This geographic landmark marks the boundary of the southern tropics.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Haus Garnison or Amanpuri	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 7 Swakopmund

Spend the day at leisure in Swakopmund with no included sightseeing or transfers to follow. The free time can be used for rest, independent exploration or time beside the Atlantic according to your interests. The coastal setting and compact town centre provide several possibilities, but the schedule remains deliberately open so you can enjoy a slower day at your own pace.

ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in Swakopmund**
  Arrive in Swakopmund and enjoy a free evening in this German-influenced seaside resort. You can stroll the streets, visit cafés or walk along the beach.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Haus Garnison or Amanpuri	Breakfast

DAY 8 Swakopmund to Brandberg

Travel from Swakopmund towards Brandberg and stop at the lichen fields before continuing inland. The changing scenery becomes drier and more rugged as the coast recedes. Later, hike to the White Lady rock art site and spend

time in the surrounding Brandberg landscape. The day combines a short natural-history stop with a cultural walk and substantial overland travel into Namibia’s interior.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Swakopmund to Brandberg**
  Travel north along Namibia's Skeleton Coast and turn inland towards Brandberg, the massif containing the country's highest point. Make a photo stop in Wlotskabaken before continuing.
- **Explore Lichen Fields in Swakopmund Coast**
  Stop to view local lichen colonies, with your guide explaining how these delicate organisms survive in desert coastal conditions.
- **Hike to See Brandberg White Lady Rock Art**
  Take a guided hike through rocky terrain to see the famous White Lady rock painting. This ancient artwork is estimated to be around 2,000 years old.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Brandberg Rest Camp	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 9 Brandberg to Etosha National Park

Travel from Brandberg to Etosha and watch Namibia’s landscapes change from rugged desert country to the flatter savannahs surrounding the national park. The journey ends in one of the country’s premier wildlife regions, where the huge salt pan and scattered waterholes dominate the scenery. Wildlife may be seen as you enter the area, although sightings always depend on natural conditions.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Brandberg to Etosha National Park**
  Depart Brandberg and travel towards Etosha National Park, one of Africa's premier wildlife destinations. Enter the park for your first afternoon game-viewing session.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
NWR: Okuakuejo	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 10 Etosha

Spend the afternoon exploring Etosha by safari vehicle and visit several habitats around the famous salt pan. Waterholes may attract animals later in the day, creating opportunities for observation without guaranteeing any particular species. The changing light and cooler temperatures make this a rewarding time to experience the reserve’s open savannah, woodland and broad horizons.

ACTIVITIES

- **Afternoon Game Drive in Etosha National Park**
  Spend the afternoon on a game drive in Etosha National Park. Look for elephants, antelope and predators as you explore the savanna and salt pan edges.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
NWR: Okaukuejo	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner	Full day 4x4 safari in Etosha National Park

DAY 11 Etosha

Head out for a full-day game drive in Etosha National Park and spend several hours moving between the habitats surrounding the salt pan. Waterholes and open plains provide important gathering points for animals, while woodland supports a different range of species. The longer safari allows broader coverage of the park, with wildlife observations depending entirely on natural conditions on the day.

ACTIVITIES

- **Full Day Game Drive in Etosha**
  Spend a full day exploring Etosha, moving between savanna, woodland and open plains. Look for predators, large herds and unique desert-adapted species.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Kupferquelle resort	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 12 Etosha to Divundu

Travel away from Etosha through Namibia and pass into the riverine surroundings of Divundu before continuing towards Windhoek. The considerable change in scenery reflects the country’s variety, from savannah and salt-pan areas to waterways and finally an urban environment. After reaching the capital, take part in a guided city-centre walk focused on local landmarks, architecture and daily life rather than further nature-based activities.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Etosha National Park to Divundu**
  Leave the white salt pans of Etosha behind and drive northeast towards the Kavango River. Arrive in the Divundu area for your overnight stay on the riverbank.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Mahangu	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 13

Divundu

Spend time around Popa Falls before travelling into Mahangu National Park for a change from river scenery to a broader wildlife environment. The park's woodland and floodplain habitats support many species, although any individual encounter depends on natural conditions. The two visits provide complementary views of northeastern Namibia, one centred on the Okavango waterways and the other on the surrounding protected savannah and woodland.

ACTIVITIES

- **Boat Cruise to Popa Falls on Okavango River**
  Cruise upriver to Popa Falls, a series of picturesque cascades and rapids on the Okavango River. Enjoy tranquil river scenes with chances to spot crocodiles, hippos and colourful birds along the banks.
- **Safari Drive in Mahangu National Park**
  Head out in 4x4 vehicles for an afternoon game drive in Mahangu National Park. Search for elephants, buffalo, antelope and other plains game in this compact but wildlife-rich reserve.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
Mahangu	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner	Afternoon Game Drive in Mahangu National Park

DAY 14

Divundu to Maun

Take to the Kavango River in the morning for a gentle boat trip through one of Namibia's greener regions. Keep watch along the banks for birds and other wildlife, although individual sightings depend on natural conditions. The cruise provides broad views of the water, floodplain vegetation and surrounding countryside and offers an unhurried way to begin the day in the river environment around Divundu.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Kavango River Morning Boat Cruise**
  Enjoy a leisurely morning boat cruise on the Kavango River. Watch for river birds and look out for hippos and other wildlife along the lush riverbanks.

Journey to Maun, Gateway to the Delta

Continue overland into Botswana and head towards Maun, moving away from Namibia's river corridors into the drier open landscapes surrounding the Delta gateway. The journey is primarily a transfer, with changing scenery and border travel providing the main points of interest. Arrival in Maun places you in the main logistical centre for exploring the Okavango and prepares you for the wildlife and wetland activities that follow.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Divundu to Maun**
  Cross the border into Botswana and drive to Maun, the main gateway to the Okavango Delta. Settle into your lodge or campsite in this busy safari town.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Maun Lodge	Breakfast,Lunch

DAY 15 Okavango - Khwai Conservation Area

Travel from Maun towards Khwai and move steadily from an urban safari base into a remote conservation landscape. Open roads give way to floodplain and woodland environments associated with the wider Okavango ecosystem. The day is primarily focused on reaching Khwai rather than organised sightseeing, setting up the wildlife and water-based activities planned for the area.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Maun to Khwai Conservation Area**
  Leave Maun in smaller safari vehicles and travel to the Khwai Conservation Area on the edge of the Okavango Delta. Journey through bush landscapes into this wildlife-rich region.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
Khwai Tented Camp	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner	Okavango Delta scenic flight

DAY 16 Moremi Game Reserve Area

Head out for a full-day game drive in Moremi Game Reserve and cover a broad range of habitats, from woodland and open areas to waterways and floodplain environments. Wildlife may be encountered throughout the drive, but no particular species can be guaranteed. Spending a full day in the reserve provides time to explore several areas and gain a fuller sense of the diversity within this protected part of the Okavango region.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Moremi Game Reserve Full in Day Game Drive**
  Spend a full day on a 4x4 game drive in the Moremi Game Reserve area. Traverse wetlands, grasslands and woodland in search of elephants, big cats and many other species.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Khwai Tented Camp	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 17

Khwai to Nata

The journey from the Khwai region crosses Botswana's interior towards Nata, moving from water-rich wildlife habitats into increasingly dry terrain. On approach to the salt pans, broad horizons and stark open landscapes replace the greener surroundings of the delta. The route highlights the country's ecological contrasts and provides a clear transition between two very different natural environments.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Khwai Conservation Area to Nata**
  Depart Khwai at first light in open safari vehicles, reconnect with your truck and continue towards Nata. Enjoy views of open bush and plains on a long travel day through central Botswana.
- **Salt Pans Viewpoint in Botswana**
  Stop at a seasonal viewpoint over Botswana's salt pans near Nata, conditions permitting. Take in the wide open vistas and, when water levels are right, watch for flamingos and other waterbirds.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Nata lodge	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 18

Chobe National Park

Board a boat for a sunset cruise on the Chobe River and watch the surrounding landscape change as daylight fades. Keep an eye on the riverbanks and islands for wildlife that may be active near the water, while enjoying broad views across the wetlands. The cruise combines gentle wildlife viewing with the evening atmosphere of one of Botswana’s best-known river systems.

ACTIVITIES

- **Sunset Boat Cruise on the Chobe River**
  Take an evening boat cruise on the Chobe River, watching elephants, buffalo and other animals gather at the water's edge. The sunset over the river makes for memorable photographs and a gentle end to the day.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Thebe River Safaris	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 19

Victoria Falls

Travel from Kasane towards the Zimbabwe border and complete the final road section within Botswana. The day is centred on a straightforward cross-border connection rather than organised activities, with the surrounding

woodland and northern landscapes providing the main visual interest. Reaching the frontier marks the transition away from the Chobe region and into the next country.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Kasane to Victoria Falls**
  Cross the border from Botswana into Zimbabwe and drive to the town of Victoria Falls. Check in to your accommodation close to one of the world's greatest waterfalls.

Victoria Falls Visit & Leisure Time

Spend time in Victoria Falls after arrival, with a substantial part of the day focused on the waterfall itself and the Zambezi River as it drops into Batoka Gorge. The schedule also includes leisure time, allowing you to rest or look around the town independently. The day balances the major natural attraction with an unstructured period rather than adding further organised sightseeing.

ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in Victoria Falls**
  Enjoy a free evening in Victoria Falls town after checking into your lodge. You can relax by the pool, explore local shops or plan optional activities for the coming days.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
Shearwater Explorers Village	Breakfast,Lunch	Chobe National Park Game Drive

DAY 20 Victoria Falls

The tour ends after breakfast in Victoria Falls, leaving the remaining time open for your own plans. If your onward schedule allows, you can relax or choose from activities available locally on an independent basis. The flexible final period lets the trip finish at an easy pace before departure.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Victoria Falls Hotel to Victoria Falls Airport**
  Transfer from your hotel to Victoria Falls International Airport for your departure flight. Your Deserts & Delta Easter Family Overland Tour concludes here.
- **Departure from Victoria Falls Airport**
  Your tour concludes at Victoria Falls Airport, where you complete departure formalities and continue with your onward flight.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked	Breakfast	Historical Bridge Tour, Victoria Falls Guided Tour, Victoria Falls Helicopter Flight, Victoria Falls Sunset Boat Cruise

INCLUDED

- 19 night's accommodation in hotels/lodges/guesthouses/camps
- 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
- Okavango Delta upgrades and optional activities (see itinerary)
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- 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

Tour 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.

Airport transfer in Cape Town

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an airport transfer in Cape Town to your Overland tour with us. You will need to also book your 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 day in Cape Town - 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.

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.

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.

Orange River Canoe Trip

Min numbers: 1

Embark on a relaxing 2–3 hour guided canoe journey down the iconic Orange River. After a full safety briefing, paddle through serene desert landscapes, spot birdlife, and soak in the peaceful beauty of this natural border between South Africa and Namibia. Perfect for beginners and nature lovers alike.

Sandwich Harbour Dune Drive

Min numbers: 1

Experience the breathtaking beauty where towering dunes meet the Atlantic Ocean. This tour, departing from Walvis Bay, takes you on a journey through the heart of the Namib Desert.

Skeleton Coast Cape Cross

Min numbers: 1

Embark on a journey to the Cape Cross Seal Colony, the historic site where navigator Diego Cão planted a stone cross in 1486.

Spitzkoppe Adventure Drive

Min numbers: 1

A day trip from Swakopmund to the Cape Cross Seal Colony and Spitzkoppe, featuring shipwrecks, a large seal population, and ancient rock formations.

Full day 4x4 safari in Etosha National Park

Min numbers: 1

Enjoy a full-day, 4x4 safari in Etosha National Park. The tour, which runs from sunrise until 15:30 (with the start time varying by season), includes park fees and refreshments.

Afternoon Game Drive in Mahangu National Park

Min numbers: 1

Go on a guided game drive for 4-5 hours to explore the diverse wildlife and scenic landscapes of Mahangu National Park. This is your chance to experience the beauty of this vibrant ecosystem.

Okavango Delta scenic flight

Min numbers: 1

Experience breathtaking aerial views on a 45-minute scenic flight with Mac Air. Soar above the winding river channels and lush landscapes of the delta for a truly unforgettable perspective.

Flights are available from either 07:00 to 08:00 or 08:00 to 09:00. You must arrive one hour prior to your scheduled flight, and a valid passport is mandatory.

Chobe National Park Game Drive

Min numbers: 1

Enjoy an exciting three-hour guided 4x4 safari through Chobe National Park. Spot diverse wildlife, including elephants and lions, while exploring the stunning landscapes of this iconic park.

Historical Bridge Tour

Min numbers: 1

Journey through over 100 years of history on this engaging, theatrical, and educational tour. You will learn about the history of a remarkable structure, from its design and prefabrication in England to its construction in Africa. This engineering masterpiece was central to Cecil John Rhodes' vision of a "Cape to Cairo" railway, and its history is both entertaining and tragic.

Victoria Falls Helicopter Flight

Min numbers: 1

Experience an exhilarating 12-minute helicopter flight over the majestic waterfalls. You'll enjoy breathtaking aerial views of cascading water and the lush surroundings.

Victoria Falls Sunset Boat Cruise

Min numbers: 1

Enjoy a two-hour sunset boat cruise on the Zambezi River. You will be provided with local drinks and snacks during the trip. Please note that a park fee of $10 USD is not included and is payable on site.

Victoria Falls Guided Tour

Min numbers: 1

Explore the majestic Victoria Falls National Park, Zimbabwe, with a knowledgeable guide. This tour takes you to up to 16 different viewpoints, offering a comprehensive look at the falls.

Options available while on tour (SAOVSH)

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.

South Africa

- **Gariep/Orange River**
  - Half Day Canoe Trip | R300 to R400

Namibia

- **Swakopmund**
  - Dolphin Cruise (4/5 hours) | R850 to R950
  - Quadbiking (approx. 2 Hours) | R650 to R750
  - Sandboarding | R650 to R750
  - Sky Diving | R2500 to R2800

Botswana

- **Maun**
  - 1hr Scenic Delta Flight (min 4) | $80 to $200
- **Okavango**
  - Tips for Polers - Per Day Per Person | $6 to $10 (discretion)
- **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

Important Notes

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.

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

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.

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.

5 Destination Guides

Cederberg Mountains - Day 2

The Cederberg mountains and nature reserve are located near Clanwilliam and named after the endangered Clanwilliam Cedars (Widdringtonia cedarbergensis) which are endemic to the area, growing at an altitude of 1 000 m to 1 500 m. Some species are believed to live up to 1000 years but human activity has led to the destruction of most of the original forests. The mountains extend about 50 km north-south by 20 km east-west, the highest peak in the range is Sneeuberg (2 028 m). The area is defined by dramatic sandstone rock formations, often reddish in colour. Cederberg Wilderness Area was recently proclaimed one of eight World Heritage Sites within the Cape Floristic Region, South Africa. The area is also known for the San rock art and the discovery of important fossils, particularly in recent years. The fossils are of primitive fish and date back 450 million years to the Ordovician Period.

The Gariep (Orange) River - Day 3

The Orange River was originally called the Nu Gariep (“great river”) by the indigenous Nama people. It was named the Orange River by Colonel Robert Gordon, commander of the Dutch East India Company garrison at Cape Town, on a trip to the interior. Gordon named the river in honour of William of Orange, although a popular belief is that it was named for its colour. Nowadays known byits original name Gariep River, it is the longest river in South Africa, covering 1 800 km. It rises in the Drakensberg mountains in Lesotho, where it is known as Senqu, flowing westwards through South Africa to the Atlantic Ocean at Alexander Bay. On its long journey, the Orange offers a variety of vistas: in places it is seamed by rugged mountain chains and in other parts, by endless dune fields. The river forms part of the international border between South Africa and Namibia and between South Africa and Lesotho as well as several provincial borders within South Africa. Although the river does not pass through any major cities, it plays an important role in the South African economy by providing water for irrigation and hydroelectric power. The Orange River is also responsible for the diamond deposits along the Namibian coast. Over millions of years it transported diamonds from the volcanic pipes in Kimberley in South Africa to the sea. From

there, the currents took them northward and the surf deposited them into the dune fields of the Namib.
The Orange River is also famous for its white water rapids. Our tours don’t include full white water rafting adventures however you will have opportunity to enjoy a gentle paddle down the river in canoes that are provided by the camp site.

Fish River Canyon - Day 4

The Fish River Canyon in the South of Namibia is the second largest in the world and the largest in Africa, in places it is 27kms wide and up to 550m deep while in total it is over 160km long. It is a natural wonder that should not be missed when visiting Southern Africa. Another major attraction of the area found at the Southern end of the Fish River Canyon is Ai-Ais hot springs resort. Ai-Ais meaning 'burning water’ in the local Nama language, refers to the sulphurous thermal hot water springs found at the base of the mountains at the southern end of the Fish River Canyon. The Ai-Ais (pronounced “eye-ice”) springs originate deep under the riverbed and form an oasis in the extremely arid area. During the Nama uprising of 1903–07, when the local Herero and Nama people rebelled against German colonial rule, the hot springs were used by German military forces as a base camp. In 1915, the area was again used as a base by South African troops who were recovering from wounds during the South-West Africa Campaign. In the 1960s the spring was proclaimed a national monument and became a conservation area and on 16 March 1971, the camp was officially opened. The thermal water, rich in sulphur, chloride and fluoride, has an average temperature of about 60 degrees C and is said to be therapeutic.

Namib-Naukluft National Park - Day 5

The Namib-Naukluft National Park is bigger than Switzerland at 49,768 square km, making it the largest game park in Africa. Being in Namibia this national park is predominantly made up of fiery desert and burnt orange dunes and hills formed by the push and pull of the wind.Unlike most wild African parks that are filled with typical wild and untamed animals, the Namib-Naukluft National Park is filled with animals of a different kind. Snakes, never before seen “weird” insects as well as over 200 species of birds inhabit the area.
The area of Sossusvlei is more notorious and is the main tourist attraction to the area. Namib-Naukluft National Park tours will not only provide visitors with a wonderful and quintessential desert experience that the Namib is so famous for but will allow them to walk in the footsteps of hyenas, gemsbok and jackals.
The Namib is characterized by its Inselbergs and rocky outcrops called Kopjes. These enclaves and outcrops have been completely created by nature and are the tell-tale signs of heavy wind and its ability to form natural art. They’re also evidence of Gondwanaland and the time when the two most southern tips of the world separated to form Africa, South America and Australia.
Namib means “open space” and tours to Namib-Naukluft National Park will show you all that this diverse space has to offer.

Sossusvlei - Day 6

Sossusvlei is one of the world’s most remote and beautiful places, synonymous with sweeping sand dunes and astonishing sunsets. The salt and clay pan is enclosed by towering, vivid red dunes, which some say are the highest in the world, presenting a breath-taking picture, as their crimson colour clashes with the cobalt sky.
The area is located within the Namib-Nauklift National Park of Namibia, in the heart of the exquisitely isolated desert. Having endured arid or semi-arid conditions for at least 55 million years, it is considered to be the second oldest desert in the world, after the Atacama Desert in Chile. It has less than 10 mm of rain annually and is almost completely barren, Despite the harsh conditions, a variety of plant and animal life can be found in the desert. There

are some unusual species of plants and animals that are found only in this desert.

Sossus is Nama for ‘no return’, while vlei is the Afrikaans word for marsh, so effectively the area is known as ‘no return marsh,’ in reference to the fact that it is the Tsauchab River’s natural endorheic drainage basin. The region spans between the Koichab and Kuiseb rivers and is a dream destination for photographers. The dunes have a brilliant red palette and are best viewed at sunrise and sunset, when the sun’s crepuscular rays cast them in an incandescent flaming hue, while the wind demonstrates its artistry, painting complex ripples in the sand. The highest of all the dunes is ‘Big Daddy’ which dominates the landscape, measuring a remarkable 380 metres in height. Although the region is predominantly associated with drought, periodically the rains will fall and the vlei fills with water, attracting many animals and people to its banks. This sight is extremely rare and not one to be missed, as the area teems with life, adorning the undulating dunes. Visit the majestic Sesriem Canyon which starts as a deep cleft in the ground, eventually expanding into a flattened plain. Witness the Naravlei, from the top of ‘Big Mama’ – an obliging dune which is well worth the climb and explore the haunting desolation of Dead Vlei, which is named for its numerous dead camelthorn trees, some of which are over 800 years old.

Swakopmund - Days 7-8

Swakopmund is a coastal city on the North Western coast of Namibia, it is known as the adventure capital of Namibia and this is evident in the long list of optional activities that are available on our stop overs on our Swakopmund tours.

The town has a permanent inhabitation of 42 000 residents so is by no means massive. It does however have a rich and fascinating history and the influence from the days of German colonization. The architecture is stunning and there are many quaint shops and nooks, you can lose yourself for an entire day in the city centre should you choose not to take part in the optional extras and would rather spend a day exploring.

Our Swakopmund tours offer as optional extras, sky-diving, quad biking and sand boarding to name but a few. If however you feel in the mood for something more gentle we also have a nature walk with a highly qualified local guide who will guide you through the diverse and rich local flora and fauna.

Swakopmund has a rich and fascinating history which is evident in the infrastructure of the town and the culture of the people, Swakopmund travel allows you the opportunity to learn about a part of African colonization that is often left unlearned. The German occupation of Southern Africa has a massive impact on the language and culture to a degree that is still evident today. Founded in 1892 as the main harbour for the imperial German Colony, it was chosen for its fresh water supply and deep natural harbour.

When the Union of South Africa took over control of German South West Africa after World War 2 it transferred shipping responsibility to Walvis Bay, as such many of the major shipping companies that opened up offices moved out. The phenomenal architecture they left behind though is still visible.

The Himba People - Day 10

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.

Note: The semi-nomadic Himba people are extremely susceptible to Western influence and have lost a large portion of their land to farmers, engineers, miners and many were displaced during the wars that raged in Angola. The dwindling number of pastoralists that still exist in their natural environment are protected as far as possible by creating a “buffer zone”, or an “educational tribe” where tourists who would like to get a better understanding of the way of the Himba, their lifestyle and their traditions, can do so without interfering with those still living in their natural environment. Visiting the Himba tribe can be a controversial topic that gets discussed at the camp fire, however not so much if the reason for visiting this particular tribe is understood beforehand.

The income that this specific tribe generates from the visits goes towards the education of orphaned Himba children and assists the tribe in giving them a chance to learn about their own culture and heritage.

There is a market at the end of your visit, this is a way for the women to establish a small income, used for their own private expenses, and it is up to you whether you’d like to purchase anything or not.

Etosha National Park - Days 11-12

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 our 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 and will try to help you see as many as possible of the 114 mammal species, 340 bird species, 110 reptile species, 16 amphibian species and, surprisingly, one species of fish.

However, game viewing can never be offered with guarantees, as you are dealing with wild animals you can never be certain of exactly where they will be or how they will behave.

Windhoek - Day 13

The Nama people originally gave Windhoek the name Ai-Gams, meaning “hot water” due to the hot springs that were once part of the town. The Herero people who lived there called it Otjomuise, “place of steam”. Theories vary on how Ai-Gams/Otjomuise got its modern name of Windhoek, most believe the name Windhoek is derived from the Afrikaans word Wind-Hoek, meaning "corner of wind". It is also thought that the Afrikaners named Windhoek after the Winterhoek Mountains, at Tulbagh in South Africa, where the early Afrikaner settlers had lived. In those days

Windhoek was the point of contact between the warring Namas, led by Jan Jonker Afrikaner, and the Herero people. Present-day Windhoek was founded on 18 October 1890, when German settler Von François fixed the foundation stone of the Alte Feste fort. During the next fourteen years Windhoek developed slowly, with only the most essential government and private buildings being erected. After 1907, the town grew quickly as people migrated from the countryside to the city and a large influx of European settlers began arriving from Germany and South Africa. Many beautiful buildings and monuments were erected, including Heinitzburg, one of three castles in Windhoek, the fairy-tale Christuskirche and The Rider statue.

Windhoek is now one of the country's busiest cities – known for its alluring diversity and cosmopolitan feel, the metropolis attracts myriad visitors each year. During your time here you can wander 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 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. Also well worth a visit is 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. You could also 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.

Botswana - Day 14

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 14

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. It is said that the word 'San' meant 'wild people who can't farm', however historically they didn't have a collective word for themselves. They now call themselves Ncoakhoe meaning 'red people' but the term 'San' is still predominant. They were nomadic people – primarily hunter gatherers, moving to where the food and water could be found. It is estimated that there are only 5, 000 San people left, with 60% of them living in Botswana and the rest in Namibia and northern South Africa. Many examples of their expressive and remarkable cave paintings can be found dotted around Southern Africa, tracking their historical movements. 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. 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.

Okavango Delta - Days 15-17

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, a labyrinth of lagoons, lakes and hidden channels. It originates in Angola - numerous tributaries join to form the Cubango River, which then flows through Namibia, becoming the Kavango River and finally enter Botswana, where it is becomes the Okavango. Millions of years ago the Okavango River used to flow into a large inland lake called Lake Makgadikgadi (now Makgadikgadi Pans). Tectonic activity and faulting interrupted the flow of the river causing it to back up and form what is now the Okavango Delta. This has created a unique system of waterways that supports a vast array of animal and plant life that would have otherwise been a dry Kalahari savannah.

There are an estimated 200,000 large mammals in and around the Okavango Delta. On the mainland and among the islands in the delta, lions, elephants, hyenas, wild dog, buffalo, hippo and crocodiles congregate with a teeming variety of antelope and other smaller animals - warthog, mongoose, spotted genets, monkeys, bush babies and tree squirrels. Notably the endangered African Wild Dog is present within the Okavango Delta, exhibiting one of the richest pack densities in Africa. The delta also includes over 400 species of birds, including the African Fish Eagle. Many of these animals live in the Delta but the majority pass through, migrating with the summer rains to find renewed fields for grazing. With the onset of winter the countryside dries up and they make their way back to the floodplains. This leads to some of the most incredible sightings as large numbers of prey and predators are pushed together. Certain areas of the Delta provide some of the best predator action seen anywhere in the world.

Boat trips, canoeing and fly-overs are among the most popular activities, 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.

Makgadikgadi salt pans - Day 18

The pans are the remnants of a once great Lake Makgadikgadi, which covered some 80,000 square km. Up to 30 metres deep, thousands of years ago, this was the largest inland sea in Africa. The pans now support strange 'upside down trees' – the massive Baobab – some of which are 2,400 years or older.

Chobe National Park - Day 19

Chobe National Park, the second largest park in Botswana, covers 10,566 square km of northern Botswana and is undoubtedly the country's most beautiful and popular nature and game reserve. The Park forms part of the mosaic of lakes, islands and floodplains formed from the Kwando, Linyanti and Chobe River systems. The area has one of the largest concentrations of wildlife in Africa, being particularly renowned for its vast herds of elephant and buffalo, making it an ideal location for African safaris. The elephant population is currently about 120 000. The Chobe elephants are migratory, moving up to 200 km from the Chobe and Linyanti rivers, where they concentrate in the dry season, to the pans in the southeast of the park in the rainy season. They are Kalahari elephants, characterized by rather brittle ivory and short tusks, perhaps because of calcium deficiency in the soil. Due to their high concentration, there is a lot of damage to the vegetation in some areas. Culls have been considered but are too controversial and have thus far been rejected. 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 specific animals or bird.

Victoria Falls - Day 20

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 ,at 1700 m wide and 108 m high their length and the vast volume of water which find its way to the falls via the Zambezi river makes them one of the most spectacular. David Livingstone, the Scottish explorer, is believed to have been the first European to view the Victoria Falls and wrote: "It has never been seen before by European eyes, but scenes so wonderful must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight". The older, indigenous name of Mosi-oa-Tunya ('the Smoke that Thunders') is the name in official use in Zambia, and the falls spray water into the air which can be seen for miles, including in the surrounding game reserves and national parks. Due to its immense power and size, the waterfall is surrounded by a rich mythology. The local Tonga people of the Zambezi believe that a river god, Nyaminyami, resides in the water in the form of an immense snake. When the Kariba Dam was built in the 1950s, the Zambezi River flooded three times, causing many deaths and much destruction. The local people believe Nyaminyami caused the terrible floods in his anger at the construction.

The unusual form of Victoria Falls enables virtually the whole width of the falls to be viewed face-on, at the same level as the top, from as close as 60 metres, because the whole Zambezi River drops into a deep, narrow slot like chasm, connected to a long series of gorges. Few other waterfalls allow such a close approach on foot.

The falls are formed as the full width of the river plummets in a single vertical drop into a chasm 60–120 m wide, carved by its waters along a fracture zone in the basalt plateau. The depth of the chasm, called the First Gorge, varies from 80 m at its western end to 108 m in the centre. The only outlet to the First Gorge is a 110 m-wide gap about two-thirds of the way across the width of the falls from the western end, through which the whole volume of the river pours into the Victoria Falls gorges.

There are two islands on the crest of the falls that are large enough to divide the curtain of water even at full flood: Boaruka Island (or Cataract Island) near the western bank and Livingstone Island near the middle. At less than full flood, additional islets divide the curtain of water into separate parallel streams. The main streams are named, in order from Zimbabwe (west) to Zambia (east): Leaping Water (called Devil's Cataract by some), Main Falls, Rainbow Falls (the highest) and the Eastern Cataract.

While staying here, guests can also embark on bush safaris – on foot, horseback or in a vehicle, embark on a Zambezi cruise along the waters before the falls, or try some exciting white water rafting. While on these Victoria Falls safaris guests will have the chance to see crocodiles, hippos and other African wildlife.

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6 Booking & Payment

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You may make a deposit or full payment online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer (full payments are due 8 weeks before departure). We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer, or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please contact us if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

7 Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and are committed to providing our customers with financial protection to provide peace of mind and to allow you to book with confidence.

We have therefore partnered with Trust My Travel Ltd., which provides financial protection services to over 2000 partners around the world. Funds paid to us by our customers are protected via an Insurance policy held by Trust My Travel. Each traveller and the description of services sold is declared against Trust My Travel's insurance policy directly against our financial failure. In the event of our insolvency, you will be refunded for any unfulfilled products and/or repatriation to the UK (where applicable). Please see our website or booking conditions for more information.

8 Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.

The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudge: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.
- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.
- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from newly acquired items before leaving home.
- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).
- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.
- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Encounters Travel shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

9 Follow Us Online

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.

www.facebook.com/encounterstravel

https://x.com/encounterstravl (yes, without the 'e')

10 Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this event).

Considering travel insurance for your trip? World Nomads Travel Insurance offers coverage for more than 150 adventure activities as well as emergency medical, lost luggage, trip cancellation and more.

If your tour includes car hire, or if you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

If you are taking expensive camera gear or other electronic equipment with you then please check the coverage and the fine print of your policy to ensure that you have sufficient cover.

IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.

Covid-19

Before purchasing any travel insurance, please check the coverage provided for situations related to Covid-19, and for the rules about government travel advice. Your normal policy may not be suitable.

11 Before you travel

It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current official government travel advice for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's 'Travel Aware' campaign which provides further useful and invaluable information.

travel aware
gov.uk/travelaware

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12 Reduce Plastic Waste with Water-to-Go Filter bottles

Traveling responsibly means minimizing plastic waste, but staying hydrated on the go is essential. At Encounters Travel we are committed to reducing single-use plastics, which is why we've partnered with Water-to-Go. Their portable filtration system removes over 99.9% of contaminants from any non-saltwater source, turning even questionable water sources into safe drinking water.

Given that tap water is un-safe to drink in many of the countries in which we operate, we recommend purchasing a Water-to-Go bottle prior to departure. This will help you avoid the use of single use plastic bottles and keep you hydrated on the go.

Save big! Get a huge 25% off your Water-to-Go bottle and other Water-to-Go products (such as filters, lids, and carriers). Use code **ENCOUNTERS25** at checkout (valid in the UK, USA and Canada).

How Water-to-Go Technology works:

- Their reusable, BPA free water bottles contain their own unique 3-in-1 filtration technology effectively providing clean safe drinking water from any non-salt water source around the world.
- Three different (1 traditional and 2 nano) technologies are combined in one filter cartridge to remove up to 99.9999% of microbiological contaminants in water.

The three technologies used in a Water-to-Go filter are:

- Mechanical filtration – A tiny pore size, so small contaminants can’t fit through.
- Electrical – A positive charge reduces the pore size even further and attracts contaminants like a magnet, trapping them inside the filter.
- Activated Carbon – Unlike most carbon based filters, instead of using adhesives to glue the carbon particles together, (which vastly reduces the carbon’s efficiency) it is contained within the membrane, helping to reduce contaminants whilst eliminating bad tastes and odours. Try filtering water from your tap at home and taste the difference!

Water-to-Go filter bottles deliver safe, healthy water worldwide

- Water-to-Go filters remove bacteria, viruses, waterborne disease, protozoa, heavy metals such as lead as well as harmful chemicals.
- Their filters remove Chlorine and Fluoride from tap water.
- The filter will eliminate harmful contaminants from the water but allow beneficial minerals such as sodium and magnesium to pass through leaving you with the healthiest water possible.
- Water-to-Go filters have been independently tested against internationally recognised standards by industry specialists including The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK), BCS Laboratories (USA), Bangalore Test House (India) and IMI (China).

Use Water-to-Go products and you'll be healthier, wealthier and helping to make the world a better place!

- Depending on filter size, each Water-to-Go filter is able to replace 260 or 400 single-use plastic water bottles!
- They ensure you have access to safe water anywhere in the world without ever having to buy environmentally damaging bottled water.
- Their water bottles deliver safe, clean drinking water at just 5p per litre.
- The filter membrane is biodegradable and the shrouds are recyclable.
- The water bottles are used and approved by everyone from backpackers to commuters, gym users to expecting mums. Perfect for everyday, outdoor and travel.

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13 Private & Tailor-made Tours

While our group departures offer a fantastic way to explore with like-minded travellers, we understand that some guests prefer a more exclusive experience. Most of our group tours can be booked on a private basis, allowing you to enjoy the same expert-led routes with your own dedicated party. The primary advantage of choosing a private arrangement is the flexibility it provides; we can easily customise the itinerary to include your preferred style of accommodation or adjust the pace to suit your needs. Private tours can be run on the same start days as our group tours, or on other dates. However, some activities within our trips are restricted to particular days of the week - we will advise you on anything like this that we need to work around. Pricing will be based on the number of travellers in your party, and any customisations you may like to make.

For those seeking something truly unique, our specialist sales team is available to collaborate with you on a completely tailor-made tour, designed from the ground up to match your specific interests, accommodation level and requirements.

To request a quotation for a private or tailor-made tour, please contact us.

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14 Health and Vaccinations

You should ensure you are fully insured for medical emergencies including emergency evacuation and repatriation.

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures vary according to the country you are visiting and where you are travelling from. We recommend you contact your GP/medical practitioner or a travel clinic for current information on vaccinations needed for your destination. You should ensure that you are up to date with vaccines and boosters recommended for your normal life at home, including for example, vaccines required for occupational risk of exposure, lifestyle risks and underlying medical conditions. In addition, additional courses or boosters normally recommended for the countries in this region are:

South Africa: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.
Namibia: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from an infected area.
Botswana: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted or travelled through an infected area.
Zimbabwe: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.
Zambia: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.
Malawi: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.
Tanzania: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.
Kenya: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Poliomyelitis, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from an infected area.
Uganda: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid, Yellow Fever. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from an infected area.
Sudan: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid, Yellow Fever. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area. A certificate may also be required for those departing Sudan.
Morocco: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria not normally present. Yellow Fever certificate not required.
Tunisia: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria not normally present. Yellow Fever certificate not required.

The above information can change at short notice. For up to date health information & vaccination requirements we recommend that you contact your medical practitioner or a travel clinic.

Malaria: Vaccinations are not available against Malaria, which is a disease transmitted by mosquitoes that can be very serious and sometimes fatal. You should avoid mosquito bites by covering up bare skin with clothing such as long sleeves and long trousers and applying insect repellents to exposed skin. When necessary, sleep under a mosquito net. Mosquitoes are most active during and after sunset. You should consult with your GP/medical practitioner/travel clinic about the most appropriate malaria prophylactic medication to take for the regions you are visiting.

Yellow Fever: This disease is spread by infected mosquitoes that bite during the day. A Yellow Fever Certificate of vacinnation is often required as a condition of entry depending on which country you are arriving from, or that you have travelled or transitted through recently (including connecting flights with stopovers of over 12 hours). You can view this US CDC information about where the virus is present and follow the links to further information detailing which countries need you to have a Yellow Fever vaccination as part of their entry requirements. Please ensure you have this certificate organised in advance and with you and to hand during the trip.

Please inform us of any pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or asthma and any prescription medicine you may be taking. We also need to know about any food allergies or physical disabilities that you may have.
If you are travelling on an Overland tour or your trip includes wildlife safaris then please bear in mind that you may be travelling on bumpy roads and/or rough ground for several hours at a time. This can be very uncomfortable or painful if you have a bad back, and make such conditions worse. Please contact us if you have any concerns.

Health Declaration: As many of our Africa tours travel through very remote regions, where medical facilities are limited, we are asking all of our travellers 65 years and over who are joining one of our Africa Overland Adventures to complete the attached medical questionnaire. The information provided to Encounters Travel and our local operational partners will be held to the strictest confidence and will be used only to the extent to provide necessary emergency medical care and/or evaluate physical health and fitness for travel.

We will request this from you approximately 30 days before your trip starts, so that your GP can sign your form based on your current health conditions. Please don't submit this several months in advance, as it is important for us to know you are fit for travel just before the trip departs.

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15 Passports and Visas

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities. Encounters Travel will not be held responsible if travellers are denied entry because they are not in possession of the relevant visas. We therefore recommend you re-check requirements with the relevant embassy/consulate around 4 weeks before travel.

You should also be in possession of a valid onward or return flight ticket, or proof of other means of transport enabling you to leave the country that your tour passes through or finishes in. In addition you should carry proof of sufficient funds to cover you during your time in the country (eg. credit card).

Should your tour be re-entering a country, please ensure that you have a multiple entry visa that allows this. Some countries have a visa on arrival service which can be more convenient and cheaper. However, for peace of mind and to speed up the border crossing process, Encounters Travel advises that you to get your visas prior to your trip if possible.

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16 Tipping

In general tipping in restaurants is expected and is around 10% for good service, more if you have received exceptional service, and, feel free not to tip at all if you received poor service. Tipping taxi drivers etc is really at your own discretion and not always expected. If in doubt please ask your guides. It is expected to tip porters and

car guards etc. Ask your guides how much is appropriate in local currency. The recommended amount for Serengeti and Masai Mara guides is around USD5-7 per client per day.

Our guides do work hard but they are also paid at (and often above) industry levels for this work. Our Crew can be tipped if you feel that they have done a good job and/or gone above and beyond the call of duty. The best way to arrange tips is to elect one person in the group to collect the money. On Small Group & Shoestring tours we recommend around USD 3-5 per person per day per guide as a fair tip. On longer Overland tours we recommend USD1-2 per day per person, per guide as a fair tip. So if you have 2-crew on a tour, we would recommend that 2 envelopes are used and each crew member's name written on one. Place what you feel is fair into each envelope and the elected person can give these to the crew at the end of the tour. If you do not feel that the crew deserve a tip, please, do not tip them. You must remember that tipping is only for exceptional service and is not at all compulsory or expected.

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17 International Flights and Airport Transfers

International Flights: We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people living in different places and with varying travel plans, except on some Escorted Tours and package promotions, we don't include your international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to suggest flights to go with the tour. Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we'll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from.

The vast majority of our tours are designed such that you can arrive and depart at any time on the first and last days of the set tour itinerary, with your arrival and departure airport transfers included in the tour price. However, on our **Overland tours,** you should not arrange your onward international flights or other travel for the day the tour is due to end (unless the final day does not involve any travelling and finishes after breakfast). Similarly, many of our Overland tours depart their first port of call on the first morning, and you will therefore need to plan for any flights to arrive at least one day beforehand.

Airport Transfers:

Arrival and departure airport transfers are included on most of our Small Group, Shoestring (excluding the 5 & 6-day Garden Route tours where Airport Transfers are not included, however a pickup from a Central Cape Town location is included on day 1 of the tour) and Tailor-made tours but available as extra options on all our African Overland tours, as long as you have accommodation booked with us on that day. If you add extra accommodation before and/or after the tour that you do not book with us, then you will also need to arrange your own airport transfers.

On our **Sebatana Package**, airport transfers for arrival and departure are included, however these transfers operate on a schedule, so a short wait may be required after landing before the transfer departs to the accommodation. To coincide with the transfer departures, your arrival flight should land in Johannesburg before 11am on day 1 and depart after 6pm on day 8. If your flights arrive/depart outside of these times, we would recommend adding an additional night to your trip.

Departure Taxes: Various countries may require that you pay an Airport Departure Tax when departing on an international flight. Please note that all departure taxes must be paid in hard cash currency and US Dollars are normally the best currency to use for this. Departure taxes can vary from US$10 - US$60 depending on the

departure point.

Flight inclusive packages: We do also sometimes advertise flight inclusive packages from selected airports. Where these are shown on our website, prices are correct at the time of quoting, but are subject to continued availability of the fare used. Prices will be reconfirmed at the time of booking, and we will also provide the flight times and airline details before tickets are issued.
Flight inclusive prices are based on the cheapest Economy ticket class available which is generally non-refundable and non-changeable unless the flight is cancelled for reasons such as Covid-19, in which case the airlines are more flexible. More flexible ticket options, as well as Premium Economy and Business Class tickets are available on request for an additional supplement. Any changes made to flight inclusive bookings will be subject to the airline rules on your ticket.

Flight CO2 Emissions:

Traveling by air is an amazing way to explore the world, but flights also contribute to carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions that impact the environment. By considering the airline's CO2 emissions when you choose your flight, you can help minimize your travel footprint.

When selecting your international flights and airline, we do therefore recommend that you try and also take into account the flight CO2 emissions. Some airlines and flight search websites (eg. Google Flights, Skyscanner) do publish this information, so you can compare between your flight options and make an informed decision. Thankfully, many airlines are working towards sustainability efforts, and choosing a greener option allows you to contribute to positive change while still enjoying your incredible adventure.

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18 What to take

LUGGAGE ALLOWANCES: Most international airlines restrict you to between 20kg and 23kg per person of luggage to go in the hold of the plane. Domestic flights often have smaller allowances around 15kg. As airline rules vary we recommend that you take no more than 20kg of luggage if your tour just includes international flights, and no more than 15kg if there are any domestic flights included in your itinerary. Please ask us for details if you are unsure about luggage allowances on your tour. Any excess baggage fees will be your responsibility to cover. Most airlines allow between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage so we suggest that you take no more than 5kg unless you have confirmed that your airline(s) will allow more than this.

OVERLAND AND SAFARI TOURS: Please keep in mind that these are adventure tours in an adventure vehicle (truck or 4x4) and luggage should not include any solid Samsonite style suitcases. On our accommodated overland tours most of our trucks have lockers for the luggage (locker sizes: 37,5 cm high, 32 cm wide, 80 cm deep). Only a soft bag will fit in these lockers. A suitcase is far more difficult to store and make secure in our vehicle and this is part of the reason we ask for a backpack or tote bag to be used as your luggage. The other reason is that you need to walk from the truck to the accommodation and often over sand or uneven terrain. Your luggage on our Overland tours is limited to ONE backpack and ONE daypack weighing no more than 20kg. As a general rule, if you cannot lift your own luggage - you've got too much stuff! Most people make the mistake of bringing too many clothes. A quick reminder - **suitcases are not suitable on our overland tours** – especially huge Samsonite-style cases! **Small** wheeled cases are OK for safari tours.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST: Kit for all weather conditions including: • 2/3 shorts/skirts • 1 jacket/anorak • Tracksuit/pullover • 2 pairs of long pants/jeans • 2 pairs of walking shoes/boots/trainers • 1 pair of sandals • 3 or 4 T-shirts/short sleeve shirts or sundresses • 2/3 Long Sleeve Shirts • Smart casual change of clothes • Swimwear • Underwear & socks • Sun Hat – preferably that covers the back of your neck. • Raincoat • Kikoi/sarong

Your clothing should be easy to wash and dry and should preferably not need ironing. Avoid synthetics, which can be very uncomfortable in hot weather. Many people underestimate how cold Africa can be – remember that jersey/jacket! There are also nights that are warm but you must still wear clothes that cover arms and legs from mosquitoes. Take a set of casual but smart clothes for the occasional evening out in a restaurant or club. If you wear glasses (or contacts) it is also advisable to bring a spare pair.

While on wildlife safaris it is important to wear dull coloured clothing - olive, mushroom, brown, khaki, stone are ideal.
You should avoid white (stands out too much), black or blue (attracts tsetse flies), and camouflage (illegal in many countries for civilians)

Additional Items: • Towel & facecloth • Baby wipes/ Wet Wipes • Personal toiletries • Sleeping bag • Torch & enough spare batteries • Camera & spare batteries and memory cards • Water bottle. (A 2-litre Coke bottle works well...) • Penknife • Insect and Mosquito repellent • Suntan lotion, sun block & after sun lotion • Sunglasses • Watch • Biodegradable laundry detergent • Passport (plus a copy of your passport & visas) • Extra passport photos • Vaccination certificate • Money • Travel plug • Neck pillow • Small sewing kit • Plastic bags • Clothes line and pegs • Small scrubbing brush • a small padlock for your luggage locker in the truck • Small basic First Aid kit (painkillers, band aids, after-sun lotion, eye drops, anti-diarrhoea tablets etc.)

DAY PACKS: Please check the itinerary for your specific tour if you will need a little daypack. For example on our Cape Town to Vic Falls overland tour you will need a smaller bag, big enough to bring basic equipment (toiletries and clothes) for 2 nights. The daypack is for your Okavango Delta Excursion, where you cannot bring your entire luggage.

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19 Meals on Overland tours

Due to the nature of the overland trip, the majority of your meals will be cooked by our crew and eaten beside the vehicle. Meals will not normally be eaten within the accommodation. The reason we run our trips in this way is that we feel it fits in better with this type of trip and it also helps to keep our prices competitive with other companies offering similar tours.

Breakfast: As breakfast is served very early in the morning (if there is driving or activities to be done) it is a simple but filling breakfast: Tea and coffee, breads and spreads, cereals, yoghurts, fruits and on occasion, when there is time for a later breakfast, we'll will serve a hot breakfast of scrambled eggs, porridge, bacon or beans.

Lunch: Lunch is generally served at a picnic spot next to the road en route to a destination. As the tour leaders only have approximately 45 minutes to get everyone off the truck, prepare lunch and then get everyone back on the truck again, lunches consist of sandwiches and salads (rice salad, pasta salad, tuna salad and green salad)

which are quick and easy to prepare but which are quite filling. They do have meal plans which they should stick to, to ensure that there is variety on a day to day basis.

Dinner: This is when your crew get time to prepare a delicious meal and they focus on a substantial protein, vegetable and carbohydrate dinner. We serve traditional cuisine consisting of braais (BBQ), potjie (stew), bobotie (mince), spaghetti and fish and chicken dishes. All meals (on both accommodated and camping tours) that are included in the itinerary are prepared at the full service adventure truck. This is a unique adventure in itself where you get to dine under the stars with your new found friends and experience the real sights and sounds of Africa!