

The Grand Southern Safari

Country(ies): South Africa , Botswana , Namibia & Zimbabwe

Tour type: Overland

Transport: Overland expedition vehicle, 4x4 safari jeeps & flight

Group size: Min: 4 | Max: 20

Days: 20 Days

Start location: Cape Town, South Africa

End location: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Departs On: Thursday & Sunday

Meals: 2019: Breakfasts - 19, Lunches - 11, Dinners - 15
2020: Breakfasts - 19, Lunches - 19, Dinners - 19

Highlights: Cape Town, Orange River, Cederberg Region, Fish River Canyon, Giants Playground, Sesriem Canyon, Namib Desert, Dune 45, Swakopmund, Brandbert rock art, Etosha National Park, Okavango Delta, Chobe National Park, Victoria Falls

Places Visited: Cape Town, Piketberg, Ai-Ais, Namib-Naukluft NP, Swakopmund, Khorixas, Kamanjab, Etosha NP, Windhoek, Ghanzi, Maun, Gweta, Chobe NP & Victoria Falls



Itinerary

Itinerary for 2019 Tours

Day 1: Exploring the Cederberg

After spending some time in the 'Mother City', we say goodbye to Cape Town as we head towards the Cederberg region of the Western Cape, blessed with towering mountain ranges, lush farmland and snaking rivers.

The Cederberg region is also the home of the Rooibos bush and we'll make our way to a Rooibos tea farm to enjoy a unique brew and learn about the Rooibos and Buchu plants which grow naturally in this mountainous area. Rooibos tea is a herbal drink which is known to be healthier and more refreshing option than regular tea.

We'll have dinner at our overnight accommodation in the Cederberg as we enjoy some South African hospitality.

Route: Cape Town to Citrusdal

Activity Package: Rooibos tea farm visit

OVERNIGHT: Marcuskraal or similar

MEALS: Dinner

EXTRAS: Arrival airport transfer in Cape Town || Extra day in Cape Town - pre-tour || Activity Package - The Grand Southern Safari 2019

Day 2: Travel to the Namaqualand

After a peaceful evening in the Cederberg, we make our way north towards the desert vistas of the Namaqualand. We'll stop for some supplies in Springbok before we arrive at our campsite on the banks of the Orange River - South Africa's longest river.

Namaqualand is best visited during the spring months of July-September, as the wildflowers in the area begin to bloom - turning the arid land into a kaleidoscope of colour.

Route: Citrusdal to Orange River

OVERNIGHT: Felix Unite Cabanas, Bundi or similar

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 3: Orange River to Fish River Canyon

The Orange River rises from the Drakensburg Mountains in Lesotho and flows westward through South Africa before flows into the Atlantic Ocean. Travellers from all over the world flock here every year to raft on its peaceful waters, which are generally free from wildlife such as crocodile and hippotamus.

You have an option to head out on a canoe trip this morning before we travel inland, crossing the border into Namibia towards the Fish River Canyon.

Route: Orange/Gariep River to Ai-Ais

Optional activity

: River canoe adventure

OVERNIGHT: Ai Ais Resort or similar

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: Options available while on tour

Day 4: Exploring the Fish River Canyon

We start our day early as we drive to the edge of the Fish River Canyon, as we watch the early morning African sun fill the canyon with light.

We'll spend some time exploring the canyon before we head west towards Keetmanshoop - where we'll trek through the Quiver Tree Forest and Giant's Playground - named after the towering dolerite boulders which have been placed atop one another, create unique rock formations.

Route: Fish River Canyon to Keetmanshoop

Included Highlights: Scenic walk along the rim of Fish River Canyon / Visit to Quiver Tree Forest and Giants Playground

OVERNIGHT: Schutzenhaus Guesthouse or similar

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 5: The Namib Naukluft National Park

We spent most of the day travelling as we make our way into the heart of the Namib desert, towards the dune fields which covers its western reaches. We'll get good insight into the vastness of rural Namibia, taking in the sights of its long sandy roads and sparse farmland.

We'll spend the night camping on the doorstep in the Namib Naukluft National Park, on the doorstep of its dune fields, as we drift off to the sounds of the desert.

Route: Keetmanshoop to Namib Naukluft NP

OVERNIGHT: Namib Naukluft Habitat or Desert Camp

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 6: Climbing Dune 45

Today we make our way to Dune 45, the most visited dune in the Sossusvlei area of the Namib Desert. Its name is derived from the fact that it's the 45th kilometre of road that connects the Sesriem Gate and Sossusvlei.

After climbing the dune, we'll have some breakfast before we hop into a 4x4 towards Sossusvlei, which we'll explore on foot. You'll get an opportunity to see salt and clay pans of Sossusvlei - with dead camel thorn trees one of few remnants in this parched area.

Included Highlight: Walk into Sesriem Canyon, Hike up Dune 45, 4x4 shuttle to Sossusvlei / Deadvlei

OVERNIGHT: Namib Naukluft Habitat or Desert Camp

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 7: Exploring Swakopmund

We make our way to Swakopmund today, which offers a perfect opportunity to escape the heat of the desert and to have a little adventure.

Swakopmund's architecture resembles a small German town and its palm-lined streets, seaside promenades, restaurants, cafes, art galleries and museums offer plenty of options for travellers looking to have some fun after a long overland journey.

Route: Naukluft Area to Swakopmund

Included activity: Tropic of Capricorn, Walvis Bay Lagoon

Activity Package: Guided desert walk with local expert

OVERNIGHT: Stay@Swakop, Haus Garnison or similar

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Options available while on tour

Day 8: Free time in Swakopmund

If you're looking to do an activity that will satisfy your adrenaline rush, Swakopmund has a variety of activities to choose from - contact us and we can help arrange them for you.

If you're looking to relax, spend some time exploring its selection of famed coffee shops and bakeries that offer a delightful range of German inspired treats.

Optional Activities: Dolphin cruise, Skydiving, sandboarding, quad biking, dinner

OVERNIGHT: Stay@Swakop, Haus Garnison or similar

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: None

Day 9: Swakopmund to Brandberg

The tour starts as we head inland towards Khorixas, seeing the massive granite formations of Spitzkoppe which tower 700 metres over the desert and plains beneath them. We'll take a walk with a local guide to see some examples of rock art which demonstrate how significant this area and these formations were to the San people who lived here in the past. Finally we continue to our overnight stop for the evening.

Included highlight: Guided walk in Spitzkoppe

Route: Swakopmund to Brandberg (via Spitzkoppe) (250km)

OVERNIGHT: Igowati, Khorixas Lodge or similar

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 10: Brandberg White Lady rock painting

This morning we will take a hike of around 1 hour to the famous 'White Lady' rock painting, one of more than 45,000 rock paintings in the area. The terrain is rough and follows the gorge of the normally dry Tsisab River, with the Brandberg (Burning Mountains) which are regarded as the highest in Namibia, surrounding us. Following our hike, we continue our journey to the Kamanjab area.

Included Highlight: Brandberg White Lady hike

Route: Brandberg to Kamanjab

OVERNIGHT: Toko Lodge or similar

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 11: Etosha National Park

We start early this morning and head to Etosha National Park, one of Africa's most famous destinations for game viewing with the sparse grasslands allowing great opportunities to see animals normally hidden in dense vegetation. We then have the afternoon to explore the edges of Etosha Pan on a game drive on our expedition vehicle as we head to our accommodation for the night. The raised height of the vehicle helps with visibility and seeing some of the abundant wildlife in the park. We'll aim to stop at several waterholes during the way, where concentrations of game can often be seen.

Route: Kamanjab to Etosha National Park (200km)

Included Highlight: Afternoon game drive in the truck

OVERNIGHT: Halali or similar

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 12: Etosha National Park

We have a full day on safari in Etosha today, exploring different parts of the park on the truck and searching for animals and birds we may not have seen yesterday.

Included highlight: Full day game drive in the truck

OVERNIGHT: Okaukuejo or similar

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 13: Windhoek

We leave Etosha this morning and drive towards Windhoek, Namibia's capital city and also the cultural, social and economic centre of the country. On arrival in Windhoek we'll take a short walk through the city centre to see some of its best known landmarks. We'll then return to our accommodation for the night which is normally situated half way between the city centre and the airport.

Route: Etosha National Park to Windhoek (420km)

Included highlight: Walk through Windhoek with your guide

OVERNIGHT: Heja Game Lodge or similar

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Options available while on tour

Day 14: Botswana, Ghanzi

After an early start, we say goodbye to Namibia and travel east, crossing the Botswana border into the Kalahari Desert. While very different to the Namib Desert in Namibia, the Kalahari is still dramatic and covers nearly a million square kilometres. The San people have been associated with the harsh desert landscape here for centuries and this evening we experience some traditional tribal dancing from the local San community that also provides an insight into the songs and story telling that form part of their culture.

Route: Windhoek to Ghanzi (500km)

Included highlight: San Tribal dance in the evening

OVERNIGHT: Ghanzi Trail Blazers or similar

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 15: To the Okavango Delta

We'll take a walk with local San guides this morning to learn how they use nature and their environment to survive in this harsh desert. We'll then drive to the outback town of Maun, known as the gateway to the Okavango Delta. Here you'll have the opportunity to take an optional scenic flight over the Delta (subject to arrival time and weather conditions). This evening we'll talk to our guide in preparation for our full day excursions into the Delta tomorrow.

An upgrade package is available which will fly into the Delta upon our arrival in Maun and then rejoin the group in the morning of Day 9. Luggage restrictions apply of 10kg luggage per person, no bottled water allowed. The airline requires the individual weight of all guests and their luggage prior to check-in to meet safety regulations for flight into and out of the Okavango Delta. Please take no offense to this as it is done for guests safety only.

Please contact us for more details of this Delta excursion

Route: Ghanzi to Maun (300km)

Included highlight: San guided walk

Optional activity: Okavango Delta scenic flight

Upgrade package: Okavango Delta Upgrade

OVERNIGHT: Sedia Riverside Lodge or similar

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

EXTRAS: Okavango Delta Upgrade (accommodated)

Day 16: Okavango Delta Excursion

The Okavango has a strange and unique ecosystem with the annual rains in regions upriver on the Okavango River flowing down and into the delta where they fan out and create pools, streams and waterholes that vary hugely through the seasons. As a result, programs here are flexible to take account of the changing water levels.

One of the most rewarding and enjoyable ways to explore the waterways and lagoons is by mokoro. We'll leave Maun early and transfer by safari vehicle to the poling station (approx. 1 hour). Our polers will then steer us through serene reed-lined channels that open out into beautiful lagoons. A nature walk may be taken with your poler on one of the many islands, before we return by mokoro through the channels to the poling station. Mokoro trips like this are

not primarily game viewing activities but a variety of animals and birds may be spotted on the way, including elephants, zebra, kudu and impala.

Route: Maun – poling station – Okavango Delta - Maun

Included Highlight: Okavango Delta Day Excursion

OVERNIGHT: Sedia Riverside Lodge or similar

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: Okavango Delta Upgrade (accommodated)

Day 17: Nata

We leave Maun this morning after re-joining any people in the group who chose the Delta upgrade package. Today's long drive carries us past the northern section of the Makgadigadi Pans en-route to Nata. Along the way we'll look out for examples of the iconic Baobab tree and look out over the pans as they extend to the South. If we're lucky, while we bisect the Nxai Pan and Makgadigadi National Park we may encounter some of the wildlife that make this huge protected area home.

If you add the Activity Package then a guided afternoon game drive is arranged to the Nata Sanctuary which is famous as the breeding ground for thousands of water birds, especially pelicans and flamingos.

Route: Maun to Nata (300km)

Activity Package: Makgadigadi Salt Pans (Nata Sanctuary)

OVERNIGHT: Nata Lodge or Pelican Lodge or similar

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: Activity Package - The Grand Southern Safari 2019

Day 18: Chobe National Park

It's another early start today for the drive north to the banks of the Chobe River. If you choose the Activity Package then we'll then spend the afternoon exploring the park on a game safari in 4x4 vehicles which allow us to get up close to some of the many elephants that the park is famous for. The elephants like to spend time in the river in the afternoons and we'll hope to see them enjoying themselves, splashing and washing. The day ends with a boat cruise looking out for hippos, buffalo and more elephants before dinner is served around the campfire.

Route: Nata to Kasane (300km)

Activity Package: Chobe National Park boat cruise, Chobe National Park Game Drive

OVERNIGHT: Thebe River Lodge or similar

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

EXTRAS: Activity Package - The Grand Southern Safari 2019

Day 19: Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls

We leave Chobe and its elephants today and cross the border into Zimbabwe for the short drive to Victoria Falls. Plenty of time is allowed for visiting the spectacular falls and watching the mighty Zambezi River crash down into the Batoka Gorge, creating clouds of steam and spray that rise up into the air. However, the town of Victoria Falls is a hub for a wide range of adventurous activities and there is time available this afternoon to take advantage of some of these if you wish (eg. White water rafting, bungee jumps, river cruises or helicopter flights above the falls). If you'd like to take things a bit easier, the town has craft markets and plenty of shops and cafes to browse and relax in.

Route: Kasane to Victoria Falls (100km)

Optional activities: Visit to the falls, Bungee Jump, Gorge Swing, Sunset Cruise, Helicopter Flights, Boma Dinner Experience

OVERNIGHT: Victoria Falls Rainbow Hotel or similar

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Options available while on tour

Day 20: Victoria Falls

Although your tour officially ends after breakfast, many people will spend the day doing some safaris, white water rafting, taking a helicopter ride over the falls or relaxing after viewing the waterfall. Vic Falls offers many exciting activities so we recommend you add a post-tour night here.

Note: It is possible to book a 2 day Journey to Johannesburg, either Camping or Accommodated straight after this tour, as this is one of the cheapest ways to get from Victoria Falls to Johannesburg. Please contact us for more information. Our Big 5 Encounters tour from Johannesburg then also fits well after this trip, providing some great safaris in Kruger National Park.

Optional Activity: Visit to the falls, Bungee Jump, Gorge Swing, Sunset Cruise, Helicopter Flights, Boma Dinner Experience

OVERNIGHT: N/A

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Options available while on tour || Extra day in Victoria Falls - post-tour || Departure airport transfer in Victoria Falls

Itinerary for 2020 Tours

Day 1: Cape Town to the Cederberg

The grand southern safari starts in the Cape Town city centre, where we'll all gather before heading off towards the Cederberg region of the Western Cape, which boasts spectacular mountain ranges and orange farms.

The Cederberg is also the home of the Rooibos bush, which is indigenous to the slopes of the Cederberg mountains. The leaves of this tree are used to make a herbal beverage which has international acclaim as a healthy and refreshing option to regular tea.

We'll have dinner together at our accommodation in Citrusdal for the evening, which offers a great opportunity to get acquainted with the rest of the travelling group whilst enjoying some South African hospitality.

Route: Cape Town to Citrusdal

Included Highlight: Traditional Dinner

Facilities - Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Facilities - Accommodated: Rooms with en-suite bathrooms

OVERNIGHT: Marcuskraal

MEALS: Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 2: Namaqualand to the Gariep River

From Citrusdal, we make our way to Namaqualand, which provides the first view of the desert vistas which will be a regular occurrence in the days ahead. We travel north, stopping in Springbok to refuel before we make our way to our camp located on the banks of the Orange River - the longest river in Southern Africa.

If you are lucky enough to be travelling during the South African spring months between July to September - you will be greeted with colourful expanses of wildflowers that are unique to the region.

Route: Citrusdal to Orange River

Included Highlight: Spring Wild Flowers (July – September)

Facilities - Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Facilities - Accommodated: Rooms with en-suite bathrooms

OVERNIGHT: Camping - Fiddlers Creek Campsite / Accommodated - Felix Unite Cabanas or Bundi

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

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

The Orange River may have been named after the Dutch Royal House, but it has also recently been referred to by its original name - Gariep - which means river in the Khoekhoe language.

The Orange River starts its journey in the mountains of Lesotho and flows through the desert landscape which surrounds it. One of the best ways to experience the river is by getting into its waters and we have the opportunity to do that today by joining an optional canoe trip on the river.

After lunch, we travel inland to our overnight accommodation at Ais Ais, where you will get the chance to soak in its mineral and sulphur-rich hot spring waters.

Route: Orange/Gariep River to Fish River Canyon (camping) / Ai-Ais (accommodated)

Included Highlight: Hot springs (pool)

Local Options: Canoe trip

Facilities - Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Facilities - Accommodated: Rooms with en-suite bathrooms

OVERNIGHT: Camping - NWR: Hobas Campsite / Accommodated - NWR: Ai Ais Resort

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 4: Fish River Canyon, Quiver Tree Forest and Giants Playground

We start the day early as we make our way to the edge of the Fish River Canyon to marvel at the sun rising over the canyon. We'll then make our way west as we travel to Keetmanshoop. Our afternoon is spent exploring the Quiver Tree Forest and Giants Playground - which is named after the towering dolerite boulders which are stacked on each other, creating unique rock formations and mazes.

Route: Fish River Canyon to Keetmanshoop

Included Highlight: Scenic walk along the rim of Fish River Canyon / Visit to Quiver Tree Forest and Giants Playground

Facilities - Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Facilities - Accommodated: Rooms with en-suite bathrooms

OVERNIGHT: Camping - Seeheim Hotel / Accommodated - Schutzenhaus Guesthouse

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 5: Namib-Naukluft National Park

We'll spend most of the day travelling today as we head deeper into the Namib Desert, until we reach the dune fields that cover the western reaches of the desert. You will get a good glimpse into rural Namibia we pass expanses of sparse, dry farmland. We'll spend the night camping on the edge of the dune fields as we fall asleep listening to the cry of the elusive Barking gecko.

Route: Fish River Canyon to Keetmanshoop

Included Highlight: Sesriem Canyon (camping departures)

Facilities - Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Facilities - Accommodated: Rooms with en-suite bathrooms

OVERNIGHT: Camping - NWR: Sesriem campsite / Accommodated - Namib Naukluft Soft Adventure

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 6: Sossusvlei Dunes – Namib-Naukluft National Park

We start the day early as we spend time in the Namib-Naukluft National Park and climb up the famous Dune 45, which offers a spectacular vantage point to marvel at the changing colours of the desert.

We'll enjoy a hearty breakfast before we hop into a 4x4 to Sossusvlei & Deadvlei, where we'll explore its vast salt pans before we settle in at our campsite in the Namib-Naukluft National Park for the rest of the day. Camping departures spend the afternoon joining a local expert for an educational excursion into the desert.

Included Highlight: Sesriem Canyon (accommodated departures), Hike up Dune 45, 4x4 shuttle to Sossusvlei / Deadvlei, Guided desert walk with local expert (camping departures)

Facilities - Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Facilities - Accommodated: Rooms with en-suite bathrooms

OVERNIGHT: Camping - Boesman's Camp / Accommodated - Namib Naukluft Soft Adventure Camp

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 7: Swakopmund

Accommodated departures finish their time in the desert this morning taking an excursion into the desert with a local expert this morning. The tour now leaves the Namib Desert, stopping at the Tropic of Capricorn to stretch our legs.

We'll then make our way to the coastal town of Swakopmund - the adventure capital of Namibia. We'll stop briefly at the Walvis Bay lagoon to see the flamingos which frolic in its shallow waters. Once we arrive in Swakopmund, you have the day free to book some of the adventure activities on offer, from sandboarding to quad biking and various other water sports.

Route: Naukluft Area to Swakopmund

Included Highlight: Guided desert walk with local expert (accommodated departures), Walvis Bay Lagoon, Tropic of Capricorn

Facilities - Camping: Rooms with en-suite bathrooms

Facilities - Accommodated: Rooms with en-suite bathrooms

OVERNIGHT: Camping - Amanpuri Travellers Lodge or Strauss Holiday Accommodation / Accommodated - Stay@Swakop or Haus Garnison

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 8: Swakopmund

Swakopmund may be Namibia's adventure capital, but it's much more than just adrenaline filled fun. You have the day free to explore the town on your own. Be sure to visit one of its famed coffee shops and bakeries that offer a variety of German-inspired treats.

Local options: Dolphin cruise, skydiving, sandboarding, quad biking

Facilities - Camping: Rooms with en-suite bathrooms

Facilities - Accommodated: Rooms with en-suite bathrooms

OVERNIGHT: Camping - Amanpuri Travellers Lodge or Strauss Holiday Accommodation / Accommodated - Stay@Swakop or Haus Garnison

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 9: Spitzkoppe to Brandberg

We say goodbye to Swakopmund today as we make our way to the huge granite formations at Spitzkoppe, which towers at 700m high. Most notably, the presence of rock art on the boulders show the importance of these natural wonders to the San people who lived here many years ago.

Led by a local guide, we get to see the San rock art before we make our way to our accommodation for the evening.

Route: Swakopmund to Brandberg (via Spitzkoppe)

Included Highlight: Visit and explore Spitzkoppe

Facilities - Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

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

OVERNIGHT: Brandberg White Lady Lodge or Uis White Lady

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 10: The Brandberg White Lady

The Brandberg Mountains is one of the highest mountain ranges in Namibia, but its popularity stems from the famous White Lady rock painting, which is estimated to be 2000 years old. We'll spend some time exploring the area before we make our way to Kamanjab.

Route: Brandberg to Kamanjab

Included Highlight: Brandberg White Lady

Facilities - Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

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

OVERNIGHT: Camping - Toko Lodge / Accommodated - Etotongwe

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 11: Etosha National Park

We start the day early once more as we make our way to the Etosha National Park, which is famed for offering some

of the most unique game watching experiences in Africa. We will reach Etosha in the afternoon, where we'll enjoy our first game drive before heading to the rest camp.

Route: Kamanjab to Etosha National Park

Included Highlight: Afternoon game drive in Nomad truck

Facilities - Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

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

OVERNIGHT: NWR: Okaukuejo or Halali

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 12: Second day in Etosha

We will spend most of the day exploring the Etosha National Park, searching for the wildlife that call this wildlife sanctuary home. No day on safari is ever the same, so keep your eyes out for any special sightings.

Route: Etosha National Park Included Highlight: Full day game drive in Nomad truck

Facilities - Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

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

OVERNIGHT: NWR: Okaukuejo or Halali

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 13: Windhoek

Today we make our way to Namibia's capital city of Windhoek, which was officially founded in 1890 when the Germans built a fort and started to occupy the area permanently. Upon arrival, we will take a short walk through the city, viewing some of its most popular landmarks.

Route: Etosha National Park to Windhoek

Included Highlight: Walk through Windhoek with your guide

Facilities - Camping & Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom

OVERNIGHT: Heja Game Lodge

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 14: From Namibia to Botswana

We make our way east today, crossing the border into Botswana and the Kalahari Desert, one of the homes of the San people. This afternoon, we'll head out on a guided walk with the San community, which provides great insight into their way of life. Tonight, we enjoy an evening of dance, song and story-telling - key components in the Sans' way of life.

Route: Windhoek to Ghanzi

Included Highlight: San Guided Walk (could take place the next morning) / San Tribal dance in evening

Facilities - Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

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

OVERNIGHT: Ghanzi Trail Blazers

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 15: Okavango Delta

We start the day early as we make our way to Maun. Upon arrival, you have the chance to go on an optional scenic flight over the Okavango Delta (time and weather permitting). Tonight, our guide will give us a breakdown for tomorrow's full day safari.

Those guests who have pre-purchased the 2-night package – will board the flight into the Delta upon arrival in Maun and will re-join the group on the morning of day 17. Please speak to your consultant for your programme of the Okavango Delta Excursion.

Route: Ghanzi to Maun

Optional Activity: Okavango Delta scenic flight

Facilities - Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

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

OVERNIGHT: Sedia Riverside Lodge or Mokoro Lodge

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 16: Exploring the Delta

One of the best ways to explore the waterways of the Okavango Delta is in a dugout canoe called a mokoro. We head out early today until we reach the poling station, where we'll meet the polers who will guide our mokoros through the delta.

Once we reach one of the many islands in the delta, a nature walk can be taken with your poler. Whilst the mokoro ride may not primarily be a game viewing activity, there is a variety of game that can be spotted here, including, elephant, giraffe, kudu, impala and zebra.

Route: Maun – poling station – Okavango Delta – Maun

Included Highlight: Okavango Delta Day Excursion

Facilities - Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

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

OVERNIGHT: Sedia Riverside Lodge or Mokoro Lodge

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 17: Nata

We say goodbye to Maun (reuniting with the travellers who chose the upgrade package) and make our way to the town of Nata. We'll spend most of the day travelling and once you reach Nata, you'll have the chance to book an afternoon guided game drive to the Makgadigadi Pans, which serves as a breeding ground for many water birds such as pelican and flamingo.

Route: Maun to Nata Optional Activity: Makgadigadi Salt Pans (Nata Sanctuary)

Facilities - Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

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

OVERNIGHT: Nata Lodge or Pelican Lodge

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 18: Chobe National Park

We rise early today as we make our way north to our camp at on the banks of the Chobe River, which is home to some of the highest concentration of African elephant on the planet. We'll have some time to settle in before we head out on a 4x4 game drive this afternoon, giving you a good opportunity to get up close and personal to these

gentle giants.

We end the day with a relaxing boat cruise on the Chobe River and dinner around the campfire.

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: Two per room with en-suite bathroom

OVERNIGHT: Thebe River Safaris

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 19: Victoria Falls

We say goodbye to Botswana today as we cross the border into Zimbabwe and travel towards the Victoria Falls - one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World and the major waterfall on the Zambezi River in Africa.

You have the day free to explore this natural wonder at your leisure. There are a range of optional adventure activities to enjoy as well if you're looking for an adrenaline rush. If you're looking to relax, there are various craft markets and coffee shops to enjoy.

Route: Kasane to Victoria Falls
Optional Activity: Visit the Vic Falls, Zambezi Sunset Cruise, Bungee Jump, Helicopter Flights, White Water Rafting

Facilities - Camping & Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom

OVERNIGHT: Victoria Falls Rainbow Hotel

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 20: Victoria Falls

The tour comes to an end after breakfast. With the variety of activities on offer in Victoria Falls, feel free to try some of them at your leisure.

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

OVERNIGHT: Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: None

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: 19 breakfasts, 11 lunches and 15 dinners

Excluded

- International Flights (available on request)
- Visa fees if required

- Activity Package (2019 only), Okavango Delta upgrade and 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.

Single room supplement Accommodated (SAOVGS)

Min numbers: 1 person

Price: \$665.00

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.

Okavango Delta Upgrade (camping)

Min numbers: 1 person

Price: \$240.00

This Okavango Delta Upgrade is designed for travellers who have booked the Camping version of this tour and would like to experience the Delta and its waterways in a bit more depth. On arrival in Maun you will leave the truck and its crew, and any travellers who have not purchased the upgrade, and travel into the Delta. You will need to pack a small overnight bag for this excursion and may leave other luggage and valuables locked inside your locker in the truck.

Accommodation is in two-person dome tents with rustic ablutions. You should expect to share a room (single tents are not available). All meals are included during your stay.

Day 1 - Maun to the Okavango Delta

After arriving in Maun you will be met and transferred to the mokoro station where you will meet your guides and polers who will accompany you into the Delta for the next 2 days. Following a safety briefing, we board the mokoros and head out across the waterways to our overnight stop on one of the many islands.

Overnight: [Afro Treks Safaris](#)

Day 2 - Okavango Delta

It's an early start today for tea and coffee at sunrise to make the most of the best wildlife viewing times. We'll head out from the camp for a guided bush walk, before returning for brunch. The afternoon is then free to relax around the camp and enjoy the sights and sounds of the bush around you. Late in the afternoon you board the mokoros again

to explore the waterways around the camp. We'll then return to the camp for sundowners.

Overnight: [Afro Treks Safaris](#)

Day 3 – Okavango Delta to Maun

We have a more relaxed start to the day today, and after breakfast you'll return to the mokoro station where a vehicle will await to transfer you back to Maun to rejoin the truck and your fellow travellers. The normal tour itinerary then continues.

Extra day in Cape Town - pre-tour

Min numbers: 1 person

Price: \$70.00

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.

Extra day in Victoria Falls - post-tour

Min numbers: 1 person

Price: \$99.00

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.

Okavango Delta Upgrade (accommodated)

Min numbers: 1 person

Price: \$930.00

This Okavango Delta Upgrade is designed for travellers who have booked the Accommodated version of this tour would like to experience the Delta and its waterways in a bit more depth, while staying in a deluxe island camp. On arrival in Maun you will leave the truck and its crew, and any travellers who have not purchased the upgrade, and take a flight into the Delta. A 4x4 safari vehicle will then take you to the Mopiri Camp which will be your home for the next 2 nights (during very high water levels this transfer may be by boat). You will need to pack a small overnight bag for this excursion (absolute max 10kg) and may leave other luggage and valuables locked inside your locker in the truck.

The Mopiri Camp is a deluxe lodge situated on an island on the North Western edge of the Delta and is a great location for a water based exploration of the area. The main area consists of a large dining room, a separate lounge area, a deck overlooking the lagoon and a fire pit for cosy evenings chatting and looking at the stars. There is also a swimming pool with views over the floodplain. There are long wooden board walks winding around the island to each tent, providing privacy and peace and quiet. Accommodation is in deluxe permanent twin bedded en-suite tents. Due to the small size of the lodge, single accommodation can not be provided and you should expect to share a room. All meals are included during your stay.

As this is a water based camp, you should expect to see hippos, crocodiles, numerous species of birds, and if you're lucky some elephants. Lions and other large land game are rarely sighted in this area though.

Day 1 - Maun to the Okavango Delta

After arriving in Maun your guide will transfer you to Maun airport where you will board your flight into the Delta. On arrival a representative from the lodge will greet you and transfer you to the camp. After you have checked in, high tea will be served followed by a short island walk and a boat trip. During periods of very high water, the island walk may not be possible and your boat trip will be extended with sundowners on board.

Overnight: [Mopiri Camp](#)

Day 2 - Okavango Delta

It's an early start today to make the most of the best wildlife viewing times. After breakfast at the lodge we head out for a full day on the waterways, including a boat safari, nature walk, mokoro trip and a break for lunch on one of the many islands. We'll return to the camp in the afternoon for high tea before the evening is free to relax.

Overnight: [Mopiri Camp](#)

Day 3 – Okavango Delta to Maun

We have a more relaxed start to the day today, and after breakfast you'll return to the airstrip for the flight back to Maun where you'll be met and transferred back to the truck and your fellow travellers. The normal tour itinerary then continues.

Arrival airport transfer in Cape Town

Min numbers: 1 person

Price: \$30.00

This option adds an arrival airport transfer in Cape Town to your Overland tour with us. You will need to also book your pre-tour hotel accommodation with us in order to book this transfer.

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

Departure airport transfer in Victoria Falls

Min numbers: 1 person

Price: \$35.00

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.

Activity Package - The Grand Southern Safari 2019

Min numbers: 1 person

Price: \$185.00

This optional payment covers what we consider highly recommended activities on the tour. Separating these activities out is designed to help people with differing budgets. If required, the Activity Package should be pre-purchased prior to your arrival to guarantee availability and to help your guides plan ahead to help the smooth running of the tour.

Note - Prices may be recalculated at the time of payment based on current local exchange rates.

Note - From 2020 onwards we are phasing out Activity Packages and the majority of the activities listed below will be included in the main tour price. Please check the 2020 itinerary for details.

Activity

Country

Rooibos Tour farm visit	South Africa
Guided desert walk with local expert	Namibia
Makgadigadi Pans excursion	Botswana
Chobe National Park boat cruise	Botswana
Chobe National Park game drive	Botswana

Single room supplement Camping (SAOVGS)

Min numbers: 1 person

Price: \$110.00

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

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

Tour 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 unless you pay the single room supplement. This will provide you with a single room during any hotel stays and a tent just for yourself. 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. Single travellers will need to pay the additional single room supplement.

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. There is just no telling what could happen with road, weather, 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 5 to 14 hours in the truck, it all depends on the day.

The tour itinerary shows an indication of the distance to be covered on a particular day. Please don't assume that your travel time will be equal to that which you can travel in your car on the autobahn... no, it will be much, much slower! We will stop for shopping, bathroom breaks, photo stops, activities and a whole lot more. 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. 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 Small Group, Shoestring 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.

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.

4. Meals on Overland tours

Due to the nature of the overland trip, the majority of your meals will be cooked by our cook 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, guides 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 guides 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 the guides 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!

5. 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 assistant/cook who will help with 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. During the tour we may also use a variety of local specialist guides for activities and tours included in the itinerary.

6. 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.

7. 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.

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 vaccination may be 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 a [World Health Organisation map](#) of areas where the virus is present in monkeys and therefore a potential risk to humans. Please ensure you have this certificate with you and to hand if necessary.

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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. Activity Package, Delta Upgrade and Local 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.

For 2019 we then offer an additional '**Activity Package**' which includes a range of activities and tours which we consider to be strongly recommended to make the most of the destinations you will be visiting.

Our 2019 itineraries are written with this optional activity package included, with notes on each day of the itinerary where this applies. While you may still be able to book these activities while you are on the tour, they are then subject to availability. So, if you would like to do any of these activities, to avoid disappointment you should book the activity package in advance. You can do this any time before arrival.

Note: While our principle is to offer these activity packages at 'cost price', you may find that sometimes there is a difference between the price of our Activity Package and the sum of activity prices available locally. This can happen for several reasons; we set an annual rate while many of our suppliers have seasonal pricing; suppliers may charge in various different currencies, and we need to fix long term term exchange rates; and finally sometimes we may need to estimate prices where suppliers have not yet released them when our rates are published.

This activity package is being discontinued for 2020 departures, with more activities being included in the main tour price.

For those who want to have a more in depth lodge experience of the Okavango Delta in Botswana, we also offer two **Delta Upgrade** options. These leave the main tour on the day you arrive in Maun, head into the Delta, and then spend 2 nights there with a package of safari activities included. You then return to Maun to rejoin the main group.

The accommodated option flies into and out of the Delta and stays in a deluxe water based lodge. This upgrade requires booking in advance to secure availability on the flights and in the lodge. If you have chosen the Camping tour then a 2 night excursion by land into the park is also available, again with activities included but based on

camping at a different lodge inside the park.

In addition, both in 2019 and 2020 there are further **Locally Available Options** on this tour. These have been chosen to give you more of a taste of what is available in the region and sometimes to offer an adrenaline rush during a relatively sedate tour. All these local options are offered and operated by professional local activity providers and Encounters Travel is not responsible for your booking or time while taking any of these options. Prices for these options may be given on our website, but please bear in mind that are given as a guide only and may vary seasonally and can change from time to time. Availability is subject to seasonal daylight hours and our time-keeping that day.

Please check the Options section for more information and prices.

11. 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.

12. 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). [More information...](#)

You may arrange your own insurance, or you can take advantage of a comprehensive policy that we can arrange for you through Endsleigh Insurance which has been designed to be suitable for our tours. The policy is available to travellers of all nationalities and you do not need to live in the UK to take out the policy. For full details of cover provided, prices and to apply for one of our policies, please complete [travel insurance application form](#).

Note: Any country that borders the Mediterranean is considered as 'Europe' for the purposes of travel insurance (including Turkey, Israel, Egypt and Morocco). If you are doing a tour that visits one country in 'Europe' and one that is 'Worldwide' (for example, an Egypt and Jordan tour), then you need a 'Worldwide' policy. When completing the form you should enter your travel dates including any extra days involved in overnight flights or connecting travel between your home and the tour. Our policies are not able to cover any extra time or activities other than your tour and options booked with us and your travel to & from home.

Note - to comply with insurance sales regulations, our travel insurance policies are only available to customers booking directly with us. If you have booked through a travel agent you will need to arrange your own insurance.

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.

13. Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and an ABTA Member (Y4447) and you can be confident when booking with us that your money is safe and protected.

Financial failure insurance is also provided through Affirma to protect all customers for the land portion of your tour. Please see [our website](#) or [booking conditions](#) for more information.

14. 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).

15. 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

www.twitter.com/encounterstravl (yes, without the 'e')

16. 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.

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