

A Walker's World

BEST OF ZIMBABWE & BOTSWANA

Lodge Safari 15 days / 14 nights Victoria Falls to Maun



Some of the world's greatest wildlife can be viewed in the game-rich parks of Zimbabwe and Botswana, the perfect partners for a safari. Our guides' knowledge and expertise of both countries will not only introduce you to fantastic game and bird life, but also an insight into the way of life there. Stay in comfortable lodge accommodation, each with its own African style. This safari is full of highlights and promises a rich experience.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Victoria Falls
- Spectacular sunset cruise on Chobe River
- Explore Lake Kariba from a houseboat
- Game-rich parks of Hwange & Moremi
- Okavango Delta traditional mokoro experience
- Matopos National Park & Cecil Rhodes grave
- Nata Bird Sanctuary & Makgadikgadi Pans
- Rhino tracking on foot and game drives

ITINERARY

Day 1 Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

On arrival you will be met and transferred from the airport to your hotel. If time permits we recommend some of the exciting activities available at the Falls:

- 15 minute helicopter flight (US\$150 excl levies)
- 22 minute helicopter flight (US\$235 excl levies)
- Boma dinner incl transfers (US\$55)
- Sunset cruise (US\$48)
- Zip line (US\$67)

- White water rafting full day (US\$150 – 140)
- Batoka Gorge hike & Ndebele village tour (US\$85)

At 6.00 pm meet your guide and group at the hotel for a tour briefing.
Overnight at the A'Zambezi River Lodge or similar. Lodge has a pool, bar and restaurant.



Day 2 Victoria Falls – Chobe National Park, Botswana

After breakfast accompany your guide on a tour of the magnificent Victoria Falls known by the local Kololo tribe as Mosi oa Tunya – “the smoke that thunders”. Travel by road to Kasane, Botswana, gateway to the Chobe National Park which has one of the largest concentrations of elephant found on the African continent. Afternoon at leisure. **B**

Driving: 100km
Overnight at Chobe Safari Lodge or similar.

Lodge has a pool, bar and restaurant.

Day 3 Chobe National Park, Botswana

Early morning game drive in Chobe National Park, then return to your lodge for breakfast late morning. Time free till you board a mid afternoon boat cruise on the Chobe River. Watch elephants, hippos, crocodiles and a variety of birds making for excellent up-close photo opportunities. **B**

Overnight at Chobe Bakwena Lodge or similar.

Days 4 – 5 Chobe - Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe

This morning cross the border into Zimbabwe and to our lodge situated in a private concession near Hwange National Park. Over the following two days we will have plenty of time to explore this vast wilderness, home to great herds of elephant, buffalo and zebra plus high concentrations of giraffe.

On arrival visit the Painted Dog Conservation Centre to witness work that is done to protect this endangered species. In the afternoon, if time permits, take an optional game drive on the concession.

The whole of the next day is spent on a full day game drive in Hwange National Park. **B, L, D**

Driving: approx 280 km

Accommodation for 2 nights at Sable Sands Camp or similar



Days 6 – 7 Lake Kariba, Zimbabwe

Drive to Binga at the south eastern shore of Lake Kariba where you board a luxury houseboat for a relaxing two night trip. Nestled in mountains, Lake Kariba is a man-made inland sea with enormous game reserves at its shoreline. Cruise to the Sengwe River for afternoon wildlife activities followed by sunset drinks and dinner on board. In the morning it's an early start to enjoy game viewing activities, guided walks or fishing depending on your preference. Return to your houseboat where brunch is served on board while you cruise to Elephant Bay to moor at one of



the islands with a sandy beach. Watch another amazing sunset over the lake then relax around a camp fire enjoying a beach barbecue under the starry sky.

B, L, D

Houseboat – cabins with ensuite shower & toilet, plunge pool, dining salon

Days 8 – 9 Matobo Hills, Zimbabwe

End your houseboat experience with a morning game viewing activity on the Lake then cruise back to Binga. After disembarking, travel south to the majestic Matobo Hills, an area of dramatic rock

landscapes steeped in tribal history. Explore this area of ancient mystery, once the home of the San (Bushman), rich in rock art it has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is home to black and white rhino and the world's densest population of leopard. Birdlife is prolific including the highest concentration of black eagles in the world. The Ndebele people buried their great king Mzilikazi here and it is also the place that Cecil John Rhodes was laid to rest at 'World's View'. Spend the next day in the national park, starting our morning with tracking rhino spoor by vehicle and on foot. In the afternoon explore the scenery and wildlife of the park on game drives, ending with a visit to Rhode's grave.

B, L, D

Driving: 485km



Accommodation: 2 nights at Camp Amalinda or similar. Camp has a pool, bar & restaurant

Days 10 Matobo Hills - Nata, Botswana

Drive through the savannah of southern Matabeleland to the Nata Bird Sanctuary, where you have the opportunity to enjoy the magnificent view over the Sowa pan which is part of the Greater Makgadikgadi Pans, and area of distinctive landscapes and extraordinary creatures. Please note, a visit to the Pans is subject to the road conditions and water levels as well as time constraints.

B, L, D

Driving: 375 km

Accommodation: Nata Lodge or similar – permanent safari tents with ensuite bathrooms, pool & bar.

Day 11 Makgadikgadi Pans

Very early morning departure to go to Planet Baobab near Gweta to embark on an expedition to Ntwetwe Pan, one of the two major pans that make up the Makgadikgadi Pans and amongst the largest salt pans in the world.

Ntwetwe Pan was fed by the Boteti River until it was left permanently dry following the construction of the Mopipi Dam, which provides water for the diamond mines at Orapa. This has left an extraordinary lunar landscape of rocky outcrops, dunes, islets and channels. Uniquely adapted desert species such as bat-eared foxes, springbok, kori bustards and the fascinating meerkats can be found here. Spend some time up-close and personal with the captivating meerkats to see how they interact with each other.



After lunch, visit a nearby village to get a glimpse of modern African village culture. A local guide whose knowledge has been inherited from his forefathers will introduce you to their customs and history followed by a visit to the local primary school then Kgotla, a traditional court that governs the village.

In the late afternoon, stroll with your guide through an impressive baobab grove as he explains the local ecology, geology and the unique biology of the baobabs, which are in fact not trees but the largest succulents in the world!

B, L, D

Driving: 200 km

Accommodation: Planet Baobab or similar – traditional huts with ensuite bathrooms pool & bar.

Day 12 Makgadikgadi Pans – Maun, Botswana

Travel to Maun, a bustling safari town and 'gateway to the Okavango Delta'. The afternoon is at leisure. You can book an optional scenic flight over the Okavango Delta to see the twisting turning waterways, channels and islands of this UNESCO World Heritage site.

B

Driving: 225 km

Accommodation: Thamalakane River Lodge or similar – chalets with ensuite bathrooms, pool, bar & restaurant.

Day 13 Greater Moremi Area

A day to remember! Board a mokoro (dug-out canoe) to pole gently through the thick vegetation of the Okavango Delta discovering a variety of birds and wildlife. Unlike other deltas, it flows into the Kalahari Desert without ever reaching the coast. After this wonderful excursion enjoy an afternoon game drive in the Moremi Game Reserve. End the day with a night drive to spot nocturnal animals that are more difficult to encounter during the day.

B, L, D



Driving: 150 km

Accommodation: Bedouin Bush Camp or similar – spacious tents with ensuite shower & toilet, dining area

Day 14 Moremi Game Reserve

Spend your last day game viewing in the Moremi Game Reserve which has an unprecedented concentration of wildlife. Return to your camp for dinner. **B, L, D**

Driving: 150 km

Accommodation: Bedouin Bush Camp or similar

Day 15 Transfer to Maun Airport.

Your safari ends after breakfast with a transfer to Maun Airport in time for your departure flight.

Price 2020:

Double/twin share from US\$4569.....SSup US\$1495

National Park fees US\$250

This safari can be booked on a private guided basis should you wish to choose the date you wish to commence - cost US\$5740 share twin/double

Schedule 2020:

26 March – 9 April

8 – 22 April

6 – 20 May

16 – 30 May

20 May – 3 June

5 – 19 June

20 June – 04 July **GTD**

4 – 18 July

9 – 23 July

Gtd – guaranteed departure

22 July – 05 August **GTD**

1 – 15 August

27 August – 10 September **GTD**

6 – 21 September **GTD**

25 Sep – 9 Oct

10 - 24 October **GTD**

4 – 18 November

09 - 23 November

GROUP SIZE: minimum 4 - maximum 12 guests

TRANSPORT



Vehicles used are fully equipped Toyota Land Cruisers, 12 seater, 4X4 safari vehicles or other appropriate vehicles with comfortable seating, large windows for game viewing, a music and PA system plus air-conditioning. All luggage, besides hand luggage and photo equipment, is carried on the vehicle, trailer or roof racks to ensure maximum comfort in the vehicle. For transfers between Victoria Falls and Hwange (or vice versa) 2X4 vehicles may be used.

ACCOMMODATION



Houseboat – Lake Kariba Planet Baobab – below left Tented Bush Camp – below right



You will stay in mid-range typical African standard lodge accommodation which are situated either in national parks, on the banks of a river, or in other places of interest. There will be a mix of lodges, chalets and tented camps, all with ensuite bathrooms. Some properties have swimming pools and bar areas.

TRAVELLING TIMES & DISTANCES

All travel times are affected by road conditions, border crossings, detours and weather conditions. Anticipated times are shown in the itinerary and these are subject unforeseen conditions. Please keep in mind that the time it takes to travel 100km in your home country is not equivalent to the time it takes to travel 100 km on Africa roads.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- 14 nights accommodation in rooms/tents/chalets with private bathroom
- MEALS: 14 X breakfast, 10 X lunch, 10 X dinner
- Transportation as stated in the itinerary
- Game-viewing activities as stated in the itinerary
- Mokoro excursion
- Chobe River Sunset Cruise
- Transfers on arrival ex Victoria Falls Airport and on departure day to Maun Airport
- Services of a professional guide plus local guides where stated in the itinerary

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Optional tours in Victoria Falls and Maun
- Tips & gratuities
- Visas if required
- Items of a personal nature
- Refreshments

Book through:

A Walker's World

Don't just see the world. Experience it.

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