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## 13 Day Namibia, Botswana & Zimbabwe

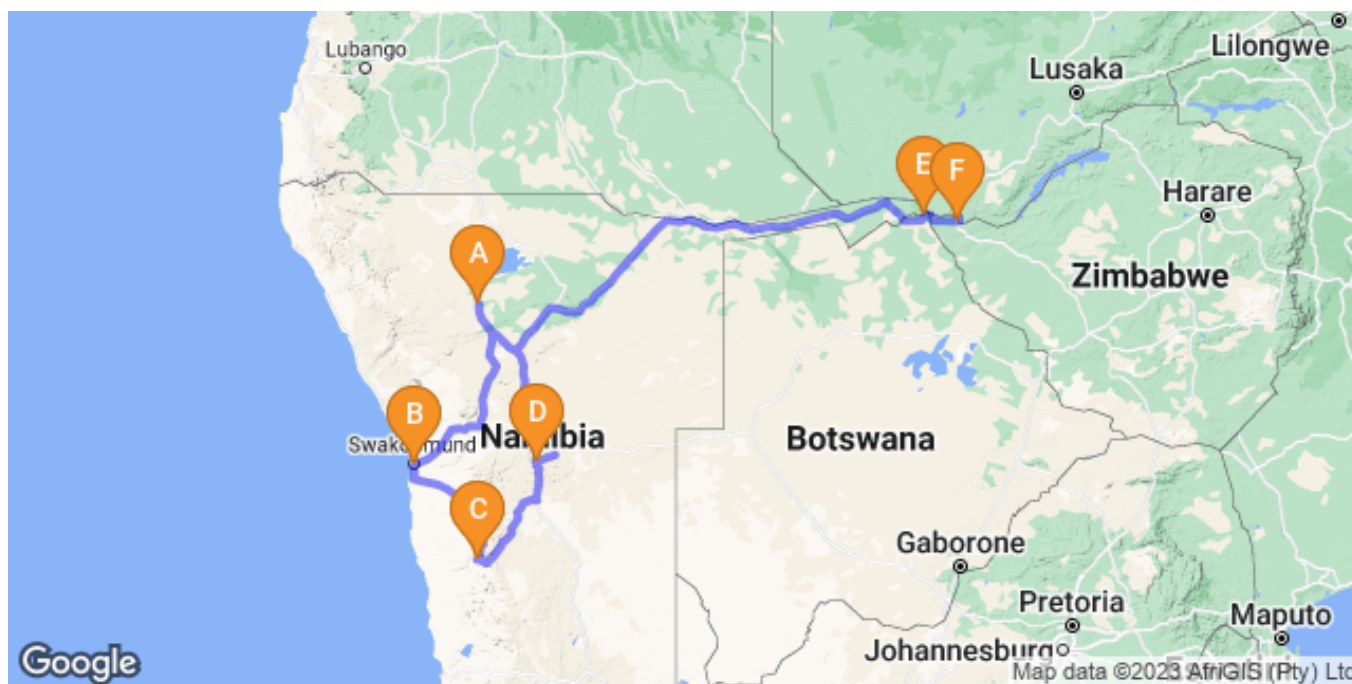
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*Etosha South - Swakopmund - Sesriem - Windhoek - Kasane - Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)*

*13 Days / 12 Nights*

**May**

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### Price:

USD depend how many pax (Namibia Portion)

USD depend on how many pax (Botswana & Zimbabwe portion)

### Included in the above price:

Meet & assist at Hosea Kutako International Airport, vehicle 4x4 Ford Ranger, guide services, fuel, daily water on tour, portage fees, road transfers in Zimbabwe & Botswana, accommodation, meals, activities and park fees as stated included.

### Excluded in the above price:

All international and local flights, personal insurance, visa fees, drinks, other meals, optional activities and items not stated as included.

### Tour Summary:

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Accommodation	Destination	Start	End	Basis	Room Type	Duration
Onguma Bush Camp	Etosha East	TBA	TBA	FB +	1 Double & 1x Twin Room	<b>2 Nights</b>
Strand Hotel	Swakopmund	TBA	TBA	FB	1 Double & 1x Twin Room	<b>2 Night</b>
Desert Grace Lodge	Sesriem	TBA	TBA	FB+	1 Double & 1x Twin Room	<b>2 Nights</b>
Windhoek Country Club Resort	Windhoek	TBA	TBA	FB+	1 Double & 1x Twin Room	<b>1 Night</b>
Chobe Safari Lodge	Kasane	TBA	TBA	FB+	1 Double & 1x Twin Room	<b>2 Nights</b>
Pioneers Victoria Falls	Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)	TBA	TBA	B&B	1 Double & 1x Twin Room	<b>3 Nights</b>

**Key**

TBA: To be advised

B&amp;B: Bed and Breakfast

FB: Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

FB+: Full Board Plus - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast, Lunch and Activities

**Day 1: Onguma Bush Camp, Etosha East****Day Itinerary**

Meet and assist at Hosea Kutako International Airport by your Mrembo Safaris representative + guide, your name will be printed on a A4 paper, change money, receive local sim cards with WIFI package, tour briefing and head to lodge. Dinner and overnight.

**Distance: 572km**      **Travel Time: 6Hr11 Minutes**

**Etosha East**

In the vast arid space of Northern Namibia lies one of Southern Africa's best loved wildlife sanctuaries. The Etosha National Park offers excellent game viewing in one of Africa's most accessible venues. Zebra and springbok are scattered across the endless horizon, while the many waterholes attract endangered black rhinoceros, lion, elephant and large numbers of antelope. Etosha, meaning 'place of dry water', is enclosed by a huge, flat calcrete depression (or pan) of about 5 000km<sup>2</sup>. The 'Pan' provides a great, parched, silver-white backdrop of shimmering mirages to an area of semi-arid savannah grassland and thorn scrub. The pan itself contains water only after very good rains and sometimes for only a few days each year, but is enough to stimulate the growth of a blue-green algae which lures thousands of flamingos.



### Overnight: Onguma Bush Camp

Onguma Bush Camp offers 16 rooms and is ideal for families with children. Family loft rooms ensure the kids will have a great safari. The lounge and dining areas overlook a stunning waterhole that affords great opportunities to see nature at play around the clock. You don't even have to leave the camp to see game – they come to you! What better place to enjoy a sundowner drink.



### Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

## Day 2: Onguma Bush Camp, Etosha East

### Day Itinerary

This day is purely devoted to a full day game drive in Etosha National Park in your guide. Lunch inside the park and park fees (included). Evening is spent at leisure. Pm sundowner drive in Onguma Reserve (included). Dinner and overnight.



### Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch + Full day Etosha Game Drive & Pm Onguma sundowner drive

## Day 3: Strand Hotel, Swakopmund

### Day Itinerary

Today deserves an early start, after breakfast depart to Swakopmund. Have your lunch pack on the road. Arriving in Swakopmund, explore the Mondesa township and optional not included quad biking & camel ride if time permits. Dinner at Tug Restaurant (included).

**Distance: 662km      Travel Time: 6Hr48 Minutes**

### Swakopmund

Founded in 1892 as the main harbour for German South West Africa, Swakopmund is often described as being more German than Germany. Now a seaside resort, Swakopmund is the capital of the Skeleton Coast tourism area and has plenty to keep visitors happy. The quirky mix of German and Namibian influences, colonial-era buildings and the cool sea breeze make it very popular.



### Overnight: Strand Hotel Swakopmund

The Strand Hotel Swakopmund will be located directly on the mole (promenade) in Swakopmund, surrounded on three sides by the Atlantic Ocean, with direct access to the main beach in town. On the fourth side it will back up to the town's beautiful central park, through which it is a short five minute walk to the historic centre of this charming, German, Victorian era colonial seaside town, with all its shops, cafés, restaurants and bars. When Strand Hotel Swakopmund opens, with its extensive, unique and creatively entertaining restaurants, bars, deli, lobby-lounge, sea facing terraces and shops, set on this historic and iconic site, it's destined to become a destination in itself for all visitors to and residents of Swakopmund. Its architectural inspiration finds its roots deep in Namibian German colonial history and reflects this in a tasteful contemporary manner. The interiors are residential in nature, and the brief to all designers involved was to create a non-hotel. One as charming and welcoming as the town it is in. Simply very warm and comfortable, and as they say in German: "gemütlich" with a genuine "sense-of-place" Every aspect of the Strand Hotel Swakopmund is being developed according to international four-star standards.



### Basis

Full Board Plus - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast & Lunch and Activities (Optional not included quad biking & camel ride if time permits)



## Day 4: Strand Hotel, Swakopmund

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### Day Itinerary

Today deserves an early start; departing to Walvis Bay at 07h30 for your Marine Dune combo (Boat cruise in the morning and afternoon 4x4 Sandwich Harbour Tour (champagne, soft drinks, cold beers, fresh Oysters and finger food included). Dinner at The Tug Restaurant (included).

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#### *Dolphin Catamaran Cruises*

Enjoy an adventure packed tour to Pelican Point and Walvis Bay's beautiful bay area. The chances of encountering dolphins, whales, turtles, seals and Mola Mola (sunfish) make the search for the marine big 5 and adventurous tour by enjoying sparkling wine, fresh oysters and other mouth-watering snacks aboard the spacious and comfortable catamarans.



#### *Sandwich Harbour 4x4*

Located roughly 50 kilometres from Walvis Bay, Sandwich Harbour is a natural lagoon framed by sand dunes on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other. It is a prime angling and bird-watching site, with countless sea birds coming to feed on the rich fish population, including rare white pelican and vivid flocks of pink flamingos. Many companies based in Walvis Bay, offer 4x4 excursions to Sandwich Harbour.



**Overnight: Strand Hotel Swakopmund**

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### Basis

Full Board Plus - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast & Lunch and Activities (Marine Dune Combo)

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## Day 5: The Desert Grace Gondwana Collection Namibia, Sossusvlei

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### Day Itinerary

After breakfast, travel to Sossusvlei en route don't miss the photographic opportunity at the Tropic of Capricorn sign and a stop at Solitaire to taste Africa's best Apple Pie. Evening is spent at leisure at your lodge. Dinner and overnight.

**Distance: 303km**      **Travel Time: 4Hr29 Minutes**

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## Sesriem

As there is no accommodation at Sossusvlei, visitors to this desert wilderness are likely to end up staying at Sesriem, 65 kilometres away, where camps and lodges serve as a base from which to explore the dunes. Sesriem Canyon, a deep chasm carved through the rocks by water, is a striking natural feature of the area that is best explored on foot. Stony walls rise up sharply on both sides of the canyon, while birds roost in its crags and lizards dart along the ledges. The canyon's name was coined when early settlers used it as a water source, using six lengths of leather ('sesriem – six thongs) tied together to lower buckets into the water at the base of canyon.)



## Overnight: The Desert Grace Gondwana Collection Namibia

Graceful spaces and gracious hospitality imbue this modern lodge with its elegance of yesteryear, spirited character and refreshingly stylish interior. Sip on a pink gin while appreciating the expansive desert scenery from one of the 24 bungalows, each with its own plunge pool. Location: 60 km north of Sesriem on the C 19 (Sossusvlei Area).



## Basis

Full Board Plus – Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast, Lunch

## Day 6: The Desert Grace Gondwana Collection Namibia, Sossusvlei

### Day Itinerary

Today deserves an early start, head to Sesriem and embark on the Sossusvlei excursion; visit Sossusvlei (dune 45), Elim Dunes, Deadvlei, and Sesriem Canyon by with your guide. Park fees and lunch at Sossusvlei Lodge (included). Evening is spent at leisure.

### Sossusvlei

Sossusvlei is where you will find the iconic red sand dunes of the Namib. The clear blue skies contrast with the giant red sand dunes to make this one of the natural wonders of Africa and a photographer's heaven. Aside from the attractions at Sossusvlei - Dune 45, Hiddenvlei, Big Daddy and Deadvlei - other attractions in the area include the Sesriem Canyon and Namib-Naukluft National Park, where the mountains of the Namib meet its plains.



### ***Dead Vlei***

This ancient clay pan was once an oasis, studded with acacias and fed by a river that suddenly changed course, leaving the earth to dry up along with the trees it previously supported. So dry were the climatic conditions that the trees never decomposed – instead they were entirely leached of moisture so that today, 900 years later, they remain as desiccated, blackened sentinels dotting the pan's cracked surface. Surrounded by the red-pink dunes of the Namibia Desert, they create a surreal spectacle that is a photographer's dream.



### ***Dune 45***

Named for its location 45 kilometres past the town of Sesriem, Dune 45 is renowned for its elegant shape, which – along with its position close to the road – have earned it the distinction of 'most photographed dune in the world'. If you're not keen for the strenuous hike to the top of Big Daddy, Dune 45 is a more forgiving alternative, standing at only 80 metres and featuring a much gentler gradient.



### ***Sesriem Canyon***

Sesriem Canyon, a deep chasm carved through the rocks by water, is a striking natural feature of the area that is best explored on foot. Stony walls rise up sharply on both sides of the canyon, while birds roost in its crags and lizards dart along the ledges. The canyon's name was coined when early settlers used it as a water source, using six lengths of leather ('ses riem – six thongs) tied together to lower buckets into the water at the base of canyon.



**Namib Sky Balloon Safaris (recommended – at an additional cost for the next morning)**

***Namib Sky Balloon Safaris Price Per Person USD 460.00***

Situated in the heart of the Namib Naukluft Park, Sossusvlei, one of the most fascinating landscapes in Namibia, is a photographer's dream. Gigantic orange dunes, dramatic shadows, undulating plains and Rocky Mountains create a magical kaleidoscope of colours and shapes. To the east, Namib Rand Nature Reserve vast sandy plains are surrounded by towering



granite mountains and rolling dunes. Here, in the oldest desert on the planet, amazingly adapted animals and plants come together to form one of the most visually stunning ecosystems in the world. And truly the best way to experience the heart of the Namib desert is with a hot air balloon safari. Watching the spectacular sunrise over this magnificent landscape from a silent hot air balloon is the experience of a lifetime, never to be forgotten. At landing, you come back to earth with an “Out Of Africa” style Champagne breakfast set up in the middle of nowhere. Your pilot will present you with a flight certificate before you take a leisurely nature drive back to the pick-up point.




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### Overnight: The Desert Grace Gondwana Collection Namibia

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#### Basis

Full Board Plus - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast, Lunch and Activities (Sossusvlei excursion)

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### Day 7: Windhoek Country Club Resort, Windhoek

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#### Day Itinerary

Today journey takes us back to Windhoek. Explore city centre & Katutura Township with your guide. Lunch at Joe's Beer House and dinner at your hotel (included).

**Distance: 261.1km   Travel Time: 4Hr6Minutes**

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#### Windhoek

Windhoek is Namibia's capital, home to an international airport and a plethora of restaurants, shops, entertainment venues and accommodation options. The city is clean, safe and well-organised, with a colonial legacy that is reflected in its many German eateries and shops, and the widespread use of the German language. Windhoek has an interesting mix of historical architecture and modern buildings, many of which are worth a look, including the Alte Feste (Old Fort), the 1896 Christuskirche (Christ Church), and the more contemporary Supreme Court.




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### Overnight: Windhoek Country Club Resort

The upscale rooms with glamorous decor feature free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs and balconies, as well as minibars, and tea and coffeemaking facilities. Upgraded rooms and suites have separate living areas and/or views of the golf



course. Other amenities include a restaurant, a cocktail lounge and a whiskey bar. There's also a pool with a poolside bar, a fitness centre and a casino, plus a tennis court and a hair salon.



## Basis

Full Board Plus - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast, Lunch and Activities (Windhoek city tour)

## Day 8: Chobe Safari Lodge, Kasane

### Day Itinerary

Breakfast and at 07H30 you will be picked up for your transfer to Hosea Kutako Airport for your 10H30 flight to Victoria Falls. Say goodbye to your guide. Arriving in Vic Falls you will be received by our ground handler, transfer to Chobe Safari Lodge. Lunch at your lodge (own account - A la Carte lunch). At 15H00 embark on the afternoon game drive. Dinner and overnight.

**Distance: 103.8km**      **Travel Time: 1Hr24 Minutes**

### Kasane

Kasane is almost part of the Chobe National Park as there are no boundary fences separating the village from the park. In fact, game such as elephant and hippo are often spotted in Kasane. If on the lookout for game in the area, pay a visit to the large, dead trees along the Sedudu Valley Road as they often act as temporary homes for leopards. These aren't the only enticing trees in Kasane – the village is also the proud owner of an old baobab tree whose tree trunk was once a local prison. Kasane is the main town servicing Chobe and the Linyanti.



### Overnight: Chobe Safari Lodge

Chobe Safari Lodge is situated in Kasane on the banks of the Chobe River and shares a border with Chobe National Park. Right on the doorstep is the meeting of four African countries: Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Zambia. Chobe Safari Lodge therefore offers an excellent getaway location to Chobe, Victoria Falls or Caprivi. The close proximity to Victoria Falls International Airport, Livingstone International Airport and Kasane International Airport makes it easily accessible, with daily road transfers or charter flights connecting all these airports with Chobe Safari Lodge. The lodge has been recently renovated; matching a magical lodge experience to the spectacular game viewing.



### Basis

Full Board Plus - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast, Lunch and Activities (afternoon game drive)

## Day 9: Chobe Safari Lodge, Kasane

### Day Itinerary

Early wake for your 6 a.m. game drive in the Chobe National Park (3 hours duration). Breakfast at your lodge. at 14H00 optional 2 hours Namibian Village Walk USD 46 per person can be booked at the lodge. Evening at leisure. Dinner and overnight.



### Basis

Full Board Plus - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast, Lunch and Activities (a.m. game drive)

## Day 10: Pioneers Victoria Falls, Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)

### Day Itinerary

After breakfast, at 10H00 you will be picked up by Shearwater Adventures for your road transfer back to Victoria Falls. Check in at your lodge and afternoon is spent at leisure. Dinner, we recommend at your lodge's Restaurant (own account - A la Carte)

**Distance: 85.52km**      **Travel Time: 1Hr 09 Minutes**

### Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)

One of the original natural wonders of the world, the Victoria Falls is a World Heritage Site and an extremely popular tourism attraction. Known locally as 'The Smoke that Thunders' this spectacle is accessible from both Zambia and Zimbabwe and it is an ideal place to combine game viewing and water sports. There is excellent fishing, a terrifying bungee jump and arguably the best commercial white water rafting in the world.





### Overnight: Pioneers Victoria Falls

Set in lush gardens with beautifully manicured lawns, this fifty-room lodge is a great option for those who value comfort and elegance. The rooms are spacious and tastefully decorated in a classic style, and each has a clear and open view of the garden.

The heart of “Pioneers” Lodge is the centrally located main area. The layout and classic décor here is extremely welcoming with a serene and stylish lounge which is airy and comfortable, and the rich inside dining room is certainly nostalgic and inviting. The guests also have the option of relaxing and dining on the spacious and expansive terrace, overlooking lush gardens. There is a large saloon style bar area which serves a variety of cold and hot beverages, including local craft beer made from our very own Zambezi water. For the modern traveller, Wi-Fi is important and this is readily available throughout the lodge. Well placed in the lush gardens are two swimming pools for the guests to use at their leisure. In addition to these, a day spa, TV Room and a meetings room are also available on the property. Pioneers is a family friendly property



### Basis

Bed and Breakfast + cultural tour

## Day 11: Pioneers Victoria Falls, Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)

### Day Itinerary

After breakfast, at 08H45 you will be picked up for your guided tour of the falls (park fees included). Lunch we recommend The Look Out Café (own account - A la Carte Lunch). Dinner, we recommend at The Three Monkeys Restaurant (own account - A la Carte)





### Basis

Bed and Breakfast + guided tour of the falls

## Day 12: Pioneers Victoria Falls, Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)

### Day Itinerary

Today is yet another adventure, at 09H30 you will be picked up for your 15 minutes helicopter flight to watch waterfalls from the sky. At 11H00 you will be picked up for a Village Tour (2 hours long). Lunch we recommend Baines Restaurant (Own account - A la Carte lunch). Evening is spent at leisure. Dinner, we recommend The Boma & drum show (USD 60 per person with return transfers).



### Basis

Bed and Breakfast + 15 minutes helicopter flight + Village Tour

## Day 13: End of Itinerary

### Day Itinerary

After breakfast transfer to Harry Mwanga Nkumbula International Airport [LVI]. Optional activity can be added depending on your departure flight details. Say good bye to your driver and have a safe flight back home.

**Distance: 21.01km      Travel Time: 33 minutes**

### Basis

Bed and Breakfast

## Terms and Conditions

Non-Refundable 25% Deposit - Upon Confirmation.

100% Payment – 45 Days prior to arrival

Cancellation 45 days or less prior to arrival 100% Cancellation Fees

## Travel Information



With its well-developed infrastructure, some of the best tourist facilities in Africa and an impressive list of breathtaking natural wonders, touring Namibia is truly a pleasure. Visit the capital of Windhoek and the lovely coastal town of Swakopmund to discover remnants of the country's German influence, reflected in the architecture, culture, cuisine and the annual Oktoberfest celebrations. To properly appreciate this extraordinary country, you will have to venture out of the cities to explore the remarkable natural landscapes Namibia has to offer. These include: the impressive Fish River Canyon Park; the vast Etosha National Park teeming with local subspecies, such as desert lions, desert elephants and the Hartmann's Mountain Zebra; the hauntingly beautiful Kalahari Desert; and of course the Namib Desert stretching for nearly 1000 km along the magnificent Atlantic coastline. Namibia is an ideal destination for travellers seeking an unforgettable African experience in a uniquely beautiful untamed wilderness.

### *Banking and Currency*

#### **Currency**

Namibia uses the Namibian Dollar (N\$) this is linked on a one to one exchange with the South African Rand. The Rand is legal tender in Namibia, but the N\$ cannot be used in South Africa.

If you are wishing to purchase currency before arriving in Namibia, it is easiest to buy Rand as the Namibian Dollar is seldom available in banks outside of Namibia.

#### **Banking**

Banks are found in most towns, and are generally open from 09h00 to 15h30 on weekdays and 08h30 to 11h00 on Saturdays. Closed on Sundays and public holidays. Most of them offer foreign exchange services - with cash, bank and credit cards as well as travellers cheques.

You can also obtain cash from many of the ATMs. Several international banks have branches in main city centres. Always advise your bank that you are travelling outside of the country as they might block your purchases if they have not been informed.

### *Travel, Transport and Getting Around*

Public transport in Namibia is geared towards the needs of the local populace, and is confined to main roads between major population centres. Although cheap and reliable, it is of little use to the traveller as most of Namibia's tourist attractions lie off the beaten track.

It is easy to travel around Namibia by car, and a 2WD vehicle is perfectly adequate for most journeys. However, long distances, poor mobile phone coverage outside of main towns and infrequent petrol stations that only accept cash mean that planning ahead is vital. There are major airlines that fly into Windhoek and Swakopmund. Other destinations are reachable by car or charter flight.

Namibians drive on the left and all signposts are in English. Seat belts must be worn at all times and talking in a mobile phone while driving is prohibited. The general speed limit is 120km/h on tarred roads outside of towns and 100km/h on gravel roads. In built up areas, the speed limit is 60km/h.

### ***Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice***

Traditional Namibian cuisine is rarely served and so the food at restaurants tends to be European in style and is, generally, of a very high standard.

Namibia is very meat-orientated, and many menu options will feature steaks from various animals. However, there is usually a vegetarian and seafood section offered by most camps and restaurants.

In the supermarkets you'll find pre-wrapped fresh fruit and vegetables (though the more remote the areas you visit, the smaller your choice), and plenty of canned foods, pasta, rice, bread, etc. Most of this is imported from South Africa.

The water in Namibia's main towns is generally safe to drink, though it may taste a little metallic if it has been piped for miles. Natural sources should usually be purified, though water from underground springs and dry riverbeds seldom causes any problems. However, filtered and bottled water are readily available in most towns and all camps, lodges and hotels.

### ***Climate and Weather***

Partially covered by the Namib Desert, one of the world's driest deserts, Namibia's climate is generally very dry and pleasant – it's fine to visit all year round. Namibia only receives a fraction of the rain experienced by countries further east. From June to August the night-time temperatures in drier areas can be close to freezing, but it warms up rapidly during the day, when the sky is usually clear and blue. It's now very much 'peak season' for most safari areas: the land is dry in most areas so the animals congregate around the few available water sources.

### ***Clothing and Dress Recommendations***

Namibians have a somewhat relaxed attitude to dress codes. A jacket and tie is very unusual. In fact, long trousers and a shirt with buttons are often quite adequate for a formal occasion or work wear. A pair of sensible shoes, jeans and a t-shirt is recommended.

During the day it is generally hot, so pack light weight loose fitting clothes in natural fabrics, such as linen or cotton, that will keep you cool and are easy to wash and dry. Long sleeved shirts and long trousers will protect you against mosquitoes at night.

### ***Internet Availability***

Telecom Namibia offers a service called wi-space. You purchase a wi-space voucher that allows you to connect to WiFi wherever you see the wi-space logo (about 40 locations in Namibia).

Alternatively good WiFi access is available at most holiday accommodation venues across the country (free / paid).

### ***Electricity and Plug Standards***

Current is 220/240 volts at 50 cycles per second. A three-point round-pin adapter plug should be brought for your electrical appliances. Such adapters are also available at major airports.

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Despite recent and surprisingly rapid modernization, Botswana's cities provide little in the way of tourist attractions. However, what the cities lack in excitement, the surrounding wilderness areas more than make up for in outstanding natural beauty. The country's primary tourist draw card is undoubtedly the vast red expanse of the Kalahari desert and its remarkably beautiful Okavango Delta - the largest inland delta in the world provide a haven for an abundance of African wildlife. Other highlights include the impressive Makgadikgadi salt pans where visitors are privy to massive zebra migrations during the flood season; the Savuti plains which host large prides of lions; and the Tsodilo Hills where 4500 rock paintings form a unique record of human settlement over many millennia.

### ***Banking and Currency***

#### **Currency**

Botswana's currency is Pula (which means 'rain' in Setswana). It is divided into 100 thebe (which means 'shield' in Setswana). Travellers' cheques and foreign currency may be changed at banks, bureaux de change and authorised hotels.

The US dollar, Euros, British Pound and the South African Rand are the most easily convertible currencies (and accepted by some establishments - but, generally, then an inflated rate of exchange will be applied).

#### **Banking**

Seven main commercial banks, as well as a number of foreign exchange bureaux, operate in Botswana. Operating hours are Monday to Friday 08h30 to 15h30 and Saturday 08h30 to 10h45.

Full banking services are available in major towns, although ATMs are sprouting up all over the country. Most credit cards are accepted at hotels and restaurants. Cultural sites and community art and craft outlets usually only accept cash.

### ***Travel, Transport and Getting Around***

Public transport in Botswana is geared towards the needs of the local populace and is confined to main roads between major population centres. Although cheap and reliable, it is of little use to the traveller as most of Botswana's tourist attractions lie off the beaten track.

Driving off the main roads in Botswana is only recommended to experts in 4x4 vehicles, that are equipped correctly. Most lodges offer transfers or they can be arranged. If, however, you will be driving in Botswana: your home driving licence will be accepted (with an official English translation if necessary; driving is on the left side of the road; and the national speed limit is on tarred roads is 120km/h and 60km/h in towns and villages.

#### **Be sure to watch out for wild animals on the roads!**

There are major airports in Maun, Kasane and Gaborone, while smaller charter flights are used to get to the other top attractions and camps.

### ***Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice***

Safari lodges and camps serve international-style cuisine, generally of an extremely high standard, along with local beer and imported wine and spirits. Good restaurants and bars can be found in main towns, often within hotels. Beef and goat are very popular meats. Elsewhere, food is more basic: millet and sorghum porridge are the local staples.

Tap water is considered safe to drink, although outside main cities and towns, visitors are advised to check first and sterilise water if in any doubt. Bottled water is available in most tourist centres. Filtered water is available at most camps and shops offer bottled water - it is advised to be well stocked of bottled water if you are travelling off the beaten track. Milk is pasteurised, and dairy products, local meat, poultry, seafood, fruit and vegetables are generally safe.

A discretionary five-to-ten-percent tip is typical for restaurant bills. In many places, a service charge is automatically added. It is customary to tip the game guide and lodge staff while on safari.

### ***Climate and Weather***

Botswana's climatic pattern is typical of southern Africa, although its rainfall is less than countries further east. The rains in Botswana come mostly between June to August the night-time temperatures in drier areas can be close to freezing, but it warms up rapidly during the day, when the sky is usually clear and blue. It's now very much 'peak season' for most safari areas: the land is dry in most areas so the animals congregate around the few available water sources.

### ***Clothing and Dress Recommendations***

In summer, lightweight, lightcoloured cottons are preferable. Avoid synthetic materials and black clothing, as they increase perspiration and discomfort. In winter, wear trousers, long-sleeved shirts / blouses and jerseys. From May – August, night temperatures can fall below zero degrees celsius, so warm jerseys and jackets are vital, especially on morning and evening game drives. Garments of neutral colours that blend with the bush and forest are advisable for safaris and game viewing. Bring a lightweight jacket and/or jersey for unexpected temperature changes or rain. Closed, comfortable walking shoes or gym shoes are a must in all seasons. Special attention should be given to protection from the sun. Bring a sunhat, good quality sunscreen, sun lotion and polarised sunglasses. Wide brimmed sun hats are essential.

### ***Internet Availability***

Some hotels, lodges and guest houses offer internet access or WiFi (free or paid), and there are internet cafe's in Gaborone and Maun. Internet access in more remote rural areas is often hard to come by.

### ***Electricity and Plug Standards***

Electrical sockets (outlets) in Botswana are the "Type M " South African SABS1661 ("Large" 15 amp BS-546) sockets. This is actually an old British standard. The "Type M " South African plug and socket is not to be confused with the "Type D " Indian plug and socket. In pictures, they look very similar, but the South African type is much larger than the Indian type, and they are physically incompatible. If your appliance's plug doesn't match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to plug in. Travel plug adapters simply change the shape of your appliance's plug to match whatever type of socket you need to plug into.

Electrical sockets (outlets) in Botswana usually supply electricity at between 220 and 240 volts AC. If you're plugging in an appliance that was built for 220-240 volt electrical input, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need.

But travel plug adapters *do not change the voltage*, so the electricity coming through the adapter will still be the same 220-240 volts the socket is supplying. If you need to use appliances that are not compatible with 220-240 volt electrical input, you will need a voltage converter.



A nation of spectacular natural beauty, friendly people and rich culture, Zimbabwe's status as one of Africa's leading safari destinations was dampened for years by its political instability. But now that the country is transcending its strife and returning to a state of equilibrium, it is once again emerging as a vacation highlight of the continent. Victoria Falls – known to locals as 'The Smoke That Thunders' – is one of the seven natural wonders of the world and the sheer power of this massive body of water plunging into the Zambezi Gorge is awe-inspiring and unforgettable. Lake Kariba, with its game-rich shores and islands, is an idyllic safari spot featuring mind-blowing sunsets; Hwange National Park is known for its huge herds of elephants; and a kayak trip down the Zambezi through the Mana Pools National Park will appeal to the intrepid traveller, providing close encounters with crocodiles, hippos and a host of other wildlife.

### ***Banking and Currency***

#### **Currency**

Zimbabwe uses US\$ as it's own unit of currency (the Zimbabwe Dollar) is suspended. South African Rands and Euros are also widely accepted. It is advised to carry small denominations of change with you, however it is best to pay for as much as possible outside of the country.

South African Rands work well in supermarkets, while US\$ are preferred for curios, accommodation and activities.

#### **Banking**

Banks in Zimbabwe are open for business Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 08h00 to 15h00, on Wednesdays from 08h00 to 13h00 and Saturdays from 08h00 to 11h30. They are closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.

### ***Travel, Transport and Getting Around***

Taxis are safe and reliable, and can be booked through your hotel front desk. Taxis in cities travel within a 40km radius of the city. Always take a taxi at night.

Major airlines fly into Victoria Falls, Harare and Bulawayo. Charter flights are available to most attractions and camps.

Zimbabwe has a good road infrastructure, by African standards, although potholed. Between major towns, there are frequent road blocks. Traffic drives on the left side of the road.

If you are driving yourself around Zimbabwe, be sure to check on fuel availability in advance. If you are covering long distances within the country, ensure you carry extra fuel in 5 or 10lt metal containers in case of emergency. Fuel is generally available, but supply can fluctuate. Fuel is only available for cash.



***Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice***

Zimbabwe's native cuisine is based on sadza, a cooked porridge made from ground maize which is normally be accompanied by some tasty relish, perhaps made of meat and tomatoes, or dried fish. Safari camps will often prepare sadza if requested, and it is almost always available in small restaurants in the towns.

Camps, hotels and lodges that cater to overseas typically serve a variety international fare, and the quality of food prepared in the most remote bush camps is usually excellent.

If you are driving yourself around and plan to cook, then get most of your supplies in main towns. Shoprite stores have revolutionised what's available, and really have all that you will need.

Water in the main towns is usually purified.. The locals drink it, and are used to the relatively innocuous bugs that it may harbour. If you are in the country for a long time, then it may be worth acclimatising yourself to it. However, if you are in Zimbabwe for just a short period of time, then try to drink only bottled, boiled, or treated water available in towns and from all camps, lodges and hotels.

***Climate and Weather***

From June to August the night-time temperatures in drier areas can be close to freezing, but it warms up rapidly during the day, when the sky is usually clear and blue. It's now very much 'peak season' for most safari areas: the land is dry in most areas so the animals congregate around the few available water sources.

***Clothing and Dress Recommendations***

When in Zimbabwe the cardinal rule is to wear casual, comfortable clothes during the day as temperatures can get very hot. It is advisable to wear light loose fitting clothing, such as cotton or linen, as they are cool and easy to wash. Warmer clothes are advised for the evenings and rainwear for the wet season.

A brimmed hat and sunglasses are a good idea year round. Long sleeved shirts and long trousers will also guard against the scorching sun rays. It is recommended you wear light shoes, especially if your itinerary entails a lot of walking.

For safaris, please remember to wear appropriate clothing and shoes. Earth colour clothes, such as browns, greens and tans are advisable.

***Internet Availability***

Internet availability is very limited especially outside of the major cities.

Most holiday accommodation venues offer internet and/or WiFi (free or paid) to their guests but there are often disruptions in service.

***Electricity and Plug Standards***

Current is 220/240 volts at 50 cycles per second. Both square and round plugs are used.

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