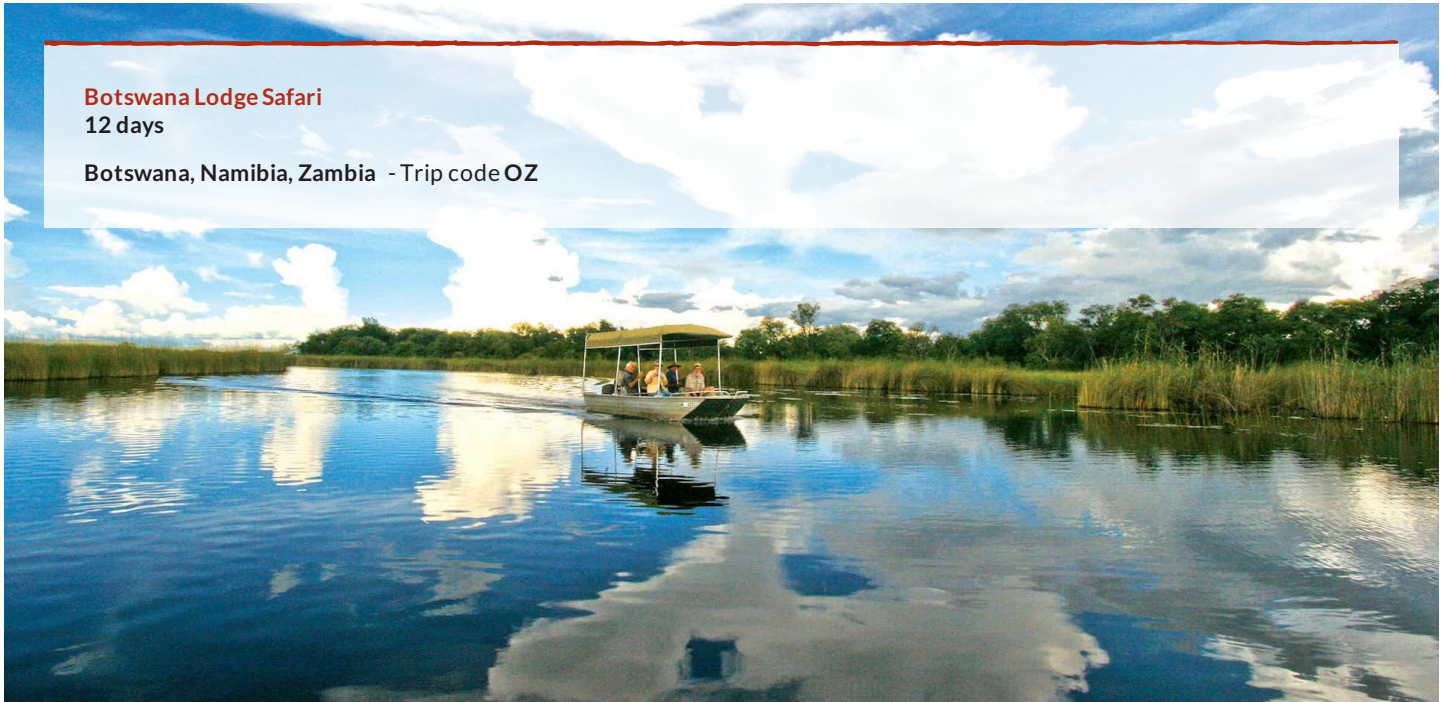


EXPLORE!

Botswana Lodge Safari

12 days

Botswana, Namibia, Zambia - Trip code OZ



Botswana Lodge Safari

On this safari we travel through Botswana and Zambia, exploring Chobe National Park and the vast Okavango Delta.

We search for wildlife including elephant, zebra, buffalo and giraffe. Swapping land for water we stay on the Okavango Panhandle aboard our houseboat, searching for hippos, crocodiles and other wildlife. We end our trip in Zambia, visiting the thundering waters of Victoria Falls.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Comfortable Lodges** - The finest game viewing from comfortable hand-picked lodges.
- ★ **Okavango Delta Panhandle** - Spend two nights on a houseboat and explore the most prolific inland delta of Africa by boat.
- ★ **Chobe National Park** - Discover the stunning wildlife that inhabits this fine reserve, renowned for its big herds of elephants.
- ★ **Victoria Falls** - Visit one of the natural wonders of the world.

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Premium

Our premium accommodation is hand-picked and chosen for its character, location or local importance. These properties have excellent facilities and a higher level of comfort and service. They provide the perfect wind down after an active day.

TRIP PACE:

Full on

Full on paced trips are for travellers who like their holidays packed with activities and experiences, moving on quickly from place to place with lots of early starts and long, busy days. Some may find them tiring, but others get a buzz from packing their precious holiday-time as chock-a-block full of new experiences as possible!

GROUP SIZE:

8 - 12

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join trip Maun airport, drive to the Okavango Delta

After meeting your Explore Leader at the airport, we will drive into the Okavango Delta, our base for the next three nights.



Accommodation: Mogotlo Safari Lodge (or similar)



Premium Tented Camp



Meals Provided: Dinner

DAY 2 - Full day of game drives

This morning we will game drive around the Okavango Delta. The mighty Okavango is the third largest river in Africa and its delta area covers 16,000 square kilometres of crystal clear channels, a myriad of ephemeral lakes and ever changing islands, surviving in the Kalahari desert. The river flows south east from the Angolan highlands over 1,000 km away and takes up to 6 months to reach the delta area that floods on a perennial annual cycle. The Okavango Delta covers an enormous wilderness area composed of permanent swamps, islands, forest and dry land. Exceptional though the geography of the Delta may be, it is the amazing wildlife of the waterways that draws us.



Accommodation: Mogotlo Safari Lodge (or similar)



Premium Tented Camp



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 3 - Okavango Delta - search for marine life and huge variety of birds

Today we will head out on game drives to explore the diverse scenery and wildlife of the Delta. We will have the chance to see hippo, crocodile, red lechwe, and a great variety of birds are easy to spot. Bird lovers may spot fish eagle, jacana, kingfisher, heron, stork,

egret, weaver and bee-eater - just some of the magnificent species found here.



Accommodation: Mogotlo Safari Lodge (or similar)



Premium Tented Camp



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 4 - Morning game drives; afternoon head to Maun

This morning we will have a final game drive to maximise our game viewing potential, before heading back to Maun in the afternoon, where you will have time to relax and savour your experiences in the delta.



Accommodation: Maun Lodge (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 5 - Okavango Delta Panhandle Houseboat

Today we drive to the west side of the Okavango Delta Panhandle to meet our specially chartered houseboat. Due to the seasonal variations in the level and strength of the river, fed by rainfall in the Upper Zambezi basin, please be aware that for much of the year the houseboat itself remains securely moored and we explore the river by smaller launches. Our itinerary is very flexible. A typical day involves a morning on the houseboat launch followed by a stop on the houseboat for lunch. Then another optional trip in the afternoon and back to the houseboat for the night. During our time on the river there may be a good possibility of seeing a variety of game. On our launch, we may cruise past submerging pods of hippos, while crocodiles bask in the shallows and on the riverbanks. Bird life in the area is also prolific and you may care to try your hand at fishing. Local fishermen are often seen aboard their traditional dugout canoes, known locally as mokoros.



Accommodation: Okavango House Boat (or similar)



Standard Boat




Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner


DAY 6 - Optional visit to Tsodilo Hills, see thousands of San Bushman rock paintings

This morning you may choose an optional days excursion to Tsodilo Hills. We drive to this intriguing and sacred place where the San Bushmen believe was the site of the first creation. They painted an astonishing 3500 rock paintings here to celebrate this over 350 sites. For all the golden light of late afternoon will be enjoyed with a traditional 'sundowner'. This is a home away from home where you are encouraged to enjoy this part of Africa. It is not hard to imagine yourself as David Livingstone when he was in Africa all those years ago.



Accommodation: Okavango House Boat (or similar)

 Standard Boat


 Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner


DAY 7 - Drive to Kasane and the Chobe National Park

This morning we make our way into the Serondela area of Chobe National Park and base ourselves just outside the park near the riverside town of Kasane. A variety of habitats of flooded grassland, thicket, salt pan and particularly the banks of the Chobe River, one of the Zambezi's main tributaries, is home to an abundance of wildlife. A major feature of Chobe is its elephant population and is considered to be the largest surviving continuous elephant population and is currently estimated at 120 000 strong! This population covers most of northern Botswana plus northwestern Zimbabwe and has been built up steadily from a few thousand since the early 1900s when massive poaching at the height of the illegal ivory trade decimated other populations in the 1970s and 1980s. The Chobe elephants in this area have the distinction of being the largest in body size of all living elephants, but the ivory is brittle and there are no more of the huge tuskers from a by gone era. Our lodge here is home for the next three nights and is a magical introduction into the heart of Africa.



Accommodation: Chobe Safari Lodge (or similar)

 Premium Lodge

 Swimming pool available


 Meals Provided: Breakfast & Lunch


DAY 8 - Game Drives in Chobe National Park

The northern Chobe area of Serondela is the heart of elephant country. We'll take the opportunity to spend many hours hopefully watching huge trumpeting herds in and around the river. In the river are hippo and crocodile and the waters teem with bream, barbel and tiger fish. During our stay we will spend our time on morning and afternoon game drives, for those interested, to enjoy an optional late afternoon boat safari on the Chobe River. You may also try your hand at some fishing or even take a guided nature walk.



Accommodation: Chobe Safari Lodge (or similar)

 Premium Lodge

 Swimming pool available

 Meals Provided: Breakfast


DAY 9 - Game Drives in Chobe River area

Today we will continue with our morning and afternoon game drives in the National Park



Accommodation: Chobe Safari Lodge (or similar)

 Premium Lodge

 Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 10 - Drive to Livingstone; view Victoria Falls

This morning, we leave Botswana and cross the border into Zambia to arrive at Livingstone. Often referred to as the adventure capital of Zambia, Livingstone is a pleasant town with a variety of land, air and water-based activities on offer in the surrounding area. Close to our lodge is one of the natural wonders of the world - Victoria Falls. We will view the falls from the Zambian side of the river. Here, the Zambezi River plummets over a sheer cliff wall spanning more than 1676m, and drops approximately 100m into the abyss below. Like David Livingstone before us, we become aware of the awesome cataract long before seeing it. Plumes of water vapour rise like smoke into the sky accompanied by a deafening roar: a fact which inspired the natives to call the waterfall, Mosi-oa-Tunya, The Smoke that Thunders. This afternoon you could take an optional afternoon game drive into Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park to search for white rhino.



Accommodation: Avani Victoria Falls Hotel (or similar)



Premium Lodge



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 11 - In Livingstone, free time for many optional activities

Today is left free for you to follow your own interests. You may choose to take advantage of some of the many optional activities on offer such as whitewater rafting on the Zambezi; a scenic helicopter flight or perhaps a cultural village tour



Accommodation: Avani Victoria Falls Hotel (or similar)



Premium Lodge



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 12 - Trip ends in Livingstone

The tour ends today in Livingstone after breakfast, Depending on the schedule of your flights, you may be able to enjoy additional free time at the falls or relax by the pool.



Meals Provided: Breakfast



Why book this trip

This tour is great for travellers who want to visit some of the best game reserves on the planet and stay in comfortable, premium accommodation. Botswana is known for its exclusive properties; on the tour you will experience wonderful tented safari camp, the quintessential African experience.

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 11
Lunch: 6
Dinner: 6



Transport

4WD
Boat



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Boat Crew
Driver(s)



Accommodation

2 nights standard boat
1 nights standard hotel
5 nights premium lodge
3 nights premium tented camp

Trip information

Country information

Botswana Holidays & Tours

Climate

Botswana's regional characteristics, from fertile areas in the east to waterless desert in the centre and south, and a vast delta in the north-west, make for extremes of temperatures and highly variable rainfall. Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/weather>. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up-to-date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

Time difference to GMT

+2

Plugs

3 Pin Round

Religion

Christians. Anglicans, Methodists

Language

English, Setswana

Namibia Holidays & Tours

Climate

With a staggering 300 days of sunshine each year, Namibia is a year-round destination, although some may prefer to avoid the heat of high summer. The cold Benguela current keeps the Atlantic coast of the Namib Desert cool and rain-free for most of the year, with a thick coastal fog that lends a mysterious edge to the area. January and February are the hottest months, when daytime temperatures in the heart of the Namib can exceed 40°C (104°F), but nights are usually cool. Winter nights can be fairly cold, but days are generally warm and pleasant.

Time difference to GMT

+1

Plugs

3 Pin Round

Religion

Christian

Language

English, Afrikaans, German

Zambia Holidays & Tours

Climate

The main rainy season is from January to March. Rain is widespread and generally falls in the form of a thunderstorm in the late afternoon; grass tends to be long and there is more water about so game is more dispersed. Otherwise it is dry, with low humidity for most of the year. Temperatures reach around 29°C during the day with quite cold nights throughout the year. Early dry season is the most pleasant time for temperatures and the best for bird watching. For game viewing though the late dry season is better. Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/weather>. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up-to-date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

Time difference to GMT

+2

Plugs

3 Pin Flat

Religion

Christian & Indigenous

Language

English, Bemba.

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

Kasane - Boat safari on Chobe River US\$ 40pp, River Cruise US\$40pp Okavango Delta - Tsodilo Hills and Bushman village visit US\$ 52pp, Houseboat launch boat trip US\$ 15pp. Livingstone - Whitewater rafting half day US\$ 150pp, full day US\$ 160pp; Upper Zambezi canoeing half day US\$ 110pp, full day US\$ 145pp; Zambezi river cruises sunset US\$ 60pp, sunset & dinner US\$ 75pp; Helicopter for 30 mins flight US\$ 330pp; Abseiling half day US\$ 160pp, full day US\$ 180pp; Game drives US\$ 55pp for 2.5 hours; Livingstone tour US\$ 50pp; Cultural village tour US\$ 50pp (including transfers). Rafting note: River conditions are determined by seasonally predictable fluctuations in water levels. Low water season generally runs from August to January each year - this is when the Zambezi is at its very wildest. High water is from about February to July and there can be a closed season between March and June depending on the season's rains.

Clothing

Clothing should be lightweight. However, a wind/waterproof jacket and warm fleeces or sweaters are essential, as nights and early morning game drives can be very cold. Scarfs are useful too. Brightly coloured and white clothing is not suitable for game viewing. Take a smart/casual outfit for evening meals/drinks in the safari lodges. Don't forget your swimwear.

Footwear

Lightweight trail boots or robust trainers with good traction soles and sandals.

Luggage

15Kg

Luggage: On tour

Limit is one barrel bag of holdall (suitcases are not permitted due to transport restrictions) per person and a reasonable amount of photographic equipment. A daysac is essential for everyday use.

Equipment

Bring a water bottle, torch, sunhat, sunglasses, insect repellent and sunscreen. Binoculars are essential for game viewing and a 300mm lens is recommended for photography. Mosquito nets are provided in lodge rooms, so there is no need to take your own.

Tipping

Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly, you should allow approx. US\$ 30 for tips to local crew and staff. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Country Information

Botswana Holidays & Tours

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price

£8.00

Dinner price

£15.00

Beer price

£1.50

Water price

£0.75

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Botswana Pula

Recommended Currency For Exchange

We suggest that you take your spending money in cash as US Dollars. Please note that the banks and Forex Bureaus do not accept US Dollars pre-2002. NB: you may find it useful to bring smaller denominations of US Dollars for tips.

ATM Availability

Cash can be drawn out on credit cards from ATM's in Kasane and Maun

Credit Card Acceptance

Limited.

Travellers Cheques

Not recommended

Namibia Holidays & Tours

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price

£15

Dinner price

£20

Beer price

£1.5

Water price

£0.8

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Namibian Dollar. South African Rand is legal tender in Namibia.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

USD are readily exchanged in Namibia and GBP to a lesser extent. Take your money in a combination of ATM cards and cash

Where To Exchange

On arrival.

ATM Availability

Cash can be drawn on credit cards from ATM's in Windhoek and Swakopmund.

Credit Card Acceptance

Limited.

Travellers Cheques

Are difficult to exchange and should be used as back up

Zambia Holidays & Tours

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price

£8

Dinner price

£20

Beer price

£1.5

Water price

£1

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Zambian Kwacha

Recommended Currency For Exchange

We recommend taking your money in US\$ cash (only accept post 2006 US\$ notes) Avoid the lower and higher (US\$1, 5 & 100) denomination notes, as they are difficult to change. Please note that it is difficult to convert local currency back to US\$'s so please ask your Tour Leader for guidelines on how much to exchange

Where To Exchange

Your Tour leader will advise you.

ATM Availability

In the cities and larger towns, the larger banks have ATMs.

Credit Card Acceptance

Credit cards have limited use in Zambia, and incur a 5% bank charge.

Travellers Cheques

Can be difficult to exchange.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

4WD, Boat

Accommodation notes

Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

Please note if for any reason any of the named hotels on this tour are unavailable we will provide another hotel of similar or better quality.

Essential information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice click [here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, click [here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa Information

;red255 \uc11 Travelling with Minors via South Africa (including transits) and entry into Botswana² Regulations affecting all children aged under 18 years that are travelling to, from or via South Africa are in place. The law states that parents and/or guardians are requested by the airline and/or South Africa immigration officers to provide additional documentation for each child they are travelling with. Please refer to the South African House website and your airline for full requirements:

http://outhafricahouseuk.com/visas/vis_forcit.html Please refer to the FCO website for information on travelling with minors to Botswana: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/botswana/entry-requirements> Botswana: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. A Tourism fee is to be introduced at all entry points into Botswana, though the government has currently postponed the start date. The fee is US\$30 per person and is applicable to all international visitors to Botswana. Payment for the fee will be accepted at payment machines at airports and borders that will accept US Dollar cash (please

have correct amount as we are not aware if change will be given) or credit cards. A receipt will be received upon payment and this must be presented with your passport to the immigration officer. The receipt will be stamped and returned with your passport, and is valid for 30 days for multiple entries. You will be required to present this receipt if you leave and re-enter Botswana as part of your trip, or you will be charged again on re-entry. Residents/citizens of the Southern African Development Community member states are exempted. Namibia: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Zambia: Visas are required for UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. British citizens can obtain these on arrival, all other nationalities should consult their consulate. All passports must have at least 6 months validity remaining on entry and also have two consecutive blank pages in their passports which lie side by side when the passport is open (i.e. a left and a right hand page). Please refer to the Zambia Department of Immigration website for visa on arrival fees: <http://www.zambiaimmigration.gov.zm> When travelling via South Africa a machine readable passport is required. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer click [here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them [here](#).

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Non refundable permits

Botswana Holidays & Tours

Vaccinations

We do recommend protection against malaria, hepatitis A, tetanus, typhoid and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Travellers may wish to immunise themselves against meningitis. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Immigration/Borders in Botswana are requesting a Yellow Fever certificate if you have previously travelled within/via an endemic country. For a list of Yellow Fever affected countries please refer to: <http://www.who.int/ith/2015-ith-annex1.pdf?ua=1> Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure. Please note that any travellers who have visited Ebola affected countries during the last 30 days will be denied entry into Botswana. These countries are: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Liberia

Namibia Holidays & Tours

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we do recommend protection against malaria, hepatitis A, tetanus, typhoid and polio. Please note that all travellers aged over 9 months old that have travelled from or have transitted via a country with a risk of yellow fever transmission, will need to present a Yellow Fever certificate at immigration/borders in Namibia for inspection. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Travellers may wish to immunise themselves against meningitis. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

Zambia Holidays & Tours

Vaccinations

Yellow Fever is no longer compulsory for visits to Zambia, however please note that travellers that have previously travelled to or via countries that are endemic to Yellow Fever may be asked to present a Yellow Fever certificate at immigration/borders in Zambia. For a list of Yellow Fever affected countries please refer to: <http://www.who.int/ith/2015-ith-annex1.pdf?ua=1> We strongly recommend protection against malaria, hepatitis A, typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, and polio. Malaria is present in the region so consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria.
