Botswana's Premium Safari
BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA, ZAMBIA - TRIP CODE OZ
WILDLIFE

Why book this trip?

A safari through Botswana and Zambia, exploring Chobe National Park, visiting the thundering Victoria Falls and sleeping aboard a houseboat in the vast Okavango Delta Panhandle. Spend time searching for wildlife including elephant, hippos and lions within remote wilderness.

- **Premium Lodges** - The finest game viewing from comfortable hand-picked lodges
- **Okavango Delta Panhandle** - Explore the most prolific inland delta of Africa
- **Chobe National Park** - Discover the stunning wildlife, including some of Africa's largest elephants herds.
Itinerary

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

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

Join trip at Maun Airport and drive to the Okavango Delta

Our trip begins at Maun Airport (MUB) at 3.30pm. If you would like to join the complimentary airport transfer today, the latest your flight can land is 3pm. We will travel together as a group by 4WD safari vehicles into the Okavango Delta, which will be our base for the next three nights.

ACCOMMODATION:
Mogotlho Lodge (or similar)

Grade: 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:**
Mogotlho Lodge (or similar)

Grade: 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:**
Mogotlho Lodge (or similar)

Grade: Premium Tented Camp

**MEALS PROVIDED:** BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

**DAY 4 - Morning game drives; afternoon head to Maun**

This morning we take a slow drive out of the concession and should arrive back into Maun around lunch
time. The afternoon is free for you to explore the town or relax in the hotel surroundings. Tonight we go
to a cultural evening where we’ll meet young people from a grass roots project. There will be folklore
music around a fire and a traditional dinner provided.

**ACCOMMODATION:**
Maun Lodge (or similar)
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)

**Grade:** Comfortable Boat

**MEALS PROVIDED:** BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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**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.
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.

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

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...
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.

**DAY 12 - Trip ends in Livingstone**

The trip ends after breakfast at our hotel in Livingstone.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Livingstone at any time. If your flight is departing later in the day, luggage storage facilities are available at our hotel. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you need to depart from Harry Mwanga Nkumbula International Airport (LVI), which is about 20 minutes' drive from the hotel.
Trip information

Country information

Botswana

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. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable.

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Namibia

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.

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Zambia

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.
Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Kasane - Boat safari on Chobe River US$ 40pp, River Cruise US$40pp
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 bagoft 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**
Tipping isn’t compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. However, you might want to recognise a leader that's done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It's a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we’d recommend between £15 to £20 per person per week as a guideline.

**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. In order to make things easier for you, your leader may organise a group's tips kitty for included activities and meals and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Accordingly, you should allow US$30.00 per person for group tipping.

**Botswana**

**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.

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**Foreign Exchange**

**Local currency**
Botswana Pula

**Recommended Currency For Exchange**
We suggest that you take your spending money is 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. Some lodges may accept credit cards, however the service is very sporadic.

**Travellers Cheques**
Not recommended
Namibia

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.

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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

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.

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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.

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**Transport, Accommodation & Meals**

**Transport Information**
4WD, Boat

**Accommodation notes**
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.

**Botswana**

**Food and drink**
Dietary requirements: Most restaurants and hotels in Botswana do not have a wide selection of vegan and vegetarian choices. There is usually a choice of salads and one main vegetarian and/or vegan main dish on the menus, but choice will be limited especially in more remote locations. If you have specific dietary requirements we do recommend for you to bring some food with you.

**Namibia**

**Food and drink**
Dietary requirements:
It’s very important that you let us know of any dietary requirements at least 60 days prior to the departure of your trip because your Leader will pre-plan menus and shop for the majority of the food prior to departure. In Namibia there is very limited availability for specialist food products along the way and leaders will need to pre-advice accommodations of any specific requirements so they can ensure they have options. Please note, without prior notice or if your requirements change while on the trip Explore cannot guarantee all requirements will be catered for.

If you have a specialist diet, including but not limited to vegan, gluten free, lactose intolerant
and/or coeliac, we strongly recommend you bring some snacks with you as options will be limited, particularly in rural parts of Namibia where specialist food products in supermarkets are very limited and restaurants will often have one or two alternative options on their menus. With prior notice our leaders will always ensure there is a meal for you, however, we must stress we cannot guarantee variety or choice.

Zambia
Food and drink
Dietary requirements: Most restaurants and hotels in Zambia do not have a wide selection of vegan and vegetarian choices. There is usually a choice of salads and one main vegetarian and/or vegan main dish on the menus, but choice will be limited especially in more remote locations. If you have specific dietary requirements we do recommend for you to bring some food with you.

Essential Information
Government Travel Safety 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.

Price Guarantee
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.

Visa and Passport Information
Travelling with Minors via South Africa (including transits) and entry into Botswana and Namibia
Regulations affecting all children aged under 18 years that are travelling to, from or via South Africa have been updated (Nov19). The law states that visa exempt children travelling for tourism purposes with one or both parents and/or an adult who is not a biological parent require to present a valid passport for each child on arrival. We strongly recommend you to refer to the South African House website for full information and to travel with a copy of these requirements.

Please refer to the FCO website for information on travelling with minors to Botswana: https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice.Botswana/entry-requirements
Please refer to the FCO website for information on travelling with minors to Namibia: https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/namibia/entry-requirements
Botswana: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. All passports must have at least 6 months validity remaining from date of entry into Botswana.

Namibia: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office. UK passport holders will need a minimum of 1 blank page in your passport for your permission to stay stamp acquired on arrival. Other nationalities should consult their embassy or consular office.

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

South Africa: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, US and Canadian citizens. New Zealand passport holders do require a visa. If you are transiting you may need a transit visa, Please consult your airline to determine if you will need to pass through South African immigration to transit for your onward flight and your local consulate for full visa information. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office for visa and/or transit visa information. All visitors should ensure their passport is machine readable and has two blank pages when entering and leaving South Africa. The South African Immigration officials will not allow child/infant pages to be used for this purpose and visitors without the stipulated blank pages will be denied entry.

All visa information is subject to change. 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 be able to apply 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.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

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 receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

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, Polar, 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. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. 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.

**Ability to swim**

An ability to swim is essential for your safe enjoyment of the water based activities on this trip. If you wish to participate in these activities then we insist that you are able to swim.

**Botswana**

**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 immunize themselves against meningitis. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. 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 Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling. Immigration/Borders in Botswana are requesting a Yellow Fever certificate if you have previously travelled within/via an endemic country. 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**

**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 transited 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. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. 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 Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

**Zambia**

**Vaccinations**

For yellow fever all travellers aged over 9 months old that have travelled from or have transited for more than 12 hours via a country with a risk of yellow fever transmission, will need to present a Yellow Fever certificate. Please note there is a low risk of exposure to yellow fever in Zambia and we recommend for your to discuss this with your doctor/health centre. 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. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. 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 Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.
**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.