

Luxury Safari and Beach



Overview

This luxury trip starts at the magnificent Victoria Falls, then uses small charter flights to access the Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park in Botswana and finishes up in shining Zanzibar. Activities on offer include gliding through the waterways of the Okavango Delta in a traditional mokoro (dugout canoe), taking game drives to spot wildlife, including lion, leopard, elephant, cheetah and buffalo, as well as guided bush walks. Travel by small aircraft affords fabulous views of the vast wilderness as well as allowing more time for wildlife viewing activities from each base. Accommodation is typically in luxury lodges - and may feature luxury tents or reed-built chalets typically situated along the edge of waterways. Then head to Zanzibar for the ultimate in luxury relaxation to finish off your trip with your own private villa with its own plunge pool.

Trip Highlights

Visiting the awesome Victoria Falls: and perhaps taking part in one of the many activities on offer.

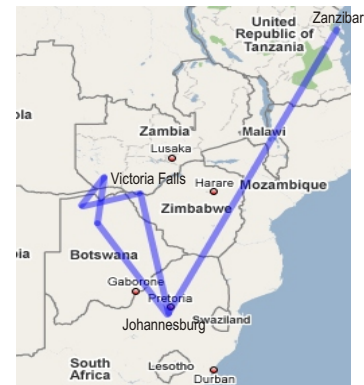
Seeing the full expanse of the Okavango Delta by light aircraft

Gliding through the watery mazes of the Okavango Delta in a traditional mokoro

Taking a game drive in the wildlife rich Chobe National Park.

Waking up to the sounds of the African bush in luxury lodges typically situated on the edge of waterways.

Snorkeling and relaxing on Zanzibar's white beaches.



Day 1: UK to South Africa

Depart the UK on overnight flight to Johannesburg

Days 2-5 (3 nights) Royal Livingstone Hotel

Arrive Johannesburg and transfer to Livingstone. On arrival at Livingstone Airport you will be met and transferred to the Royal Livingstone Hotel, for a 3 night stay in a luxury twin room with en suite bathroom on a bed and breakfast basis. As the nightly rate includes a mandatory Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park entrance fee guests of the Royal Livingstone have unlimited access to the Victoria Falls (on the Zambian side).

What better way to witness the greatest show in Africa than a stay at the original colonial Grand Dame? Set on the lush banks of the Zambezi River overlooking the mighty Victoria Falls, the five-star Royal Livingstone Hotel offers you sights that are nothing short of spectacular.

Set in the World Heritage Site of the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, and furnished with memorabilia of the famed colonial explorer after which the hotel is named, the Royal Livingstone Hotel weaves a vivid and evocative experience of the Africa of a bygone era. Accommodation at the Royal Livingstone Hotel consists of luxurious guest rooms, all with private verandas with views of the awe-inspiring Victoria Falls. Be pampered at the Royal Beauty Salon or sip a cocktail beside the sparkling pool, whilst private dinners under the open night sky make for an ideal romantic evening

The following activities can be included in your stay:

Walking Tour of the Falls - no transfers

One of the seven natural wonders of the world the Victoria Falls is a truly spectacular sight. On your private guided tour, of the Zambian side, of the

Falls you will have the opportunity to experience its awesome unspoilt grandeur as your guide explains how this 150-million-year-old phenomenon was created. During peak flow (January to June) the Zambian side of the Falls is considered to be the most spectacular.

African Queen Sundowner Cruise

A wonderful end to a great day is a sunset cruise aboard the gracious African Queen as it cruises slowly upstream along the length of the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park. Sit back, relax and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Zambezi River and a stunning sunset as you are served sundowners and canapes.

At the Victoria Falls, the Zambezi River is more than two kilometres wide. When in full flood, (usually February or March) over 500 million litres of water per minute go over the falls, which are 1708m wide, and drop 99m at Rainbow Falls in Zambia. In August, the flow will be average and the temperature cool and dry. Optional activities in the area include boat trips, canoeing, bungee jumping, white water rafting, canoeing, sundowner cruises, microlighting, fishing, and visiting the local markets and museum.

Days 5-8 Selinda Camp, Botswana

You take a scheduled road transfer from the Royal Livingstone Hotel to Livingstone Airport and transfer by light aircraft from Livingstone Airport to Kasane Airport, where you will clear customs and immigration to Botswana. (Flying time approx 20 minutes). Transfer by light aircraft from Kasane Airport to Selinda airstrip for a 3 night stay at Selinda Camp in a twin tent with en suite facilities on a fully inclusive basis. (Flying time approx 50 minutes).

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Selinda Camp overlooks the *Selinda Spillway*, a unique seasonal waterway which links the *Okavango Delta* with the game-rich floodplains of the *Linyanti* and *Kwando* marshes, rivers and floodplains. *Selinda's* spacious, luxury tents are raised a meter or so off the ground, erected under cool thatch canopies, with all units having exceptional views across palm-studded floodplains. The views are exceptional: guests sit on their verandas and enjoy the passing wildlife. There is hardly a moment which goes by without animals in front of camp. Each tent has en-suite facilities, a stone bath being the highlight. The bathroom is uniquely "open air" with lots of natural light, yet is screened and virtually insect-proof. The tents are spacious and beautifully appointed with furniture and features that have been collected from around Africa. Four-poster mosquito nets and overhead fans are standard.

The main area comprises a series of expansive decks that invite soaking up the spectacular views and wildlife that are a visual constant of the camp. The design of the main area is such that there is never a barrier to these views: whether guests are sampling the fine cuisine of a three-course dinner or on the open "star deck". Set apart from the main area is the photo/art gallery built above a temperature-controlled wine cellar and curio shop. Guests can also enjoy a small plunge pool and the traditional campfire.

The *Selinda Reserve* is one of Botswana's famous wildlife 'concessions' or private reserves that offers all the privacy that Botswana is famous for. At the same time, guests to the *Selinda* can enjoy wildlife viewing at a level that *Chobe National Park* is famous for - but without any of the crowds and without the restrictive rules and regulations that are needed in areas of high tourism density. The area is characterised by its game-rich floodplains which are host to a variety of bird life (300+), antelope, zebra, cheetah, wild dog, lion and dry season elephant concentrations. Nocturnal species could include serval, porcupine, springhare and possibly leopard. Daily activities revolve around morning, afternoon and night game drives with experienced, professional guides in custom-built 4x4 Land Cruisers. Short walks from camp accompanied by a guide are encouraged to get to know some of the *Selinda's* smaller creatures.

Days 8-12 (4 nights) Chief's Camp, Botswana

Transfer by light aircraft from *Selinda* airstrip to *Chief's* airstrip, and transfer to *Chief's Camp* for a 4 night stay in a twin "tented" suite with en suite facilities on a fully inclusive basis. (Flying time approx 40 minutes).

Shaded from the heat of the day by a beautiful grove of jackalberry trees, *Chief's Camp* is so remote you'll feel like the only humans on earth. Guest accommodation comprises 12 luxury tents (24 guests maximum), which are secluded, permanent luxury bush pavilions with front-row seats to the wildlife activity. Each unit offers en-suite baths and private game viewing decks. Electricity is supplied by a combination of silent packed generator and battery system allowing 24-hour power supply. Ceiling fans, and hair dryers are located in each room, in addition to communication with the main Lodge. The main lodge complex houses the dining area, bar, curio shop, library and reception area. The luxurious atmosphere of *Chief's Camp* is complimented by a magnificent swimming pool and Spa facilities.

Chief's Camp is situated on *Chief's Island* in the exclusive *Mombo Concession* of the *Moremi Game Reserve* in Botswana, frequently referred to as the "predator capital of Africa" and the game viewing opportunities here are exceptional. Wild dog, lion, cheetah and leopard abound. Since the introduction of white rhino into the area, this is the only place in Botswana where these magnificent animals can be seen in their natural environment. Game viewing opportunities focus on daily excursions in open-sided 4x4 Vehicles. The enormous numbers of *Lion on Chief's Island* offer an excellent opportunity for the amateur photographer.

Day 13

Transfer by light aircraft from *Chief's* airstrip to *Maun Airport*. (Flying time approx 25 minutes). Connect with your *Air Botswana* economy flight from *Maun* To *Johannesburg* (Flying Time approx 1 hour 40 minutes). Due to flight connections, you will need to overnight at *Johannesburg*: we suggest the 5 star *InterContinental Johannesburg Airport Sun*, which is a short walk from the *O.R. Tambo International Airport* terminals. (Basis: Bed & Breakfast).



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Days 14-18 The Palms Hotel, Zanzibar

Take a flight to Zanzibar via Dar Es Salaam

In Dar Es Salaam, you connect on the short flight to Zanzibar and transfer to The Palms Hotel for a 4 night stay. The Palms consists of only 6 private villas each over 130square meters with a bedroom, living room, full en-suite bathroom and walk in dressing room, extra room with en-suite bathroom as well as a large furnished terrace with view of the ocean. A private plunge pool exists as well. The Palms is located next to Breezes Beach Club and guests may also use the facilities at this neighbouring property. (However, guests from the Breezes Beach Club do not have access to The Palms facilities).

Your stay here includes breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as selection of house wines, beers, in-house spirits, coffee & tea, afternoon tea, mineral water juices and soft drinks.

The Palms is designed and decorated in local architecture and beautifully appointed in all colours of coffee and cream. The décor is a marriage of colonial grandeur and traditional design. The Palms has a spa where guests can enjoy massages and selected treatments. Overlooking the beach, private thatched bandas shelter private day beds and carved loungers to provide intimate beachfront privacy.

Day 19

You transfer back on the short flight from Zanzibar to Dar Es Salaam, to connect with your flight direct to London arriving early evening.

At Native Escapes, we select accommodation according to particular interests, season of travel, budget and availability. We have travelled extensively in Southern Africa, and have a good level knowledge of the destinations and things to do. Our ground handlers provide an excellent service in the event of emergency. Because we purchase accommodation through ground handlers who sell to agents such as ourselves around the world, we have access to excellent rates which are not available for direct bookings; you should pay no more for direct bookings than if you book through us. We are ATOL bonded, and your money is therefore protected when you book with us.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please ensure the following:-

Your passports are valid for travel and that you are in possession of valid visas (if required see below).

You consult your doctor prior to your safari for information and advice on the use of anti-malaria medication.

You take out comprehensive travel insurance to safeguard against cancellation and curtailment, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and personal belongings

Visas

Not required for South Africa or Botswana. Visas are not required for UK or Irish nationals for stays of up to 90 days. Passports must be valid for at least 30 days beyond the period of intended stay. An onward or return ticket is required, as well as sufficient funds and documents needed for further travel. Please note that visitors to South Africa must have a MINIMUM of two blank/empty VISA pages in their passport each time entry is sought. Visitors to South Africa with foreign passports who do not comply with these requirements will either be stopped from boarding their aircraft at their point of departure or risk deportation on arrival in South Africa.

Zambia

British citizens require a valid passport and a visa to visit Zambia. As of November 2008, the cost for a visa for entry to Zambia is US\$50 for single entry; US\$80 for double entry for British Nationals. Note that a day trip from Zambia to the Zimbabwean side of Victoria Falls will constitute a double entry. You can buy the visa at the port of entry; be sure to have the correct amount with you in US dollars as they are unlikely to give change. Note: Passport and visa requirements are liable to change at short notice. Travellers are advised to check their entry requirements with their embassy or consulate.

Tanzania

UK Nationals require a visa to enter Tanzania: these can be obtained personally or by post (see <http://www.tanzania-online.gov.uk/visa.html> for details). The cost of the visa is £38 per single entry.

Baggage

There is a baggage limit of 15kg in a soft bag, including photographic equipment and hand luggage for the internal Botswana flights and you'll need to carry luggage in a soft bag so they can load it in easily. Passengers who do not adhere to this baggage regulation delay take off as their pilot has to spend time making alternative arrangements to have their excess baggage or hard suitcases transferred by another aircraft. Please therefore advise us if you intend travelling with a hard suitcase or more than 20 kgs of baggage. We can make arrangements to store luggage in Victoria Falls, Livingstone, Kasane or Maun. Alternatively it can be flown between Kasane and Maun as unaccompanied baggage for which there will be a charge which must be settled locally. We have been asked to advise our Clients that acceptance onto flights out of Maun or Kasane for Clients with excess baggage or a hard suitcase is at the discretion of the pilot.

Health

The World Health Organisation (www.who.int/en/) recommends that all travellers are inoculated against diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and polio as well as for hepatitis B.

Hepatitis A, malaria and typhoid are also recommended by the Centres for Disease Control & Prevention (www.cdc.gov) for travel in this region. All travellers should seek advice from their local GP or travel clinic for up to date advice on vaccinations and different malarial options.

Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory for all bookings. Guests on group departures must take their policy documents with them on the trip as the guide will ask to see this at the start. The documentation must state in writing that you are the named policyholder and that the cover is valid for the period of travel. The policy document must also indicate that medical expenses and emergency repatriation cover is included and a 24 hour contact telephone number for the insurance company must be shown on the documentation in case of emergency. Guests unable to provide all this information at the start of the trip will be asked to purchase a policy prior to joining the trip.

Electricity supply

220v, 2 & 3pin plugs. Adaptors are required to charge cameras, etc.

Money

Currency is the Botswana Pula, Zambian Kwacha and Tanzania Shilling. We suggest you take spending money in US dollars. ATMs are available in Livingstone and Johannesburg Airport. It is against the law to import and export Tanzanian currency; foreign currency can be exchanged at banks or bureau posts.

Note that whilst Visa and Mastercard are accepted in Tanzania, American Express and Diners Club are rarely accepted.

What to bring

Binoculars, torch, walking shoes, swimming gear, plenty of high factor suncream, sunhat, insect repellent, camera, a day pack. Warm clothing is recommended for evenings, and a waterproof jacket. Lightweight clothing is recommended for the day. Avoid brightly coloured clothing for game viewing. If travelling in the winter season (April - September), bring warm clothes for Early morning game drives (gloves, hat, fleece).

Tipping

It is normal to tip for good service in bars and restaurants in all three countries.. Guests may also consider tipping their guide at their discretion.