

EXPLORE!

TRIP NOTES



Family Okavango Adventure (FOA 2017)



TRIPDURATION
12
DAYS



Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Moderate

Tour Type: Small Groups
Accommodation
Grade: Standard

Trip Code: FOA

Trip Highlights - Family Okavango Adventure

- ✓ Botswana - A special wildlife experience in an untouched destination with few visitors
- ✓ Moremi Game Reserve - The big wildlife of Africa in a huge unspoilt wilderness.
- ✓ Okavango Delta Panhandle - Two nights on a houseboat exploring the Okavango Delta
- ✓ Chobe National Park - Look for the huge herds of elephants in the park.
- ✓ Victoria Falls - Feel the spray of the mighty falls, one of the natural wonders of the world.

Trip Essentials

Accommodation: 2 nights Standard Lodge
2 nights Premium Lodge
2 nights Standard Boat
2 nights Standard Hotel
3 nights Simple Camping

Included Meals: 11 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 6 dinners

Start Point: Join trip: Livingstone
End Point: Trip ends: Maun
Transport: 4WD, Boat
Countries: Botswana, Zambia, Namibia
Minimum Age: From 8 years

Family Okavango Adventure

Join us on a journey through one of the last untouched wilderness in Africa visiting Botswana and Zambia on this trip of a lifetime. Along the way we marvel at the incredible Victoria Falls with a host of activities for all the family, explore the game parks and reserves of Moremi in search of the continents most spectacular and varied wildlife, stay on board a private houseboat in the tranquil oasis of the Okavango Delta with crystal clear waterways teeming with wildlife and visit Chobe National Park, especially famous for Elephant, Lion and Cheetah.

TRIPLE ROOMS

This trip allows the option for triple rooms to be included within the booking on a selected number of night stops within the holiday. If you would like this option, a discount may be applicable on the cost of the trip - please ask our Sales team for further information.

Why Book this trip

Families who are looking to view a wide range of wildlife need look no further than our adventure around Botswana. The country boasts a number of premium game viewing locations including the famous Chobe National Park and Okavango Delta which is combined with visiting a wonder of the world, the Victoria Falls. A wide range of accommodation awaits including a houseboat and a number of meals are included which all contribute to a good value game orientated holiday.

Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

Accommodation Grade: Standard

Our mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en-suite facilities.

Tour Style: Classic

Packed with adventure, these tours offer inspiring destinations and authentic travel experiences at a reasonable price. Using all kinds of transport and accommodation, we'll take you off the beaten track to discover the true heart of the people and places you visit.

Tour Pace: Moderate

These moderately paced tours provide some busy days with plenty of experiences to enjoy, as well as time to relax along the way.

Your trip itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced Tour Leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your Tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others.



DAY
1

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Arrive in Livingstone and check into your hotel

Arrive in Livingstone and check-in to your hotel. Often referred to as the adventure capital of Zambia, Livingstone offers a variety of land, air and water-based activities in the surrounding area.

Overnight: **Standard Lodge**

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** None

DAY 2 See the wonder of Victoria Falls and optional rafting

Visit one of the natural wonders of the world, The Smoke that Thunders or Victoria Falls. The Zambezi River plummets over a sheer cliff wall spanning more than 1,676m and drops approximately 100m into the abyss below. Like David Livingstone before us, we become aware of the falls long before seeing it. Plumes of water vapour rise like smoke into the sky accompanied by a deafening roar. This inspired the natives to call the waterfall, Mosi-oa-Tunya or The Smoke that Thunders. The afternoon is left free to take advantage of the many activities that Victoria Falls offers including an optional half day game drive into Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park to search for white rhino, trying out whitewater rafting on the Zambezi, enjoying a scenic helicopter flight over the falls or perhaps experiencing a cultural village trip. Alternatively you may want to take advantage of the more sedate attractions such as the National Museum or the Railway Museum (or to give it its full title, The Zambezi Sawmills Locomotive Sheds National Monument!).

Overnight: **Standard Lodge**

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 3 Boat across Zambezi, drive to Kasane in Botswana. Afternoon Game drive

Leaving the lodge this morning, we take a local boat across the Zambezi River and base ourselves just outside the Serondela area of the Chobe National Park. During our stay in Kasane, there will be time to enjoy a late afternoon game drive into Chobe national park.

Overnight: **Premium Lodge**

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 4 Morning game drive with afternoon boat cruise

The northern Chobe area of Serondela is in the heart of elephant country. Up to 35,000 elephants live here, the largest number in any African park. We'll take the opportunity to spend many hours hopefully watching huge herds in and around the river while the river teams with hippo and crocodile as well as a variety of fish including the tiger fish (freshwater barracuda). Viewing game in the afternoon switches to a boat safari on the Chobe River which is one of the Zambezi's main tributaries, and home to an abundance of wildlife. The area is also famed for its beautiful scenery and magnificent red and gold sunsets.

Overnight: **Premium Lodge**


Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 5 Travel to our houseboat via the Caprivi Strip

Taking advantage of an early start this morning, we head west via the Caprivi Strip in Namibia, to reach our houseboat on the waters of the Okavango River where we arrive in the mid afternoon. 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. The river flows south east from the Angolan highlands over 1,000 km away, taking up to 6 months to reach the delta area which floods on an annual cycle.

Overnight: **Standard Boat**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6 Game safari in the Okavango Delta

During our time on the river, there will be an excellent possibility of seeing game as we cruise past submerging pods of hippos, while crocodiles bask in the shallows and on the riverbanks. Birdlife in the area is prolific and local fishermen are often seen aboard their traditional dugout canoes, known locally as mokoros. We include a boat trip to experience the areas of the Delta that are harder to reach, cruising into channels where hippos and crocodiles are sometimes sighted. We return to our houseboat in the golden light of the late afternoon where we can enjoy a traditional 'sundowner'. This is a home away from home where you can enjoy the surroundings of this part of Africa.

Overnight: **Standard Boat**

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 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 Visit Tsodilo Hills and drive to Maun

Leaving our houseboat this morning, we make our way to the intriguing Tsodilo Hills. The San Bushmen believe that this was the site of the first creation and as a result it is considered a holy and sacred place. The area has an astonishing 3,500 rock paintings over 350 different sites which all celebrate this event. There are four mountains that jut out of the expanse of the surrounding land and the San Bushmen believes that the bigger rock, the male, has a wife and child, but that he left his wife for a younger wife who now lingers in the background. Those who leave do so with a profound sense of the history and wonder of this place. We then drive to Maun, on the southern reaches of the Okavango Delta and the gateway to the Moremi Game Reserve.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**


Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 8 Drive into the Moremi Game Reserve

We drive into the Moremi Game Reserve and to our camp. Tucked into the north-eastern sector of the Okavango Delta, Moremi is thought to be the country's most beautiful game area and is rated as one of Africa's greatest wildlife sanctuaries. It 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 many visitors and we plan to do a late game drive this afternoon before our first night's camping experience.


Overnight: **Simple Camping**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9 Game drives in Moremi

With a number of game drives planned for today, we get the chance to experience one of Africa's most natural and unspoiled wonderlands in the park with hippo, crocodile and a great variety of birds all seen in the Delta, as well as the elusive sitatunga antelope. It is also an ornithologist's paradise with fish eagle, jacana, kingfisher, heron, stork, egret, weaver and bee-eater all regularly seen.


Overnight: **Simple Camping**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 10 View game on the flood plains

We spend our time with game drives to see the wildlife of the region with the larger mammals like elephant, giraffe and zebra being spotted on the flood plains as well as predators like lion, leopard and wild dog.

Overnight: **Simple Camping**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 11 Drive back to Maun with evening cultural show

We take a leisurely drive back to Maun with the afternoon at leisure with the choice of optionals that include a flight over the delta. Tonight allows for a cultural evening where we can sample hand made crafts directly from budding artisans, enjoy folklore stories from a local storyteller around a crackling fire and meet local children as part of a grassroots project that builds life skills.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 12 Tour ends in Maun

Your trip ends today in Maun after breakfast. Depending upon the schedule of your flight, you may wish to spend some additional time relaxing before heading back home. Please note, game is less plentiful over departures in December plus the Victoria Falls has less water travelling over falls.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

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Ability to swim required

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.

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Notes

The accommodation at Livingstone is at a small, relaxed lodge with cottages dotted about lush gardens. At Chobe we stay in a very comfortable lodge with swimming pool and bar area situated on the banks of the Chobe River with views of the surrounding bush. The lodges we stay in at Livingston and Chobe on this trip have a small swimming pool. Our houseboat on the Okavango Panhandle - the boat has a lower deck with en-suite cabins and upper deck with a bar/dining area and an open seating area at the rear. Our campsite in the Moremi Game Reserve gives a perfect camping experience; simple enough to give the feeling of really camping out in the African bush, yet with the modern comforts we all hate to do without such as 'proper' toilets, bucket showers and even beds for our two man tents. The camp can be visited by wildlife such as elephant that wander through the camp as they pass through the site. The family tents include; camp beds, mattresses, sheet/sleeping bags and pillows which are all provided. Camp assistants take care of camp chores whilst camping.

Food & Drink

Included meals: 11 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 6 dinners included in the price of this trip. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Budgeting for your Trip

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the trip price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

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.

Botswana

Lunch £: 8.00

Dinner £: 15.00

Zambia

Lunch £: 8.00

Dinner £: 20.00

Namibia

Lunch £: 15.00

Dinner £: 20.00

Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Botswana

Bottle of Beer £: 1.50

Water £: 0.75

Zambia

Bottle of Beer £: 1.50

Water £: 1.00

Namibia

Bottle of Beer £: 1.50

Water £: 0.80

Other Sightseeing & 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.

Optional Excursions

Livingstone - Whitewater rafting half day US\$ 150pp, full day \$160pp minimum age 15 years; Upper Zambezi canoeing half day US\$ 110pp, full day US\$ 145pp; Zambezi river cruises sunset US\$ 60pp, sunset & dinner US\$ 75pp minimum age 7 years; 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.

Tipping - Tour Leader

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

Tipping - Local Crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised 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 gratuities for local 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.

Foreign Exchange

Botswana

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

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.

Zambia

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.

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.

Namibia

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

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.

Joining your Trip

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 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 on our website at www.explore.co.uk, in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

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 please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

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.

Important Information

Travel 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.

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The Adventure Travel Experts

CAMPBELL IRVINE
DIRECT TRAVEL INSURANCE



Travel Insurance is essential. If you have not already arranged cover, please contact our recommended Travel Insurance providers www.campbellirvinedirect.com/Explore who offer Travel Insurance specifically designed to cover travel with Explore or call **Campbell Irvine Direct** on Tel: 020 7938 1734

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Travel Aware

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 follow the link at www.explore.co.uk/travel-safety

We strongly advise that you register with the FCO to receive updates to the travel advice for your chosen destination. A hard copy of the current FCO Travel Advice for your chosen destination is available by contacting cr@explore.co.uk or 01252 379438.

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.

Visa Information

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 (including children of all ages) 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 by UK, Canadian, US, Australian and New Zealand citizens. UK citizens can obtain their visa on arrival at all ports of entry. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office. 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). When travelling via South Africa a machine readable passport is required. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

Travel via South Africa (including transits): From 1st June 2015 South Africa will enforce new immigration regulations effecting all children aged under 18 years that are travelling to, from or via the country. The new laws state that parents and/or guardian maybe 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 for full requirements: http://southafricahouseuk.com/visas/vis_forcit.html and your airline for up to date requirements. 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**.

Lone Parents

Botswana

Single parents or other adults travelling alone with children should be aware that some countries require documentation confirming that the individual has authority to travel with the minor. It is crucial that you contact the Botswana embassy for further information on exactly what may be required.

Zambia

Namibia

Single parents or other adults travelling alone with children should be aware that some countries require documentation confirming that the individual has authority to travel with the minor. It is crucial that you contact the relevant country embassy for further information on exactly what may be required.

Vaccinations & Protection

Botswana

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

Zambia

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, and polio. Malaria is present in the region so consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria.

Namibia

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.

Preparing for your Trip

Climate

Botswana

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.

Zambia

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.

Namibia

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.

Clothing

Clothing should be lightweight. However, a wind/waterproof jacket, a warm fleece or sweater and thermal underwear for night time are strongly advised, as night time temperatures and early morning game drives can be very cold, especially in winter (April to August). Brightly coloured and white clothing is not suitable for game viewing.

Equipment

Bring a head torch, a water bottle, a sunhat, sunglasses, sunscreen and insect repellent. Binoculars are essential for game viewing and a 300mm lens is recommended for photography. Biodegradable soap is useful. Don't forget your swimming costume and a towel.

Footwear

Lightweight trail boots or robust trainers with good grip and sandals for relaxing in.

Luggage: On Tour

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

Luggage allowance on trip: 15Kg

General Information

Country details

Botswana

Population: 2,029,307

Size of Country: 581,730 sq km

Major Language: English, Setswana

Religion: Christians. Anglicans, Methodists

Time Difference to GMT: +2

Zambia

Population: 10,000,000

Size of Country: 752,600 sq km

Major Language: English, Bemba.

Religion: Christian & Indigenous

Time Difference to GMT: +2

Namibia

Population: 2,108,665

Size of Country: 825,418 sq km

Major Language: English, Afrikaans, German

Religion: Christian

Time Difference to GMT: +1

Electric Supply & Plugs

Botswana

3 Pin Round

Zambia

3 Pin Flat

Namibia

3 Pin Round

Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailor-made holidays.
- Award-winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one of the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, or any number of unusual forms of transport. Often you will stay in family-run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants, allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

Earth Matters

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people) and have recently supported women's cooperatives in Borneo and Morocco. We are a member of Tourism Concern's Ethical Tour Operator Group (www.tourismconcern.org.uk) and support their campaign for fair and ethical tourism. We also care passionately about the world's wildlife and actively support and promote the Born Free Organisation and Mahouts Elephant Foundation.

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2016 and 31st December 2017.

Trip Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 2017 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2017. 2018/19 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2018.

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