EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Botswana Lodge Safari (OZ 2015)

WILDLIFE

TOURDURAT
13
DAYS

Tour Style: Premium
Tour Pace: Busy
Tour Type: Small Groups
Tour Comfort: Comfortable
tour Code: OZ

Tour Highlights - Botswana Lodge Safari

- ✓ 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.

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	5 nights Comfortable Lodge 3 nights Comfortable Tented Camp 2 nights Standard Boat 2 nights Comfortable Hotel
Included Meals:	12 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 6 dinners
Start Point:	Join tour: Maun
End Point:	Tour ends: Livingstone
Transport:	4WD, Boat
Countries:	Botswana, Zambia, Namibia

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.

Why Book this tour

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.

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.

Tour Comfort: Comfortable

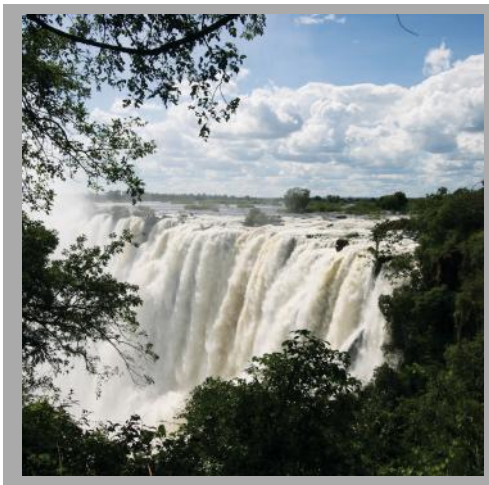
Hand-picked and chosen for their character, location or local importance, these properties have excellent facilities and a higher level of comfort and service. They provide the perfect wind down after an active day.

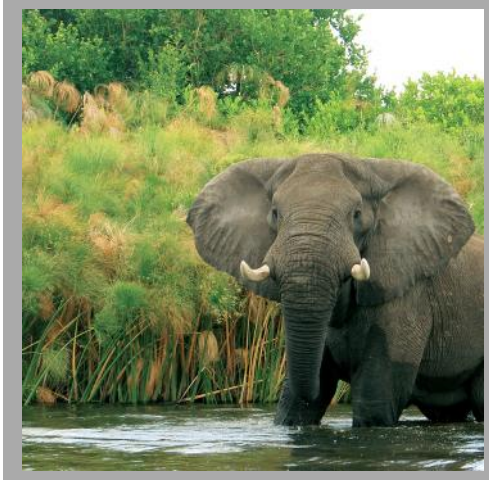
Tour Style: Premium

These tours are perfect if you want to combine an original, off-beat classic adventure with the added comfort of hand-picked accommodation chosen for its character, location or local importance. Revel in adventurous days followed by relaxing nights.

Tour Pace: Busy

There may be early starts, long journeys and tiring days along the way, but you'll return home feeling you've really experienced as much as you possibly could.





Your tour 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 Join tour Maun

Our tour starts in Maun. Depending on the schedule of your flights, you may wish to explore Maun independently or simply relax by the pool. You will meet your group and Tour Leader at the hotel.

Maun Lodge
This lodge is situated on the banks of the Thamalakane River and offers riverfront luxury rooms. There is a swimming pool and good quality a la carte restaurant and a traditional boma style bar for relaxation.

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 Drive to Okavango Delta; Afternoon game drive

This morning we will drive into the Okavango Delta to our base for the next three nights. 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.

Hyena Pan Tented Camp
Hyena Pan is a remote and intimate bush camp located in Mopane woodland. The tented accommodation is spacious and comfortable with en suite facilities. Located near a watering hole, the pan is generally a hive of activity all year round.

Included Meals: 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.

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Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4 Game drives throughout the Okavango Delta

Today we continue with our morning and afternoon game drives in this remarkable area.

Hyena Pan Tented Camp
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Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5 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.

Royal Tree Lodge
A small lodge comprising 7 fully en-suite tented safari rooms and 2 honeymoon bungalows, accommodating only 18 people. It has a beautiful deck shaded by huge trees, and is situated outside Maun in its own little game reserve, with 3 marked walking trails.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6 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.

Okavango House Boat

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 Optional visit to Tsodilo Hills, see thousands of San Bushman rock paintings

Today 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.

Okavango House Boat

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8 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.

Chobe Safari Lodge
The Chobe Safari Lodge is located on the banks of the Chobe River before it enters the mighty Zambezi. The area within which it is situated is famous for its elephant and buffalo herds and it is not unusual to see these majestic animals on the opposite bank. The hotel has a magnificent riverfront location that is centred around a wooden terrace overlooking the river. The trees under which the lodge and terrace are found provide a lush and very pleasant place in which to relax and enjoy the extraordinary birdlife and fauna that are found here. With its stunning location, the lodge is tastefully decorated in an Africa style to provide a very comfortable and enjoyable stay.
Waterlilly Lodge A small, private lodge with comfortable rooms around a central courtyard and swimming pool close to the edge of the Chobe River. There is a restaurant and bar and the lodge is ideally situated close to the entrance of Chobe National Park.

Swimming Pool Available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 9 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.

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Swimming Pool Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10 Game drives in Chobe River area

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

Chobe Safari Lodge
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Waterlilly Lodge A small, private lodge with comfortable rooms around a central courtyard and swimming pool close to the edge of the Chobe River. There is a restaurant and bar and the lodge is ideally situated close to the entrance of Chobe National Park.

Swimming Pool Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 11 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.

Zambezi Sun Hotel
A uniquely designed property with the look and feel of an old walled city. Each room has a private balcony and the restaurant and bar surround a cool, landscaped pool area.

Swimming Pool Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 12 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.

Zambezi Sun Hotel
A uniquely designed property with the look and feel of an old walled city. Each room has a private balcony and the restaurant and bar surround a cool, landscaped pool area.

Swimming Pool Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 13 Tour ends 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.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Rating

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.

Food & Drink

Included meals: 12 breakfasts, 7 lunches,6 dinners included in the price of this tour. 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 Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour 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

Kasane - Boat safari on Chobe River US$ 40.
Okavango Delta - Tsodilo Hills and Bushman village visit US$ 52, Houseboat launch boat trip US$ 15.
Livingstone - Whitewater rafting half day US$ 140, full day US$ 160; Elephant back trails (must be booked in advance so we suggest you speak to your tour leader on arrival) afternoon trip US$ 170; Upper Zambezi canoeing half day US$ 105, full day US$ 135; Zambezi river cruises sunset US$ 60, sunset & dinner US$ 75; Helicopter for 30 mins flight US$ 300pp; Abseiling half day US$ 110, full day US$ 135; Game drives US$ 55pp for 2.5 hours; Livingstone tour US$ 45; Cultural village tour US$ 45pp (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 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.

Foreign Exchange

Botswana

ATM Availability: Cash can be drawn out on credit cards from ATM's in Livingstone, 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 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.

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 2001 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 Tour

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.

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.

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

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 joining any of our tours that you must have valid travel insurance. It must indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling in England and Scotland. We also strongly recommend your policy includes curtailment, personal effects and cancellation protection as all deposits paid are non-refundable. You will also need to ensure your travel policy

covers you for all activities you intend to do whilst on tour.

We are delighted to include FREE travel insurance **for all qualifying customers** who book an Explore trip between 01 January 2015 and 31 August 2015.

For more information about Travel insurance and to check whether you are eligible to receive free cover, please visit www.explore.co.uk/insurance. Explore Worldwide Ltd are an Introducer Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Limited. who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The registration number can be checked by visiting the the FCA's website www.fca.gov.uk or by contacting them on 0800 111 6768.

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 and 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. Visas can be obtained through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK. Please contact: Visaswift, at http://www.visaswift.com/explore.aspx. 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).

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.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

Vaccinations & Protection

Botswana

Nothing compulsory, but 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 may request 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, diphtheria, 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. 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 Tour

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 40ºC (104ºF), 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 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.

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.

Footwear

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

Luggage: On Tour

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 daysac is essential for everyday use.

Luggage allowance on tour: 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 & tailormade holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one 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, elephant, 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.

Our commitment to the environment

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 and traditional, 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), Dekamer (a turtle rescue centre in Turkey) and Kids Saving the Rainforest (a wildlife rescue centre in Costa Rica supported through the LATA foundation). We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation and Friends of Conservation.

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

- The Travel Foundation

  Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk
- Tourism Concern

  Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group www.tourismconcern.org.uk
- For further information on responsible travel go to www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/

Know before you go

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

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 LicenceÂ granted by the Civil Aviation Authority.Â 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 2014 and 31st December 2015.

Tour 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: 2015 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2015. 2016/17 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2016.

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