

# EXPLORE!

## TRIP NOTES



### Botswana Lodge Safari (OZ 2017)



TRIPDURATION  
**12**  
DAYS



**Tour Style:** Premium

**Tour Pace:** Full On

**Tour Type:** Small Groups

**Accommodation**

**Grade:** Premium

**Trip Code:** OZ

#### Trip 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.

#### Trip Essentials

**Accommodation:** 6 nights Premium Lodge  
1 night Standard Hotel  
2 nights Standard Boat  
2 nights Premium Hotel

**Included Meals:** 11 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 6 dinners

**Start Point:** Join trip: Maun Airport

**End Point:** Trip 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 trip

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

### 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: Premium

Our comfortable accommodation is hand-picked and chosen for its character, location or local importance. These properties have excellent facilities and a higher level of comfort and service.

### 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: Full On

These fast paced tours move on quickly from place to place and with lots of early starts and long busy days, they're packed with experiences.

## 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.

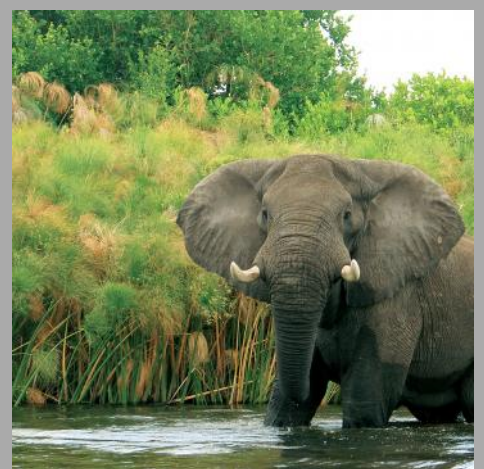
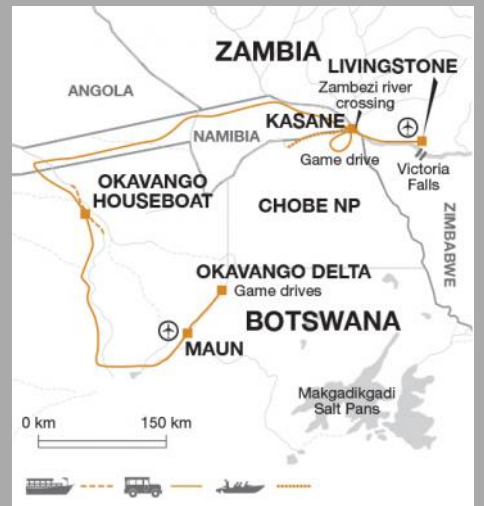
### Your Tour Leader

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 Join trip Maun airport, drive to the Okavango Delta

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

### Mogotlo Tented Camp




 **Included Meals:** Dinner

## DAY 2 Full day of game drives

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


### Mogotlo Tented Camp

 **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.

### Mogotlo Tented Camp

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


## DAY 4 Morning game drives; afternoon head to Maun

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

### Maun Lodge

This lodge is situated on the banks of the Thamalakane River, there is a swimming pool and good quality a la carte restaurant and a traditional boma style bar for relaxation.


**Swimming Pool Available** 

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

## DAY 5 Okavango Delta Panhandle Houseboat

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


### Okavango House Boat

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

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

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

### Okavango House Boat

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

## DAY 7 Drive to Kasane and the Chobe National Park

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

### 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.

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

## DAY 8 Game Drives in Chobe National Park

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

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Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 9 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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Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 10 Drive to Livingstone; view Victoria Falls

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

### Avani Victoria Falls Hotel

**EXPLORE!** Share your experiences with us



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 **11** In Livingstone, free time for many optional activities

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

#### **Avani Victoria Falls 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** Trip ends in Livingstone

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

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## **Accommodation and Meals**

### **Accommodation Notes**

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

### **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

Kasane/Chobe - Boat safari on Chobe River US\$ 40pp, River Cruise US\$40pp

Okavango Delta - Tsodilo Hills and Bushman village visit US\$ 52pp, Houseboat launch boat trip US\$ 15pp.

Livingstone - Whitewater rafting half day US\$ 150pp, full day US\$ 160pp; Upper Zambezi canoeing half day US\$ 110pp, full day US\$ 145pp; Zambezi river cruises sunset US\$ 60pp, sunset & dinner US\$ 75pp; Helicopter for 30 mins flight US\$ 330pp; Abseiling half day US\$ 160pp, full day US\$ 180pp; Game drives US\$ 55pp for 2.5 hours; Livingstone tour US\$ 50pp; Cultural village tour US\$ 50pp (including transfers).

Rafting note: River conditions are determined by seasonally predictable fluctuations in water levels. Low water season generally runs from August to January each year - this is when the Zambezi is at its very wildest. High water is from about February to July and there can be a closed season between March and June depending on the season's rains.

## 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 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 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](http://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.

# EXPLORE!

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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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 and Namibia: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens.

A Tourism fee is to be introduced at all entry points into Botswana, though the government has currently postponed the start date. The fee is US\$30 per person and is applicable to all international visitors to Botswana.

Payment for the fee will be accepted at payment machines at airports and borders that will accept US Dollar cash (please have correct amount as we are not aware if change will be given) or credit cards. A receipt will be received upon payment and this must be presented with your passport to the immigration officer. The receipt will be stamped and returned with your passport, and is valid for 30 days for multiple entries. You will be required to present this receipt if you leave and re-enter Botswana as part of your trip, or you will be charged again on re-entry.

Residents/citizens of the Southern African Development Community member states are exempted.

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://outhafricahouseuk.com/visas/vis\\_forcit.html](http://outhafricahouseuk.com/visas/vis_forcit.html) and your airline for up to date requirements.

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](http://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**.

## 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, 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. 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 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 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.

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## 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](http://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.

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## 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.

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### 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

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### 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.

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### 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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