EXPLORE!

TRIP NOTES

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Botswana Wildlife Safari (BW 2017)

WILDLIFE

TRIPDURATI
15
DAYS

Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Full On
Tour Type: Small Groups
Accommodation Grade: Simple
Trip Code: BW

Trip Highlights - Botswana Wildlife Safari

- ✓ Game Viewing - Explore Botswana's finest game reserves.
- ✓ Okavango Delta Panhandle - Spend three nights on a houseboat in one of Africa's most renowned areas.
- ✓ Victoria Falls - One of the natural wonders of the world.
- ✓ Chobe National Park - A remarkable wildlife sanctuary, world famous for its huge elephant population.
- ✓ Moremi Game Reserve - An unspoilt wilderness with excellent game viewing opportunities.

Trip Essentials

Accommodation:	2 nights Standard Hotel 3 nights Standard Boat 2 nights Standard Lodge 7 nights Simple Camping
Included Meals:	14 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 10 dinners
Start Point:	Join trip: Maun
End Point:	Trip ends: Maun
Transport:	4WD, Boat
Countries:	Botswana, Namibia , Zambia

Botswana Wildlife Safari

Nearly a fifth of Botswana's landscape is designated for wildlife protection: we enter Chobe National Park and Moremi Game Reserve to track Africa's greatest animals in their natural habitat. We also stay on a houseboat on the Okavango Delta, a huge freshwater oasis in the Kalahari desert, and visit the raging Smoke that Thunders - Victoria Falls.

Why Book this trip

This is a great tour for wildlife enthusiasts, as you will visit some of the best game viewing parks in all of Africa. You will stay in lodges, hotel, houseboat and campsites; this means you get a great diverse experience of Botswana. Our campsites enable us to explore Moremi and Savuti in depth, an opportunity that is normally restricted to luxury itineraries due to the demand for the Okavango Delta.

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: Simple

No-frills accommodation which includes berths on sleeper trains, rooms in village houses, boat cabins, campsites, huts and simple family-run lodges, guesthouses and hotels. Sleeping arrangements are simple and amenities are adequate, sometimes with en suite facilities and occasionally communal.

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: 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

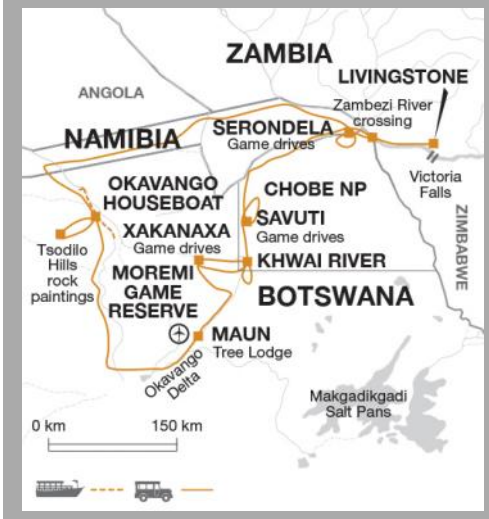
While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

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 Tour in Maun

Our tour starts in Maun, the gateway to the Okavango Delta. After checking in to our hotel, your afternoon is free to relax. You may choose to take a stroll around the town, where modern buildings and native huts stand side-by-side. Originally a rural village, it has rapidly developed into Botswana's 'tourism capital'. However, the town has managed to retain much of its rural atmosphere and you may well see tribesmen bringing their cattle to sell at the market.



Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 Drive to Okavango PanHandle Houseboat

An early start this morning for our drive to the west side of the Okavango Delta Panhandle, where we will meet the houseboat which will be our home for the next three nights. Our on board accommodation is very comfortable, with en suite facilities. Due to seasonal variations in the level and strength of the river, the houseboat itself remains securely moored for much of the year, whilst we explore the river on smaller launches. However, the amount of water that falls in the catchment area can be highly variable and occasionally, conditions may allow the houseboat itself to cruise in the Delta. The next couple of days are spent enjoying this spectacular setting. During our time on the river, there is 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. Please note we unfortunately cannot provide single cabins on the houseboat due to the limited size of the accommodation. Customers who have booked a single room on this tour will share a twin cabin during these 3 nights.

Overnight: **Standard Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3 Optional boat trips to search for the plentiful wildlife; sundowners

During our second day aboard the houseboat, our itinerary is flexible. A typical day involves one or two trips out on the launch to take in the wildlife and visit the surrounding area. Back on board, there are plenty of opportunities for bird watching. Local fishermen are often seen aboard their traditional dugout canoes, known locally as Mokoros. The golden light of late afternoon can also be enjoyed with a traditional sundowner in the houseboat's bar. As a day at leisure you can choose how much or how little you do today. Please note we unfortunately cannot provide single cabins on the houseboat due to the limited size of the accommodation. Customers who have booked a single room on this tour will share a twin cabin during these 3 nights.

Overnight: **Standard Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4 Visit to Tsolido Hills; Home to Thousands of Bushman Rock Paintings

Today, we plan to enjoy an excursion to the intriguing and sacred World Heritage Site of the Tsodilo Hills. The San Bushmen believe that this was the site of the first creation and painted an astonishing 4000 rock paintings to celebrate this, across 350 sites. Here, four impressive rocks jut out of the expanse of the surrounding land. The San Bushmen believe that the largest of the rocks is the 'man', the second largest the 'woman', and the smallest the 'child'. The forth rock, which stands apart from the others, is said to be the male's first wife. After exploring this fascinating site, we will return to our houseboat for our second night on board. Please note we unfortunately cannot provide single cabins on the houseboat due to the limited size of the accommodation. Customers who have booked a single room on this tour will share a twin cabin during these 3 nights.

Overnight: **Standard Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5 Drive through Namibia's Caprivi Strip to Livingstone

An early start this morning sees us heading north to Namibia's Caprivi Strip, before heading to Livingstone in Zambia. Today's drive by four-wheel drive vehicle will take most of the day, but is broken up with plenty of stops. The Caprivi Region has a colourful and interesting history, playing a central part in the Berlin Conference of 1890. Once administered by the British, it was swapped for Zanzibar with the Germans at a time of great European political manoeuvring. The strip of land was named after German Chancellor General Count Georg Leo von Caprivi di Caprara di Montecuccoli. Try saying that after a beer. In Livingstone, our lodge accommodation overlooks the Zambezi River and will be our base for the next two nights, ensuring that we conveniently placed for our visit to the spectacular Victoria Falls tomorrow.

Overnight: **Standard Lodge**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 6 Victoria Falls, Afternoon free for Optional Activities

Often referred to as the adventure capital of Zambia, Livingstone is a pleasant town, offering a variety of land, air and water-based activities in the surrounding area. A short drive will take us to one of the natural wonders of the world - Victoria Falls. We plan to view the falls from the Zambian side of the river. Here, the Zambezi River plummets over a sheer cliff wall spanning more than 1676 meters, dropping approximately 100 metres into the abyss below. Like David Livingstone before us, you are likely to 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. It's no wonder that the natives named the waterfall, Mosi-oa-Tunya, meaning 'the smoke that thunders'. This afternoon, you may choose to take an optional half-day game drive in the Mosi-oa- Tunya National Park in search of white rhino. You may also like to take advantage of one of the other many optional activities on offer, such as a scenic flight over the falls or white water rafting.

Overnight: **Standard Lodge**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 Game Viewing in Chobe National Park

Today, we take a ferry over the Zambezi River back into Botswana, before heading into the Chobe National Park - famed for its beautiful scenery, abundant wildlife and magnificent red and gold sunsets. We have the rest of the day to explore the northern Chobe area of Serondela, which sits along the banks of the Chobe River - one of the Zambezi's main tributaries. Here, we are in the heart of elephant country - up to 35,000 elephants live within the park, the largest number of any African park. This afternoon we will head out on our first game drive. Our camping accommodation tonight allows us to fully appreciate our setting. Our campsites for the next seven nights are booked and paid for two years in advance to ensure that we get the best positions in some truly spectacular spots.

Overnight: **Simple Camping**
Your own tent available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8 Morning Game and afternoon game drives in Chobe

This morning, we have the opportunity to spend more time watching huge trumpeting herds in and around the river. Other mammals to be seen are Buffalo, Kudu, Eland, Waterbuck, Sable and Roan Antelope, Zebra, Lion, Cheetah, Leopard, Impala, Reedbuck and the rare Chobe Bushbuck. In the river are Hippo and Crocodile and the waters teem with Bream, Barbel and Tiger fish (freshwater barracuda).

Overnight: **Simple Camping**
Your own tent available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9 Game Drives in Savuti

Today as we travel south, we spend the day exploring the interior area of Savuti with its sweeping plains, rolling grasslands and marshes with are fed by the erractic Savuti Channel . We have another opportunity to spend more time watching the animal herds that live in and around this area including Lions, Elephants and possibly the Leopard. Along with the many land based mammals species,there is an abundance of bird breeds including the Bee-eater and Kori Bustards

Overnight: **Simple Camping**
Your own tent available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 10 Drive to Moremi Game Reserve

Leaving our Savuti camp, we continue over dirt roads into Moremi Game Reserve - one of Botswana's most diverse reserves in terms of scenery and wildlife. Tucked into the north-eastern section of the Okavango Delta, Moremi is thought to be the country's most beautiful gameland, 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 - an ornithologist's paradise. More birdlife and larger mammals may be spotted on the flood plain, including elephant, giraffe, zebra and ostrich, as well as predators like lion, leopard and wild dog. Over the next four days, we will immerse ourselves in this incredible setting in two different parts of the park. Our first two nights are spent in the northern Khwai River area.

Overnight: **Simple Camping**
Your own tent available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 11 In Moremi Game Reserve

In Moremi, early mornings and late afternoons are devoted to game viewing. Here in the Okavango, silence reigns, broken only by the roar of a lion or the harsh cry of a fish eagle.

Overnight: **Simple Camping**
Your own tent available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 12 Drive to Xakanaxa in the Okavango Delta

The mighty Okavango is the third largest river in southern Africa. Its delta area covers 16,000 square kilometres of crystal clear channels, a myriad of ephemeral lakes and ever changing islands, surviving atop the Kalahari Desert. The river flows south east from the Angolan highlands, over 1000 kilometres away, taking up to six months to reach the delta area which floods on a perennial annual cycle. Remaining in the Moremi Game Reserve, today we drive into the Delta to our camp at Xakanaxa, where we will spend the next two nights. Exceptional though the geography of the Delta may be, it is the amazing wildlife of the waterways that draws us and we plan to set out game viewing on our arrival.

Overnight: **Simple Camping**
Your own tent available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 13 In Xakanaka area of Moremi Game Reserve

Today, we intend to spend the whole day in this unspoilt wonderland. Hippo, Crocodile andRed Lechwe are easy to spot. Bird lovers can look out for Fish Eagle, Jacana, Kingfisher, Heron, Stork, Egret, Weaver and Bee-eater - just some of the magnificent species found here.

Overnight: **Simple Camping**
Your own tent available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 14 Drive to Maun; Optional Game Flight over Okavango Delta

After an early morning game drive, we continue eastwards enjoying the emptiness, until we reach Maun at lunchtime. This afternoon, there may be the opportunity of an optional game flight over the Okavango Delta.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 15 Tour ends in Maun

Our tour ends in Maun after breakfast. Depending on the schedule of your departing flight, you may choose to spend a few hours exploring the town independently.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Notes

This tour uses a great mix of accommodation, affording us a real flavour of one of Africa's most beautiful countries. We start and end our trip in a comfortable, mid-range hotel in Maun. On the Okavango Panhandle we spend three nights on a houseboat - 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. In Livingstone we stay in bungalows on the banks of the Zambezi. In the Okavango Delta and game reserves of Botswana we enjoy the experience of camping under the African sky. Our campsites are simple enough to give the feeling of really camping out in the African bush, yet with the comforts of a proper toilet, bucket shower and even camp cots for our two man tents. Mattresses, fitted sheets, sleeping bags, pillows and blankets are also provided. Camp assistants take care of all camp chores so no participation is required.

Food & Drink

Included meals: 14 breakfasts, 11 lunches,10 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

Namibia

Lunch £: 15.00

Dinner £: 20.00

Zambia

Lunch £: 8.00

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

Namibia

Bottle of Beer £: 1.50

Water £: 0.80

Zambia

Bottle of Beer £: 1.50

Water £: 1.00

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

Maun - Flight over Okavango Delta (approx. 1 hour) US$ 100pp depending on numbers booked (must be booked in advance so speak to your tour leader).
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).
Chobe - optional river cruise US$ 40pp.
Okavango Panhandle - boat trip US$ 15pp.
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. 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. Accordingly, you should allow US$30 for tipping local crew.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

Namibia: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens.

Zambia: Visas are required for UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. British citizens can obtain these on arrival, all other nationalities should consult their consulate. All passports must have at least 6 months validity remaining on entry and also have two consecutive blank pages in their passports which lie side by side when the passport is open (i.e. a left and a right hand page).

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 affecting all children aged under 18 years that are travelling to, from or via the country. The new laws state that parents and/or guardians may be 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 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 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

Namibia

Nothing compulsory, but we do recommend protection against malaria, hepatitis A, tetanus, typhoid and polio. Please note that travellers that have previously travelled to or via countries that are endemic to Yellow Fever, 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 nights, early morning game drives and longer journeys can be very cold, especially in winter (April to August). We suggest that during the winter months you take a number of layers to combat the cold which can then be removed as the day warms up. Brightly coloured and white clothing is not suitable for game viewing. You may like to bring a swimming costume for the hotels with pools.

Equipment

Dome tents are provided which sleep a maximum of two people. Camp cots with mattresses, fitted sheets, sleeping bags, pillows and blankets are also provided. Tents are erected by our crew.
Please bring a towel with you and also a water bottle, (head) torch and larger torch for toilet visits at night whilst camping, sunhat, sunglasses, insect repellent and sunscreen. Binoculars are essential for game viewing and a 300mm lens is recommended for photography. Tents have sewn-in mosquito screening so nets are not required.

Camera batteries can be charged in Maun and Livingstone, whilst there is also a charging facility on our safari vehicle. We do however recommend that you bring spare batteries.

Footwear

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

Luggage: On Tour

The limit is one barrel bag/holdall/internal frame backpack (suitcases are not permitted) per person and a reasonable amount of photographic equipment. A day bag 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

Namibia

Population: 2,108,665

Size of Country: 825,418 sq km

Major Language: English, Afrikaans, German

Religion: Christian

Time Difference to GMT: +1

Zambia

Population: 10,000,000

Size of Country: 752,600 sq km

Major Language: English, Bemba.

Religion: Christian & Indigenous

Time Difference to GMT: +2

Electric Supply & Plugs

Botswana

3 Pin Round

Namibia

3 Pin Round

Zambia

3 Pin Flat

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, 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 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 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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