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Sorry! There are no remaining departures for "Zimbabwe & Botswana: Chobe, Hwange & Lake Kariba" (DZVV), [but here are some similar trips](#).



## **Zimbabwe & Botswana: Chobe, Hwange & Lake Kariba**

10 days, Victoria Falls to Victoria Falls

Trip code DZVV

## What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Foodie Moment: The Eatery Pot Dinner Experience, Victoria Falls
- Your OMG Day: Hike and Adventure Jet Boat Excursion or Historic Bridge Tour, Victoria Falls
- Complimentary Arrival Transfer
- Welcome Dinner
- Victoria Falls Guided Tour
- Glamping in Chobe National Park with safari drives and boat safari
- Elephant Express Train ride in Hwange National Park
- Safari drives in Hwange National Park
- Lookout Hide in Hwange National Park
- Lake Kariba exploration
- Matusadona National Park Safari Drives and walking safari
- Theatrical performance and dinner in Victoria Falls
- Farewell Dinner
- All tips included for activities and meals, except for CEO and portorage
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

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**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

**VALIDITY:** Valid for all trips departing September 18th, 2023 and onwards

# Itinerary

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**NOTE:** Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

## Victoria Falls: A Waterfall Welcome

In most cultures across the globe, waterfalls symbolize peace and serenity. They demonstrate at once power, and tranquility. Waterfalls are nature's reminder that things are in an ever constant state of movement and change. We welcome you to Victoria Falls, and to Africa, and invite you to find your inner waterfall.

Arrive at any time. After meeting fellow travellers during the welcome meeting, tuck into a delicious dinner on the hotel veranda. Now is the time to recharge, refresh and prepare yourself for the adrenaline rushes on the horizon.



### Meals included

Dinner



### Today's Activities

Airport Transfer

Victoria Falls International Airport – Victoria Falls

15m-30m

22km

Sit back and scan the scenery from the comfort of your complimentary arrival transfer.

#### ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Day 2

## Victoria Falls: Your OMG Day

Mosi-oa-Tunya -the original name for Victoria Falls, means "the smoke that thunders". You can almost feel the cold mist on your face and the loud cracking noise just from those words. Experience the smoke and thunder from above and below, by foot and by boat, enjoying a perfectly customized experience. Who says your first day of adventure can't be exactly as you imagine it?

First things first. Head straight into a fully guided tour of Victoria Falls. No trip would be complete without it. Then in the afternoon, the choice is yours. Journey through over 100 years of history on an exciting and informative tour of the Bridge over Victoria Falls. A team of guides takes you through the remarkable history of this iconic structure and offers an engaging look into the past, while serving up an extraordinary birds eye view of the falls. Or keep the blood pumping and join an adrenaline-packed jet boat experience.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



## Today's Activities

### ACTIVITY

Dinner this evening will introduce you to traditional Zimbabwean ingredients and dishes. The meal will be various traditional stews prepared in 'potjie' pots and left to simmer. The food will be enjoyed family style along the Zambezi River.

Victoria Falls Guided Tour

Victoria Falls

Head out for an unforgettable experience at Victoria Falls. Explore the rainforest and learn about the geology, history, and local legends of this world wonder. After your immersion, get up close to the falls and discover the beauty of “the smoke that thunders.” Be sure to have your camera ready!

### ACTIVITY

Option 1: Get your adrenaline coursing on an adventure jet boat ride through the Zambezi. Hike down to the boat jetty for pick up, then cruise up the rapids and right under the thundering falls. Feel the power and intensity of the falls as you become covered in their spray. Leave the Boiling Point behind and begin the fast-paced ride through the Batoka Gorge.

Option 2: Travel back 100 years as you learn about the tragic and transfixing history of Victoria Fall's most prominent landmark. Admire this engineering masterpiece, revolutionary for its time and hear about how the bridge was central to Cecil John Rhodes' vision of a Cape to Cairo railway.

## Chobe: A Window to Africa's past

Step back in time to a scene straight from a hundred years ago—a turn of the century explorers camp setup. Sip a gin and tonic around the fire listening to a story of those who explored this very spot before you were alive. Sleep in the bush with the call of lions in the distance and the sound of your breath keeping time.

Like the true adventurer you are, cross the border from Zimbabwe to Botswana, entering Chobe National Park. Float downriver on board a small vessel and spot elephants, crocodile and hippo. Continue the safari on land en route to our exclusive bush camping experience. Your tent is up, the sun is setting, your headlamp is affixed, and the sounds of Africa surround you.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### Today's Activities

Chobe River Cruise

Chobe National Park

2h30m

Depart from the safari lodge jetty and launch into the Chobe River for a different perspective of one of Botswana's national parks. Search for the resident wildlife like elephants, crocodiles, and hippos. Sit back, relax, and soak in the unbelievable scenery. Lunch will be had at a floating raft restaurant.

Chobe National Park Safari Drive

Chobe National Park

2h30m

100km

Immerse yourself in Chobe National Park in an open-backed, open-seated safari vehicle, and experience the stunning wilderness of the game-rich park in the care of a very knowledgeable and friendly guide. Explore with your eyes as the tour drives along routes that overlook the beautiful Chobe River and keep an eye out for the remarkable variety of animals that are drawn to this permanent water source.

Private Vehicle

Victoria Falls – Chobe National Park

2h-2h30m

86km

Leave Victoria Falls behind and travel to the border to cross into Botswana. Finish the transfer at the location where the group will board the river cruise through the park.

## Hwange National Park: A Ride on the Elephant Express

The second day of safari begins and the pace of safari life is starting to sink in. Waking at dawn, as the wildlife emerges for the day, is uniquely rewarding in Africa. Traverse back through Botswana, back to Zimbabwe. Your chariot awaits. In this case, your chariot is a converted 22-seat train car, whisking you through Hwange National park as you spot elephants and zebra as you reach your next destination.

Continuing our journey through time, we bid farewell to Botswana and greet Hwange National Park, crossing back into Zimbabwe. After brunch en route, get your first glimpse of Hwange on board nothing other than a purpose-built railroad car. With open air sides, the train car brings us face to snout with the wildlife of Hwange before we have even arrived at our lodge.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Chobe National Park - Hwange National Park

4h30m-5h30m

385km

Sit back and scan the scenery from the comfort of your private vehicle. Cross the border back into Zimbabwe and stop near Victoria Falls for lunch before continuing on to Hwange National Park.

Elephant Express

Hwange National Park

4h30m-5h30m

70km

Enjoy a leisurely ride on the Elephant Express, a unique rail car designed to deliver an unforgettable safari experience in Hwange National Park. The rail car has open sides to enhance the wildlife viewing, and drinks and snacks will be served during the experience. Sit back, relax, snap some photos, and get ready for the safari experience of a lifetime!

## Hwange: The Circle of Life from the Ground Up

Walking through the bush on foot, you gain an additional perspective on the life circle of life in Africa. From high up in the vehicle, its difficult to notice the small dung beetles, waddling their way through the dirt, their role in the eco-system just as crucial as the lion, the giraffe and the elephant. Begin your morning on a guided safari bushwalk to discover Africa's smaller creatures and then kick your feet up on a safari drive in the afternoon looking out for those not-so-small elephant.

A full day of safari-on foot and by road-is complimented by a delicious lunch served in the open bush. Its a day full of adventure-but we made sure to leave some time for a cheeky dip in the pool.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### Today's Activities

Morning Safari in Hwange National Park

Hwange National Park

1h

Feel the cool, crisp air of the Zimbabwean morning as you set out on your safari drive into Hwange National Park. The vast plains awaken with the rising sun, which paints the horizon in soft hues of orange and gold, casting long shadows across the landscape. Hwange, known for its immense herds, offers a truly spectacular start to the day; keep your eyes peeled as you drive past natural waterholes and ancient mopane woodlands, searching for elephants, giraffes, and the park's famous concentration of lions. This early start provides the best opportunity to witness predators before the heat of the day, making every rustle in the tall grass a heart-stopping moment of pure safari exhilaration.

Afternoon Wildlife Safari Drive

Hwange

3h

Enjoy a wildlife safari drive in a private concession bordering Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe's largest park, and home to elephant herds, lions, and the rare African wild dog. Get your cameras ready and keep an eye out for Africa's "big five," as well as other predators, over 300 bird species, and discover a remote portion of Hwange National Park where you will seldom see another vehicle.

## Hwange: An Elephants' Playground

Hwange National Park is most known for its enormous population of elephant. It's hard to overstate how majestic they are to witness in real life. Crawl into an underground hide to view the elephants at ground level as they drink from the watering hole and move about their daily life.

An early morning safari drive awaits before a slower morning to enjoy the hotter part of the day at our lodge. A refreshing trip to the pool should be in order. After viewing the elephants from our unique vantage point this afternoon, a nighttime safari drive allows an opportunity for unique nocturnal wildlife viewing.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### Today's Activities

Hwange Safari Lodge Morning Drive

Hwange National Park - Hwange

3h

Join experienced guides in traditional open safari vehicles. On your morning wildlife safari drive you will pause for tea, coffee and biscuits while you enjoy the serene environment. Sit back and scan the scenery of the calm morning in search of wildlife and Africa's Big Five on private concession land.

Free Time

Hwange

Spend a free afternoon enjoying the amenities at the lodge and optional activities in the area. Opt to book a spa treatment to sooth those sore neck muscles from safari drives, or soak in the cool waters of the shipping container and view wildlife. You can also choose to go birding or canoeing in the national park.

The Look Up Hide

Hwange National Park

Climb into a modified steel shipping container that has been sunk deep into the Hwange sands, creating a cool and secure place to watch various wildlife come get a drink in the nearby water source. The closeness to these magnificent creatures provide a big thrill and your spot in the sand allows for ample photo opportunities.

Night Safari Through Hwange National Park

Hwange National Park

Engage all your senses on a night drive through the wildness of Hwange National Park. Your trackers will operate powerful spotlights to seek out some of the less-seen nocturnal creatures. Possible wildlife spotted could include porcupines, genets, springhares, and pennant winged nightjars.

## Lake Kariba: Lakeside Safari

Lake Kariba is the world's largest man made lake by volume-created by the damming of the Zambezi back in 1959. Now, it's home to cormorants, tigerfish, crocodile and hippo. Swimming in the lake is out of the question, unless you fancy a swim with a hippo, but your lakeside lodge offers the unique opportunity to marvel at Africa's water dwelling wildlife.

A final morning safari drive in Hwange offers one final chance to take in the serenity of this magical place. Take a short flight Hwange over to Kariba. The adventure continues aboard a boat bound for your lodge across Lake Kariba on the southern side. Situated on the lakeshore next to Matusadona National Park just, your lodge is one of the only in the area to offer both water and land wildlife experiences.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Hwange National Park - Hwange Airport

3h

155km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Plane

Hwange Airport - Kariba

1h

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Hwange Safari Lodge Morning Drive

Hwange National Park - Hwange

3h

Join experienced guides in traditional open safari vehicles. On your morning wildlife safari drive you will pause for tea, coffee and biscuits while you enjoy the serene environment. Sit back and scan the scenery of the calm morning in search of wildlife and Africa's Big Five on private concession land.

Lake Kariba Visit

Kariba

1h

Hop on a scenic boat ride to your lodge at the Changa Safari Camp. Lake Kariba is 2,150 square miles and about 140 miles long by 20 miles wide. The lake formed after the damming of the Zambezi River. Scan the banks for the numerous species of flora and fauna here and travel to Matusadona National Park on the lake's shores and the destination of your safari camp stay.

## Lake Kariba: Matusadona National Park and Kariba Sundowners

Matusadona National Park is a story of revitalization. Now under a 20 year agreement under African Parks, Matusadona is fast returning to its former glory as a permanent home for elephant and black rhino. Investment into the local communities has encouraged legal fishing practices to be resumed and local communities to again take pride in becoming stewards and partners in the protection of the area in which they live and work.

On a safari walk in Matusadona early in the morning, you'll keep your eyes peeled for elephant, cape buffalo, and impala. The afternoon offers an opportunity to get out onto the lake to traverse through Sanyati Gorge. The gorge affords you views that rival those of the Fjords of Europe or New Zealand, with an abundance of birdlife and even the occasional antelope dwelling nearby. Sundowners back at the lodge are well earned this evening.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### Today's Activities

Walking Safari or Game Drive

Kariba

4h

Option 1: Start the morning with a safari walk in Matusadona National Park. Track animals on foot with your expert guide and feel the thrill of being part of the landscape these beautiful creatures call home. Search for hippo, crocodile, elephant, buffalo, waterbuck, impala, and kudu.

Option 2: Hop in the open game drive vehicle as the morning light spreads across the landscape. Explore the diverse landscape and discover the area's wildlife along the way with the commentary of your expert guide without breaking a sweat.

Free Time

Kariba

Spend the afternoon enjoying the property's amenities and activities on your own. Choose to relax with yoga or the spa. Or try fishing in the lake.

Kariba Sundowner

Kariba

As the day comes to an end toast one of Kariba's amazing sunsets as the light fades from the bush.

Lake Kariba Fishing

Kariba

Kariba is home to plenty of freshwater species including Bream, and Africa's finest fresh water fighting fish, the Tiger Fish. Spend time fishing in the lake's waters and see what you coax to the surface.

## Victoria Falls: The Curtain Closes

As you return to Victoria Falls, back to where it all began, the evening comes to a close with an exciting performance. Once night falls, be some of the first guests to see the exciting new local production "Simunye-We are one". This fusion of theatre, dance and song is a thrilling and poignant way to bid farewell to your African adventure.

Victoria Falls welcomes you again, for one final day of adventure. A morning flight awaits, and the afternoon is yours to enjoy as you see fit. Before the evening performance, there is ample time to embark on an optional helicopter ride over the falls to close out the adventure of a lifetime.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### Today's Activities

Plane

Kariba - Victoria Falls

1h30m-2h

After a return boat trip to Kariba Town, board a quick flight back to Victoria Falls.

Free Time

Victoria Falls

Take advantage of free time in Victoria Falls to partake in the optional helicopter ride over Victoria Falls.

Theatre Performance & Dinner

Victoria Falls

1h30m-2h

After dark sit down to watch the lively new production of "Simunye-We are one". Dinner will be served after the engaging performance as an African-themed dinner buffet where you will have the opportunity to interact with the cast.



### Optional Activities - Day 9

Victoria Falls Helicopter Ride - 15 Mins

Victoria Falls

You don't want to miss the opportunity to see Victoria Falls from above. Watch the Zambezi River make its way toward the gorge and form the largest waterfall in the world. During your 15-minute ride, you will have time to take in the incredible views over the falls, Livingstone Island, and Mosi-oa-Tunya

National Park while snapping as many pictures as you like. You may be lucky enough to see some giraffes and elephants in the surrounding landscape and even catch a rainbow over the falls. Includes pick-up and drop-off from hotel and a 12-15min flight.

Please note there is a cost for an additional park fee paid for on-site at time of the activity.

Day 10

## Victoria Falls

Your adventure comes to an end, and you can depart at any time today.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Today's Activities

Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.

## What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Foodie Moment: The Eatery Pot Dinner Experience, Victoria Falls
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- Theatrical performance and dinner in Victoria Falls
- Farewell Dinner
- All tips included for activities and meals, except for CEO and portage
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

## What are the main highlights of this trip?

Guided tour of Victoria Falls, Glamping in Chobe National Park, Elephant Express Hwange National Park, Lake Kariba stay, Matusadona National Park safari

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## Is there a disclaimer I should read before booking this trip?

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**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you view a final copy of your Trip Details a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

## Is there an itinerary Disclaimer?

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

## What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

1. Please note that this tour combines with other G Adventures tours. As such, the staff and some travel companions on your tour may have previously been traveling together with G Adventures, prior to Day 1 of your tour. Likewise, some staff and travel companions may be continuing together on another G Adventures tour, after your trip concludes.

2. According to the WHO and CDC, there is no risk of yellow fever in Botswana. It is compulsory to show a valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate if you are travelling to Botswana from a Yellow Fever endemic country, or have recently travelled to a Yellow Fever endemic country (with entry stamps in your passport), including the following countries (but not limited to): Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Zambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela.

**\*\*We advise all travelers to Botswana who are coming from one of the above countries, or who have visited them in the last 10 years, to be prepared with a Yellow Fever vaccination certificate or letter from your doctor with proof of vaccination. Yellow Fever inoculations need to be administered at least 10 days prior to your entry into the country. Border officials in Botswana have been strictly enforcing these requirements. Travelers without the correct documentation run the risk of being denied entry, and will not be able to continue with the tour. (Any additional travel expenses will be on your own account.)\*\***

### 3. MONEY EXCHANGE

We strongly advise that you bring ZAR or USD from your home country or exchange money before the start of the tour, to avoid delays on tour. Please see the Money Exchange section for more details.

### 4. DRONES

The use of drones in national parks in Southern Africa is prohibited.

### 5. ACCOMMODATION NOTE:

Please be aware that properties we stay in with only two stories may not have elevators installed and climbing the stairs with your luggage will be necessary.

## What is the group leader like?

On this tour, you will be accompanied by a group Chief Experience Officer (CEO) and an expert driver. The Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will be the group manager and leader. All of our leaders in southern Africa are registered and licensed tourism guides, meaning they've studied to have a broad knowledge base of the region's history, cultures, and wildlife, and are legally certified to lead/guide tours in the regions visited. Most of our leaders in the region are from South Africa, though it may be possible that you'll have a leader from another country in the southern African region.

As the group manager and leader, the aim of the group leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places where are travelling, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. He/she will take care of the small things so you can concentrate on enjoying your adventure. In addition, as an integral part of the team, your driver is skilled and experienced driver who has intimate knowledge of the vehicle and routes travelled.

We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting.

## **How large will the group be?**

Max 16.

## **What meals are included in this trip?**

9 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 9 dinners

## **What are the meals like on this trip?**

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is cheap. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. On truck trips in Africa, aboard the expedition ship Explorer or our Galapagos yachts, while trekking in remote regions etc. food is included, plentiful and made of fresh local ingredients. The above information applies to G Adventures group trips. For Independent trips please check the itinerary for details of meals included. For all trips please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

## **What are the modes of transportation on my trip?**

Private vehicle, plane, walking, boat, open-air safari vehicle, safari train.

## **Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?**

We believe solo travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

## **Where will we stay during the trip?**

Hotels (3nts), Mobile Glamping Camp with shared facilities (1nt), Safari Lodge (5nts).

## What are the joining instructions?

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

An arrival transfer is included when you arrive on Day 1, or if you arrive up to three days prior provided that you have booked your pre-accommodation through G Adventures in our joining hotel. Due to customer experience and quality considerations, all services related to the tour must be continuous.

Our driver will be waiting for you with a G Adventures sign, and they will be waiting for you outside the luggage hall. If for any reason you are not met at the airport, please call our local support line. If you are unable to make contact for whatever reason, please make your way to the joining point hotel via taxi.

Please note that the included arrival transfer will pick you up from the international airport in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (VFA). There is a domestic airport located in Zambia (airport code LVI) that serves the Livingstone area, but there is an additional cost for this service. We highly recommend you double check your arrival details into Victoria Falls and make sure you are flying into the correct airport.

Please note that day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned on this day.

Upon arrival to your Joining Hotel (note that check-in time will be in the afternoon), look for a note or bulletin board in the reception with a note from your CEO. This note will give the details of your Welcome Meeting on day 1 (usually between 5pm and 7pm), where you will get a chance to meet your CEO and other travellers, as well as learn more about how the tour will run. If you don't see a note, please ask reception for details!

If you are arriving later and will miss the Welcome Meeting, your CEO will leave a note at reception for you with any information you may need, and with morning instructions for the next day.

## What happens if I experience problems when arriving?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, as soon as possible please contact your starting point hotel, requesting that you speak to or leave a message for your CEO (if you are not on a group tour please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier). If you are unable to get in touch with your leader, please refer to our emergency contact details. If you have pre-booked an airport transfer and have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

## Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Representative (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

### AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change or flight cancellation within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, please call the emergency contact number to advise of your new arrival flight information. If you do not, we will not be able to rearrange your arrival transfer and you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel at your own expense. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Local Representative (South Africa)

From outside South Africa: +27 713823286

From within South Africa: 071 3823286

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

## What instructions should I follow at the finishing point?

If you would like to book an airport Departure transfer for your tour, please contact our Sales Team or your Travel Agent in advance of travel.

## What should I take on my trip?

You will be on the move a lot, so our advice is to pack as lightly as possible. Your baggage should be clearly labeled and restricted to one soft compact suitcase, or sports bag, maximum 15kg, plus a daypack. Luggage limits on airlines are strictly enforced and space on vehicles is limited. Porters are not often available, so be prepared to carry your own bags.

For our camping style tours you will need to provide your own sleeping bag, small pillow and sleeping sheet (if you would like). We provide the tent and the sleeping pads.

It is important to pack clothes for warm days and cool evenings, as well as a warm jacket for early morning wildlife safari drives.

Please note that the seasons in Africa is quite extreme. Winters (especially South Africa, Namibia and Botswana) can be really cold and summers will be really hot. If you travel during winter months(May to October) please ensure that you bring warm clothing and a suitable sleeping bag.

A set of smart casual clothes is also advisable.

Please be advised that if you plan to bring a drone with you, the use of drones in national parks in Southern Africa is prohibited.

# What should be on my packing list?

## Cold weather:

- Long-sleeved shirts or sweater
- Scarf
- Warm gloves
- Warm hat
- Warm layers

## Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

## Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

**Health & Safety:**

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)

**Warm Weather:**

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear Note: Seasons in Southern Africa are quite extreme. Winters can be really cold and summers will be really hot. If you travel during winter months (May to October) please ensure that you bring warm clothing and a suitable sleeping bag.

**When can I do my laundry on this trip?**

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

## What the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

Botswana:

Botswana as a \$30 USD tourism levy for visitors entering the country, except for residents and citizens of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states. This entry tax is payable at all points of entry into Botswana and will be valid for 30 days and includes multiple entry.

Information is accurate as of March 1st, 2024.

# Where can I read detailed notes about this trip?

## REGIONAL INFORMATION

### Climate

Southern Africa is renowned for its excellent outdoor living climate. The winter months are from May to September and are characterized by cold nights and pleasant days. Summer is from October to April and starts off with increasing dry heat and dust. Rains generally only start from mid to late December and last until March; this period is hot and humid.

### Electricity

220-240V, 50 HZ, Most electrical plugs are 15 amp 3-prong with round pins. International adaptor are called for, they can be purchased locally (approx 2 US\$).

### Language

There are multiple official languages in Botswana and Zimbabwe, although English is widely spoken. There are also numerous dialects spoken throughout different parts of these lands.

### Botswana:

Full country name: Republic of Botswana

Area: 600,370 sq km (231,800 sq mi)

Population: 1.6 million Capital city: Gaborone (pop 192,000)

People: Botswana 60%, Bakalanga, Basarwa, Bakgalagadi

Languages: English, Setswana

Religions: indigenous beliefs 50%, Christian 50%

Government: parliamentary republic

President: Seretse Ian Khama

Major industries: diamonds, copper, nickel, coal, salt, soda ash, potash, livestock processing, sorghum, maize, millet, pulses, groundnuts (peanuts), beans, cowpeas, sunflower seed, livestock

Major trading partners: EU, Southern African Customs Union (SACU), Zimbabwe

The first inhabitants of Botswana were the San (Bushmen). They still populate the country, but the Tswana tribe is now more prominent. Other tribes include the Kalanga, Nbukushy, Yei and the Herero. The Herero women still wear the full-length Victorian-style dresses, which were introduced to them by German missionaries in the late 1800's, however it is now a tribal trademark. The British controlled Bechuanaland (as Botswana was then known) from 1885 until the country received their independence on September 30th 1966. Ironically diamonds were discovered in Botswana in 1967! Interesting fact – Botswana's diamonds do very well on the International market as they are classified as "Blood free," meaning they are not used to fund guerrilla warfare. Botswana has the strongest economy and currency in Africa, mostly due to their diamonds and livestock. The European Union put many stipulations on their imported meats and Botswana's tight veterinary checks, aiming at controlling foot and mouth, mean that the EU are happy to buy their meat. Agricultural income will improve when they have combated the problem of widespread drought. They are currently installing irrigation systems around the country to try to feed the most water-deprived areas. Botswana handles its international debt much better than any other African country with the interest being paid with one months export earnings, rather than the six months earnings it takes most other African countries. With the amount of for ex saved up the country could survive with no income for 36 months. Botswana has the world's highest birth rate at 3.5%, and average women have 5 children. The country has a strong currency, the Pula meaning rain and the Thebe meaning raindrop. Government policies and poaching: Their policy on tourism is "high cost and low impact" therefore rather having a few less tourists and charging more money for the privilege of a visit to a park or similar. The country has a very good army, which has an anti poaching unit. Poaching has in the past been a problem in the country but in now almost

under control. The army is allowed to shoot to kill without asking questions if you are caught poaching. Rhinos are very few due to poaching and they have breeding programs in place.

Zimbabwe:

Full country name: Republic of Zimbabwe (and formerly Southern Rhodesia, Rhodesia, the Republic of Rhodesia, and Zimbabwe Rhodesia)

Area: 390,757 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 16 111 699

Capital cities: Harare

People: The country is made up of Bantu-speaking ethnic groups, with the majority of the population comprised of the Shona and Ndebele groups.

Languages: Zimbabwe has three official languages: English, Shona (the Bantu language with the most native speakers), and Ndebele (also a Bantu language). In total Zimbabwe has 16 officially recognized languages.

Religion: The majority of Zimbabweans are Christian.

Major industries: Mineral, gold and agricultural products make up the majority of Zimbabwe's exports.

Currency: The Zimbabwean Dollar

Officially the Republic of Zimbabwe and formerly Southern Rhodesia, Rhodesia, the Republic of Rhodesia, and Zimbabwe Rhodesia) is a landlocked country located in the southern part of the African continent, between the Zambezi and Limpopo rivers. It is bordered by South Africa to the south, Botswana to the southwest, Zambia to the northwest and Mozambique to the east. Zimbabwe began as the British crown colony of Southern Rhodesia, created from land held by the British South Africa Company. President Robert Mugabe is the head of State and Commander in Chief of the armed forces. Morgan Tsvangirai is the Prime Minister. Mugabe has been in power since the country's internationally-recognized independence in 1980.

## **How much spending money do I need for my trip?**

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

## **What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?**

In Zimbabwe, the US Dollar and South African Rand, are the two most accepted currencies, but the Botswana pula, Pound sterling, Euro, Australian dollar, Chinese yuan (renminbi), Indian rupee, and Japanese yen are all accepted as legal currency.

We strongly advise that you bring ZAR or USD from your home country or exchange money before the start of the tour, to avoid delays on tour.

Credit cards can be used in major cities and towns ONLY but please do not rely on them as a method of payment because they are generally not widely accepted. You should be aware that to purchase products or services on a credit card a fee of 5%-10% usually applies. The majority of our optional activities can also be paid by credit card. Your CEO will advise on these.

The currency in South Africa is the South African Rand (ZAR).

In Botswana, payments at supermarkets, post offices etc are to be with Pula (BWP), but activities and drinks at campsites can be paid for in USD.

## **How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?**

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

## **Do I need to pay a departure tax?**

All passengers are advised to check the Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe website for updated information on applicable departure taxes for Zimbabwe: <http://www.caaz.co.zw/>.

## **Should I be tipping on my trip?**

On the Geluxe Collection tours, tipping is included for all included activities and meals. Tipping is not included for the CEO or Porterage. Should you want some basic guidelines on tipping for the activities you do on your own, please see below. At the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures CEO did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline would be \$10-\$15 per person, per day.

For meals and activities not included in your itinerary, it is appropriate in Africa to tip 10%. Though not compulsory, tipping is expected. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels and shows an expression of satisfaction.

## What activities are optional on this trip?

### Victoria Falls

- Victoria Falls Helicopter Ride -  
15 Mins

## Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?

We recommend you contact your family physician, or your local travel clinic for the most up-to-date health information at least one month before departure. Travellers should also carry a basic first-aid kit and hand sanitizers/antibacterial wipes on their travels. Medical facilities are basic throughout these countries. For your own safety, we strongly recommend that you advise your tour leader of any medical condition that may affect you while travelling with the group. Your tour leader will be able to inform you of local health advisories (e.g. drinking water quality). Please ensure you have all the inoculations recommended by your doctor.

Yellow Fever Certificate Note: (Updated: May 2023)

It is compulsory to show a valid Yellow Fever Certificate if you are travelling to the following G Adventures-visited countries from a Yellow Fever endemic country:

- Botswana
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Rwanda
- South Africa
- Swaziland
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

For some of these countries, proof of Yellow Fever vaccination is also required for passengers who have travelled more than 12 hours through the airport of an endemic country. If other countries not endemic to Yellow Fever have been visited after visiting an endemic country, then a Yellow Fever certificate may still be required on entry. Please check country-specific regulations before your departure.

### Malaria

Malaria is a mosquito-borne disease that is present in some regions in Africa. Risk of malaria can increase during periods of heavy rain, during the rainy seasons, and in densely populated areas of Southern & East Africa. To prevent malaria, we recommend speaking to your doctor about taking preventative medication (prophylaxis), combined with regular use of insect repellent spray/cream. Please check updated travel health advisories specific to malaria before your departure.

## What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

## What are the trip specific safety considerations?

Travelers must exercise common sense and caution at all times. Tourists should stick to set travel arrangements and avoid unknown areas. Always keep a photocopy of your passport, airline tickets and a record of your travelers' checks and credit card numbers separate from where you keep the originals. Botswana is relatively safe and your guide knows the area intimately and will endeavour to show you the best parts while looking after you. In the wild areas, your guide will brief you on the necessary precautions, follow this advice and you will be fine. We also recommend that you wear minimal jewellery and that you keep valuable items safely stored.

Please note that the use of drones in national parks in Southern Africa is prohibited.

## What rules should I know before joining this trip?

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

## Is travel insurance required for my trip?

Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

## What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

## How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at [customersolutions@gadventures.com](mailto:customersolutions@gadventures.com) and we will send it on to you.

## Does G Adventures have an email newsletter I can subscribe to?

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at [www.gadventures.com/newsletters/](http://www.gadventures.com/newsletters/)

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

## **Are international flights included in this trip?**

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

## **What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?**

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

## Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

## Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.