

12 Days Northern Adventure - Johannesburg to Victoria Falls 2020

In brief

Heading to South Africa's famous Kruger National Park, where we go in search of the "Big Five" and many other wildlife species before crossing into Zimbabwe to explore the Great Zimbabwe Ruins – an ancient city in southern Africa. Matobo National Park is a haven for rhino and rich in ancient San rock paintings. After this we head to Hwange National Park in search of more wildlife sightings. We end our adventure at the mighty Victoria Falls, one of the natural wonders of the world and a base for many optional adventure activities.

Tour details

This trip begins in Johannesburg, South Africa and travels north through South Africa and Zimbabwe ending in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

This trip departs from Johannesburg early on Wednesday morning. Should you wish to explore Johannesburg, we can assist you, in booking your activities as well as accommodation. However, costs due to earlier arrival, will be for your own account.

Tour starts:	Johannesburg, South Africa
Tours ends:	Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
Tour style:	Camping
Tour price:	R 13,400
Local payment:	US\$ 590 - payable on arrival
Meals included:	10 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 10 dinners
Pre-departure meeting:	Held at the Departure Point at 5pm, day 1 of the tour
Departure point:	Doves Nest, 78 Gladiator St, Rhodesfield, Kempton Park
Check-in time:	7am
Departure time:	7.30am
Countries visited:	South Africa, Zimbabwe

Please note:

This itinerary should be used as a guide only and may vary from day to day depending on road and weather conditions, political situations and group decisions. All prices and local payments are subject to change.

Due to tourism laws in some of the countries we visit, there may be a truck and crew change during the trip. Your arrival transfer and pre-trip accommodation in a dorm bed is included in your trip price. Should you choose not to make use of these, or in the event that we were not updated with your arrival details, no refund will be paid for services not used.

Please ensure you've received a copy of our pre-departure information document with information on what to expect on this overland safari.

Included highlights

- Kruger National Park
- Great Zimbabwe Ruins
- Matobo national Park
- Hwange National Park
- Entrance to Victoria Falls

What is not included?

International flights, airport departure taxes, departure transfer, visas, meals unless otherwise stated, travel insurance, laundry, and personal items, sleeping bag, pillow and tips.

Meals on tour

Meals and menus vary as food is purchased en-route and is subject to produce that is available seasonally in the areas we travel through. As we support the local communities along the way, fresh produce is mostly purchased directly from the producer or local grower and therefore has an organic appearance. Our safari cooks are able to offer a wide

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variety of menus with the ingredients available, even if the produce on offer is not of the same selection as what you may be used to back home.

The breakfast spread consists of bread (toast when time allows), spreads and cereals with a hot breakfast every few days. Lunches are mostly prepared en-route with a supply of 'build your own' sandwich ingredients available. Dinners are cooked in the evenings on arrival at the campsite. A wide array of dinner menus is on offer during your safari, consisting of curries, stews, pastas, BBQ's and even roasts!

Transport on tour

Our overland vehicles are custom built converted trucks that have seating space for our passengers and a storage area for luggage and all trip equipment. The trucks seat between 20-30 passengers on our camping trips. Vehicles have sliding glass windows, and the seating area is raised providing a great advantage for game viewing and photography. Seats are cushioned and there is storage space for personal items like cameras, snacks and day packs in the seating area.

Participation on tour

All of our tours are participation trips meaning that all passengers are expected to help out around camp. The crew members running the trip will set up a rota system that will be followed. One day you may be on cleaning duty, the next day you may be on cooking duty and so forth. This is not only to make the trip easier for all involved but also for you as the passengers to get to know one another while on trip.

Itinerary

Day 1: Johannesburg

We start our first day in Egoli the place of gold (Johannesburg), Johannesburg is the capital of Gauteng, which is a province in South Africa.

Meals	No meals
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Day 2: Johannesburg to Nkambeni Camp

Leaving Johannesburg, we head towards the Lowveld and our camp situated within the border of the famous Kruger National Park. On our way we pass through the southern section of the picturesque Panorama Route – famous for its breath-taking vistas. Our camp for the next two nights is a short drive from the Kruger Park Gate and has some interesting local residents that include hippo, giraffe, zebra and impala.

Meals	Lunch and Dinner
Included activity	Kruger National Park night game drive

Day 3: Nkambeni Camp

Today we explore the amazing Kruger National Park. Covering 19 485 km² - 60 km wide and over 350 km long, this conservation area has more than 146 mammals, 500 bird, 114 reptile, 33 amphibian and 49 fish species. 23 000 different types of plants have been recorded.

We spend the Day driving around the park keeping an eye out for these. There is the option of doing a night drive looking for a few of the nocturnal inhabitants or upgrading to an open-sided vehicle for the game drive at an additional cost.

Meals	Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
Included activity	Game drives in Kruger National Park in overland vehicle

Day 4: Nkambeni Camp to Polokwane

Today we leave the Lowveld and head on the long, scenic drive to Polokwane. Along the way we stop off at some of the best scenery in South Africa, including the ever striking Blyde River Canyon and God's Window. The many viewpoints of the Canyon afford us excellent photo opportunities.

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Polokwane, capital of Limpopo, is the largest metropolitan complex in the north and a major economic centre. Its proximity to the neighbouring countries of Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Swaziland, as well as its convenient distance from the Kruger National Park and Magoebaskloof, makes it a perfect gateway and good destination in itself.

We set up our tents on the lush green grass of our campsite located outside of the city before enjoying a dip in the lovely swimming pool.

Meals	Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
Optional activities	Blyde River Canyon and God's Window

Day 5: Polokwane to Musina

After a quick replenishing of our stocks we begin our journey north toward Zimbabwe. We have a long, relaxing drive where we get to sit back and enjoy the ever-changing scenery. Tonight we'll camp near to one of the hottest towns in South Africa, Musina, at the hot water spring resort – Tshipise. Situated between the rolling hills, the resort is well known for its natural hot water springs.

Once we've set up camp, you're free to enjoy the pools, walking trails or various other activities on offer here.

Meals	Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
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Day 6: Musina to Masvingo (Zimbabwe)

Today we enter Zimbabwe - a beautiful country rich in soul, culture and tradition. We make our way to the town of Masvingo - on the outskirts of the Great Zimbabwe Ruins.

This was the greatest medieval city in sub-Saharan Africa, built by an ancient highly skilled civilization. The name Zimbabwe is derived from this ancient city and means "great stone houses" in Shona. The most notable artefacts found at the ruins were the 8 Statues of stone birds carved out of soapstone.

Wander around these amazing ruins, before setting up camp at the foot of the hills.

Meals	Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
Included activity	Great Zimbabwe Ruins

Day 7: Masvingo to Bulawayo

Leaving Msavingo, we head to Bulawayo - Zimbabwe's second largest city. Bulawayo is noted for its exceptionally wide streets, which were originally designed to accommodate a full span ox wagon. The city also still retains much of its British Colonial character, evident by the many buildings maintained as heritage sites by the Bulawayo City Council.

Interesting places to visit are the Natural History Museum, the National Arts Gallery and the Mzilikazi Arts and Crafts Centre, which employs over 70 people.

Meals	Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
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Day 8: Bulawayo

Today we visit Matobo National Park, one of the last strongholds of both the black and the white rhino. This park is also well known for its high concentration of the elusive leopard and majestic black eagle. Rock paintings are to be found too, providing evidence of the ancient San inhabitants of this area. Cecil John Rhodes (after whom Rhodesia was named) asked to be buried at the top of one of the sacred hills, (although there is some controversy over whether he will stay!) We spend the Day exploring this unique geological, ecological and historic area.

Meals	Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
Included activity	Half-day visit to Matobo National Park

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Day 9: Bulawayo to Hwange National Park

We continue north-west to Zimbabwe's oldest and largest reserve - Hwange National Park. Hwange is well known for its abundance and variety of wildlife species including thousands of elephants, and rare antelope species such as the Sable and Roan Antelope.

Meals	Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
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Day 10: Hwange National Park

Today we have some time in the Hwange area, and here we partake in a half day game drive through Hwange National Park, in the hope that we spot as many wild animals as possible.

Meals	Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
Included activity	Half-day game drive in Hwange National Park

Day 11: Hwange to Victoria Falls

Leaving Hwange, we head to Victoria Falls. Named after the famous World Heritage Site and waterfall, the town of Victoria Falls is situated on the Zambezi River and surrounded by the Victoria Falls National Park. Our campsite is conveniently situated in the centre of town, and within walking distance of the adventure booking agents, restaurants and shops. A 20-minute walk down the main road takes you to the entry point to view the falls, which are situated between Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Victoria Falls, or "Mosi-oa-Tunya", the Smoke that Thunders, was named by David Livingstone on his explorations, and is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. At 1700 m wide and around 100 m high, this is the world's largest sheet of falling water and a memorable sight on any African Safari!

After our adventure activities briefing, the afternoon is spent relaxing at the campsite's swimming pool, viewing the Victoria Falls, or exploring the many sights and delights of this town!

Meals	Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
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Day 12: Victoria Falls

After breakfast, we exchange addresses and part ways, having just experienced a trip of a lifetime! We suggest booking additional days after your trip to take advantage of the optional excursions available at Victoria Falls.

Meals	Breakfast
Included activity	Entrance to Victoria Falls
