

Ultimate Namibia and Botswana

DRAMATIC WILDLIFE, CAPRIVI STRIP, TRADITIONAL SAN TRIBES



Wilderness Travel



Ultimate Namibia and Botswana

TRIP DATES

2024

May 1-13, 2024

May 14-26, 2024 Reverse Itinerary

June 30-July 12, 2024

July 13-25, 2024 Reverse Itinerary

2025

May 1-13, 2025

May 14-26, 2025 Reverse Itinerary

June 4-16, 2025

June 17-29, 2025 Reverse Itinerary

Join us for world-class game viewing, exquisite wildlife lodges that don't cater to mass tourism, and an insight into the ancient and mystical world of San hunter-gatherers. On this unique new safari, you'll discover Namibia and Botswana as few travelers do, with "insider" experiences that get you to pristine wildlife areas and into fascinating local cultures. Explore famed Etosha National Park as few do, from the eastern gate, as well as the exclusive private Onguma Game Reserve, home to a family of black rhinos as well as lion, leopard, and cheetah. Heading to a tented camp in the land of the traditional Ju/'hoan people, learn firsthand about their profound knowledge of the bush environment and join them on a walk to experience their traditional skills. We give you a complete change of scene in Botswana's waterworld of the Okavango Delta. Here, we'll safari by mokoro (dugout canoe) in the pristine lagoons of Nxamaseri in the northern Okavango Delta—far from the Chobe crowds. In the once-forbidden Caprivi Strip (now referred to as the Zambezi Strip) in northern Namibia, you'll explore the riverine landscapes of Bwabwata National Park, the new jewel in Namibia's conservation crown. Along the Kwando River, the elephant viewing is excellent, as is the birding along the reedy channels at the park's eastern fringe. We cap our group size at just six travelers, so we'll have many lodges for our exclusive use and great wildlife experiences shared with our phenomenal Trip Leader, Timothy Smith, a true safari expert, tracker, and top guide (wildlife experiences are so much richer with a small group!). We end our breathtaking safari adventure at Victoria Falls, "the smoke that thunders." If you're looking for an African wildlife adventure without equal, this is it!

Itinerary

DAY 1

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

Welcome to Namibia! On arrival at the Windhoek International Airport, you are met for the transfer to Galton House, a simple boutique hotel set in a quiet neighborhood. We gather for our trip orientation and Welcome Dinner this evening. Overnight at the hotel...D

DAY 2

AFRICAT FOUNDATION / LEOPARD TRACKING / OKONJIMA LUXURY BUSH CAMP

Journeying north from Windhoek, we arrive at lovely Okonjima Bush Camp in time for lunch. Okonjima is home to the renowned AfriCat Foundation, dedicated to the long-term conservation of Namibia's large carnivores through research, education, and community engagement. AfriCat researchers and veterinarians contribute greatly to our understanding of the ecology of large carnivores in enclosed and protected reserves. Since its founding in 1991, over a thousand injured or captured predators have been rescued at AfriCat, with over 85% being released back into the wild. This afternoon, we head out by 4WD vehicle for the thrilling experience of tracking leopard, which we may find resting in the trees after their night of hunting. There's also a chance of spotting brown hyena. You'll learn about the vital work AfriCat is doing to ensure the survival of big cats in Namibia. In the evening, we may have the option to visit the night hide and see nocturnal wildlife. Overnight at Okonjima Bush Camp...BLD

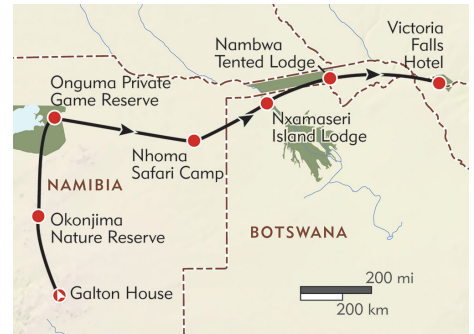
Driving Details: 3-4 hours

DAY 3

ONGUMA GAME RESERVE / ONGUMA TENTED CAMP

After a morning of game viewing and brunch at AfriCat, we head to our beautiful lodge set just outside the eastern gate of Etosha National Park, where wildlife and landscapes differ from those on the more accessible and visited southern side of the park. The eastern side of Etosha offers more diverse game viewing than the southern side of the park because seasonal precipitation here provides a more productive ecosystem for wildlife. Onguma Tented Camp, with its elegant main building and seven beautifully furnished tents, is a delightful safari accommodation. In the local Herero language, Onguma means "the place you don't want to leave." After settling in, we head out for a sundowner game drive into the private Onguma Game Reserve, which borders this famed park. With its mix of pans, woodlands, and open plains, Onguma is home to kudu, giraffe, zebra, impala, and other plains game as well as lion, leopard, and cheetah—it's also the proud home to a family of rare black rhinos! After dinner at camp, we can gather a few steps away at the campfire area to share stories of the day and watch the wildlife activity at the waterhole. Overnight at Onguma Tented Camp...BLD

Driving Details: 4-4.5 hours



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

Length:	13 days
Arrive:	Windhoek, Namibia
Depart:	Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
Lodging:	12 nights hotels and lodges
Meals:	All meals included (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Activity:	Cultural Adventures, Safaris, Wildlife and Natural History
Trip Level:	1 2+ 3 4 5 6 Game viewing by 4WD vehicle, river boat, and mokoro (canoe), rugged road travel

HIGHLIGHTS

- Leopard tracking at AfriCat
- Rhino, leopard, lion, and elephant in eastern Etosha
- Cultural experiences with San hunter-gatherers on their ancestral lands
- Safari in the remote Caprivi Strip and pristine northern Okavango Delta



DAY 4

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK / ONGUMA TENTED CAMP

A morning of game viewing by 4WD vehicle brings us into the vast eastern reaches of Etosha National Park. Proclaimed a wildlife reserve back in 1907, Etosha is a haven for wildlife, including four of the Big Five—rhino, leopard, lion, and elephant. Other large mammals include giraffe, wildebeest, hyena, mountain and plains zebra, springbok, kudu, eland, and the endemic black-faced impala. And with more than 340 species, the birding in Etosha is fantastic. We'll have a picnic during our game drive in the park, then return to camp for a siesta before heading out for a sundowner game drive in Onguma Game Reserve. Overnight at Onguma Tented Camp...BLD

DAYS 5-6

NHOMA SAFARI CAMP / SAN TRIBES //NHOQ'MA VILLAGE

We enter a different world today, that of one of Africa's oldest cultural groups, the San tribe. Our accommodation, Nhoma Safari Camp, lies within the ancient traditional area of Namibia's Ju/'hoansi San people. The camp was created at the request of the community in 1999 by Arno Oosthuysen, a Namibian born in Windhoek who had traveled as a boy with his medical-doctor father, visiting clinics in remote areas in Namibia. He was asked by the //Nhoq'ma (in the "click" languages of the San people, two forward slashes give pronunciation guidance) to bring travelers to their remote village for much needed income. This rustic camp was built with the help of the local people

and gives them direct employment and income, which has made it possible for them to live on their ancestral lands rather than moving to cities. We will have the privilege of learning firsthand about, and supporting, their rich cultural traditions, although they are by no means currently living a pure hunter-gatherer existence. Our activities center around the life of the community: hunting and food gathering, traditional games, healing dances, and the making of hunting equipment. There is no set schedule for our time here, but skills such as fire-making and rope-making and setting of traps will be demonstrated. One activity will be our bush walk with a group of three or four Ju/'hoansi hunters, whom we follow as they collect from the bush and demonstrate how they hunt. If fresh tracks are found, our walk will turn into a hunt (hunts are rarely successful, but always fascinating!). For the //Nhoq'ma, the finding of a bee's nest is just as important as hunting an animal. Our Ju/'hoansi hunters will also point out medicinal plants they use along the way. Typically, the walk does not follow a fixed route and the duration can be adapted to our interests.

In the afternoon, we join the community as they participate in traditional games and jewelry making. Most evenings, a powerful giraffe or elephant healing dance is performed. The ceremony is the way the //Nhoq'ma shamans cure illness and relieve social tensions. In our time here, we will gain an insight into their profound knowledge of their natural surroundings and into a way of life that, against all odds, has survived for thousands of years. Although these communities no longer live solely as nomadic hunter-



gatherers, they are eager to share their traditions with us. The presence of interested travelers makes it possible for them to keep the connections to their ancestral lands. Overnights at Nhoma Safari Camp...BLD each day

Driving Details: 6.5 hours on Day 5

Note: Nhoma Safari Camp is a basic camp but grants us wonderful access to experience the culture of these nearby communities.

DAY 7 NXAMASERI ISLAND LODGE / OKAVANGO DELTA, BOTSWANA

We bid farewell to our Ju/'hoansi friends and cross the border into Botswana, continuing to our peaceful and remote accommodation, Nxamaseri Island Lodge, set among the meandering river channels of the Okavango Delta—and far from the safari crowds of Chobe. We'll have the afternoon to explore the unique surroundings of the lodge, set on a heavily wooded island and surrounded by tranquil waterways and expansive floodplains, and enjoy boating on the lagoons. The Nxamaseri area has strong traditional links to the San people of Botswana—"Nxamaseri" is the San word used to describe "the sound the wind makes when it blows through the reeds." Overnight at Nxamaseri Island Lodge...BLD

Driving Details: 8 hours

DAY 8 TSODILO HILLS / MOKORO SAFARI / NXAMASERI ISLAND LODGE

In the morning, we visit the Tsodilo Hills, a World Heritage Site and the highest point in Botswana at 4,593 feet. San people painted thousands of striking images on the rock faces of these quartzite hills between 800 and 1,300 AD, creating one of the world's most significant rock art collections. We'll walk trails to view paintings then head back to our lodge for lunch. In the afternoon, we take to mokoros (dugout canoes)—mokoros are the traditional transport of the Okavango Delta, typically used by the local people for fishing, collecting food, and transport. The canoes were originally carved out of tree trunks but these days are made of fiberglass to protect the tree species that were used previously. We set out for a truly enriching perspective of the Okavango Delta by mokoro, with a guide using a pole to push the mokoro through the channels. It's a wonderfully quiet way to explore, with just the sound of the birds and the water to accompany us. The Okavango flows inland into the Kalahari Desert, creating a labyrinth of lagoons, lakes, and hidden channels. The Delta's waters are continuously moving, from winding rivers to almost hidden channels that seep into walls of papyrus and phragmites reeds. Palms and towering trees abound, throwing shade over crystal pools and grassy glades. Overnight at Nxamaseri Island Lodge...BLD

Itinerary (cont'd)

DAY 9

NAMBWA TENTED LODGE, ZAMBEZI REGION, NAMIBIA / BWABWATA NATIONAL PARK

Crossing back into Namibia, we enter the Zambezi Region (once known as the Caprivi Strip), a narrow finger of land that stretches across northern Namibia to the Zambezi River. This region was long off-limits to safari travelers but is renowned for its abundant wildlife, navigable waterways, and large stretches of national park—and lodges are few and far between, giving it a wonderfully remote feeling. Our lodge is set along the Kwando River in Bwabwata National Park, a sanctuary for more than 35 large and small game species and upwards of 330 bird species. This afternoon we go game viewing by boat along the Kwando River.

The riverine landscapes of Bwabwata are part of the new Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (Kaza), launched in March 2012 and connecting 110,833 square miles of protected regions in Botswana, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia. The wildlife here migrates freely across fenceless borders and safari tourism helps local people benefit economically, providing a tangible incentive to protect their wildlife. A historic note: The Caprivi Strip is the legacy of the colonial scramble for Africa, when Britain swapped a piece of Bechuanaland (now Botswana) for Germany's Zanzibar during the Berlin Conference of 1890. Named after General Count George von Caprivi, the German Chancellor, the strip was renamed Zambezi in 2013. It was intended to create a navigable route from Namibia to Germany's Tanganyika colony (now Tanzania) by way of the Zambezi River. However, the German planners forgot one about small topographic detail—the 350-foot drop of Victoria Falls—so the route never came to be. Overnight at Nambwa Tented Lodge...BLD

Driving Details: 4-4.5 hours

DAYS 10-11

NAMBWA TENTED LODGE / BWABWATA NATIONAL PARK

Our days are filled with game drives and boating on the Kwando River as we explore Bwabwata National Park, whose deciduous woodlands are dominated by wild seringa, sausage, false mopane, and Zambezi teak trees. Declared a national park in 2007, Bwabwata is known as a “people’s park” because it supports both humans and wildlife. Game guards and resource monitors are hired from the local community, giving local people direct benefits from

protecting wildlife. Animals that roam Bwabwata include elephant, hippo, roan, kudu, sable, buffalo, lion, leopard, hyena, cheetah, giraffe, impala, zebra, and wildebeest. One particularly excellent game viewing area is known as “the horseshoe,” which, as the name suggests, is a large, perennial oxbow lake with white-sand beaches surrounded by Zambezi teak woodlands. Overnights at Nambwa Tented Lodge...BLD

DAY 12

KASANE / VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE

We head to Kasane in Botswana and transfer over the border to Zimbabwe at Victoria Falls Town, where we are welcomed at the family-operated Ilala Lodge. This relaxing hotel has an ideal location just minutes from spectacular Victoria Falls. Guest rooms have nice beds and all rooms have access to the central garden area. There is a pool if you wish to take a refreshing dip, or you can unwind on your patio. Keep an eye out for local wildlife—warthogs and impala are known to graze on the hotel's lawn. This afternoon, we hike right across from the face of the magnificent Falls—twice as wide and deep as Niagara. We gather for our celebratory Farewell Dinner tonight and toast our three-country safari...BLD

Driving Details: 4.5-5 hours

DAY 13

DEPART

Transfer to the airport and depart on homeward flights, or join one of our extensions: Cape Town (South Africa), Among the Elephants Extension (Zimbabwe), or Gorilla Tracking in Rwanda. You can also extend your stay at Victoria Falls to experience its adventure opportunities, including bungee-jumping and “The Flight of Angels.”

ITINERARY-IN-BRIEF, REVERSE ORDER DEPARTURE

Day 1: Ilala Lodge, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Days 2-4: Nambwa Tented Lodge, Zambezi Region, Namibia / Bwabwata National Park

Days 5-6: Nxamaseri Island Lodge / Okavango Delta, Botswana / Tsodilo Hills

Days 7-8: Nhoma Safari Camp / San Tribes // Nhoq'ma Village

Days 9-10: Onguma Game Reserve / Etosha National Park

Day 11: Okonjima Bush Camp

Days 12-13: Windhoek, Namibia / AfriCat Foundation

Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through 2024

\$11,595 (5-6 members)

\$12,295 (4 members)

Single supplement: \$1,900

Discount: \$900 (Low Season, May)

2025 Trip Cost: Please call for details

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader
- Accommodations, based on double occupancy
- All meals included as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Water, soft drinks, juice, and locally branded beer, wine, and alcohol with meals
- Park fees
- Land transportation
- Airport transfers for passengers as noted
- Baggage handling and sightseeing as noted

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare for extensions to and from Africa, internal airfare for extensions, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders, additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by airline schedule changes or other factors, cost of medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, and other expenses of a personal nature (drinks outside of meals as noted, premium alcoholic beverages, etc.). Optional side trips and excursions are also at your own expense.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE*

At time of reservation: \$600

100 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE*

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

Extend Your Adventure!



To help you make the most of your adventure, we've created several exciting trip extensions. For detailed information, including full itineraries and complete pricing, please visit our *Ultimate Namibia and Botswana* webpage and click on "Extend Your Trip": www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/namibia-botswana-caprivistrip-safari/

SOSSUSVLEI DUNES EXTENSION

Namibia's Namib Desert, utterly unlike any other place on earth, is the oldest on the planet, a sea of red sand sculpted into fantastic dunes. Your days are filled with early morning 4WD excursions to the magnificent Sossusvlei dunes and the vlei itself, the dry riverbed of the Tsauchab River, along with afternoon excursions to explore the desert landscape and its unique flora and fauna. Accommodations are at Sossusvlei Desert Lodge, a luxurious desert wilderness retreat with a magical atmosphere, and the Galton House in Windhoek. *5 days. From \$5195.*



CAPE TOWN EXTENSION

The town where modern South Africa was born has a glorious location on the mountainous Cape Peninsula along the blue waters of Table Bay. There is much to see, from Table Mountain to the famous botanical gardens at Kirstenbosch, where 10,000 species are cultivated on 1,000 acres. Close by is Stellenbosch and Franschhoek wine country and the Cape Point Nature Reserve, where the African continent ends.

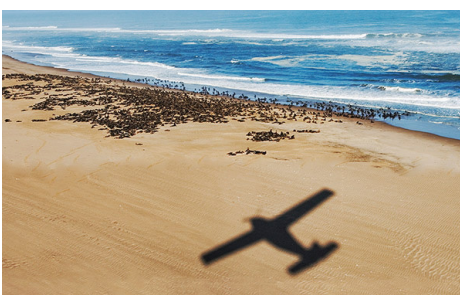
The itinerary can be customized as needed, please call for details. *4 days. From \$1795.*



GORILLA TRACKING IN RWANDA'S PARC NATIONAL DES VOLCANS EXTENSION

Join your ranger-guide for the exhilarating experience of tracking and observing the mountain gorilla clans that reside in the spectacular montane forests of Parc National des Volcans, where researcher Dian Fossey was based for 13 years. The hiking terrain ranges in altitude from 3,800 to 8,500 feet and preserves one of the largest natural forests in East Africa.

5 days. From \$3395.



SHIPWRECK LODGE EXTENSION

Along the northern Atlantic Coast of Namibia, hot desert sand dunes meet the cold Benguela Current creating thick banks of fog that have caused countless shipwrecks over the years. The hulls of wrecked vessels give this coast its unforgettable name—the Skeleton Coast. Explore this haunting realm from an extraordinary lodge, the Shipwreck Lodge, designed to immerse you in this utterly remote location. Witness Cape fur seals that line the rocky shorelines, walk along beaches and dunes strewn with whale bones and the remnants of shipwrecks, and venture into the richly colored desert terrain by 4WD—a thrilling adventure in one of the most secluded and surreal landscapes on the planet!

5 days. From \$6795

Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Windhoek, Namibia

Suggested Airport: Hosea Kutako International Airport (WDH)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, anytime

Meeting Place: A complimentary transfer is provided from the airport to the Galton House. Your Trip Leader or a WT representative will meet you outside the customs area and will be holding a Wilderness Travel sign.

If you have booked extra services for early arrival, an Extra Services Confirmation will be sent with your final documents.

DEPARTURE

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Suggested Airport: Victoria Falls Airport (VFA)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 13, anytime

Note: For the reverse itinerary, you will arrive in Victoria Falls (VFA) and depart from Windhoek (WDH).

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own flight arrangements for flights.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found at www.exitotravel.com.

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once tickets are purchased, please forward a copy of your email flight confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

Accommodations



GALTON HOUSE
Windhoek, Namibia
Day 1 (1 night)

This welcoming nine-room hotel, just a 10-minute shuttle drive from the center of town, offers a personal and informal atmosphere. Guest rooms are decorated in an inviting modern style, with wildlife photography adorning the walls. Communal areas include a large lounge, indoor and outdoor dining areas, and a small swimming pool. The hotel is named after the explorer and polymath Francis Galton, who produced the first maps of Namibia's interior.



OKONJIMA BUSH CAMP
Omboroko Mountains, Namibia
Day 2 (1 night)

Home to the AfriCat Foundation, this luxury bush camp features eight thatched, African-style chalets decorated in earthy tones. The chalets are very spacious, have en suite bathrooms, and can be opened wide during the day for enjoying the views and watching birds in the garden right from your room. A secluded swimming pool awaits at the end of a busy day of game viewing. The food is of a very high standard and the staff and guides are terrific.



ONGUMA TENTED CAMP
Namibia
Days 3 to 4 (2 nights)

With only seven tented camps sprawled around a watering hole, Onguma is a peaceful respite that still puts you in the heart of the action in Etosha. An elevated wooden pathway connects the main lobby and restaurant. Tents are wonderfully appointed, with large beds, rock and wooden accents, and spacious en-suite bathrooms. Enjoy a sundowner around the fire pit and search for wildlife while dining at the camp's restaurant serving delicious cuisine and a nice wine list.



NHOMA SAFARI CAMP

Tsumkwe, Namibia

Days 5 to 6 (2 nights)

This simple tented camp is situated within the communal land of the Ju/'hoan tribe, and our stay here contributes directly to the community. The camp is spread over a vegetated dune with views over the Nhoma omuramba (dry riverbed) and it's just a short walk to the Ju/'hoan village called //Nhoq'ma. The camp has basic walk-in tents with private verandas shaded by large Zambezi teak trees. The tents have beds and an en-suite bathroom with hot water. At the highest point of the camp is the thatched dining area, where our meals are served buffet style. The camp was built by Arno Oosthuysen with the help of the //Nhoq'ma community. Tourism allows the community to earn money for food and supplies not provided by the surrounding environment and make it possible for the community to stay on their ancestral land.



NXAMASERI ISLAND LODGE

Okavango Delta, Botswana

Days 7 to 8 (2 nights)

Set on a small secluded wooded island in the Okavango Panhandle, Nxamaseri Island Lodge is a prime destination for seeing hippo, crocodile, and the elusive sitatunga, a semi-aquatic antelope. The birdlife is first class (350 recorded species!) and includes Pel's fishing owl. From the lounge and dining area, wooden decks lead to spacious brick and thatch chalets featuring twin or double beds with crisp white linens and comfy duvets. Each has en suite facilities and a private deck overlooking the Nxamaseri Channel.

Accommodations (cont'd)



NAMBWA TENTED LODGE

Bwabwata National Park, Namibia

Days 9 to 11 (3 nights)

Set on the banks of the perennial Kwando River, Nambwa Tented Lodge is in the heart of the Mashi Conservancy inside Bwabwata National Park. The lodge gives access to vast areas of pristine and unspoiled wildlife habitat and its well-appointed tented suites are built high up in trees along the Kwando River and its floodplains, offering stunning views. Each suite is spacious, with an en-suite bathroom and large shower. There is mosquito netting around the bed to ensure an undisturbed sleep, and a private deck where you can relax. All the tented suites have access to the main lodge via elevated boardwalks.



ILALA LODGE

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

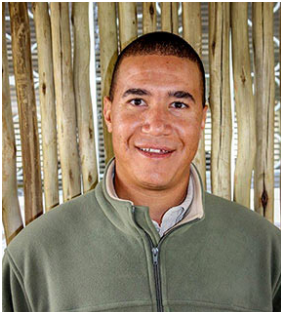
Day 12 (1 night)

The family-operated Ilala Lodge is a relaxing hotel with an ideal location just minutes from spectacular Victoria Falls. Perfectly manicured gardens and thatched roofs set the scene as you are welcomed into the open-air lobby. Guest rooms have nice beds and all rooms have access to the central garden area. There is a pool if you wish to take a refreshing dip, or you can unwind on your patio. The award-winning Palm Restaurant is also located at the hotel, which offers views of the falls. Keep an eye out for local wildlife—warthogs and impala are known to graze on the hotel's lawn.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Ultimate Namibia and Botswana* webpage and click on the “Lodging” tab.

Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on “Trip Leaders”: www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/namibia-botswana-caprivi-strip-safari/



FRANCO MORAO

Franco Morao was born on a farm in eastern Namibia and completed secondary school in Windhoek, where excursions peaked his interest in becoming a camp guide. He honed his skills to become advanced-level guide at the Ongava Private Game Reserve, gained his National Guiding Certificate in 2012, and has worked in all of Namibia’s iconic spots, from Damaraland to Etosha. Franco’s engaging personality and wilderness skills make him a sought-after private guide, and he has become a keen birder and accomplished photographer.



PETER NUUGONYA

Peter’s passion for wildlife spawned at an early age while learning about the calls, tracks, and behaviors of the animals he encountered while clearing bush as a youngster in his village of Oshivambo. His career in tourism and conservation officially began at Sossusvlei Mountain Lodge in the Namib Rand Reserve, where his charisma and warm personality were evident from the start. He was eventually selected to partake in the CCAfrica in-house guide training program. Soon after, he prospered as a full time guide. Over the past many years, Peter has become an avid birder, star gazer, photographer, as well as an excellent guide. He has a particularly strong interest in astronomy, and loves sharing his knowledge of the night sky with travelers from around the world. His enthusiasm for the stars and the wildlife of his homeland in Namibia brightens the trails of all his traveling companions.

Our Safari Vehicles

Our purpose-built Land Cruisers are ideally suited for Southern Africa’s road conditions and ensure the best possible ride comforts on the many miles traveled! With a maximum of seven passengers per vehicle, everyone is ensured a window seat and plenty of room to stretch out their gear and legs. Besides being the very best off-roading 4WD vehicles available, all of our vehicles feature:

- Pop-top roofs for better photography and game vantage points, located at both driver’s front and back cabin
- Air conditioning
- Onboard fridge with plenty of water
- Library, including guide books, maps, stationary, and species check lists
- 220-volt electrical outlets to recharge batteries on the go
- VHF radios to allow group communication while on the road
- “Magic boxes” for en-route catering, from bush breakfasts, coffee and tea stops, to sundowners!



Trip Details

TRIP LEVEL

This trip is rated Level 2+, Easy to Moderate, according to our trip grading system. This is a lodge safari with game viewing by 4WD vehicle and short walks (during the San tribe portion of the trip) that can be enjoyed by anyone in reasonably good health.

How Tough is This Trip?

While we do not see major elevation gain or loss, you need to be able to walk on uneven surfaces and feel comfortable on your feet for up to two hours a day.

Please note that the average road journey between our six lodges takes about five hours, sometimes longer. The Trip Leader will discuss what to expect on the drive and how long the journey might be. Most of the roads are gravel and are in excellent condition but take longer to drive than a paved highway. All the routes are scenic. We will be traveling in comfortable safari vehicles, and driving times may vary depending on sights of interest we come upon, photographic opportunities, or wildlife encounters. Ideally, we will depart for drives after breakfast so as to arrive early enough at the next lodge in time for afternoon game viewing.

During drives and walks, we can at times get quite close to wild animals. Being very quiet improves everyone's chances of observation. In the interest of safety, your Trip Leader explains limitations on movement while on game drives, in the safari vehicles, and around camp. Incidents with wild animals are extremely rare on safaris, but no trip can guarantee immunity from such incidents. Wilderness Travel is not to be held responsible for incidents involving the behavior of wildlife.

WEATHER

Namibia has a typical desert climate: hot in the day, and cool at night, mostly sunny and dry. Daytime temperatures range from the mid-70°Fs to the low 90°Fs, with night temperatures dropping to the 40°Fs and 50°Fs. The coastal region is cool and dry throughout the year. In Botswana in June and July, there is minimal rainfall and the bush turns golden brown, so game viewing is easier and animals concentrate around major water sources. Daytime

temperatures range from the upper 70°Fs to mid 80°Fs, and nighttime temperatures can sometimes drop to below freezing, so warm layers are necessary. The temperatures at Victoria Falls this time of year are similar with highs in the upper 70°Fs to low 80°Fs, dropping to the mid-40°Fs and low 50°Fs at night.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Africa Manager or email us at africa@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan.

Here's how it works:

YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel insulated stainless steel water bottle by CamelBak and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$130 value).

YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$140 value).

YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.



MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST PLUS INSULATED CAMELBAK WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 2022, 11-time winner

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Condé Nast Traveller*, 2022, 3 years in a row

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

March 7, 2024 4:00 PM