Tour Code
BW7

ADVENTURESABROAD

BOTSWANA SAFARI

with Victoria Falls & Cape Town

13 days

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Day 1 Arrival in Cape Town

Welcome to South Africa!

Cape Town is southern Africa's most beautiful, most romantic and most visited city. Indeed, few urban centres anywhere can match its setting along the mountainous Cape Peninsula spine, which slides into the Atlantic Ocean. By far the most striking -- and famous -- of its sights is Table Mountain, frequently shrouded by clouds, and rearing up from the middle of the city.

Overnight in Cape Town.

Included Meal(s): Dinner

Day 2 Cape Town: the Cape Peninsula

Today brings our quintessential full-day Cape Peninsula tour, taking us south along the Atlantic Seaboard past Cape Town's most affluent neighbourhoods set against mountain and coastal scenery. We make a photo stop before Camps Bay, where the classic view shows the town with the 'Twelve Apostles' peaks as backdrop.

Continuing through Hout Bay, we tackle Chapman's Peak Drive, one of the world's most spectacular marine routes. The 9 km road includes 114 curves as it hugs the rocky coastline 593 metres above the sea, offering dramatic views at every turn.

Our destination is the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve and Cape Point. The reserve encompasses 77 square kilometres of wildflower, bird, and animal paradise, supporting wildlife including eland, springbok, bontebok, baboons, and zebra. We visit Cape Point and the Cape of Good Hope, the most southwesterly point on the African continent, where the cold Atlantic and warmer Indian Ocean waters meet.

After lunch and free time at Cape Point, we head north along the Indian Ocean side through Simonstown, founded by the Dutch in 1741 as a naval depot. The town retains distinctly English architecture and atmosphere from its later British colonial period. Depending on season, we may stop at Boulders Beach to observe a colony of African penguins in their natural habitat.

We complete our peninsula loop through Constantia and visit the National Botanical Gardens at Kirstenbosch, home to over 4,000 species of indigenous plants. The garden occupies land cultivated since the 1660s when Governor Jan van Riebeeck planted a barrier of Wild Almonds—part of this historical hedge remains today.

Overnight in Cape Town.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 3 The Cape Winelands

We leave Cape Town for the Boland, the "Upper Land," where mountain ranges create sheltered valleys perfect for viticulture. Our destination is Stellenbosch, South Africa's second-oldest colonial town and the heart of the wine region. Founded in 1679 by Governor Simon van der Stel, the town evolved from a simple outpost into an elegant university center with a sophisticated food and wine culture.

Walking through Stellenbosch's historic core, we see some of the country's finest Cape Dutch architecture lining oak-shaded streets. The distinctive style—whitewashed walls, ornate gables, and thatched roofs—developed here over centuries, adapting European building traditions to African conditions and materials. The university, established in 1918, transformed the town into an intellectual center, though its complicated history as an Afrikaner institution during apartheid adds layers to its story.

The Cape Winelands originated here with Jan van Riebeeck's first vineyard in 1655, expanding dramatically when French Huguenot refugees arrived in 1688 with viticulture expertise and vine stock from their homeland. The region's Mediterranean climate, varied soils, and mountain microclimates produce exceptional wines across the spectrum—from crisp Sauvignon Blancs to bold Pinotages and elegant Cabernet

Sauvignons.

We visit one of the historic wine estates for a cellar tour and tasting, learning how Cape wines compete on the global stage. The wine estates themselves are remarkable: many occupy old Cape Dutch homesteads with elaborate gables, surrounded by vineyards that climb toward dramatic mountain backdrops. We enjoy lunch at one of these estates, where contemporary Cape cuisine pairs with wines produced on the property, before our scenic return to Cape Town through valleys lined with vineyards and historic manor houses.

Overnight in Cape Town (Dinner on your own this evening)

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Lunch

Day 4 Cape Town: Robben Island & City Tour

Our morning begins with a ferry crossing to Robben Island, the UNESCO World Heritage Site that stands as one of South Africa's most significant historical landmarks. The island has served various purposes over five centuries—Dutch and British colonial governments used it as a prison, hospital, and military base, but its role as a maximum security prison during apartheid made it internationally known.

The 3.5-hour excursion includes a guided tour often led by former political prisoners, adding profound personal testimony to the experience. We visit the limestone quarry where Nelson Mandela and others performed hard labor, damaging their eyesight in the blinding glare. The isolation section, with its tiny cells, reveals the harsh conditions freedom fighters endured. Cell No. 5, where Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years in prison, remains preserved exactly as it was—a small space with only a mat, blanket, and bucket.

Returning to Cape Town, we take a comprehensive city tour. We see the Houses of Parliament, where South Africa's democracy now functions, and City Hall, from whose balcony Mandela addressed throngs of supporters after his 1990 release. The Company's Garden, originally established by Jan van Riebeeck in 1652 to supply ships, now serves as the city's green heart.

We drive through Bo-Kaap, the historic Cape Malay Quarter, where brightly painted houses line the cobbled streets and the community maintains traditions brought by enslaved people from Southeast Asia centuries ago. The Cape Malay people contributed significantly to Cape cuisine, architecture, and culture, their colorful homes a deliberate celebration of freedom after apartheid's Group Areas Act forced many from their neighbourhoods.

Overnight in Cape Town.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 5 Cape Town: At Leisure

Today is free to enjoy Cape Town.

Our suggestions: Shopping / dining at the Waterfront, the Two Oceans Aquarium, the District Six Museum, the daily flea market at Greenmarket Square, scenic overflights, hiking up Table Mountain, great white shark diving (!), or just relaxing in the South African sun.

(Dinner on your own this evening).

Overnight in Cape Town.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast

Day 6 Cape Town, South Africa - Maun, Botswana - Okavango Delta

Today we fly to Maun, Botswana and connect with our charter flight to the Okavango Delta and our comfortable lodge in the wilderness.

The Delta is an area of tranquil, lily covered lagoons and narrow channels hemmed in by papyrus reeds, and teeming with animal and bird life. Sometimes called a 'swamp', the Okavango is anything but. Moving, mysterious, placid, gentle and beautiful, from a wide and winding channel

it spreads through tiny, almost unnoticeable channels that split into an ever expanding network of increasingly smaller passages. These link a succession of lagoons, islands and islets of various sizes, open grasslands and flooded plains in a mosaic of land and water. Palms and towering trees abound, throwing their shade over crystal pools, forest glades and grassy knolls.

* NOTE: Most convenient connections are via Johannesburg. If your arrival in JNB is later in the day, you may have to arrive a day early and overnight in Jo'burg.

Overnight in the Okavango Delta.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 7 Okavango Delta

We have a full day exploring the waterways of the Okavango Delta. Depending on water levels, we may do our sightseeing either by mokoro canoes or by 4WD vehicles, or a little of both.

The Okavango Delta is unique. It is the largest inland delta in the world; instead of flowing into the sea, the annual flood of fresh water flows inland, spreading over 15 000 sq km of the Kalahari sand in a maze of lagoons and channels. The Okavango Delta is a lush wonderland surrounded by the arid Kalahari Desert and home to many species of antelope, such as Lechwe and Tsessebe. Herds of buffalo, zebra and elephant that number in their thousands pass through annually on their migration routes.

Overnight in the Okavango.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 8 Okavango Delta

We have another full day exploration of the wonders of the delta.

In the lush indigenous forests of the delta and its islands, and along the floodplains spawned by this great marriage of water and sand, more than 400 species of birds flourish. On the mainland and among the islands in the delta, lion, elephant, hyena, wild dog, buffalo, hippo and crocodile congregate with a teeming variety of antelope and other smaller animals -- warthog, mongoose, spotted genets, monkeys, bush babies and tree squirrels.

Fishing, bird watching, game viewing, photography or simple relaxation; indulging in any of these in the Okavango are experiences without parallel.

Overnight in the Okavango.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 9 Okavango Delta - Chobe National Park

This morning we fly to Kasane. On arrival we continue by road the short distance to Chobe National Park.

The original inhabitants of what is now the park were the San people. They were hunter-gatherers who lived by moving from one area to another in search of water, wild fruits and wild animals. In 1967, the area was declared a national park, the first in Botswana.

A major feature of Chobe National Park is its elephant population, which is probably the largest in the world. This population covers most of northern Botswana plus north-western Zimbabwe and is currently estimated at around 100,000 individuals. This elephant population has been built up steadily from a few thousand since the early 1900s, having escaped the massive poaching that decimated other populations elsewhere on the continent during the 1970s and 1980s.

The Chobe elephants are migratory, making seasonal movements of up to 200 kilometres from the Chobe and Linyanti rivers where they

concentrate in the dry season, to the pans in the south-east of the park, to which they disperse in the rains.

Overnight at Chobe National Park.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 10 Chobe National Park

The Chobe National Park covers 10,566 sq km and has one of the greatest concentrations of game found on the African continent. This park has an amazing variety of habitats, ranging from floodplains, baobab, and mopane trees and acacia woodlands, to verdant flood grasslands and thickets bordering the Chobe River.

Our safari starts with a cruise on the Chobe River (shade and refreshments available), which takes us close to the waterfowl and wildlife on the river. Large flocks of birds, big pods of hippo and very large crocodiles can be viewed from the safety of your boat.

After lunch we board open (covered) safari vehicles and head off into the park to view some of the elephants, buffalo herds, sable, wildebeest, giraffe, and with luck, some resident lion and hyena.

Overnight in Chobe National Park.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 11 Kasane, Botswana - Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Today we transfer to Victoria Falls from Kasane, the confluence of the Chobe and Zambezi Rivers and roughly the place where the countries of Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, and Namibia meet, the only place in Africa where four countries do so.

This area has been inhabited for hundreds of thousands of years. The first known name of the falls was "Shongwe," and the current name did not come into being until the Scottish missionary David Livingstone was brought to the falls in 1855 and named them after Queen Victoria. The falls and the nearby town are on the mighty Zambezi River, the fourth longest in Africa, and forming the border with neighbouring Zambia.

NOTE: We don't include dinner tonight as there are a number of choices in the area and past passengers have indicated a preference for some independence in the evening meal plan at Vic Falls.

Overnight in Victoria Falls.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast

Day 12 Victoria Falls Area

Today we have a guided walking tour of Victoria Falls and adjacent national park.

Mosi-oa-Tunya ("The Smoke That Thunders") is one of the most amazing sights in the world: twice as high as Niagara Falls and several times longer. It took thousands of years of erosion for Victoria Falls to appear as and where it does now. During the Jurassic Period (150-200 million years ago), volcanic activity resulted in thick basalt deposits covering large parts of Southern Africa. As the lava cooled and solidified, cracks appeared in the hard basalt crust, which were filled with clay and lime. Erosion and the course of the mighty Zambezi River cut through these softer materials, forming the first of a series of waterfalls.

Our tour is conducted on level paved paths, much of which is shaded by the dense rainforest that exists due to spray from the falls. To walk to the farthest extent, with viewpoints along the way, is about one kilometre, the last part of which is without shade. We encourage you to go right to the dn, as the views are fantastic, including the best look at the famous Victoria Falls Bridge, the brainchild of Cecil Rhodes, part of his grand and unfulfilled Cape to Cairo railway scheme, even though he never visited the falls and died before construction of the bridge began.

The afternoon is yours to enjoy optional activities. You may relax by the pool, do some shopping in the village famous for local artisan crafts, or even go elephant back riding or sightseeing by micro-light aircraft or helicopter. Your guide can help plan your afternoon.

Overnight in Victoria Falls.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 13 Departure

Departure from Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

BON VOYAGE!

Included Meal(s): Breakfast