

# 15 Day Botswana & Zimbabwe with Luxury Lake Kariba Cruise

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Discover the world with our team of experts, and a carefully selected, value-packed exploration of the world's most iconic destinations. Our tours offer must-visit sights, rich experiences and quality inclusions all at an unbeatable prices. Your bucket list dreams are ticked off on these all-encompassing vacations.

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<b>Australian Company Owned</b>	<b>Small Group Tour</b>	<b>7 Day Change of Mind</b>
<b>Fully Escorted by local English speaking guide</b>	<b>2 Night Luxury Lake Kariba Cruise</b>	

## Day by Day Itinerary

Victoria Falls, Chobe National Park, Hwange National Park, Lake Kariba, Matobo National Park, Nata, Makgadikgadi Pans, Maun , Greater Moreni

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the magnificent **Okavango Delta**, a UNESCO listed biosphere home to some of the world's most endangered species of large mammals
- Two nights aboard a luxury houseboat cruising **Lake Kariba** in Zimbabwe including game viewing, guided walks and boat trips
- Traditional **mokoro** experience floating in the waters of the Okavango Delta in dug-out canoes
- Morning game drive and sunset boat cruise in **Chobe National Park**
- Track white and black rhinos in **Matobo National Park**
- Visit the vast salt pans of the **Makgadikgadi** – one of the largest salt flats in the world
- Explore **Hwange National Park** with included game drives of the largest natural reserve in Zimbabwe.
- Tour the mighty **Victoria Falls** with an expert guide

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Victoria Falls Arrival

Welcome to Victoria Falls! Upon arrival at Victoria Falls Airport (VFA), you'll be greeted by a local representative and transferred to your hotel.

The remainder of the afternoon is yours to enjoy leisure activities in Victoria Falls and later this evening, at 6pm, you will gather with your guide and fellow travelers at the lodge for a pre-departure meeting.

**Meals:** N/A

**Accommodation:** Shearwater Explorers Village 3\* or similar

Please note: When booking international flights, please ensure that your arrival date falls on Day 1 of the itinerary.

### Day 2: Victoria Falls - Chobe national Park

Following breakfast, your guide will lead you on a tour of Victoria Falls, revered by the local Kololo tribe as Mosi oa Tunya, meaning "the smoke that thunders." We will then journey to Kasane in Botswana, the entry point to Chobe National Park. Chobe, the second largest national park in Botswana, spans 10,566 square kilometers and boasts one of Africa's largest populations of elephants. The afternoon offers free time to engage in optional activities or unwind by the pool.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Cresta Mowana Safari Resort & Spa 4\* or similar

### **Day 3: Chobe National Park**

Start your day with an exhilarating morning game drive through the expansive wilderness of Chobe National Park, known for its extraordinary diversity of wildlife. Traverse the park's varied landscapes, from lush floodplains to dense woodlands, in search of iconic African animals such as elephants, buffalo herds, and predators like lions and leopards. Following your game drive, return to the lodge for a leisurely late breakfast and some relaxation time.

This afternoon enjoy an afternoon boat cruise along the Chobe River giving you an opportunity to view the wildlife from a different perspective. As you glide along the tranquil waters, you'll encounter a bustling ecosystem teeming with life. Watch in awe as elephants gather at the river's edge to drink and bathe, while hippos wallow in the shallows and crocodiles bask on sun-drenched banks.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Cresta Mowana Safari Resort & Spa 4\* or similar

### **Day 4: Chobe National Park - Hwange National Park**

Today, we cross the border into Zimbabwe, heading towards our lodge nestled in a private concession in the northwestern corner of Hwange National Park. Over the next two days, we'll have ample opportunity to delve into this expansive wilderness through exhilarating game drives.

Hwange National Park stands as one of Africa's premier wildlife sanctuaries, renowned for its impressive populations of elephants, buffalo, and zebra. The park also boasts a significant concentration of giraffes and is a haven for various predators and endangered species, alongside a rich diversity of birdlife.

If time permits, you may choose to join an optional afternoon game drive within the concession upon arrival before we enjoy dinner at the lodge.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Nantwich Lodge or similar 4\* or similar

### **Day 5: Hwange National Park**

Today, we embark on a full-day game drive in Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park, renowned for its rich wildlife diversity. Home to abundant elephants, giraffes, buffaloes, zebras, predators, and endangered species, the park offers diverse landscapes from savannahs to dense forests. This immersive experience provides exceptional wildlife sightings and photographic opportunities, showcasing Africa's natural beauty and the importance of conservation efforts in preserving this extraordinary ecosystem.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Nantwich Lodge or similar 4\* or similar

### **Day 6: Hwange National Park - Lake Kariba Cruise -**

Today, we journey to the Mlibizi area on Lake Kariba, where we'll embark on a luxurious two-night houseboat excursion. Surrounded by mountains, Lake Kariba is a vast man-made reservoir renowned for its abundant wildlife and dramatic natural scenery shaped by sun, storms, and the elements.

The Sovereign Houseboat offers a unique safari experience. Designed with space and style in mind, the experience ensures options for relaxation throughout your stay, fringed in luxury.

Offering just 10 air-conditioned cabins, each with an en-suite shower and floor to ceiling sliding doors with views of the lake, the houseboat also boasts a large lounge, dining room and bar with wide windows to offer you views of the passing landscape. A staircase leads to the top deck for a bird's eye view of the lake and its surroundings from the boat's pool and sun loungers.

Our cruise will navigate between Mlibizi and the Msuna River, offering a sunset cruise with opportunities for game viewing. We'll conclude the day with drinks and dinner aboard the houseboat, savoring the tranquil beauty of the lake under the evening sky.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Sovereign Houseboat 4\* or similar

### **Day 7: Lake Kariba Cruise -**

In the morning, we begin with early activities such as leisurely fishing, guided walks, or game viewing, tailored to your preference. Upon our return, brunch will be served as we cruise leisurely along the lake. Later, we'll anchor at

one of the scenic islands with a sandy beach. Here, we'll enjoy the sunset over the lake, unwind around a campfire, and indulge in a beach barbecue beneath the starlit sky.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Sovereign Houseboat 4\* or similar

#### **Day 8: Lake Kariba - Matobo National Park**

Upon disembarking the houseboat, we begin our journey from Msuna to the magnificent Matobo Hills, a region of unparalleled natural beauty within the Matobo National Park. With rich tribal history, and dramatic rock formations, this national park holds UNESCO World Heritage status and is habitat to both white and black rhinoceros, as well as sable antelope. The area boasts prolific birdlife, including the highest concentration of black eagles worldwide. Once home to the San (Bushman) people, it also features the richest collection of rock art globally. Notably, it is where the Ndebele people buried their esteemed king, Mzilikazi, and where Cecil John Rhodes chose to be interred on the "Hill of the Benevolent Spirit," also known as "World's View," a name he bestowed upon it.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Shashani Matobo Hills Lodge 4\* or similar

#### **Day 9: Matobo National Park**

Today is dedicated to exploring this captivating national park. A standout experience includes tracking rhinos by both vehicle and foot, providing a remarkable once in a lifetime opportunity. After our morning adventure, we enjoy a picnic lunch amidst the park's picturesque landscapes and in the afternoon, we embark on a game drive, encountering the park's diverse wildlife and breathtaking scenery. The day concludes with a visit to Rhodes' grave, providing historical context to the area. We return to the lodge late this afternoon in time for dinner.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Shashani Matobo Hills Lodge 4\* or similar

#### **Day 10: Matobo National Park - Nata**

Leaving the captivating Matobo Hills behind, we traverse the savannas of southern Matebeleland on our journey to Botswana. In the afternoon, we explore the Nata Bird Sanctuary, offering splendid views of the Sowa Pan within the Greater Makgadikgadi Pans complex. Later in the afternoon, we reach our lodge, where we can relax and unwind after a day of scenic exploration and wildlife encounters.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Nata Lodge 3\* or similar

Please note that access to the pans depends on road conditions, water levels, and time constraints.

#### **Day 11: Nata - Makgadikgadi Pans National Park - Gweta**

We depart early for Planet Baobab near Gweta, starting an expedition to Ntwetwe Pan, a vast salt pan within the Makgadikgadi Pans. This lunar-like landscape features rocky outcrops, dunes, and islets along its western shore, home to desert-adapted species like bat-eared foxes, springbok, kori bustards, and meerkats. Through a habituation program, we observe these creatures up close, witnessing their social behaviors and adaptations.

After lunch, we visit a nearby village to experience modern African village life, guided by a local expert. We explore 'Sekolo,' the local primary school with outdoor classes, and the traditional Kgotla village court.

Later, we stroll through a baobab grove, learning about their unique biology from our guide.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Planet Baobab 4\* or similar

#### **Day 12: Gweta - Maun**

Today, we journey to Maun, a vibrant safari hub and gateway to the Okavango Delta. Derived from the San word "maung," meaning "the place of short reeds", Maun offers a cultural glimpse into Botswana's indigenous heritage.

The afternoon invites leisurely pursuits, whether lounging by the lodge pool or opting for an exhilarating optional scenic helicopter flight over the Okavango Delta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its breathtaking natural beauty and wildlife.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Planet Baobab 4\* or similar

### **Day 13: Maun - Greater Moremi Area (Okavango Delta)**

Following breakfast, we drive to the mokoro station to embark on a unique adventure. Drifting in dug-out canoes through the dense vegetation of the Okavango Delta, we discover a diverse array of birds and wildlife. Unlike typical deltas, the Okavango flows inland to the Kalahari Desert without reaching the coast.

After this memorable excursion and a satisfying lunch, we proceed to our camp located in a private concession within the Greater Moremi area.

Settling in, we enjoy dinner before embarking on an exhilarating night game drive in the concession. This provides an excellent opportunity to encounter nocturnal animals rarely seen during daylight hours.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Mankwe Tented Retreat 4\* or similar

### **Day 14: Greater Moremi Area (Okavango Delta)**

Today, we venture into the renowned Moremi Game Reserve, celebrated as one of Africa's most stunning and diverse wildlife reserves. Renowned for its exceptional concentration of wildlife, Moremi offers a pristine natural environment teeming with an incredible variety of animals.

Throughout the day, we experience the untouched landscapes of Moremi, exploring its vast expanses and encountering iconic African wildlife such as elephants, lions, leopards, and buffalo. The reserve's diverse habitats, from lush floodplains to dense forests and winding water channels, provide a perfect backdrop for observing these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat.

Return to the lodge for a final dinner with your group this evening.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Mankwe Tented Retreat 4\* or similar

### **Day 15: Greater Moremi - Maun - Home**

Our safari ends after breakfast. You will be transferred to Maun International Airport (MUB) in time for your departure flight.

We hope to welcome you again one day on another of our African adventures!

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** N/A

Please note: when booking your departing flights on this day, please book flights after 2pm. Alternately you can book an extra nights accommodation in Maun through our booking portal.

## **INCLUSIONS**





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- **Small group with no more than 12 persons**
- Explore the Okavango Delta, a UNESCO listed biosphere
- Traditional mokoro (canoe) ride in the Moremi Game Reserve
- Luxury houseboat stay on Lake Kariba
- Morning game drives and sunset boat cruise in Chobe National Park
- Rhino tracking in Matobo National Park
- Salt pans visit of the Makgadikgadi National Park
- Hwange National Park full day game drive
- Victoria Falls tour
- 14 nights in hand-picked 3 & 4-star boutique lodges, camps and hotels all with private facilities including a 2 night stay on a luxury houseboat on lake Kariba
- Daily breakfast buffet, 9 lunches and 10 dinners
- Arrival and departure transfers on the first and last day of your tour
- Fully escorted by English-speaking naturalist guides
- All park and conservation fees

## EXCLUSIONS

- International airfares
- Visas
- Travel insurance
- Tipping
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional activities
- Personal expenses

## DEPARTURE DATES: PRICE IS QUOTED IN AU\$ PER PERSON

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
<b>Wednesday</b> 26 Feb 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 12 Mar 2025	AU\$8,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 14 Mar 2025	<b>Friday</b> 28 Mar 2025	AU\$8,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Monday</b> 21 Apr 2025	<b>Monday</b> 05 May 2025	AU\$8,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> 14 May 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 28 May 2025	AU\$9,599		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Monday</b> 19 May 2025	<b>Monday</b> 02 Jun 2025	AU\$9,599		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Monday</b> 02 Jun 2025	<b>Monday</b> 16 Jun 2025	AU\$9,599		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Monday</b> 16 Jun 2025	<b>Monday</b> 30 Jun 2025	AU\$9,999	<b>GUARANTEED DEPARTURE</b> 	<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 04 Jul 2025	<b>Friday</b> 18 Jul 2025	AU\$9,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 18 Jul 2025	<b>Friday</b> 01 Aug 2025	AU\$9,999	<b>GUARANTEED DEPARTURE</b> 	<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Tuesday</b> 05 Aug 2025	<b>Tuesday</b> 19 Aug 2025	AU\$9,999	<b>GUARANTEED DEPARTURE</b> 	<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> 20 Aug 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 03 Sep 2025	AU\$9,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> 03 Sep 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 17 Sep 2025	AU\$9,999	<b>GUARANTEED DEPARTURE</b> 	<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> 24 Sep 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 08 Oct 2025	AU\$9,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Thursday</b> 02 Oct 2025	<b>Thursday</b> 16 Oct 2025	AU\$9,599	<b>GUARANTEED DEPARTURE</b> 	<a href="#">Book</a>

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
<b>Thursday</b> 23 Oct 2025	<b>Thursday</b> 06 Nov 2025	AU\$9,599		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Thursday</b> 30 Oct 2025	<b>Thursday</b> 13 Nov 2025	AU\$8,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Thursday</b> 20 Nov 2025	<b>Thursday</b> 04 Dec 2025	AU\$8,999		<a href="#">Book</a>

## OPTIONAL TOURS



### 45 minute flight over the Okavango Delta

AU\$545

## FINE PRINT

### FLIGHT INFORMATION

This is a **land package** only.

If you would like to add airfares to your booking, please select the departure city where we have the economy return flights add-on for your selection. If you would like to book business class or premium class, please contact us anytime and our ticketing expert can assist you with a quotation. Currently we use Emirates Airlines or similar.

### Flight requests, amendments or preferences

We understand customers may wish to request changes to their included airfares. If you wish to fly with a certain airline, land at a certain time or change your flight in other ways we will gladly provide you with a personalized quote tailored to your specific requirements.

We would be more than happy to provide you with a quote for the following requests:

Airline Preferences – You may wish to fly with a particular airline

Cabin Preferences – These include upgrading to premium economy or business class

Extensions (start and end cities must remain the same) – You may request to extend your stay pre or post tour.

Meal Requests – You may request a specific meal for dietary requirements.

Seat Requests – If you would like to request particular seating. However please note, not all airlines allow the selection of pre-purchased seat arrangements.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

#### Physical Requirements

A reasonable level of fitness is required. Participants should be comfortable navigating stairs, boarding and disembarking from the coach, houseboat and canoes, and be able to walk reasonable distances, typically around 2 kilometers per day or more. Please disclose any physical conditions at the time of booking to assess suitability for the tour.

#### Tipping

A friendly reminder that tipping is not included in your package. A gratuity of \$10 – \$15 per person/day can make a big difference to locals employed in the tourism industry as they have done an impeccable job to serve you through your holiday.

#### **Accommodation**

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences however any changes are beyond our control.

#### **Single Supplement**

Single supplement is **\$1,995 per person** in addition to the twin share price.

#### **Paired Solo Traveler**

Not available.

#### **Group size: 4\*-12 pax**

\*Dates noted as Guaranteed Departure do not require a minimum number to depart

#### **Triple Share**

Not available

#### **Travel Insurance**

Travel insurance is recommended to protect yourself against the unexpected. In addition to the support that a policy may provide, you may be asked to present a copy of your travel insurance documentation while traveling.

We have partnered with **NibTravel Insurance** to offer our customers competitive rates for their travel insurance. You can book Comprehensive or Essentials cover for your domestic, international or multi-trip journeys simply with us.

#### **Visa & Passport information**

It is the traveler's responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the intended date of return and must have more than 2 blank pages.

A visa is not required for travel to Botswana for stays up to 90 days within a 12-month period for Australian, New Zealand or US passport holders.

A visa is required to enter Zimbabwe for Australian, New Zealand or US passport holders This tour requires a **multi-entry visa** and can be obtained on arrival at VFA airport at a cost of USD55 (subject to change). We strongly advise visitors to have cash in USD for their visas as credit card machines often do not work due to network problems. We do NOT recommend obtaining an e-visa as this will cause lengthy delays in both applying and verifying your application on arrival.

#### **IMPORTANT**

Please note that visa information can change at any time without notice and it is recommended you contact the nearest high commission/embassy or consulate of that country for the latest details.

#### **Tour Documentation**

Final documentation, including e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

#### **Children**

Children under the age of 15 years will not be permitted to travel on this tour.

#### **Tour Length**

The total length of the tour in days includes time spent in flight and is subject to change depending on the flight schedule, please refer to the day by day itinerary for the time spent on land.

#### **HOW TO EXTEND YOUR STAY**

You can enhance your holiday by arriving or departing before or after the tour. On this tour you can pay extra for arriving early or extension your trip.

Pre Tour Accommodation Victoria Falls including breakfast & arrival transfer – **AUD410** per room, per night for double/twin/single

Post Tour Accommodation Maun including breakfast & departure transfer – **AUD560** per room, per night for double/twin/single

**ASIA VACATION GROUP**

Australia Call: 1800 229 339