

# SOUTHERN EXPLORER

## 32 DAYS LUSAKA - CAPE TOWN



### Day 1 – 2: Lusaka to Lake Kariba, Zimbabwe

#### With an optional stay on the Lake Kariba houseboats

We travel to Lake Kariba on day one for the option to relax for two nights while cruising the wilds of Lake Kariba, a perfect place to get to know your fellow travellers. Relax on the deck of the boat and in the jacuzzi as we visit Matusadona National Park, a sanctuary for elephant, buffalo, waterbuck, lion and the endangered black rhino.

Matusadona National Park fronts onto the Lake with much of its game having been rescued and released here when the Lake was filled. The park also has good numbers of hippo and crocodile and the birdlife around the lake is luxuriant including fish eagles, bee-eaters, many different storks and herons, plovers, darters and waders. Sunrise over the Lake, as dawn's light breaks through the stark outlines of the driftwood trees and reflects in the waters of the man-made dam, with only the calls of the birds breaking the peaceful silence, is a scene of serene beauty.

The houseboat has bedrooms, a jacuzzi and the houseboat crew cook our meals. For those who enjoy fishing, the Lake is well known for its tiger fish too, so those who are keen can throw a line in while enjoying the views.

Distance, Day 1: 208 kms  
Est. Drive Time, Day 1: 1.5 hours (depending on the border)  
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

*Optional excursion: Houseboat cruise on Lake Kariba.*

### Days 3 - 4: Lake Kariba to Great Zimbabwe Ruins

Disembarking on Day 3 we are back on the road to Chinoyi heading to the Great Zimbabwe Ruins, the remains of the ancient capital of the Shona people which was constructed between the 11th – 15th century.

The term "Great" distinguishes these rock constructs as the largest and most impressive ruins south of the Sahara in comparison to smaller ruin sites. There are three main areas of ruins here known as Dzimba dzamabwe ("stone houses") from which modern-day Zimbabwe gained its name. The buildings were created using a dry stone technique, completely without mortar.

Distance, Day 3: 249 kms  
Est. Drive Time, Day 3: +/- 7 hours  
Distance, Day 4: 440 kms  
Est. Drive Time, Day 4: 9 hours incl. shopping and lunch stops  
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

### Day 5: Great Zimbabwe Ruins to Bulawayo

This morning we have a guided tour of the ruins before continuing on our way to the city of Bulawayo.

Distance: 307 kms  
Est. Drive Time: 3 - 4 hours  
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included Activity: Visit to Great Zimbabwe with guided tour



### Day 6: Bulawayo

Today we head out on our first safari in Matopos National Park's haunting landscape of dramatic granite outcrops which rise out of the surrounding bushland. In this wonderful setting we take game drives and trek rhino on foot with one of Zimbabwe's most knowledgeable professional guides. Black and white rhino, ostrich, wildebeest, zebra, giraffe, hippo and leopard all inhabit the park, which also has a wonderful amount of birdlife including the rare black eagle. Dams in the park provide excellent sites for a picnic lunch.

Distance: 0 kms  
Est. Drive Time: 0 hours  
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activities: Game drive and rhino trek in Matopos National Park.

Vehicle for game drive: Open 4x4 safari vehicle

*Optional excursions: Extra game drives in Matopos National Park, Afternoon visit to rock paintings and Cecil Rhodes' grave or a Ndebele Village.*

### Day 7: Bulawayo to Victoria Falls

Today we travel through to the western corner of Zimbabwe to camp in the small town of Victoria Falls which is set on the banks of the Zambezi River. Nearby roaring torrents of water and mists from the mighty waterfalls rise meters into the air, giving rise to the local name 'Mosi-Oa-Tunya', 'the smoke that thunders.'

Distance: 438 kms  
Est. Drive Time: +/- 8 hours incl. stop for lunch  
Meals: X1 Breakfast

## Days 8 – 9: Victoria Falls

One of the natural wonders of the world, Victoria Falls is a spectacle, second only to Niagara in size created by the eastern flowing Zambezi River plunging 100 metres from its flood plain in Zambia into the gorge, a 150 million years old fault.

On the walk through rainforest to the different vantage points to best view the Falls one gets drenched by the spray coming off the Falls as the river plummets into the gorge. Clouds of spray can be visible 20 miles away and the falling water creates a continuous rumbling roar.

With an immense range of different activities on offer from the gorge swing to micro lighting to white water rafting to canoe trips everyone keeps very busy during their stay at Victoria Falls. A popular activity is the 'Flight of the Angels', to fly over the Falls to fully admire their splendour. Take a round of golf and browse in the markets. We usually one evening take a sunset cruise together and enjoy a night out at a local restaurant.

Distance: 0 kms  
Drive Time: 0 hours  
Meals: None

*Optional excursions: Whitewater rafting, riverboard, bungee jump, gorge swing, flying fox and zip line, 'Flight of Angels', canoe trip, horse riding, a sundowner cruise.*

## Days 10 - 11: Victoria Falls to Kasane, Botswana

Today we enter Botswana and visit Chobe National Park, where we have a full day set aside for game drives and a game cruise. Chobe is a park blessed with abundant game, and is particularly famous for its vast elephant herds. On a gentle cruise down the Chobe River we can watch elephant in and by the river. The park also has lion, leopard, cheetah, zebra, buffalo, hippo and a wide variety of antelope and bird species.

Distance: 87 kms  
Est. Drive Time: 3 hours (depending on the border)  
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

*Optional excursion: Chobe National Park – game drives and game cruise.*

## Day 12: Kasane to Maun

We leave Chobe and travel past the Makgadikgadi Pans, large salt pans on our way to Maun, set on the edge of the Kalahari Desert in north eastern Botswana.

Distance: 666 kms  
Est. Drive Time: 9 hours incl. stop for lunch  
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

## Days 13 – 15: Maun

### With optional mokoro safari in the Okavango Delta

From Maun we organise an optional three day safari into the Okavango Delta in a mokoro, a traditional dugout canoe of the Delta boatmen, exploring the lush wilderness of the flood plain of the Okavango Delta.

The Okavango Delta is the world's largest inland delta, rich in both flora and fauna, with some of Africa's finest birdlife, as well as supporting elephant, hippo, crocodile and the unique sitatunga and lechwe. There is nothing to compare with the experience of gliding silently in a dug out canoe on the tranquil waters of the Delta at sunset through reed beds, lily ponds and papyrus swamps. We spend our nights camping on small islands in the heart of the Delta under the stars, and take guided game walks during our time here.

Distance: 0 kms  
Est. Drive Time: 0 hours  
Meals: X3 Breakfasts, X3 Dinners

*Optional excursions: Okavango Delta mokoro safari including X2 breakfasts and X2 dinners. A flight over the Delta.*

## Days 16 – 18: Maun to Etosha National Park, Namibia

We now head into Namibia and make our way towards Grootfontein where we arrive on day 16 for shopping in town and to make a cultural visit to the local Bushmen. We stop over at a nearby camp before heading the following day for Namibia's most well known National Park, Etosha. We can stop en route to see the Hoba meteorite, the world's largest and estimated to be at least 190 million years old!

Distance over 3 days: 1,111 kms  
Est. Drive Time, Day 16: +/- 13 hours (depending on the border) incl. lunch stop  
Est. Drive Time, Day 17: 4 - 5 hours  
Est. Drive Time, Day 18: +/- 5 hours to Etosha entrance, then afternoon game drives in Etosha  
Meals: X3 Breakfasts, X3 Dinners

*Optional excursions: Walk with warrior bushmen, visit a women's village, Hoba meteorite.*

## Day 19: Etosha National Park

Etosha National Park centres around the vast Etosha Pan, an extensive flat depression of 5,000 square metres of shimmering mirages and in the language of the local Owambo tribe Etosha means 'place of dry water'. The park is home to the 'big five' - lion, leopard, buffalo, elephant and rhino. Optional evening game drives and the floodlit water holes at Okaukuejo and Halali are highlights of this park.

Distance: 0 kms  
Est. Drive Time: Game drives through the day  
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Full day of game drives in Etosha National Park  
Vehicle for game drives: Overland truck

*Optional excursion: Evening game drive.*

## Day 20: Etosha National Park to Africat, Otjiwarongo

Leaving Etosha we travel via Outjo to the Africat Foundation which is a non-profit organization focusing on the conservation of Namibia's predators, particularly cheetah, in their natural habitat. Here we can actively take part in this programme and learn more about these beautiful and amazing animals.

Distance: 182 kms  
Est. Drive Time: 7 hours including short game drive and stops for shopping and lunch  
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activities: Short game drive in Etosha, Africat Carnivore Care  
Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

## Days 21 – 22: Otjiwarongo to Swakopmund

We travel through some of the most scenic regions of the tour the lower section of the Skeleton Coast that is often shrouded in mist. We spend a night at the amazing Spitzkoppe rock formations, camping under the stars.

We come to Cape Cross Seal Reserve, one of 16 breeding colonies for Cape Fur seals before we arrive into the seaside resort town of Swakopmund, nestled between the desert and the sea.

Distance over 2 days: 452 kms  
Est. Drive Time, Day 21: 5 hours  
Est. Drive Time, Day 22: +/- 4.5 hours  
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Cape Cross Seal colony visit

*Optional excursions: A guided walk incl. viewing of rock paintings.*

### **Days 23 – 24: Swakopmund**

Swakopmund is Namibia's activity centre. For the adrenaline junky, try quad biking, sand boarding and skydiving.

For a slightly more relaxed pace there is go-karting, horse riding as well as open sea fishing. Take a township tour to get a feel for local life. And the German colonial-style buildings of the town, dating back to the early 1900s, lend a certain ambience to this corner of Southern Africa. There is also a range of cafes, bars and shops. We have a break from truck life over this time staying in a lodge.

Distance: 0 kms  
Est. Drive Time: 0 hours  
Meals: None

*Optional excursions: Quad-biking, sandboarding, skydiving, go-karting, desert tours, open-sea fishing, seal and dolphin cruise, sea kayaking, township tours, horse riding.*

### **Day 25: Swakopmund to Sesriem**

Leaving Swakopmund mid morning we head in to the wilderness of the Namib Desert, to camp in the wonderland of the Namib Naukluft National Park.

In the afternoon we can visit the Sesriem gorge, where you can go for a walk.

Distance: 344 kms  
Est. Drive Time: 8.5 hours. Incl. lunch stop  
Meals: X1 Dinner

### **Days 26 – 27: Sesriem to Ai Ais**

In the morning we get up before sunrise to climb the famous Dune 45 for sunrise views. After this there is the option to go to Sossusvlei by 4x4 to visit the Dead Vlei pan and see more of this harsh but beautiful landscape.

Fish River Canyon is our next highlight. It is the second largest canyon in the world, created by the rushing waters of the Fish River. We then head to our camp at Ai Ais and enjoy a soak in the hot springs in the lower reaches of the Canyon.

Distance over 2 days: 613 kms  
Est. Drive Time, day 26: +/- 5 hours  
Est. Drive Time, day 27: +/- 9 hours Incl. stop at the Canyon  
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included activities: Visit to Dune 45, visit to Fish River Canyon.

*Optional excursion: Visit to Sossusvlei.*

### **Day 28: Ai Ais to Orange River**

We stop over by the Orange River, which is fed by the Fish River. Here we can canoe or raft through some of the most rugged terrain in Southern Africa.

Distance: 179 kms  
Est. Drive Time: 4 hours  
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

*Optional excursion: Orange River canoeing.*

### **Days 29 – 31: Orange River to Stellenbosch, South Africa**

We travel down the South African west coast and into the wine lands of the Cape Province. We spent two nights in the historic town of Stellenbosch, where we can enjoy a wine tour and the other culinary delights of this culturally rich area.

Distance: 678 kms  
Est. Drive Time, day 29: +/- 10 hours Incl. lunch stop (depending on the border)  
Est. Drive Time, day 30: 6 hours  
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X1 Dinner

*Optional excursion: Wine tour.*

### **Day 32: Stellenbosch to Cape Town**

Today's drive from Stellenbosch brings us to our final stop, Ashanti Lodge in Cape Town, nestled at the base of Table Mountain. We enjoy our last meal together.

The Travel Shop at Ashanti can assist you with all you wish to do from here – including white shark diving, a visit to Robben Island where Mandela was imprisoned during the apartheid era and a visit to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.

If you want to explore further safaris in Kruger National Park can be arranged. Or consider continuing on our Garden Route Add-On safari which follows on from our arrival in Cape Town and takes in highlights along the coastline, Addo National Park as well as pony trekking in Lesotho and hikes in the Drakensberg Mountains before finishing in Johannesburg, the 'City of Gold'.

Distance: 53 kms  
Est. Drive Time: 1 - 2 hours  
Meals: X1 Dinner (contribution to the final restaurant meal)

*Optional excursion: Meal out at a restaurant.*

**Please note this itinerary is given as a guide only. A safari is a journey and true journeys unfold. They are of an adventurous nature. The unexpected can arise, so do allow for this. Feel free to give us a call about your overland safari plans. We look forward to your further enquiries.**



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