

SOUTH AFRICA, BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE

The Jewels of Southern Africa

12 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: **MAY - FEB**

Southern Africa is rich with culture, history, vast landscapes, and a host of diverse animals to match, and this 12-day itinerary embraces it all. Begin your exploration in Johannesburg, South Africa, where you'll examine the country's complicated history. At Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe, you'll have several days of game drives for encounters with big predators and other grasslands wildlife. Continue to the famed Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River, considered the world's largest waterfall, before heading to Chobe National Park in Botswana, home to one of the largest game concentrations in Africa and famous for its elephant and lion populations.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the Hector Pieterse Memorial and Museum and the home where Nelson Mandela lived before he was arrested.
- Go on game drives and walking safaris for a chance to see iconic wildlife like elephants, giraffes, hippos, buffalo, zebras, wildebeests, lions, cheetahs, hyenas, and more.
- Learn about conservation initiatives to protect the highly endangered painted dog, also known as the African wild dog.
- Take a sunset cruise at magnificent Victoria Falls, considered the world's largest waterfall.
- Experience local culture firsthand during interactions with residents, including a family, schoolchildren, conservationists, and a tribal storyteller.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Bilingual local guides
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Internal flights
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting



VICTORIA FALLS

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - EN ROUTE

Depart the US on your overnight flight to Johannesburg, South Africa.

DAY 2 - JOHANNESBURG

Upon arrival in Johannesburg and clearing customs and immigration, you will be met by a local representative and transferred to your hotel. Check in and have some time to relax. This evening, receive an orientation to the program, followed by a welcome dinner. *Overnight at Southern Sun Hyde Park Hotel or similar.*

DAY 3 - JOHANNESBURG

This morning after breakfast, learn about South Africa's history of apartheid during a visit to Soweto, a township that was designated as an area for black residency and which played an important role in the overthrow of the system. Visit the home where Nelson Mandela lived before his arrest in 1962. Also visit the memorial and museum dedicated to Hector Pieterse, a 12-year-old student who was shot and killed during the 1976 Soweto uprising. After lunch, there will be time at leisure to explore the city on your own. This evening attend a cocktail reception and dinner. *Overnight at Southern Sun Hyde Park Hotel or similar. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - HWANGE NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Victoria Falls airport. Upon arrival, collect your luggage and then transfer to the camp. Visit the Painted Dog Conservation Center and learn how this once-thriving canine has all but disappeared. Early this evening, when many animals are at their most active, enjoy a game drive. *Overnight at Miombo Safari Camp or similar. (BD)*

DAY 5 - HWANGE NATIONAL PARK

Set out on a full day of game drives to explore a carefully managed private park, with fewer vehicles and where you'll be less likely to frighten the animals away. Break for a picnic lunch in a breathtaking spot. This evening have dinner at camp joined by a local storyteller who will share tales of the Ndebele and Shona tribes. *Overnight at Miombo Safari Camp or similar. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - HWANGE NATIONAL PARK

Today experience the rare opportunity to go on a walking safari, allowed only in specified corners of select national parks. Joined by experienced guides that the animals are familiar with, view them from a safe distance. Later afternoon and evening game drives to spot the area's nocturnal animals can be found. *Overnight at Miombo Safari Camp or similar. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - VICTORIA FALLS

This morning, transfer to Victoria Falls, often referred to as the eighth wonder of the world. Enjoy a guided walk in the Victoria Falls National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with spectacular views. Later, check in to the lodge. Visit with a local family, meet Zimbabweans where they live, and learn about their daily lives. Dinner tonight at the Boma Restaurant is four courses of Zimbabwean cuisine with an impressive African drumming performance. *Overnight at A'Zambezi River Lodge or similar. (BD)*

DAY 8 - VICTORIA FALLS

Attend an early morning talk on conservation at The Elephant Camp in Victoria Falls with a chance to encounter Sylvester, an orphaned cheetah, followed by a visit to a local village. Visit the local Primary School and meet children and learn about their curricula. This afternoon enjoy a sunset cruise on the wild Zambezi River with

dinner, an ideal backdrop for a talk about the history of the region, including Livingstone. *Overnight at A'Zambezi River Lodge or similar. (BD)*

DAY 9 - CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, transfer to Botswana to Chobe National Park. Late afternoon sunset cruise on the Chobe River where there are plentiful views of hippos, crocodiles, elephants, water buffalo and rich birdlife. *Overnight at Chobe Bakwena Lodge or similar. (BLD)*

DAY 10 - CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, drive to the countryside, visit a local village, and learn about living in the bush. After lunch at the lodge, have free time to rest and relax. This afternoon enjoy more wildlife viewing during a rivers safari. *Overnight at Chobe Bakwena Lodge or similar. (BLD)*

DAY 11 - CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Our last day at Chobe, we will continue our explorations with a morning and afternoon game drive. Farewell Dinner at the lodge. *Overnight at Chobe Bakwena Lodge or similar. (BLD)*

DAY 12- DEPARTURE

After breakfast, transfer to Kasane airport for flight to Johannesburg and connect with return flight home. Or, transfer to Victoria Falls for flight to Cape Town to begin optional post extension. (B)

PROGRAM PRICING

\$6,795 (15 participants + 1 leader)

\$7,195 (10 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, internal flights, private vehicle transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, local guides in each region for duration of program, and carbon offset.

International airfare, gratuities, alcoholic beverages, and items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2020.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants traveling in 2018 or beyond. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

THE FINE PRINT

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Non-refundable final payment is due at 95 days prior to departure.