

## Information guidelines

The following information will serve as a guideline to your tour. Please take time to read this document as it includes important and helpful information.

Should you require any additional information please feel free to visit our website at [www.CheapAfricaTours.com](http://www.CheapAfricaTours.com) or [www.GoedkopeAfrikaReizen.nl](http://www.GoedkopeAfrikaReizen.nl)

This document consists of the following details:

**A: All the necessary information you need to know before travelling**

**B: Full tour itinerary**

**C: Optional activities with rates.**

### A: Basic information:

#### 1. DEPARTURE POINT

The 16 day Botswana tour departs from the Greenfire Lodge Johannesburg, 25 Alida Street, Northcliff at 06h30 on the first tour day (Saturday) and ends back on the last day (Sunday) at around 17h00.

Guests not staying at the Greenfire Lodge must arrive at the Lodge at 06h00. The telephone number is +27 (0) 11 888 1160.

**Please note** that we strongly advise against flying out on the day that the tour ends. We and our partners will not be held responsible for missed flights on this day. We generally travel long distances and late arrivals are common.

#### 2. ACCOMMODATION

PRE and POST night accommodation can be arranged at the Greenfire Lodge in Northcliff. It is advisable to overnight at the Greenfire Lodge if you have not already made alternative arrangements. Accommodation at the Greenfire Lodge can be arranged directly or through us. The Greenfire Lodge is located in the Northern suburbs of Johannesburg - a safe residential area. The Greenfire Lodge has a lovely swimming pool, restaurant, bar & shop. The Lodge is within walking distance of various shopping centers and banks.

#### ACCOMMODATION ON TOUR:

Please note that linen will be provided for the duration of your tour and there is no need to bring along a sleeping bag or pillow.

- Batteries can be charged from a 220 volt source on night 13, 14

- There is a central charging point on night 6 & 11
- Currency exchange opportunities: Arrival at Johannesburg Airport, Maun and Day 13
- Limited Laundry facilities: Maun and Victoria Falls (Essential washing only)
- Internet facilities: Pre night in Johannesburg, Day 13, 14

### 3. TRANSFERS

The Greenfire Lodge is accessible from the airport as follows:

AIRPORT TO GREENFIRE LODGE \* Approximately 45km

Self arranged Taxi (Between R500 – R750)

You can also book this transfer through us. Please check our website under "Hotels and Transfers" for up to date prices

Our pick up times at the airports are: 08h00, 10h00, 12h00, 14h00, 17h00 & 20h00

We depart from the Lodge to the airport: 07h00, 09h00, 11h00, 13h00, 16h00 & 19h00

If you wish to book a transfer through us, please advise us of your flight/arrival details as early as possible as we cannot always do transfers at short notice.

Meeting point at Airport: Please meet the representative at International Arrivals (Terminal A) at the Tourist Information desk.

Please make sure of the transfer time as per the Tour Voucher.

### 4. DAY TOURS

Day tours to various locations (Pretoria, Johannesburg, Soweto, Gold Reef City etc.) can be arranged for you on your arrival in Johannesburg. Downtown Johannesburg is not a safe area to explore on your own - sights recommended by guidebooks are often in crime-ridden areas. If you wish to experience the culture of the city we strongly recommend you arrange a half-day city tour. Day tours can be booked and paid for on arrival. Most tours are based on a minimum of two people, however all efforts will be made to accommodate single travelers with already existing tours.

### 5. TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Please ensure that you are in possession of valid travel documents for all the countries that you will visit (Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa). If you have any queries in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please ensure that you have proof of further travel arrangements if you do not have a South African passport, permanent residency permit, work permit or study permit.

Telephone number: Botswana Consulate in Johannesburg: (011)403-3748 / 9

Zimbabwe Trade mission in Johannesburg: (011)838-2156 / 9

Or visit: Botswana Tourism at [www.botswanaturism.co.bw](http://www.botswanaturism.co.bw)

Zimbabwe Tourism at [www.zimbabwetourism.net](http://www.zimbabwetourism.net)

Make sure that your passport has at least six months' validity from your planned date of return to your home country. Make two photocopies of valuable documents such as your passport, tickets, visas. Keep one copy with you in a separate place to the original and leave another copy with someone at home.

## 6. WEATHER CONDITIONS

Please note that Southern African weather conditions vary tremendously from season to season. During summer months temperatures of up to 40°C can be experienced. During the winter months of June, July and August the nights are very cold, temperatures may drop well below 0°C, although the day temperatures will be pleasant at around 20°C. Please take weather conditions into consideration when choosing a sleeping bag for your tour

## 7. FOREIGN CURRENCY

Botswana Pula is the currency used in Botswana. Botswana Pula can be obtained at a main branch of any major bank in South Africa. If you cannot obtain Pula before your departure from Johannesburg, please ensure that you have sufficient South African Rand to purchase refreshments en route. Money can be exchanged in Maun where all major foreign currencies can be exchanged for Pula. Please do not rely on credit cards, as most of the places we visit on this tour will not have the facilities to deal with them. Overland trucks have safe-keeping facilities for extra cash/flight tickets/passports.

## 8. INSURANCE

It is compulsory that all passengers make arrangements for adequate travel insurance to financially safeguard against unforeseen circumstances. If you need further information please do not hesitate to contact us. We and our partners do not accept responsibility for any loss, injury, damage, accident, fatality, delay or inconvenience experienced whilst on tour. You will be required to complete and sign a full indemnity prior to tour departure.

## 9. CLOTHING & PERSONAL EFFECTS

Herewith a recommended guide of what to bring along:

**Backpack / Barrelbag / Soft Suitcase	Torch / Flashlight / batteries
Sleeping Bag & Small Pillow	Toiletries
Sport Shoes / Sneakers	Sun Cream
Sandals	Insect Repellent
Long Trousers / Tracksuit	Mosquito Net (Optional)
Shorts	Malaria Prophylaxis
Waterproof Windbreaker	***Refreshments
Jersey / Jumper	Money (Sundry expenses, gratuities)
T-Shirts / Shirts	Camera, Binoculars
Socks & Underwear	Books (Birds, Mammals etc.)
Swimming Costume & Towel	Pen
Hat	Passport / Visas (if applicable)
Water Bottle	Smaller day pack
Personal iPod	

\* A camping bed for each guests will be supplied while on tour. (L=205; W=73; H=51)

\*\* Luggage should be limited to a maximum of 15kg's

### **HARD SUITCASES ARE NOT SUITABLE!!**

\*\*\* Refreshments can be purchased en-route on the first day of the tour, and at regular intervals throughout the tour.

## **10. HEALTH PRECAUTIONS & REQUIREMENTS**

The only necessary prophylaxis for Southern Africa (Botswana and Zimbabwe) is against Malaria. Please consult with your general medical practitioner regarding this. Resistant strains of Malaria occur in both Botswana and Zimbabwe and adequate chemo-prophylaxis is essential. Prevention is better than cure; please use insect repellent on exposed areas after sunset.

All guides have first aid boxes for use in emergencies, however we recommend that you bring along your own basic supply of medication, headache tablets etc.

## **11. MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS**

Meals are provided as indicated in this document/website. Soft drinks, bottled water and alcohol are for your own expense; obviously there is ample opportunity during the tour to buy refreshments. The guide will advise when you need to stock up for a couple of days. Drinking water will be available on the truck, please note that this is not bottled water.

## **12. PERSONAL EXPENSES**

A reasonable amount of personal spending money must be brought on our tours. This is to cover own expense meals, snacks, sundry goods purchased - such as batteries, suntan cream etc., all bottled water, alcohol and soft beverages, curios, optional extra excursions, airport tax, transfers and tips. In Africa it is common courtesy to tip casual help for services rendered. In the case of your guide, if you were happy with his or her services, an amount of R50 per day per person would constitute a reasonable tip.

## **13. GROUP SIZE (Max 12)**

Group size varies from 4 – 12.

## **14. ON SAFARI**

All our tours require participation from all group members. This entails assisting with the food preparation, washing of dishes, keeping the truck clean and the setting up of camp.

Please keep in mind that flexibility and an open mind will greatly contribute to an enjoyable safari.

We are travelling in developing countries, please do not expect the punctuality you have come to expect in first world countries. Things do not always run according to plan, however we do endeavour to run according to the itinerary as best as possible.

## **B: Itinerary: Best of Botswana | 16 days**

### **OVERVIEW:**

This tour is the accommodated version of the popular 16 Day Botswana camping tour. The Accommodated Botswana tour will follow a similar route to the 16 Day camping tour but offers guests a considerable upgrade in comfort when it comes to overnight accommodation during the tour.

The Accommodated Botswana tour offers the same adventurous spirit as the 16 Day camping tour and guests will visit the renowned Bushmen of the Kalahari, stay in the paradise of the Okavango Delta, search for animals in the renowned parks of Moremi and Savuti and soak up the beauty of the

Victoria Falls. All of this with the added comfort of spending our nights in accommodation or enjoying the unique experience of a serviced camping night.

The accommodated tours will depart on selected days and are limited to a maximum of 12 passengers offering guests the opportunity to explore the wilderness areas in small groups.

**Route:** Johannesburg to Johannesburg

**Accommodation:** 11 night lodge/ cabins/ canvas, 4 nights serviced camps

#### **INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Kalahari - Bushmen walk
- Okavango Delta private camp
- Okavango Boat trip and Mokoro
- Game Walks
- National Parks
- Open-vehicle Safaris in National Parks
- Wild Remote Servied Camps
- Makgadikgadi Salt Pans
- Chobe River Boat Cruise
- Victoria Falls National Park

#### **OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

- White Water Rafting
- Bungi Jumping
- Game Flight – Okavango
- Zambezi River Sunset Cruise



### **Day to day description**

#### **Day 1: Johannesburg - Kalahari**

Our Botswana safari tours depart from the lodge in Johannesburg at 06:30. We set off to cross the Botswana border near Lobatse. On completion of Customs and Immigration formalities we pass through an area boasting significant history, then, it's out into the vast Kalahari Plains.

We will cover quite some distance today before arriving at our established overnight camp near Kang. Once we have checked into our accommodation we will enjoy a short walk out into the bush. Tonight we enjoy a catered meal.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner at own expense

Included highlights/activity: Scenic drive through North West South Africa , border crossing into Botswana then leaving the last of the hills behind at Kanye, and then... The Kalahari Desert, Jwaneng - the richest diamond mine in the world, short walk into the Kalahari, setting up camp for the night

## **Day 2: Kalahari Bushmen**

After waking early to a spectacular Kalahari sunrise, we enjoy a sumptuous camp breakfast before continuing to the frontier town of Ghanzi. Ghanzi is home to some of the last traditional Bushmen.

Our experience will include an educational bush walk led by true Bushmen. This will give us some insight into their daily lives. We learn about their hunting and trapping skills, their peculiar belief systems, and how they find and store their water. We overnight on a vast tract of land owned and managed by the local people.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Included highlights/ activity: Guided bush walk led by true bushman/san, learn about digging for water and Tsamma melons, ancient gods and beliefs (like shape-shifting) of the bushmen

## **Day 3 - 5: Okavango Delta**

The Okavango is a massive river that spills its contents into the Kalahari sands, creating one of the world's only true inland delta's and a unique ecosystem that supports a huge variety of animal and plant life. The sight of a nervous Lechwe (antelope) pounding across a flooded plain, the Jacana (bird) striding delicately amongst the flowering lilies, the Bee Eater (bird) diving to prey on an unsuspecting insect, and of course the familiar cry of the African Fish Eagle - all combine to create one of nature's masterpieces.

We begin our journey into the Delta near the so-called panhandle, gliding through papyrus lined channels, first by motorboat and then by mokoro - the traditional dugout canoe, to our exclusive wild island camp. We spend three nights here in true wilderness, exploring the area on foot and by mokoro. There will also be time to simply relax and to absorb the remoteness and serenity of the area.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner on all three days

Optional Activities: Scenic helicopter flight over the Delta

Included highlights/activity: Motorboat transfer into the Okavango Delta, private island, guided Game walks in the Delta led by local Motswana guides, mokoro trips in Delta, sunset hippo cruise

## **Day 6: Okavango - Maun**

Starting early, we begin our journey back to "civilisation". We travel by motorboats as we wind our way through the channels of the Delta to where we are reunited with our vehicles. This afternoon we arrive in the 'tourism capital of Botswana' - Maun. We will spend some time stocking up on basic supplies before we travel the short distance out to the lodge. Here we can freshen up, or splash in the pool and enjoy a catered meal.

The lodge is situated on the banks of the Boteti River. This river changes its flow directions, depending upon the season and rain patterns. The Lodge offers comfortable accommodation, a swimming pool, bar and a restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Optional activities: Scenic helicopter flight over the Delta

Included highlights/activity: Motorboat transfer out of the Okavango Delta, Boteti River sunset

### **Day 7 - 10: Moremi/ Savuti: Flexible wildlife reserve schedule**

We enjoy a scrumptious breakfast at the lodge and prepare for the "Safari" part of the trip- surely one of the biggest highlights of the tour. Traveling in our well-equipped 4x4 vehicle we head into true wilderness, passing remote villages along the way. We spend five days in the national parks following seasonal wild animal migrations on extensive morning and afternoon game drives (safaris). There will of course also be some time to relax and to appreciate this rare jewel of a place and its deep tranquility.

An example of our route could be: starting with Moremi, we spend the first night near the well-known Third Bridge. Drift off to sleep to the howl of the distant hyena or the earthy roar of a lion, and even the deep grunt of a half-submerged hippo. We then head on north via Xakanaxa to camp near North Gate. This area is excellent for game viewing and we will conduct afternoon and morning drives along the wetland areas.

Then up to Savuti! This area offers a multitude of game drive options. Make sure to keep the fruit well hidden from the roving elephant, the meat from the prowling hyenas, and everything from the monkeys. The vegetation is constantly changing from open plains to palm trees and marshland, to dense Mopane woodlands and Acacia scrub, and hence all the fauna and flora changes accordingly.

Depending on the conditions in the national parks we might also venture into the Central Kalahari Game Reserve or the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park. During this part of the journey we camp in remote, pristine sites where there is no sign of man's existence. We will make sure we leave each site in the same condition, nothing but footprints in the sand are left for the quiet winds to deal with.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner on all 4 days

Included highlights/activity: 4x4 open vehicle game drives on all five days, private non-fenced campsites, extensive first hand game viewing experience, explore the heart of National Geographic's photography region where the Jouberts spend their lives.

### **Day 11: Maun**

From the last morning in the Parks we slowly game drive our way back to Maun. Here you can enjoy lunch (at own expense) and spend some time before heading out to the comfort of the lodge for the night. This afternoon we will relax at the Lodge before enjoying a catered meal and a comfortable night.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Optional Activities: scenic flights over the delta

Included highlights/activity: Game drive on the way out of the park, Visit to Maun

### **Day 12: Makgadikgadi Pans**

Today will have a relaxed start as spend some time enjoying the Lodge and the swimming pool before enjoying Brunch and then venturing eastward and into the spectacular Makgadikgadi Salt Pans. Besides the stark scenery, the Pans are known for their wonderful bird life and some other desert adapted animals.

After exploring the pans we continue to our accommodation for the night and enjoy a relaxed evening in comfort.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Included highlights/activity: Relaxed morning, visit to Makgadikgadi Salt Pans

### **Day 13: Chobe River - Victoria Falls**

Venturing north today, we leave the desolation of the Pans behind and make our way up to the mighty Chobe River. The Chobe area is known for the huge herds of Elephants and other animals that are attracted to drink from the River. This afternoon we will enjoy an extensive boat cruise. Gliding close to the banks we hope to be able to approach these animals from the River for close up viewing.

After our boat cruise we will cross the border and make our way to the lodge in Victoria Falls. The lodge is centrally situated and within walking distance of The Fall's and other attractions.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Included highlights/activity: Chobe National Park, especially elephants, extensive boat cruise on the Chobe River- hippos and crocodiles, river birds.

### **Day 14: Victoria Falls**

Waking up in the adventure capital of Africa, it is with new excitement that we explore the amazing Victoria Falls. The locals call the falls "Mosi o Tunya " - "The smoke that Thunders". After admiring this wonder of the world, various other attractions can be visited and activities enjoyed , such as the tribal village, the big tree and the curio market. A helicopter flight over the falls or a boat trip on the Zambezi River, White Water Rafting or Bungi Jumping are all worthwhile, but allowance must be made for the extra expense.

We spend two nights here to give clients some time to explore Victoria Falls by themselves. Tonight we will eat out in local restaurant (own expense). Relax to the sound of the African night and the distant roar of the Falls and drink the farewell toasts to your adventure.

Meals: Breakfast. Lunch and Dinner at own expense

Optional activities: Scenic helicopter flight, white water rafting, bungee jump, gorge swing, many more available

Included highlights/activity: Victoria Falls National Park, Entry Fee for viewing the Falls

### **Day 15: Victoria Falls - Francistown**

We set off to cross back into Botswana and to continue south toward Francistown. Tonight we stay in comfortable accommodation, enjoying the African night and celebrating our adventure with our last tour meal.

**Please note:** it is possible to end this tour in Victoria Falls on day 15. Clients can book extra nights in Victoria Falls or they can fly back home (normally via Johannesburg).

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Included highlights/activity: Last opportunity to view wild animals on route to Francistown, scenic drive from Zimbabwe to Botswana



### **Day 16: Francistown - Johannesburg**

We cross the Limpopo River back into South Africa and make our way to the lodge in Johannesburg. We should arrive in Johannesburg in the early evening.

Meals: Breakfast. Lunch at own expense

Included highlights/activity: Scenic drive from Botswana to South Africa

**Please note:** The day by day descriptions published are intended as a rough guideline only.

Adventure travel by nature is unpredictable, weather patterns, game migrations, road conditions and a multitude of other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that ultimately are for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible and open minded in this regard.

**Optional activities** **Please note:** All rates are subject to change

**Please note:** We cannot book any of the activities mentioned below in advance. The majority of the activities are weather dependent and are not always available. Activities can be booked on arrival by the clients directly with the external suppliers. We and our partners do not accept any liability for the availability or rates of Optional Activities.

### **JOHANNESBURG and SURROUNDS (PRE and POST Tour)**

#### **SOWETO TOUR**

South of Johannesburg is Soweto, the world's most famous township and important monument to Apartheid. A sprawling, self-sufficient home to millions, Soweto grapples with democratic change, but its spirit resonates in a plethora of shebeens. The focus on this tour is more on community projects & sustainable tourism.

The Soweto Fair Tour includes: Nelson Mandela & Hector Pietersen Museums, a visit to Handiwox or the Soweto Green plus a view of Baragwaneth Hospital and an informal settlement. Also included is a cycle tour from Phomolong & visit a day care centre (also available without cycling).

From R590 per person for 3 hours

You can also do a cycle tour of Soweto – pricing depends on the time you cycle for.

#### **JOBURG CITY TOUR**

The tour includes a panoramic view of the city, a drive within the business district, visit to traditional African shops, the bohemian Hillbrow and Museum Africa in Newton, the cultural district of Johannesburg. Extend to 8 hours & include Constitution Hill, SAB World of Beer & more.

From R590 per person for 3 hours

#### **SOWETO & JOHANNESBURG COMBO**

Combining the Soweto & Johannesburg City tours will give you a great overview of the area.

From R850 for 5 hours

## **APARTHEID MUSEUM**

The path through the museum leads you on a journey beginning with segregation, the cornerstone of apartheid. It takes you back through the history of the myriad cultures converging during the pre apartheid era. Through the years of race classification, the 150 acts of apartheid, detentions and the oppression of the nationalist regime. Examine the rise of black consciousness, the armed struggle & finally witness the release of Nelson Mandela after 27 years of imprisonment which finally led to the final negotiations for peace. The Apartheid Museum experience is one of upliftment and liberation both personally & socially and leaves each visitor with a feeling of hope for the future, unburdened by the ills of the past.

Duration: 3 hours R550

## **CRADLE OF HUMANKIND**

The tour visits both the Sterkfontein caves, where the oldest hominid fossils (dating back to over 3 million years) in the world were found & Maropeng where you can experience the fascinating, interactive representations of the origin of Earth & all that lives on our unique planet. Interesting to both adults & children alike, this is a must visit on anyone passing through Gauteng's itinerary!

Duration: 4 hours R990

## **PRETORIA CITY TOUR**

Pretoria generates a multicultural energy from a harmonious blend of traditions, culture and architecture. Pretoria has historic value extending to that of the British Empire and Apartheid. The tour includes the either the Voortrekker Monument or Freedom Square, the Union Buildings, Kruger House, Church Square, Mirramen Hindu Temple and thousands of Jacaranda trees. Extend to 8 hours and include both the Voortrekker Monument & Freedom Square as well as the Transvaal Museum. Lunch in Pretoria.

Duration: 4 ½ hours R850

Duration: 8 hours for the extended tour, incl. lunch R1500

## **BOTSWANA AND VICTORIA FALLS**

### **Scenic flight over the Okavango Delta (Highly Recommended)**

The flight prices range from between R665 - R3760, this is dependent on how many people decide to go on a flight. If you are interested inquire with your guide. (you can use Credit Or Visa cards for payment)

### **Village walk from the lodge Maun**

(Pula 50) -Prices may vary

## **ACTIVITIES**

**USD**

### **ADRENALIN**

White Water Rafting – Low water  
White Water Rafting – High water  
Gorge Swing

150  
140  
95

Tandem – Gorge Swing	140
Zip line	70
Tandem – Zip line	110
Flying Fox	45
Canopy tour	55
Half Day Adrenalin (Adrenalin High wire pass)	140
Adrenalin high wire & canopy tour pass	175

#### **SAFARI**

Full Day Chobe	160
Horse Riding Safari - Experienced	85
Horse Riding Safari - Novice	80
Game Drive	95
Night Drive	130

#### **RIVER**

Sundowner Cruise	50
Fishing (3 Hrs)	120
Upper Zambezi Canoeing	150

#### **AIR ACTIVITIES**

12/13 Minutes Helicopter	150
Micro light Flight	174

(The micro light flight takes off from Zambia, and if planning to do it, it will mean you will need to acquire a dual visa when going through the border to Zimbabwe) .

**Enjoy your adventure of a lifetime!**