

## 19 Day South West Overland Tour

From Africa's premier attraction, Victoria Falls to its most beautiful city – Cape Town – via the world's oldest desert, the Namib and the tranquility of the Okavango Delta, dramatic Fish River Canyon and Etosha and Chobe game reserves – this is a superb introduction to southern Africa!

**Start / End:** Livingstone, Zambia / Cape Town, South Africa

**Duration:** 19 days

**Tour type:** Overland camping safari

**Group size:** Maximum 24 passengers

**Safari vehicle:** Overland truck

**Crew:** 2 Crew members

**Equipment:** 2-Person dome tents with fly sheet and sewn in ground sheets, zip-up insect screens and foam sleeping mattresses. \* (Bring own sleeping bag)

**Included meals:** Breakfast x 19 / Lunch x 15 / Dinner x 14

**Reverse trip:** Yes

**Website:** [www.african-overland-safaris.com/overland-tours/19-day-south-west-overland-tour.php](http://www.african-overland-safaris.com/overland-tours/19-day-south-west-overland-tour.php)

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### Tour Highlights

- **Zambia** – Livingstone
- **Botswana** - Chobe National Park, Okavango Delta, Kalahari Bushman Walk
- **Namibia** – Windhoek, Etosha National Park, Spitzkoppe, Swakopmund, Namib-Naukluft Park, Sossusvlei Sand Dunes, Fish River Canyon
- **South Africa** – Cape Flats Township Tour

# Itinerary

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## **DAY 1: Livingstone**

This safari starts and spends the first day in Livingstone, allowing time to enjoy one or two activities and excursions typically available in the Victoria Falls area. If you have time to spare we would certainly recommend allowing a few extra days here to make the most of the area. Activities include white water rafting, bungee jumping, abseiling, gorge swinging, canoeing, elephant and horse riding, scenic flights (by microlight, helicopter or small plane), and – a definite ‘must!’ - visit to the thunderous Victoria Falls themselves. At times of high river levels the spray can be seen from 20 kilometres away, hence the local name Mosi au Tunya – the ‘smoke that thunders’. Overnight at camp in Livingstone.

**Please Note:** For the sake of practicality, meals in the Livingstone/Victoria Falls area are restricted to breakfasts. This allows you to take on half day or full day activities (some of which include lunch) without having to be back with the group at mealtimes. The Waterfront camp restaurant overlooks the Zambezi River and offers a good selection of reasonably priced meals and snacks throughout the day (we suggest you allow US\$25 per day).

## **DAYS 2 & 3: Chobe National Park**

After breakfast we leave Livingstone and travel the short distance to Botswana and the Chobe National Park. Situated in the extreme northern corner of Botswana, Chobe is home to large populations of elephant as well as lion and abundant birdlife, including the African fish-eagle. In the late afternoon, we take an afternoon cruise on the Chobe River - a delightful way to see hippo or elephant, sometimes buffalo, come to the river for bath and drink. Earlier in the day we take an early morning game drive into the park itself for a glimpse of Botswana’s premier game reserve.

## **DAYS 4 to 6: Maun, Okavango Delta**

Further south, we cross the fringes of the Kalahari Desert and make our way to Maun and the Okavango Delta. A natural wetland system spreading over some 1.6m hectares of northern Botswana, the results from rivers that rise in Angola and flow south then divide repeatedly to form an intricate floodplain of channels and islands which spreads out into a broad flat inland delta – the only one of its kind in the world. Our overnight excursion gives us the opportunity to explore some of the area on foot and by dugout canoe (makoro). This is a very unspoilt wildlife area. We search amongst the giant lily pads, tall grasses and narrow channels for hippo, crocodile and a variety of birds. We camp for a night in the Delta itself on one of the river islands - an unforgettable wilderness experience!

## **DAYS 7 & 8: Ghanzi, Windhoek**

Leaving the Okavango we travel south-west skirting the Kalahari. We stop at Ghanzi and take a guided Bushman Walk to discover some of the secrets of this immense terrain and gain a glimpse of how the indigenous people live in this area. The following day we continue west into Namibia and stop a night in the capital Windhoek, a city steeped in German atmosphere and architecture. Enjoy the contrast from the previous few nights, perhaps with a flagon of ale at one of the local taverns.

## **DAYS 9 to 13: Etosha National Park, Spitzkoppe, Swakopmund**

We make our way north to Etosha National Park, a vast reserve of over 20,000 square kilometres in area surrounding a central salt depression or ‘pan.’ The pan is seasonally filled with water but managed year-round waterholes sustain some 114 mammal and 340 bird species. We spend two nights in Etosha, camping near a floodlit waterhole which offers exciting night viewing for those who wish to stay up late.

Turning south again, we pass through the eerie Spitzkoppe area and travel along some of the desolate Atlantic coast, the colonial town of Swakopmund, Namibia’s main seaside resort.

Sandwiched neatly between the desert and the ocean, this delightful coastal oasis has developed into something of an adventure centre. Try 'quad biking, sand boarding, or skydiving (weather permitting) or for those preferring a slower pace, take a coastal walk or indulge in Swakopmund's café culture at your own leisure.

#### **DAYS 14 to 16: Namib-Naukluft park, Fish River Canyon**

Continuing south through the barren desert we reach the Namib Naukluft Park. The world's oldest desert and containing some of the highest sand dunes in the world – some of Sesriem and Sossusvlei's dunes are over 300m high – this is an ideal spot to clamber to the top of one and see the sun rise over the empty desert. We continue deeper into the park for a nature walk across the salt pans and flat valley floors. Don't forget your camera - the changing colours of the sand as the sun rises and sets throughout the day offer brilliant photographic opportunities.

Continuing to the very south of Namibia we admire the awesome beauty of the Fish River Canyon. One of the natural wonders of Africa, some 500m deep and over 160km long, this is the second largest canyon in the world after America's Grand Canyon. Again, there are plenty of opportunities for keen photographers as we spend time around this area and visit the canyon's infamous sharp river bend known as 'Hell's Corner.'

#### **DAYS 17 to 19: Gariiep (Orange) River, Cape Town**

On our final leg of the journey we leave Namibia and enter South Africa stopping en route for a night next to the desolate but striking Gariiep (Orange) River.

We continue south and notice the desert slowly give way to the increasingly fertile Cape Province. On the edge of Cape Town itself lie the Cape Flats, home to Cape Town's townships. We visit some of the local people and community projects in the area. The townships illustrate both South Africa's tumultuous history and its hope for the future. Finally we continue to cosmopolitan Cape Town, without doubt one of the world's most beautiful cities, where the tour ends. If time allows we recommend you spend a few days exploring the city and surrounds. Take advantage of the variety of activities normally available here – from abseiling Table Mountain and shopping at the V&A Waterfront, to wine tasting in the nearby winelands of Paarl and Stellenbosch.

## OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS & ACTIVITIES

In order to give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer a number of optional activities on the tour. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (in US\$ unless otherwise stated. Pricing subject to change and availability).

ACTIVITY	PRICE	ACTIVITY	PRICE
<b>ZAMBIA (Livingstone)</b>		<b>NAMIBIA (Swakopmund)</b>	
Zambezi Sunset Cruise	\$60	Quad Biking	N\$ 500
Vic Falls bungy (single/tandem)	\$120	Sand Boarding	N\$ 250-350
Flight over the Falls	from \$130	Deep Sea Fishing	N\$ 850
Gorge Swing	\$60	Scenic Flights	N\$ 2695
White Water Rafting/ Riverboarding	\$145/ \$175	Tandem Skydive	N\$ 1900
Croc farm tour	\$30	Dolphin Cruise	N\$ 480
Game walk	\$75	Kayaking	N\$ 600
Lion Encounter	\$130		
Horse Riding	\$75-\$110	<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	
		Gariep (Orange) River Canoeing	ZAR 200
<b>BOTSWANA</b>			
Okavango Delta Scenic Flight per 5-seat plane	\$ 400		
Kalahari Desert Swim excursion	Bots Pula 50		

## TOUR INFORMATION

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Travelling overland is great fun, but it can also be challenging! This is a participation tour and your help will be needed in setting up the camp each night and assisting (usually on a rota basis) with the various day to day campsite duties, such as shopping, cooking and keeping the truck and camp tidy. But don't worry it's not all hard work and it's a great way to meet the local people and get to know your fellow travellers. Your contribution benefits the success of the tour - most people find the greater their involvement, the greater their enjoyment of the whole trip.

Africa is an adventure destination and travelling here is not always predictable so be prepared to "expect the unexpected" in difficulties or delays which might come our way! However, you'll soon find that the diversity of the African landscape, the wildlife and the communities we pass on our way, make the sometimes rough travel and long driving days worthwhile.

Come with a sense of adventure and a flexible attitude and you will be sure to enjoy your overland tour across this amazing continent.

### Tour Style

African Overland Safari

### What's Included

Fully equipped safari vehicle, camping and cooking equipment including sleeping mattress, all road tolls and vehicle taxes, transport, services of driver and tour leader, meals as indicated.

## **What's Not Included**

Local Payment excursions, visas, travel insurance, flights, departure taxes, airport transfers, sleeping bag, optional activities, drinks, tips, meals not mentioned in itinerary, items of a personal nature.

## **Accommodation**

We use 2-person dome tents with fly sheets, built in ground sheets, zip-up insect screens and thick foam sleeping mattresses. We mainly use designated campsites, which often have permanent wash and shower facilities, electricity points and sometimes even a small shop and bar/restaurant.

## **Transport**

24-seater, self contained, custom-built safari truck with onboard tables, plug sockets, freezer, library, i-pod jack, safety features and 70-litre individual lockers.

## **Meals**

Meals included are - Breakfast (B) x 19, Lunch (L) x 15, Dinner (D) x 14

These meals are prepared in camp by the group and help preparing the meals is invited. Most dietary requirements can be catered for on the road. Please ensure you inform us of any special requirements when you book or at your earliest convenience.

## **Game Park Visits**

In order to maximise the quality of game driving and to comply with local authority rulings, some of our National Park visits and game viewing is carried out using services provided by local African ground handlers. As well as enhancing our experience it also allows us to contribute at a 'grassroots' level to local economies from which local people benefit. These local services are included in the Inclusive Local Payment.

## TOUR PREPARATION

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### Booking Information

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent your booking documents and a predeparture booklet with detailed information to help you prepare for your trip. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving details of your joining hotel. Livingstone & Cape Town are well served by a number of airlines and your travel agent can advise on flights to the start of the tour.

### Joining Information

This tour starts in Livingstone. The pre-departure meeting is held at 18:00 on the evening prior to departure. The first night of the tour is in Livingstone. The tour ends in the late afternoon of day 19 on arrival in Cape Town.

#### Meeting point in Livingstone:

Address:

#### The Zambezi Waterfront

Sichango Road,

Livingstone

Tel +260 3 320 606/7/8

Email: [waterfront@safpar.com](mailto:waterfront@safpar.com)

Pre-dep. meeting:

18h00 prior to departure day

Tour start time:

To be confirmed at pre-departure meeting1

#### Tour end point in Cape Town:

Address:

#### Ashanti Lodge Green Point

23 Antrim Road,

Three Anchor Bay,

Green Point,

Cape Town

Tel +27 21 433 1619

Email: [info@ashanti.com](mailto:info@ashanti.com)

Tour end time:

Late afternoon / early evening on day 19