

# 21 day Cape Town to Victoria Falls Overland Safari

This trip begins in Cape Town, South Africa and travels north through South Africa, Namibia and Botswana, before ending in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

This trip departs from Cape Town early on Sunday morning. Should you wish to explore Cape Town, our office can assist you, in booking your activities as well as accommodation. However, costs due to earlier arrival, will be for your own account.

<b>Accommodation style:</b>	Camping
<b>Length of trip:</b>	21 Days
<b>Starts in:</b>	Cape Town, South Africa
<b>Finishes in:</b>	Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
<b>Pre-departure Meeting:</b>	Held at the Departure Point at 17h00, the day before your departure.
<b>Departure point:</b>	Ashanti Lodge & Travel Centre : 11 Hof Street, Gardens, Cape Town
<b>Check-In Time:</b>	07h30
<b>Departure Time:</b>	08h00
<b>Breakfasts included:</b>	20
<b>Lunches included:</b>	19
<b>Dinners included:</b>	18
<b>Brunches included:</b>	1
<b>Countries visited:</b>	South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe

## PLEASE NOTE:

- This itinerary should be used as a guide only and may vary from day to day depending on road & weather conditions, political situations and group decisions.
- All prices & Local Payments are subject to change.
- Due to Tourism Laws in some of the countries we visit, there may be a truck and crew change during the trip.
- Your arrival transfer and pre-trip accommodation in a dorm bed is included in your trip price. Should you choose not to make use of these, or in the event that we were not updated with your arrival details, no refund will be paid for services not used.
- Please ensure you've received a copy of our pre departure information document with information on what to expect on this overland safari.

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This comprehensive three week trip begins in Cape Town, one of the world's most picturesque cities, and ends at the Victoria Falls, one of the natural wonders of the world. We go through some incredibly diverse landscapes - richly fertile Winelands, arid and hauntingly beautiful deserts, dramatic canyons and tranquil lagoons. Highlights include game watching in Etosha National Park, climbing giant sand dunes in Sossusvlei, camping out in the Okavango Delta, and an overnight excursion in the Chobe National Park. There are plenty of optional activities to choose from too, from white water rafting on

the Zambezi River to quad-biking through the Namib Desert. As our most popular safari - this trip is sure to leave you loving Africa and wanting more!

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## **INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS**

Township Tour, Wine Tasting, Half day canoeing on the Gariep (Orange) River, Fish River Canyon, Namib Naukluft National Park, Transfer to Sossusvlei, Swakopmund, Spitzkoppe (**day trip**), Etosha National Park, Okavango Delta Excursion, Chobe Overnight Excursion, Victoria Falls Entry

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### **DAY 1: Cape Town to Cederberg Area** (Lunch / Dinner)

Before leaving Cape Town, we depart on a township tour in and around Cape Town. This is an included highlight allowing everyone to experience it. Thereafter, we head around Table Bay and continue north through the wheat growing 'bread basket' of South Africa. We cross the Piekenierskloof Pass into the rich fruit growing area along the Olifants River, named for the vast Elephant herds that used to roam in this fertile valley. Our first night is spent in a picturesque campsite with a view of the surrounding wine farms. This afternoon we have the opportunity to sample some of the nectar of the gods after taking a short walk in the surrounding vineyards to explore the exquisite views of the Cederberg Mountains. Tonight we camp under a canvass of stars – the perfect way to begin our African adventure.

**Included Activity: Township Tour in Cape Town**

**Included Activity: Wine Tasting in Cederberg Area**

### **DAY 2: Cederberg Area to the Gariep River** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

From the Cederberg we travel further north through the region known as Namaqualand, well known for its prolific display of Namaqua wildflowers that occur each spring. After stopping for supplies in the small town of Springbok, we continue on through the desert area of the Richtersveld to the Gariep River, the natural land border between South Africa and Namibia, where we camp at a beautiful campsite on the South African bank of the river.

### **DAY 3: Gariep River to Fish River Canyon (Namibia)** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This morning we partake in a half-day canoe trip on the beautiful Gariep River, affording us the opportunity of some bird watching or just a scenic and relaxing paddle. After lunch we cross into Namibia where, after a short drive, we reach the Fish River Canyon. At 161 km long, 27 km wide and about 550 m deep, it's the second largest canyon in the world. The outer canyon was formed by tectonic activity, while the erosion of the Fish River formed the inner canyon. A road follows the eastern rim, giving us access to several viewing points from where we can take in the spectacular vistas.

**Included Activity: Canoeing on Gariep River**

#### **DAY 4: Fish River Canyon to Sesriem** (Breakfast / Lunch / Diner)

An early start today, heading north we enter the area of the Namib-Naukluft desert, one of the oldest in the world. We base ourselves at Sesriem, a good place to experience the Namib and its many moods. A short distance away is Sossusvlei, surrounded by a dramatic array of sand dunes reputed to be the highest in the world. Magnificent views of the desert can be seen from the top of the dunes, some over 300 m high. Make sure you look up at the stars tonight; the desert puts on a show like nowhere else in the world!

#### **DAY 5: Sesriem** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This morning we enter the Namib-Naukluft National Park where we spend the morning exploring this amazing area. We take some time to climb to the top of Dune 45 - a truly memorable experience. Following our once in a lifetime experience you will take the desert shuttles a further 5kms into the desert where you can take a walk to Sossusvlei and explore the surrounding area.

**Included Activities: Climbing Dune 45, Namib Naukluft National Park**

**Included Activity: A Visit to Sossusvlei**

#### **DAY 6: Sesriem to Swakopmund** (Breakfast)

This morning after breakfast we head off in a north-westerly direction to meet the Atlantic Ocean at Walvis Bay. Our drive takes us across the Tropic of Capricorn – the 'imaginary line' that shows the southernmost point of direct sun, and signals the southern hemisphere's mid-summers day. From Walvis Bay, we follow the coast for some 35 km to arrive at Namibia's prime holiday resort - Swakopmund where we enjoy 2 nights of rest, relaxation and a little bit of adrenalin for those that are keen! Accommodation will be in dormitories for the next 2 nights, upgrades into private rooms are possible, but depend on availability and can be booked with your trip leader.

#### **DAY 7: Swakopmund** (Breakfast)

Founded by the Germans in 1892, their colonial influence is still evident today. Swakopmund has a selection of excellent coffee shops, restaurants & bars as well as many arts and crafts shops selling Namibian curios. There are fine beaches to walk along as well as a great museum, aquarium and galleries to visit. Alternatively, the lovely beach and promenade make for a great relaxing walk – though bathing in the ocean waters may be somewhat chilly! Some of our fellow passengers may leave us in Swakop, to be replaced by new passengers joining us for the rest of our trip.

**Optional Activities:** Sky diving, quad biking, sand boarding, scenic desert flights, dolphin cruises, fishing trips, golf, horse riding and more. An activity briefing will be held on arrival in Swakopmund (see price guide at the end of this document).

## **DAY 8: Swakopmund to Brandberg (UIS) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

Our departure from Swakopmund takes through the 'Matterhorn of Namibia' - Spitzkoppe. The 1728 m high rock formation, one of Namibia's most recognised landmarks, is well known as an ancient San sacred site. Explore the surrounding area and its San rock paintings or simply enjoy the magnificent views. After our visit to Spitzkoppe we head off to our next destination – Brandberg.

### **Included Activity: Visiting Spitzkoppe (Day trip)**

## **DAY 9: Brandberg (UIS) to Etosha National Park Area ((Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

Today's drive takes us further north through the Namibian countryside to our campsite, located in the vicinity of the National Park.

## **DAY 10: Etosha National Park Area (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

We head to the area of Etosha National Park. Covering 22 700 km<sup>2</sup>, Etosha is Namibia's premier nature and wildlife reserve. Situated around the Etosha Pan with a large variety of animal and bird life, the extensive network of gravel roads affords us the opportunity of accessing even the most remote areas of the park. After lunch, and once it has cooled off a bit, we spend the remainder of the day exploring the park's southern area. Keep an eye out for the striking Oryx and Springbok as these are endemic to desert National Parks! Tonight's camp is situated just outside the parks boundaries, only 10kms from Anderson Gate. Perhaps a quick dip in the pool or a sun downer on the deck before dinner, followed by a relaxing evening in this interesting bar.

### **Optional Activity: Game Drive**

## **DAY 11: Etosha National Park (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

Today we make our way across the park, keeping a look out for the many different mammals, reptiles, birds and insects in the various regions. As the vegetation types change, so does the animal and bird life that relies on it, and so different sections of the Park offer a variety of different game options. After a full day of game viewing, we spend the evening relaxing at our camp in the north of the park, Namutoni. After dinner why not head to the waterhole where you can sit and observe the animals may come to drink in the evenings.

### **Included Activity: Game Drive in our own vehicle**

### **Optional Activity: Night Drive**

## **DAY 12: Etosha National Park to Grootfontein (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

After our breakfast we head out of the park while doing a game drive. Today is a short driving day to our next destination where we set up camp for the night. Tonight's campsite has a Thatched dining area, bar, swimming pool & curio shop.

### **DAY 13: Grootfontein to Divundu (Breakfast /Lunch / Dinner)**

From Grootfontein, we head in a north-easterly direction toward Namibia's Caprivi Strip, and the lush Kavango region of northern Namibia. After which we head to our spectacular campsite located on the banks of the Kavango River – Watch the sun go down from the deck over the river, but keep a watch for the occasional hippo grazing on the lawn!

### **BOTSWANA**

The size of this successful country can be compared to countries such as Kenya or France, and fairly smaller than Texas. Botswana is a landlocked country with borders such as South Africa, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe which can all be crossed overland. For such a small country it boasts an array of spectacular game viewing opportunities such as, hundreds of elephants splashing in the Chobe River and the Okavango Delta and its maze of lagoons.

### **DAY 14: Divundu to Maun (Botswana) (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

Following the Kavango River south, we enter Botswana and travel east along the course of the Okavango River to the southern reaches of the Okavango Delta and our destination, Maun. Maun is the starting point for travel into the Delta and it is from here that we set off to explore the Okavango Delta. Tonight we prepare our provisions and packs for our 2 night excursion. We suggest bringing along a smaller daypack on your trip as this can be used to pack the supplies needed for this short excursion. Your trip leader will brief you fully on what is needed, and what to expect prior to your trip to the Delta.

### **OKAVANGO DELTA**

The Delta is a huge expanse of water, which has travelled from the Angolan highlands, spreading out to form the largest inland delta in the world. Studded with exotic islands, The Delta is renowned for its incredible variety of bird life and animals and is unique to Southern Africa.

All you have to do is sit back, relax and have your camera as you get guided through the dozens of mazes. The Okavango Delta is a bird lover's paradise enjoyed by all, best explored by foot and mokoro. With over 400 species of birds, 70 species of fish and an abundance of wildlife, your experience in the delta will leave you wanting to explore the whole of Africa.

### **DAY 15: Maun to Okavango Delta (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

#### **Included Activity: 3 Day / 2 Night Drive In / Mokoro Excursion**

Here we have the opportunity to take the included 3 Day / 2 Night Drive In/Mokoro Excursion into the Delta. After an early rise, we pack our expedition vehicle and from Maun we drive north for a couple of hours to reach the mokoro poler's station. The Delta region is studded with many local villages

where many families live in a traditional way. Some of the villages are very remote and can only be reached by the traditional mode of transport – the Mokoro. Mokoros are dugout canoes manoeuvred through the waterways by local guides who “pole” them through the reeds. At the Mokoro station, we meet our ‘Polers’ and pack our supplies before heading out into the waterways. After a couple of hours along the waterways, our guides find us a place to camp, and later in the afternoon we set off on an afternoon game walk, allowing us to experience The Delta wilderness. The camp is situated in an open wilderness area with no ablution facilities.

#### **DAY 16: Okavango Delta** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

A day of rest, relaxation and Delta experiences await. Today we have the opportunity to partake in a number of activities including swimming, game walks, mokoro cruises and even a chance to try our hands at poling our own mokoro! There is also ample time to relax and rest during the hotter hours of the day, so challenge your new friends to a game of cards, or chat with your guides about their culture and lifestyle, or simply lie back and enjoy the sounds of the surrounding wilderness...

#### **DAY 17: Okavango Delta to Maun** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This morning affords us a final opportunity for a game walk before packing up and setting off back to Maun. After our Mokoro ride and vehicle transfer, we arrive back in the afternoon and have the chance to complete our picture of the Okavango Delta by taking an optional scenic flight over The Delta (dependent on weather conditions & availability).

#### **DAY 18: Maun to Chobe National Park** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

We travel east and then north to the town of Kasane where we set up camp on the banks of the Chobe River. The Chobe River forms a border between Botswana and Namibia and Zambia and is the main water source to the Chobe National Park. Elephant, hippo and many bird species can be viewed from the campsite while we watch another glorious African sunset. Listen out for the resident hippos!

#### **DAY 19: Chobe National Park** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This morning we have a chance to sleep in or explore the town of Kasane. When we are packed and prepared, we leave for our Chobe National Park Overnight Mobile excursion – an overnight experience in the wilds of the Chobe National park. Chobe is one of Botswana’s premier game parks, renowned for its large elephant herds. Spend the afternoon in search of wildlife while we game drive to our camp within the park where we spend the evening surrounded by the night-time noises of the local wildlife. Look out for the rare Sable and Roan Antelope on your game drive, with their majestic backward slanting horns, or try keep a count of the Lilac Breasted Roller’s that swoop by! After our night in the bush, we head out early to continue our search for wildlife, before packing up the camp and heading back to Kasane, and Victoria Falls.

**Included Activity: Chobe Overnight Mobile Excursion**

## ZIMBABWE

This landlocked country is situated in the southern part of Africa, between the mighty Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers. The word Zimbabwe is believed to have two meanings, 1) it is believed the word Zimbabwe is derived from dzimba-dza-mabwe, which means "large house of stone" in the Shona (Karanga Dialect) language. 2) It is also believed to be derived from the word dzimba-hwe which means venerated houses in the Zezuru dialect of Shona.

### **DAY 20: Chobe National Park to Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) (Brunch)**

#### **Included Activity: Entrance to Victoria Falls**

Once returning to camp, we get back on our truck and continue to the border of Zimbabwe. Once we've completed border formalities, we have a short drive to the nearby Victoria Falls. Named after the famous World Heritage site and Water Falls, the town of Victoria Falls is situated on the Zambezi River and surrounded by the Victoria Falls National Park. Our campsite is conveniently situated in the centre of town, and within walking distance of the adventure booking agents, restaurants and shops.

A 20 minute walk down the main road takes you to the entry point to view the falls, which are situated between Zimbabwe and Zambia. Victoria Falls, or Mosi-oa-Tunya (the Smoke that Thunders), was named by David Livingstone on his explorations, and is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.

At 1700 m wide and around 100 m high, this is the world's largest sheet of falling water and a memorable sight on any African Safari! After our adventure activities briefing (see price guide at the end of this document for options), the afternoon is spent relaxing at the campsite's swimming pool, viewing the Victoria Falls, or exploring the many sights and delights of this town!

### **DAY 21: Victoria Falls (Breakfast)**

The next 2 days are spent relaxing or participating in a myriad of Optional Excursions. Some of our fellow passengers will leave us in Vic Falls, to be replaced by new passengers joining us for the next leg of our trek.

**Optional Activities:** Elephant back safaris, horseback safaris, walking with lions, a visit to the crocodile ranch, boat cruises and golf at The Elephant Hills Resort. Adrenalin junkies can bungee from the Victoria Falls Bridge connecting Zimbabwe and Zambia or abseil down the Batoka Gorge - neither activity is for the faint hearted! All year round, flights in fixed wing, micro light and ultra light aircraft or helicopters provide an aerial perspective over this magnificent World Heritage Site. White water rafting on the Zambezi is world class. Beside the excitement of the Grade 5 rapids, there are the "floats," where there is time to admire the scenic cliffs and the occasional wildlife on the riverbanks.

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## WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

International flights, Airport departure taxes, Departure transfer, Visas, Meals unless otherwise stated, Travel Insurance, Laundry, Personal Items, and Tips, Sleeping Bag & Pillows

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### Meals on tour

Meals and menu's vary as food is purchased en-route, and is subject to produce that is available seasonally in the areas we travel through. As we support the local communities along the way, fresh produce is mostly purchased direct from the producer or local grower and therefore has an organic appearance. Our safari cooks are able to offer a wide variety of menu's with the ingredients available, even if the produce on offer is not of the same selection as what you may be used to back home.

The breakfast spread consists of bread (toast when time allows), spreads and cereals with a hot breakfast every few days. Lunches are mostly prepared en-route with a supply of 'build your own' sandwich ingredients available. Dinners are cooked in the evenings on arrival at the campsite. A wide array of dinner menus are on offer during your safari, consisting of curries, stews, pastas, BBQ's and even roasts!

### Transport on tour

Our overland vehicles are custom built converted Mercedes Benz or MAN trucks that have seating space for our passengers and a storage areas for luggage and all trip equipment. The trucks seat between 27-30 passengers on our camping trips. Most seats are forward facing, though some models have a combination of forward, backward and some inward facing seats with tables. Vehicles have sliding glass windows, and the seating area is raised providing a great advantage for game viewing and photography. Seats are cushioned and there is storage space for personal items like cameras, snacks and day packs in the seating area.

### Participation on tour

All of the tours operated by us are participation trips meaning that all passengers are expected to help out around camp. The crew members running the trip will set up a rota system that will be followed. One day you may be on cleaning duty, the next day you may be on cooking duty and so forth. This is not only to make the trip easier for all involved but also for you as the passengers to get to know one another while on trip.

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## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

SOUTH AFRICA:	
Various activities in Cape Town	Dependant on the choice of activity
NAMIBIA:	
SWAKOPMUND ACTIVITIES:	
Quad Biking – 1Hr/2 Hr	100US\$
Sand Boarding – Lie Down/ Stand Up	55US\$ / 70 US\$
Township Tour	80 US\$
Tandem Skydive	(Weather Permitting) 350 US\$



Horse Riding (2Hrs)	100 US\$
Fishing	145 US\$
Dolphin Cruise	80 US\$
Kayaking	95 US\$
Paragliding	(Weather Permitting) 150 US\$
Scenic Flight (various)	(Weather Permitting) As per Operator
Hot Air Ballooning	(Weather Permitting) 450 US\$
<b>BOTSWANA:</b>	
Scenic Flight Over Delta (300-350US\$ per plane max 5 pax)	100 US\$
Chobe NP Game Drive	70 US\$
<b>ZIMBABWE:</b>	
<b>Please ensure that you pay for activities in Victoria Falls with US\$ Cash</b>	
Trip T-Shirt	30 US\$
<b>VICTORIA FALLS:</b>	
White Water Rafting-Full Day	140 US\$
River Boarding combo Raft & Board	180US\$
Canoeing on the Zambezi-Half Day/ Full Day	140 US\$
Half Day Adrenaline - George Swing,ZipLine & Flying Fox	165 US\$
Bungee Jump (111m)	150 US\$
Tandem Bungee Jump	180 US\$
Micro Light over the Falls-15mins	170 US\$
Helicopter Flight over the Falls 12 mins	155 US\$
Helicopter Flight over the Falls 19 – 25 mins	265 US\$

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- This is not a full list of available activities. There are many more to choose from.
- Prices are approximate and can change at any given time. Only to be used as a guideline.