



# PROJECT DOSSIER

## ***BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA & ZAMBIA***

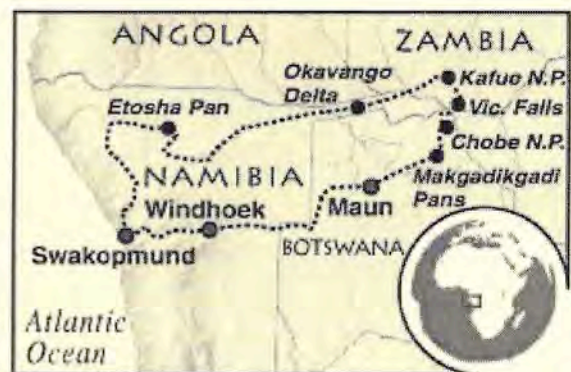
**VICTORIA FALLS to VICTORIA FALLS**  
**25 Days**  
**5,530 kms (approx)**

**Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia,  
Zambia**

### **Itinerary Guideline**

#### ***Victoria Falls to Victoria Falls***

- Day 1:** In Victoria Falls, free time to indulge in the many activities available, from flights over the falls, to bungee dives.
- Days 2 & 3:** Cross into Botswana to visit Chobe National Park – viewing its large Elephant herds, along with lion, baboon, antelope, etc.
- Days 4 to 7:** Leaving Chobe we drive south to the great Makgadikgadi Pans bordering the Kalahari Desert. An overnight stop in Maun before we continue through the northern Kalahari to Namibia.
- Days 8 to 10:** To Windhoek, Namibia's sleepy capital city, then dropping down the very scenic route to Swakopmund on the Atlantic.
- Days 11 & 12:** We follow the Skeleton Coastline to Cape Cross, where we come face to face with thousands of seals in their seasonal colony. We leave the coast again to enter Damaraland, visiting Brandberg and the ancient rock paintings at White Lady.



- Days 13 to 15:** Having visited the Petrified Forest and Rock Finger, we drive north into the Himba tribal lands of Kaokoland – visiting several of their villages. Then south to Etosha.
- Days 16 & 17:** In Etosha National Park, game viewing through the eastern region.
- Days 18 & 19:** Drive through Kavango land into the Caprivi Strip bordering Angola and Botswana. To Skakawe on the Kavango River as it spills out into the Delta.
- Days 20 & 21:** These days are spent exploring the upper delta region by motorised boat and makoro – game and birdlife viewing.
- Days 22 to 24:** North in Zambia to Kafue National Park – seasonally one of the best game viewing parks in Southern Africa.
- Day 25:** Leaving Kafue we return to the Zambezi Valley, crossing back into Zimbabwe to Victoria Falls –late afternoon arrival and end of arrangements.

## **PLEASE NOTE**

The above is intended as a guide only and to indicate a typical itinerary and its highlights. While our intention is to adhere to this, it should be understood that group interests and wishes together with the constraints of weather, road conditions and local restrictions can alter our exact route, its activities and timings.

## **Highlights & Route**

### **ZIMBABWE**

Our journey begins at Victoria Falls, one of the most spectacular sights in the world; once seen never forgotten. The Zambezi is 1.75 kms wide when it drops a sheer 110m into the lower gorges. The volume of water dropping into the chasm is estimated to be up to 5.5 million litres a minute. The rising spray & mist creates a brilliant rainforest around the falls. Walking trails through forest to vantage points & lookouts.

Optional light aircraft flight over falls approx. US\$ 70, 1 day white-water rafting from below falls through the gorges approx. US\$ 100, July to January only, many other activities are available.

### **BOTSWANA**

Banks of the Zambezi & Chobe rivers to Chobe National Park. Herds of up to 500 elephant wander the northern park along the river banks. Behind in the scrubland & mopani forests is estimated to be the highest concentrations of plains game anywhere in Africa. It is not unusual to have a variety of animals, small and very large, wandering through our bush camps at night. Chobe is known for its lion & elephant, hyena & rare packs of African hunting dog.

The greater part of Botswana is actually covered by the Kalahari Desert – the home of the Bushmen, probably the oldest tribe in Africa. The Makgadikgadi are shimmering salt pans where mirage silhouettes of sable antelope give credence to the unicorn myth. Maun is the gateway to the Okavango Delta – but it will be the northern reaches of the delta which we will visit on our return from Namibia. The journey southwest to Namibia skirts the Kalahari, with the opportunity to visit the Bushmen and learn of their unique lifestyle in this somewhat harsh land.

### **NAMIBIA**

Leaving the Kalahari of Botswana we stop over in Namibia's capital Windhoek. Formerly South West Africa, Namibia, is a sparsely populated country – its name meaning "great arid desert" is apt considering most of its terrain is sun bronzed and untamed.

Dropping down from the plateau, we join the coast at Swakopmund – once an important port during German colonial times. A particularly characteristic town with numerous monuments and museums accounting for its past. We follow the Skeleton coast north to Cape Cross, visiting the large seal colony, harbouring a population of about 60,000.

Leaving the coast, we climb again into the Namib Desert to the Brandberg range and spectacular rock formations, petrified forests and the rock paintings at White Lady. No day is the same in Namibia, the desert constantly changes and shape and colour. We now journey north into Kaokoland, the homelands of the Himba tribe. The Himba are one of the oldest tribes in Southern Africa and still live in a primitive but unique way – having adapted to their harsh and barren surroundings. Leaving their remote lands we enter Etosha National Park to view its abundant wildlife as they congregate around the many waterholes. Lion, rhino, gemsbok, greater kudu, zebra, gazelle, giraffe are just some of the wildlife that populate Etosha.

We now head into the Caprivi Strip – the very narrow "piece" of Namibia which stretches east between Angola and Botswana.

### **OKAVANGO**

Meeting the Kavango River at Shakawe - presents us the opportunity to explore the upper reaches of the great Okavango Delta.

The delta is one of the world's natural phenomons – a vast inland river basin fed by the Kavango River whose source originates 1000kms north in Angola, only to be stopped in its tracks by the Kalahari. It is the home to an abundance of wildlife and the greatest variety of bird life found in Africa.

### **ZAMBIA**

A country rarely visited by most travellers in Southern Africa – yet its people are most friendly. The Kafue National Park offers yet another opportunity to view Africa's extraordinary wildlife but in very different surroundings. Our journey ends back in the Zambezi valley as we cross from Livingstone to Victoria Falls and have a "sundowner" overlooking one of Africa's greatest sights.

### **GAME PARKS & RESERVES**

Time spent in the major wildlife reserves and included in the project cost is usually Chobe (2 days), Makgadikgadi Pans (1 day), Etosha (2 days), Okavango Delta (3 days), Kafue (2 days).

### **GROUP SIZE**

21 max. including Encounter staff. Local guides will be employed at certain places of interest where their knowledge is advantageous to our visit.

### **PHYSICAL DEMANDS**

An easier project with no significant physical demands other than the continuous camping/nomadic lifestyle. Temperatures can vary from very hot in Botswana and Namibia in Oct/Nov to surprisingly cold in June/July.

### **THE LOCAL PAYMENT** (as in the brochure)

This is the payment made to the Project Leader at the point of departure. This payment must be made paid in US\$ dollars, either in cash notes or recognised Travellers Cheques. This payment completes the total inclusive price of the project. This amount will be utilised by the project Leader to cover a proportion but not all of the 'on the ground' running costs of this project. There are no hidden extra payments.

### **INCLUDED IN PROJECT COST**

All transport, food (except occasional lunches in main centres), camping equipment & supplies, local guides, camping fees, entrance fees to the National Parks & Reserves as stated under Highlights in the brochure from published starting date of project until Day 25 in Victoria Falls. There are no kitties or similar en route payment funds.

### **PROJECT COST DOES NOT COVER**

Flights to/from Victoria Falls, transfers to/from airport & airport taxes, vaccinations, visas, personal insurance, laundry, snacks, drinks, occasional lunches in major centres (minimal cost), personal clothing/equipment & items of a personal nature. Some individual entry fees to museums / sights, not stated in Game Parks & Reserves (minimal cost), and any individual options noted in Highlights and Route (cost as noted). Accommodation and meals in Victoria Falls before/after the project.

### **EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED**

Standard Encounter truck equipment including 2 person tents, campbeds, kitchen/dining tent, tables & stools, light, cooking equipment & utensils, mosquito nets, first aid kit, malarial prophylaxis.

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING**

A warm sleeping bag, a medium sized bag or backpack and a daypack. Personal clothing, strong footwear, water bottle, personal medicines &

toiletries etc. No specialised clothing or equipment is necessary. You probably already have most of what is needed. A complete suggested clothing list is included in our pre-departure information.

### **TRANSPORT**

Encounter 4WD expedition truck; canoe and motorised boats and makoro in the Okavango Delta.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

Camping throughout. Campground facilities in cities & main centres, otherwise open 'bush' camping with no facilities other than standard Encounter truck equipment. Your involvement is needed in camp set-up, domestic & day to day routines etc. (Accommodation on night 25 in Victoria Falls is not included).

### **INSURANCE**

You must have personal Travel Insurance to cover Adventure Travel and it must cover all the aspects described on page 60 of the brochure. Please bring a copy of your policy with you to the pre-departure meeting. If your policy does not cover this minimum level then Encounter will not accept responsibility for the consequences.

### **MEDICAL & VACCINATIONS**

All vaccination requirements and medical recommendations are detailed in the pre-departure information pack at the time of booking.

### **MEALS, COOKING & FOOD**

Camp cooked breakfast & evening meals, picnic lunches. Fresh vegetables, fruit, meat, eggs, bread, cereals, cheese, preserves etc, supplemented by local & imported canned & dried goods in areas where no fresh supplies available. Group members involved in daily fresh food shopping & cooking. In larger towns where a day is spent in individual sightseeing or activities away from the truck, lunch will sometimes be at your own expense. The cost of these occasional lunches is minimal. (Evening meal on Day 25 in Victoria Falls is not included).

### **PASSPORTS & VISAS**

You will need a passport that is valid for not less than **6 months** after the end of the project, and which contains not less than **8 blank pages**. Visa requirements and costs vary according to your nationality, and are subject to change. Encounter or your agent can advise you of all the up to date visa requirements applicable to you, and their

costs. We can also help you in obtaining any visas you may require before departure.

### **PERSONAL SPENDING MONEY**

You should budget approx. **US\$ 100 per week** to cover personal day to day expenditure en route - drinks, snacks, occasional lunches in main centres, laundry, optional activities, individual museum entry fees & some souvenirs en route. You should budget an additional **US\$ 60 per day** that you spend in Victoria Falls before and after the project to cover hotel, meals & incidentals.

Ethnic crafts and similar souvenirs can be attractive and tempting in Africa. (Hardwood carvings, sculpture, bracelets & jewellery, baskets, weaving & ceramics). Other than the above, there are no hidden expenses, funds or kitties to surprise your spending money in Africa.

**Optional activities:** There are many optional activities to try during your stay at Victoria Falls and it is not unrealistic to budget US\$250 for these.

### **ARRIVING AT START OF THE PROJECT**

We recommend that you arrive in Victoria Falls a day before departure date to allow yourself time to acclimatise & get over intercontinental flights.

**Departure from Victoria Falls:** There will be a pre-departure meeting at our Victoria Falls Hotel at 1800 hrs the evening before Day 1, having joined the project. If you are arriving early, there are plenty of activities to occupy yourself in and around Victoria Falls.

### **LEAVING AT END OF PROJECT**

Arrangements end on arrival at our Victoria Falls hotel on the late afternoon/evening of Day 25. You should not make any homeward flight arrangements for this same day. Any flight connections could be made the following day if you are on a strict schedule.

### **INTERESTING READING**

Lost World of the Kalahari (Laurens Van Der Post), Among the Elephants (Iain & Oria Douglas-Hamilton). Guide to Namibia (Bradt). A full list of recommended reading & titles - in novels, guidebooks, animal field guides, history and maps is given in our pre-departure information.

### **OTHER COSTS/EXPENSES**

Local Payment .....

Return flights.....

Visas.....

Vaccinations.....

Insurance.....

Personal spending money.....

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

**The information in this dossier has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However, it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and Encounter Overland Ltd.**