



# PROJECT DOSSIER

## *THE SOUTHERN CROSS of AFRICA*

HARARE to CAPE TOWN  
OR  
CAPE TOWN to HARARE  
35 Days  
5,500 kms (approx)

### **Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa**

#### **Itinerary Guideline**

##### *HARARE to CAPE TOWN*

- Day 1:** Harare to Zimbabwe's Eastern Highlands.
- Day 2:** Travelling through the Eastern Highlands.
- Day 3:** To Great Zimbabwe Ruins.
- Day 4:** Zimbabwe Ruins, to Bulawayo.
- Day 5:** In Matoba Nat. Park, rhinos & balancing rocks.
- Day 6:** To the Zambezi & Victoria Falls.
- Days 7 & 8:** Victoria Falls. Optional visits including crocodile farm, boats above falls, 1 day white water rafting **July - Jan**; light aircraft over falls.
- Day 9:** Along Zambezi to Botswana, Chobe National Park & Serondella; elephant herds, lion & baboon along Chobe River.
- Days 10 & 11:** In Chobe National Park.
- Day 12:** Sand tracks to Okavango Delta.
- Day 13:** To Maun on delta.
- Days 14-16:** Dugout canoes & on foot, Okavango islands & waterways.
- Days 17 & 18:** Tsodilo Hills & bushman paintings.
- Day 19:** To Shakwe Fishing Camp on Okavango River.



- Day 20:** Shakawe & alongside river to Namibia & Nyangana.
- Day 21:** To Etosha National Park.
- Day 22:** Etosha National Park.
- Day 23:** Etosha Nat. Park, & Rock Finger.
- Day 24:** To Brandenburg Mountains, petrified forest & rock paintings.
- Days 25 & 26:** To Cape Cross Seal Reserve, Swakopmund.
- Day 26:** In Swakopmund & Walvis Bay.
- Day 27:** Gravel plains of Namib Desert to Sesriem.
- Days 28 & 29:** To Sossusvlei, 300m high sand dunes, & Luderitz.
- Day 30:** To Fish River Canyon.
- Day 31:** In Fish River Canyon.
- Days 32 & 33:** Across Orange River to Cape Province & Cedarberg wilderness.
- Day 34:** In Cedarberg wilderness.



**Day 35:** To Cape Town, late afternoon arrival, end arrangements.

#### **CAPE TOWN to HARARE**

**Day 1:** Cape Town - Cedarberg wilderness.

**Day 2:** In Cedarberg wilderness.

**Days 3 & 4:** Across Orange River to Namibia & Fish River Canyon.

**Day 5:** In Fish River Canyon.

**Day 6:** To Luderitz & Atlantic.

**Days 7 & 8:** To Namib Desert & Sossusvlei, 300m high sand dunes.

**Days 9 & 10:** Sesriem & gravel plains of Namib to Walvis Bay & Swakopmund.

**Day 11:** To Cape Cross Seal Reserve & Brandenberg Mountains.

**Day 12:** Petrified forest, rock paintings & Rock Finger.

**Days 13 & 14:** To & in Etosha Nat. Park.

**Day 15:** Etosha, to Okavango river & Nyangana.

**Day 16:** Alongside river to Botswana & Shakawe Fishing Camp.

**Day 17:** To Tsodilo Hills & bushman paintings

**Day 18:** Northern Kalahari Desert to Okavango Delta & Maun.

**Days 19-21:** Dugout canoe & on foot, Okavango islands & waterways.

**Days 22 & 23:** Maun, sand tracks to Chobe National Park.

**Days 24 & 25:** In Chobe National Park.

**Day 26:** Chobe Nat Park, to Serondella; elephant herds, lion & baboon along Chobe River.

**Day 27:** Along Zambezi to Zimbabwe & Victoria Falls.

**Days 28 & 29:** Victoria Falls. Optional visits including crocodile farm, boats above falls, 1 day white water rafting **July - Jan**, US\$ 100; light aircraft over falls US\$ 70).

**Day 30:** To Bulawayo.

**Day 31:** Matoba National Park, rhinos & balancing rocks.

**Day 32:** To Great Zimbabwe Ruins.

**Day 33:** To Eastern Highlands.

**Day 34:** Travelling through the Eastern Highlands.

**Day 35:** To Harare, evening arrival, end 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**

From Harare, the nation's capital, to the Eastern Highlands 2,100m and a different world above the hot veldt and bush of southern Africa. It is a peaceful land of eucalyptus & pine forests, trout streams, swimming holes, warm springs & waterfalls. From Mutare south following the source of the Save River as it flows into Mozambique.

The incredible walls of Great Zimbabwe once held a city of 10,000, with power over all the southern continent & trading links to Egypt, Persia & India. Much of the building dates to 1200 AD when medieval Bantu kings built their capital on the fortunes of Swahili gold. Perfect, mortarless stone walls 11m high & 5m thick surround towers & royal compounds, with narrow passageways connecting the complex of enclosures.

To wind-sculpted granite hills & eroded balancing rocks in Matoba National Park near Bulawayo. The rocks & boulders are perfect territory for baboons; black eagles soar above the kopjes, & carefully guarded herds of white rhino are slowly increasing their numbers. To 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 Jan 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 wetlands bordering the Okavango Delta are home to waterbuck and lechwe antelope only found in this area. The Okavango River rises in Angola and never reaches the sea. Once into the flats of Botswana it spreads into a delta 160 kms wide before drying in the salt pans of the



Kalahari. But the delta is a natural paradise of lush greenery, marshlands, clear waterways & wooded islands. From the small town of Maun, crossroads of the Kalahari tribes, we travel the delta waterways by dugout canoe & on foot.

To quiet islands, game trails through the reeds & marshes, and the Okavango's hundreds of species of bird life. Beyond the delta the country becomes dry & harsh, the Bushman's lands of the northern Kalahari. The Tsodilo Hills are rock islands rising abruptly from the desert. They are surrounded in sacred myth & legend to the Bushmen, in their own creation and their deities. Stone tools suggest habitation over 35,000 years ago, rock walls are covered in fabulous, naturally coloured paintings of wild animals, symbolism & cattle.

### **NAMIBIA**

Etosha Pans National Park first appears as a huge, flat & dust driven expanse of salt. Which it is. But round its edge are year-round springs that draw the region's magnificent wildlife. Springbok, black-maned lion, zebra, giraffe & elephant gather to drink. Wildebeest, oryx & sable walk the miraged salt flats & pools. It is the park's remote setting, its lack of development and the visibility of its species that makes Etosha one of the most memorable experiences of Africa.

To the south, in the twisted formations of baked desert, the Brandenburg Mountains appear in the distance as fierce red glowing lava domes. Here are incredible petrified trees, stark rock fingers and mysteries in 16,000 year old rock paintings.

Along the Skeleton Coast cooled and mist-cloaked by the chill Benguela current we find clamorous fur seal colonies, flamingo lagoons, penguin & the marine species of the south Atlantic.

The German ways of Swakopmund, the South African territorial enclave of Walvis Bay, to shifting dunes and empty beaches in the ghost town of Luderitz, surrounded by the 'no-go' & secrecy of the huge & forbidden Diamond Area. (It is rumoured that rough diamond lying on the desert floor here is in big enough quantities to shatter the price of the gem, if access were ever allowed).

The long 160 kms walls of the Fish River Canyon, dropping 570m to the river's course are grandstands to breathtaking vistas of the canyonlands. Colours & shapes change & merge by the hour in a world that at times defies belief.

### **SOUTH AFRICA**

Across the divide of the Orange River - to the rugged mountains & sandstone formations of the Cedarberg wilderness. Very little of the enmity

that infects the north, or the tensions of Transvaal & Zululand, reaches into Cape Province. It was, and remains, different. Table Mountain stands serenely over the vistas & viewpoints of a forward looking Cape Town.

### **GAME PARKS & RESERVES**

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

### **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, camping equipment & supplies, local guides, camping fees, entrance fees to the National Parks & Reserves as stated in the brochure, from published starting date of project until Day 35 in Cape Town or Harare. There are no kitties or similar en route payment funds.

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

Flights to/from Harare/Cape Town, 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 Harare/Cape Town before/after expedition.



### **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 etc.

### **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 4 WD expedition truck; canoes 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 35 in Cape Town or Harare 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 35 in Cape Town or Harare 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\$ 40 per day** that you spend in Harare or Cape Town 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 our 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 Harare or Cape Town a day before departure date to allow yourself time to acclimatise and get over intercontinental flights.

**Departures from Harare:** There will be a pre-departure meeting at our Harare Hotel at 1800 hrs the evening before Day 1, having joined the project. If you are arriving early, Harare is an interesting city: Museums, National Gallery - masks, carvings & African artefacts, Shona sculpture at Chapungu Kraal, nightlife & contemporary southern African music, Larvon bird Gardens/Lion & Cheetah park 30 kms from city).

**Departures from Cape Town:** There will be a pre-departure meeting at our Cape Town Guesthouse at 1800 hrs the evening before Day 1 of the project. If you are arriving early, Cape Town is an interesting city in an outstanding setting: Museums, gardens & galleries, Table Mountain & Cable Way, Groot Constantia &



wineries, False Bay & beaches, Cape Nature Reserve, theatre.

Reservations at our Harare and Cape Town hotels before departure may be made through Encounter, with payment by you directly to hotel on arrival. Even though serious delays en route are unlikely, we would prefer that you not have any firm commitments for a day or two after scheduled project completion date in Harare or Cape Town.

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

Arrangements end on arrival at our Cape Town or Harare hotel on the late afternoon/evening of Day 35. 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.

#### **COMBINATIONS & CONNECTING PROJECTS**

The 'Southern Cross of Africa' connects in Harare with the 'African Genesis' (Nairobi - Harare or v.v.) which includes houseboats on Lake Kariba, foot safaris in Zambia's Luangwa Valley National Park & Malawi's Nyika Highlands Reserve, Lake Malawi & beaches, Dar es Salaam & the Indian Ocean & Lake Manyara National Park in northern Tanzania. Put together these two projects form 'The Safari South' (Nairobi - Cape Town or v.v). On Harare departures you may therefore be joining some group members who have already been travelling for 4 weeks from Nairobi. And on Cape Town departures you may be travelling with some group members who are continuing their travels from Harare into East Africa.

#### **INTERESTING READING**

Lost World of the Kalahari (Laurens Van Der Post), Among the Elephants (Iain & Oria Douglas-Hamilton). 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.**