



PROJECT DOSSIER

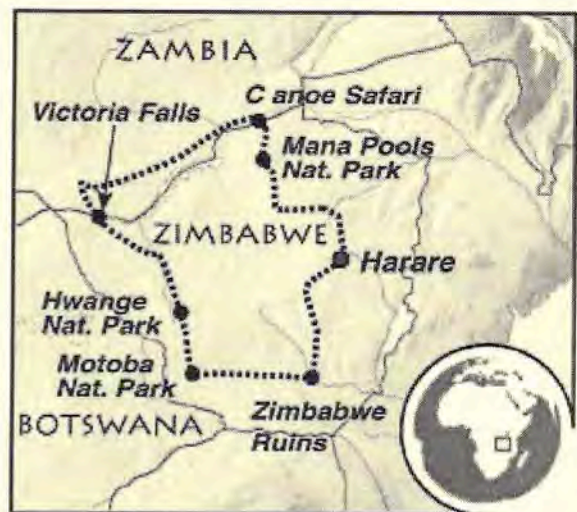
ZIMBABWE & THE ZAMBEZI

Harare to Harare
15 Days
2,150kms

Zimbabwe & Zambia

Itinerary Guideline

- Day 1:** Overnight in the Quality International Hotel in Harare and pre-departure meeting.
- Day 2:** Visit the mysterious ruins of Great Zimbabwe near Masvingo. Overnight at campsite.
- Days 3 & 4:** Matopos National Park to visit the majestic granite hills, domes and rock castles and search for black and white Rhino. Overnight camping in the National Park.
- Days 5 to 7:** Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe's largest wildlife park to view game from the observation platforms situated by the waterholes. Overnight camping in the park.
- Days 8 & 9:** Victoria Falls, one of the most scenic spectacles in Africa, where the waters of the Zambezi tumble down in a continuous thunder. Optional excursions – flight over Falls, sunset cruise on Zambezi River, white water rafting. Overnight for two nights at Thorntree Lodge on the banks of the Zambezi in Livingstone, Zambia.
- Day 10:** Travel through Southern Zambia to the Lower Zambezi River. Canoe down the river to overnight camp.
- Days 11 & 12:** Canoe for the next two days on the Zambezi River, relaxing & observing numerous species of game & bird life.



Overnight in permanent camps along the banks of the river.

- Days 13 & 14:** Drive through lower Zambezi National Park to Mana Pools for game viewing by vehicle and foot safaris.
- Day 15:** Return to Harare through the Zambezi valley. End arrangements late afternoon.

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

The journey begins in Harare, the capital and heart of the nation, a city bequeathed a distinctly European flavour by its white colonisers. From here we travel south to the Great Zimbabwe ruins, the largest and most significant medieval city in sub-Saharan Africa. Its walls once supported a city of 10,000 inhabitants, 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. Then on to Matopos National Park, with its wind-sculptured granite hills and eroded balancing rocks - perfect territory for baboons and black eagles. Here also, are slowly increasing numbers of carefully guarded white rhino. Cecil Rhodes is buried on the summit of the gigantic rock mass, regarded as one of Africa's most scenic viewpoints. We then spend several days in Hwange National Park, one of the great wildlife sanctuaries of Africa. From observation platforms at the waterholes, one can sit and watch an endless procession of game coming to drink and bathe, including herds of elephant, buffalo, zebra and antelope.

The Victoria Falls is without doubt one of the greatest and most unforgettable scenic spectacles in Africa, formed by the waters of the Zambezi plunging 110 metres into the Batoka Gorge. The volume of water dropping into the chasm is estimated to be up to 5.5 million litres a minute. The rising spray and mist, at times infused with rainbows, creates a brilliant rainforest around the falls. Aside from the natural beauty, Victoria Falls has become somewhat of a playground and there are many activities available including flights over the falls, bungee jumping and white water rafting.

We continue on through southern Zambia to the Lower Zambezi Valley to board the canoes for the river safari. Paddling downstream one can relax while the guides point out numerous species of birds and other animals, including hippos and crocodiles. Then onto Mana Pools which hosts some of the biggest concentrations of large mammals to be seen in Zimbabwe, such as elephant, buffalo, impala, kudu, eland, waterbuck, bushbuck and zebra. These in turn attract the predators, lion, hyena, cheetah and wild dog. The bird life here on the banks of the Zambezi is prolific and one can see cormorants, storks, kingfishers and eagles etc. Mana Pools gives an unprecedented opportunity to explore the African wildlife both on foot and by vehicle before ending the journey back in Harare.

GROUP SIZE & MAKE UP

8 – 20 including staff. As this project is run in conjunction with Aardvark Expeditions, not all the Project Members will have a b Encounter brochure.

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PHYSICAL DEMANDS

An easier project with no significant physical demands other than the continuous camping/nomadic lifestyle.

INCLUDED IN EXPEDITION COST

All transport, food, (breakfast only in Harare and Thorntree Lodge, Livingstone – 3 days), camping equipment & supplies, local guides, camping fees, entrance fees to the National Parks (except Zambezi National Park, see below) and Reserves as stated from the published starting date of the project until Day 15 in Harare.

EXPEDITION COST DOES NOT COVER

Flights to/from Harare and transfers to/from airport & airport taxes in connection with same; vaccinations, visas, personal insurance, laundry, snacks, drinks, occasional lunches in major centres (minimal cost), personal clothing/equipment & items of a personal nature. Please allow US\$20 for the entrance to the Zambezi National Park. Some individual entry fees to museums/sights not stated before (minimal cost), and individual options at Victoria Falls – approx. cost - white water rafting US \$100, flights US \$55, bungee jump US \$90. Accommodation & meals in Harare before/after expedition.

EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED

Large bow 2 person tents, thick foam mattresses, kitchen/dining tent, tables & stools, light, cooking equipment & utensils, mosquito nets, first aid kit.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING

A warm sleeping bag, a medium sized bag or backpack, or a daypack. Personal clothing, strong footwear water bottle, personal medicines and toiletries etc. No specialised clothing or equipment is necessary and you probably already have most of what is needed. A complete suggested clothing list is included in our pre-departure information. Soft bags or frameless backpacks are the most suitable kinds of luggage to bring.

TRANSPORT

Land Cruiser expedition vehicle, canoes on the Zambezi River.

ACCOMMODATION

80% camping, hotel in Harare and Lodge near Livingstone, Zambia. Your involvement is needed in camp set-up, domestic & day to day routines etc.

MEALS, COOKING & FOOD

Camp cooked breakfasts & evening meals, picnic lunches. Project members are involved in daily fresh food shopping & cooking. (Fresh vegetables, fruit, meat where available, eggs, bread, cereals, cheese, preserves). Where a day is spent in individual sightseeing or activities, lunch will sometimes be at your own expense. The cost of these occasional lunches is minimal. Breakfast only is supplied in Harare and at Thorntree Lodge, Livingstone.

PASSPORTS & VISAS

You will need a passport(s) that is valid for not less than **6 months** after the end of the project and which contains not less than **6 blank pages**. Visa requirements and costs vary according to your nationality, and even then are subject to sudden 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.

INSURANCE

Everyone must have individual personal travel insurance and it must cover all 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

PERSONAL SPENDING MONEY

You should allow approximately US\$100 per week to cover personal day to day expenditure en route - drinks, snacks, occasional lunches in major centres, and for lunch and dinners in Harare and Thorntree Lodge, Livingstone, souvenirs and additional museum/site entrance fees. **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 if you are keen to participate. You should budget a further US\$40 per day that you spend in Harare after or before the expedition to cover hotel, meals etc. Ethnic crafts can be tempting, attractive and good value in Africa (hardwood carvings, bracelets, baskets, weaving & jewellery). Apart from the above, and your en route visas, Encounter has no hidden expenses, funds or kitties to surprise your spending money.

ARRIVING AND LEAVING

We recommend that you arrive in Harare a day before project departure date to allow yourself time to acclimatise and get over intercontinental

flights. There will be a pre-departure meeting at our Harare Hotel at 1800hrs on the evening of Day 1. 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 30kms from city).

LEAVING AT END OF PROJECT

Arrangements end on arrival at our Harare hotel on the late afternoon/evening of Day 15. You should not make any homeward flight arrangements for this same day. Any flight connections can be made the following day.

COMBINATIONS & CONNECTING PROJECTS

This project can connect on some departures in Harare with the ‘African Genesis’ (Harare to Nairobi departures) 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.

NB. This project is being operated by Aardvark Adventures of Zimbabwe, conceptually very similar to an Encounter truck project.

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.