

ACACIA AFRICA

AFRICAN INSIGHT (NORTHBOUND) – TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code NAI6

JOHANNESBURG – LIVINGSTONE

6 DAYS

Tour Departure – **07:00**

Pre-departure Meeting – **18:00** day prior to departure

HIGHLIGHTS

Greater Kruger & Kruger National Park
Chobe National Park
Livingstone

Short of time but want to see Southern Africa? Check out Kruger, South Africa's premier national park, visit Botswana's beautiful Chobe National Park, and indulge at Africa's most famous sight and adrenaline pumping playground - Victoria Falls. Ideal for those with limited time this lets you see some of the best of southern Africa's attractions.



INTENDED ITINERARY

Whilst it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary. Please therefore treat the following as a guide only.

The vehicle used for this tour is a fully-equipped safari truck, except for the visits to some of the national parks when we may use smaller more suitable vehicles (typically, 4x4 or safari vans).

Duration: 6 Days
Countries visited: South Africa, Botswana, Zambia

DAY 1 - 2 Greater Kruger

From Johannesburg - South Africa's commercial capital - we travel via the Panoramic region of Mpumalanga with its beautiful scenery and dramatic escarpment views, to South Africa's most famed national park - Kruger. The fences between the park's borders and private game reserves on the fringes of Kruger have been recently taken down to form Greater Kruger and the park's animals are free to roam the whole area. Kruger and Greater Kruger cover over 24,000 sq km are home to an incredible wealth of African animals from the miniscule dwarf mongoose to all of Africa's famed Big 5 mammals. There is also an incredible diversity of birdlife and flora to be discovered. We spend two nights within the Kruger area and take game drives across the savannah to glimpse some of the wildlife that inhabits the park.

DAY 3 - 5 Chobe National Park

Leaving Kruger and travelling north we spend a couple of days crossing from South Africa into the vast grasslands of Botswana via Francistown, Nata and the edge of the formidable Makgadikgadi salt pans to Kasane and the Chobe National Park, in the northern corner of Botswana. Chobe is a vast reserve of some 12000 sq km and along the Chobe River-front lush plains and forests support a remarkable variety of wildlife. It is perhaps most famous for its huge elephant populations and is thought to be home to some 40000 of the 120000 elephants inhabiting this area of Africa. Whilst in Chobe we take an afternoon Fish Eagle boat cruise, relax and watch for hippo, buffalo, elephant and possibly lion, as well as an amazing display of birds, come to the river to bath and drink in the lowering light.

DAY 6

Livingstone – Victoria Falls

From Kasane it is a short drive to Livingstone and Victoria Falls (Zambia side) where our tour ends. There are numerous activities and excursions to choose from around Victoria Falls which will amply fill your time here on the tour and any extra time you wish to spend in Livingstone before your onward travel. Feed your hunger for adrenaline with white water rafting, bungee jumping, abseiling, gorge swinging and amazing scenic flights (microlight, helicopter or small plane) or enjoy the surroundings on canoeing safaris, elephant back safaris and horse riding treks. However, don't leave without seeing the thundering Victoria Falls themselves. At over a mile wide and over 100 metres deep, the Falls produce the world's largest curtain of falling water in the world. Up close they are formidable and at times of high water, the spray can be seen from 20 kilometres away, hence their local name Mosi au Tunya – the 'smoke that thunders'.

TOUR INFORMATION

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 Acacia overland tour across this amazing continent.

TOUR STYLE

Acacia Overland Tour

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Fully equipped safari vehicle, camping and cooking equipment, all road tolls and vehicle taxes, transport, sleeping mattresses, services of driver and tour leader, meals as indicated & Victoria Falls visit.

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, bar or swimming pool.

TRANSPORT

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

MEALS

Meals included are - Breakfast (B) x5, Lunch (L) x4, Dinner (D) x5

These meals are prepared in camp by the group and your help preparing the meals (and helping with the dishes afterwards!) is part of the 'participation' element of the tour. Most dietary requirements can be catered for but please ensure you inform Acacia 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 Local Payment.

TOUR PREPARATION

BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent your booking documents and a pre-departure 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. Johannesburg is well served by a variety of airlines and easily connects with Livingstone. Your travel agent can advise on flights to and from the start and finish of your tour.

JOINING INFORMATION

This tour starts in Johannesburg. **The pre-departure meeting is held at 18:00 on the evening prior to departure. The tour begins at 07:00 on day 1 and ends in Livingstone on day 6.**

Meeting point in Johannesburg :	Backpackers Ritz
Address:	1A North Rd Dunkeld West Johannesburg
Contact details:	Tel. +27 11 325 7125/2520 Fax +27 11 325 2521
E-mail:	ritz@iafrica.com
Website:	www.backpackers-ritz.co.za
Pre-dep. meeting:	18:00 day prior to departure day
Tour start time:	Confirmed at pre departure meeting, normally 07h00.
Tour end point in Livingstone :	The Waterfront
	Sichango Road Livingstone
Contact details:	Tel. + 260 3 320 606/7/8
E-mail:	Tel. +260 3 320 606/7/8 waterfront@safpar.com
Tour end time:	On arrival at Livingstone on day 6

EXTENDING YOUR STAY

If time allows, we suggest you spend a night or two before and after the tour to fully enjoy the site seeing and activities on offer in Johannesburg and the Livingstone/ Victoria Falls area. Any additional nights can be booked on a direct pay basis. See below for a guide to extra accommodation costs. These prices may be subject to change especially at time of the World Cup (Jun-Jul 2010) so please contact Acacia or your agent to check current prices.

Description	Price (ZAR)	Description	Price (US\$)
Johannesburg		Livingstone	
Post tour accommodation – Dorm pp/pn	R110	Post tour accommodation – Tented pp/pn	\$30- \$40
Post tour accommodation – Twin pp/pn	R170	Post tour accommodation – Chalet pp/pn	\$80 - \$120
Post tour accommodation – Single pp/pn	R200		

WHAT TO BRING

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum, bearing in mind that most airlines impose a 20kg limit. It should be brought in a soft holdall or rucksack along with a smaller day bag. You will need to bring a mixture of lightweight clothing and warm clothing for the evenings and early morning game drives. You also need a sleeping bag (and small pillow if preferred). We recommended you pack a small torch or headlamp, mosquito spray and a money pouch/ belt that can be easily hidden. Please try to avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use your hotel safe to store the bulk of your money, passport, and airline tickets. A full 'What to Bring' list is included in our **pre-departure booklet (online version)**, issued when you book.

VACCINATIONS/HEALTH

The table below indicates the vaccinations suggested for travel on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. You should seek professional medical advice from your GP or clinic at least six weeks prior to departure.

Please be aware that some of the areas visited on this tour are **malarial**. We strongly recommend your seeking professional medical advice for the appropriate anti-malarial tablets.

Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
South Africa	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	*	R
Zambia	R	R	R	R	R	R	-	R	*	R
Botswana	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	R	*	R

C = Compulsory, **R** = Recommended, * = If travelling from infected countries a certificate of proof may be required.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

The table below indicates the visas required for travel to the countries on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. At least one month prior to travel seek confirmation from embassies or a visa specialist, that these requirements are still current. For UK citizens the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers free up-to-date travel info: www.fco.gov.uk For other nationalities a number of travel advice websites are listed on the Acacia website.

Nationality	UK	AUS	NZ	USA	CAN	BEL	IRE	NED	DEN	ITA	GER	AUT	SWE	FIN	NOR	MEX	KOR
S. Africa	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Zambia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Botswana	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes

MONEY MATTERS

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and items of a personal nature. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US\$15-20 per day. Also keep US\$ cash for relevant airport taxes and visas needed, optional activities and any additional accommodation before or after your tour.

- **Spending money** is best carried as cash in US dollars, Sterling or Euro which can then be transferred into local currency on arrival. Your guide can advise how and when you can change the rest of your money throughout the tour.
- **Currencies** are as follows: South Africa – Rand; Botswana – Pula; Zambia – Zambian Kwacha.
- **ATM machines** are found in Livingstone and Johannesburg. Please note they are sometimes unreliable (and therefore should not be relied upon).
- **Credit cards** can be used to pay for optional activities although charges may be may be high by western standards (+/- 5%).
- **Travellers cheques** can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

We recommend you bring your spending money in several different ways (some cash, some t/cheques, some cards); your guide can best advise on what to use where.

LOCAL PAYMENT

A Local Payment (LP) is to be paid to your tour leader at the pre -departure meeting. The LP fund is administered by the tour leader in conjunction with the group and covers most meals, all game drives using our own vehicle, campsite fees and meals prepared at the truck (usually two or three per day). You can choose to pay either the Basic Local Payment at the beginning, and then pay for your excursions along the way, or else you may pay for everything up front in the Fully Inclusive Local Payment.

Payment must be made in **US\$ cash in clean, post-2001 edition notes**. Travellers' cheques and credit cards **cannot** be accepted as means of payment. The LP amounts set out in the brochure are estimates of local costs at the time of printing. It is subject to inflation, exchange rate changes and local price rises. These may vary from the amounts set out in the brochure or website and on rare occasion where there is a shortfall, passengers will be asked to contribute further. Conversely, where there is a surplus of LP funds at the end of the tour, it will be refunded equally amongst all passengers.

TIPPING

This is always a matter for your own individual discretion but as in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy, it has become customary to give a small gratuity to local staff, including your tour leader and driver, at the end of a tour if services rendered have been to your satisfaction.

OPTIONAL 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. subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price	Activity	Price (USD)
South Africa		Livingstone (con'd)	
Kruger night drive (if avail)	\$ 45	Vic Falls bungi (single/tandem)	\$110/\$155
		Game walk	\$70
Livingstone		Croc farm tour	\$25
Horse Riding	\$80	Gorge Swing	\$55/ 65
Elephant Interaction	\$50	Zambezi Jet Boating & Cable Car	\$95
White Water Rafting/ Riverboarding comb	\$155/ \$175	Half day/ Full day Canoe Safari	\$95/ \$135
Flight over the Falls (from)	\$130	Zambezi Sunset Cruise	\$45
		Lion Encounter	\$125

INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Acacia that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. We can recommend a respected, specialist travel insurance provider for this tour. Please contact Acacia for more information.

Country Information – SOUTH AFRICA

Facts

Capital: Pretoria (official), Bloemfontein (judicial), and Cape Town (legislative)
 Size: 1 219 090 sq km / 470 693 sq miles
 Population: 44,344,136 (Sept. 05)
 Groups: African/Black, White (mainly of Afrikaner and British origin), Coloured, Indian/Asian
 Languages: English, Afrikaans, Ndebele, Xhosa, Zulu, Pedi, Sotho, Tswana, Swati, Venda, Tsonga (all 11 are official languages)
 Local time: GMT + 2
 Seasons: Western Cape: warm (September-April), cold and wet (May-August); East coast: humid all year; Northern provinces: wet (September-April), dry (May-August)
 Currency: 1 South African Rand = 100 Cents
 Telephone: Country code 27, international access code 09
 Electricity: 220 V / 230 V / 250 V / 50 Hz, the plug fits a 15A socket with three round pins

South Africa is a country rich in minerals, wildlife and scenery; a land of beauty with a complex social and political structure. Having by far the most developed and sophisticated economy on the continent, South Africa is essential to many of the neighbouring countries as an avenue for exports and as provider of electricity and high tech products. An excellent network of roads and an abundance of high quality camp sites makes travelling in and around South Africa an easy and rewarding experience.

Points of Interest

Johannesburg

Looking at the modern façade of South Africa's capital it is hard to imagine that it is merely over a hundred years old. It started to boom after gold was found in the area and therefore is still referred to as the gold capital of the world. Besides its great shopping and nightlife, Johannesburg is a good base for daytrips.

Things to do within Johannesburg city are the views from the top of the Carlton Centre, Museum Afrika, the Market Theatre precinct, Hillbrow and Houghton Gold Reef City (a replica of Johannesburg as an old gold mining town), tribal dancing, street theatres and amusement parks.

You can also go on a Soweto township tour where you visit a township, the Hector Petersen monument, apartheid museum and a local shebeen (pub).

At the nearby Lion breeding park you can see cheetah, zebra, giraffe and cuddle lion cubs.

Cape Town

Founded in 1666 as a place where trading ships rounding the Cape of Good Hope could replenish supplies, Cape Town today is South Africa's tourist destination No.1. It is one of the most beautiful cities in the world with plenty of sights and outdoor activities. The natural beauty of the place is defined by mountains (especially the famous Table Mountain) and sea (and not only one, it is here the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans meet).

The 'Mother City' has also has one of the most diverse populations in Africa including descendants from Indonesian, Malay, French, Dutch, British & German settlers, the local Khoisan (Bushman & Hottentot) tribes and the Bantu tribes from the north. It is one of the most tolerant and relaxed cities in Africa.

Places of interest in and around Cape Town:

Table Mountain – Cape Town's trade mark towers 1086 metres above sea level and is accessible by cable car or by several trekking routes (Platteklip Gorge being the most commonly used)

The Castle – Cape Town's oldest remaining building

Victoria & Albert (V&A) Waterfront – this complex of shops, restaurants and bars attracts over 20 million visitors every year; it also has a oceanarium where you can dive with sharks; there is also the adjacent (and still working) port of Cape Town.

Robben Island – 11 kilometres from the coast, this World Heritage Site features a former prison of Nelson Mandela.

Cape Peninsula – a day tour around the Cape Peninsula will lead you to Hout Bay Harbour with its Cape Fur Seal colony on Duiker Island, Boulders Beach with its jackass penguins and to the Cape Point Nature Reserve where the south-western most point of Africa is to be found.

Winelands – the world-renowned wine region around Stellenbosch has some of the oldest and most beautiful wineries in South Africa. Visit the beautiful buildings and sample some excellent wines.

Country Information – BOTSWANA

Facts

Capital:	Gaborone
Size:	585 370 sq km / 363 809 sq miles
Population:	1,815,508 (Sept. 07)
Groups:	Tswana, Kalanga, Basarwa, Kgalagadi, European
Languages:	English, Setswana, Kalanga, Sekgalagadi
Local time:	GMT + 2
Seasons:	Dry (April-August), rainy (November-March)
Currency:	1 Pula (BWP) = 100 Thebe (pula = rain; thebe = raindrops)
Telephone:	Country code 267, international access code 00
Electricity:	230 V / 50 Hz, round pins with ground or rectangular blade plug

Although vast, semi arid and empty, Botswana has prospered since independence and is comparatively well off in relation to its neighbours - especially those to the north. The economy relies on mining (Botswana supplies much of the world diamond supply), cattle ranching and tourism. The Okavango Delta in the north west of the country is a major attraction, the water levels rising and falling annually with the rivers originating in the Angolan highlands. Perennially short of water, the word for Botswana's currency unit (one of the strongest currencies in Africa) is the same word for rain.

Points of Interest

Okavango Delta Reserve

Some 1.6m hectares in area the Okavango Delta is the largest inland delta in the world and known to the locals as 'the river which never finds the sea'. Arising as a result of rivers rising in Angola (to the north) and flowing south and then dividing to form a natural wetland consisting of natural reed filled water channels, lagoons and islands. The Okavango consists of 4 parts: the Inner Delta, the Eastern Delta, Moremi Game Reserve and the Okavango Panhandle.

The Okavango is best explored on foot and by mokoro (dug-out canoe) where 'polers' guide you through the labyrinth of channels, standing like gondoliers at the rear of the boat. An alternative is to fly over the reserve for a bird's eye view. The Okavango is also very good for birders as huge numbers of waterfowl and raptors reside there, but you also find elephant, zebra, buffalo, wildebeest, giraffe, hippo, crocodile, lion and kudu here.

Chobe National Park

This park, 11,000 sq kilometres in size is located in the northern corner of Botswana near where the borders of Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe come together. One of Chobe's main attractions is the 25000 strong elephant population – part of a huge 'superpopulation' that exists across the northern belt of Botswana and Zimbabwe in which elephant numbers are thought to total some 120000. Besides elephant, you may also see antelope, buffalo, crocodile, lion, hippo and a number of birds including the African fish eagle.

Country Information - ZAMBIA

Facts

Capital:	Lusaka
Size:	752 614 sq km / 290 586 sq miles
Population:	11,261,795 (Sept. 05)
Groups:	Native African, European
Languages:	English, Bemba, Kaonda, Lozi, Lunda, Luvale, Mambwe, Nyanja, Ngoni, Tonga, Tumbuka
Local time:	GMT + 2
Seasons:	Warm and rainy (November-April), cool and dry (May-August), hot and dry (September/October)
Currency:	1 Zambian Kwacha = 100 Ngwee
Telephone:	Country code 260 , international access code 00
Electricity:	220 V / 230 V / 50 Hz, round pin plug, round pins with ground or rectangular blade plug

Formerly Northern Rhodesia, Zambia is made up of a highland plateau (approximately 1000 metres above sea level) which rises toward the east and which - in the north, along the border of DR Congo- houses enormous reserves of copper, cobalt, coal, zinc and lead, the mining of which is of extreme importance to the economy.

Tourism is of increasing importance with the magnificent Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River marking the border with Zimbabwe. The game parks of Zambia, although not as well known as some other countries, are large and well stocked with wildlife.

Points of Interest

Victoria Falls

'Mosi-oa-Tunya' – (the smoke that thunders) is the local name for Victoria Falls. At most times of year the Falls is an inspiring sight: 1708 metres wide and drop between 90 and 107 metres into the Batoka Gorge. An average of 550,000 cubic metres water /minute plunge over the gorge and at high water times the spray can be seen from 20-30 kilometres away. David Livingstone, the first European to see Falls in 1855 reported 'Scenes so lovely, they must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight'.

Today, visitors come here not only to look at the Falls but also for the adventure activities available -white water rafting, river boarding, bungi, scenic flights, cruises to name a few.

Most tours spend several days here, just outside Livingstone, the nearest town, giving opportunity to view the Falls and try some of the adventure activities. If your tour starts or finishes here we recommend you plan on another day or so if time allows.

ACACIA ON THE ROAD – NEWS & EVENTS

FOOTBALL'S COMING TO AFRICA

In line with the 2010 Football World Cup, in Cape Town, Acacia's keeping its eye on the ball. We've got together with the charity Footballs for Fun to spread some goodwill and love for the beautiful game across the continent. In 2008 all our trucks will carry footballs which can be bought and donated to children in the local towns along our route. The footballs are a perfect ice breaker and playing a game with locals is a great way to make friendships despite language differences. And all the profit (at least £2 from each ball) goes straight back into Africa, helping support a selection of AIDS charities and children's homes. Make a difference, get kicking and buy a ball when you're next on one of our trucks.



RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

We believe that you get the most out of a journey by respecting the culture and people of the places you visit. On our tours we try to travel in a way that benefits the communities we pass through and minimises negative impact on the environment. This can be from ensuring the campsites we use are clean when we leave and dressing respectfully in conservative areas to getting involved with local charity projects. We ask that you are open to this when you travel with us. Being proactive in responsible travel helps develop cross-cultural understanding and friendships with the local people, and will greatly enhance your experience in Africa.

PHOTOS & STORIES SEARCH

If you've ever thought you can take better pictures than the brochures or have a great travel story and want to see yourself in print, then we're looking for you. If you've captured a great moment on tour, whether it's of the wildlife, local people, landscape or life on the road why not enter our monthly photographic competition starting in 2009. Not only do we give away a monthly prize, you may also see your photos published in a future brochure or on our website. We are also on the lookout for stories of life on the road, the funny, exhilarating, moving or simply unforgettable things you did on tour. We publish the best stories on the Tales from the Road section of our website.

Send your photos or stories to acaciaontheroad@googlemail.com

Photos should be in digital format & good resolution (max 6 pics per person) and labelled with the location of where the photos were taken. Meanwhile if you have a story or anecdote about your tour (up to 400 words) it needn't be word perfect, we'd love to hear about it.

Legalities: You, the photographer/author, retain copyright of all images & words submitted but we reserve the right to use of them for Acacia brochures, promotions & advertising.

For information on our Acacia Small Group Safaris, Adventure Tours, Comfort Class Safaris, Short Breaks & City Stays, Voluntours, Dive Tours, New Horizons and Access Tours or to contact us please visit www.acacia-africa.com

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