

# ACACIA AFRICA

Updated  
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FOR ALL 2009  
DEPARTURES

## ZANZIBAR, VICTORIA FALLS & KRUGER – TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code ZVK22

DAR ES SALAAM – JOHANNESBURG

22 DAYS

Tour Departure – **08:00**

Pre-departure Meeting – **On the ferry to Zanzibar**

### HIGHLIGHTS

Dar es Salaam  
Zanzibar  
Lake Malawi  
Livingstone – Victoria Falls  
Chobe National Park  
Kruger National Park

An African adventure that takes you from the sun kissed beaches of Zanzibar to 'Big 5' game viewing in Kruger National Park. Discover the fascinating people and places of Africa, the welcoming smiles at laid back Lake Malawi, the beauty of Botswana and the exciting rush of adrenaline and white water at the mighty Victoria Falls.



### 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.

**Duration:** 22 Days  
**Countries visited:** Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Botswana, South Africa

#### DAY 1 - 3

Dar es Salaam - Zanzibar

'Dar' is Tanzania's main port and a hub of commerce and industry. In centuries gone by the port regularly traded with merchants bringing exotic cargo from Arabia and India, and these influences can be seen in the architecture, languages and people of the city. We set up camp on the beach just outside Dar and browse the curio markets, best known for ebony wood, before we prepare for our trip across to Zanzibar.

Zanzibar ('the 'Spice Island') is an island of sandy, palm fringed beaches, romantic winding cobbled alleys and lush tropical forests. It also has an intriguing past having also been a major trading centre of spices and slaves to Arabia and as well as a base for many 19<sup>th</sup> century explorers of Africa, such as Speke, Burton and Livingstone. Our time on the island is not structured so you can choose what you would like to do here. Your tour leader will help advise on activities available and book your accommodation before arrival. The best way to see the Stone Town is on foot, to explore its bazaars, shops and alleyways. Spices are grown in plantations outside of Stone Town and they can be visited on a Spice Tour. Meanwhile, white sand and sparkling blue sea awaits on the northern beaches where you can snorkel and dive the reefs, eat sumptuous seafood or simply relax in a hammock under a palm tree.

#### DAY 4 - 10

Mukumi National Park – Lake Malawi Beaches

We cross back to the African mainland and spend a further night in Dar es Salaam before driving across country towards Malawi, passing through the small Mikumi National Park on the way. We enter Malawi - the 'warm

heart' of Africa – at its northern tip and almost immediately catch a glimpse of the enormous Lake Malawi. Covering almost a fifth of the country's area, the lake provides a source of livelihood for many of the Malawi people and fishermen, fish traders as well as canoe and net makers are common sights along the shoreline.

Malawi's highlights are its wonderfully peaceful beaches and welcoming people and we take advantage of this by camping beside the lake for a few days. There is usually a range of water sports including scuba diving available. You will also have the opportunity to meet some of the Malawi people, from the communities near the beach. Malawians are well known amongst travellers as being amongst the friendliest in Africa.

#### DAY 11 - 16

Lusaka – Livingstone & Victoria Falls

We leave the lake and Malawi to cross into Zambia over the Luangwa River and spend the night in the capital, Lusaka. We continue to Livingstone near Victoria Falls and arrive on day 13, setting up camp on the banks of the Zambezi River. Free time is given here, allowing you to take advantage of the wide range of optional activities on offer in the region. Activities include white water rafting, bungee jumping, abseiling, gorge swinging, canoeing, elephant and horse riding, game drives and scenic flights (by helicopter or small plane). Naturally a visit to the Victoria Falls themselves is a 'must'. Depending on the time of year the spray from the Falls can be seen from 20 or 30 kilometres - hence the local name Mosi au Tunya – the 'smoke that thunders'.

#### DAY 17 - 22

Livingstone – Chobe National Park  
Greater Kruger National Park - Johannesburg

We head on to the Chobe National Park, in the northern corner of Botswana. This is home to some of the largest elephant populations in all of Africa, as well as lion and abundant birdlife. In the late afternoon, we take a Fish Eagle Cruise on the Chobe River to see hippos in the water and hopefully buffalo or elephant on the banks for a drink at dusk.

The following day we cross the vast grasslands of southern Botswana via Nata and Francistown to enter South Africa. Once here we head to one of Africa's most famed reserves, the Kruger. The 24,000sq km area of Greater Kruger area covers the national park and the many private reserves surrounding it, between which there are no fences, so the animals move freely. We spend two nights in the area and hope to catch our last glimpses of Africa's diverse wildlife - lion, elephant, buffalo, leopard, and some of the 500 species of bird found here. The landscape is of savannah and small rocky hills which we traverse on morning and late afternoon game drives. We also take a night drive with the park authorities to view the nocturnal wildlife. On our final day we leave Kruger and drive through the scenic Mpumalanga region before arriving in Johannesburg, where our tour ends at approx 18:00-19:00.

**NB<sup>1</sup>** As we leave the truck on the mainland, when we go to Zanzibar food and accommodation is not included and free time is yours to enjoy the island's activities. Your tour leader will assist the group by booking suitable and well priced accommodation both in Stone Town and on the beach (budget approx \$20-35 per night), unless you would like to book something independently in advance.

**NB<sup>2</sup>** For the sake of practicality, meals in the Livingstone/Victoria Falls area are restricted to breakfasts. This allows you to take on half day or full day activities (some of which include lunch) without having to be back with the group at mealtimes. The Waterfront camp has a beautiful restaurant, overlooking the Zambezi which offers a good selection of reasonably priced meals and snacks throughout the day (we suggest you allow US\$15 per day). Relax and enjoy these few days at your own leisure.

### 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 mattress, services of driver and tour leader, meals as indicated, Malawi Cultural Village walk, Guided visit of Victoria Falls

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Local Payment excursions, visas, travel insurance, flights, departure taxes, airport transfers, sleeping bag, optional activities, drinks, tips & items of a personal nature and meals and accommodation on Zanzibar (3 nts. Days 1 - 3)

## 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 mostly have permanent wash and shower facilities, electricity points and sometimes even a small shop and bar.

## 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. In some of the national parks we may use smaller more suitable vehicles (typically, 4x4 or safari vans).

## MEALS

Meals included are – Breakfast (B) x19, Lunch (L) x13, Dinner (D) x14

These meals are prepared in camp by the group and help preparing the meals is invited. Most dietary requirements can be catered for on the road. Please ensure you inform Acacia of any special requirements when you book or at your earliest convenience.

## 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. Nairobi and Johannesburg are well served by a variety of airlines. Your travel agent can advise on flights to and from the start and finish of your tour.

### JOINING INFORMATION

This tour starts in Dar es Salaam. **The tour begins at 08:00 on day 1** and a **pre-departure meeting** is held by the tour leader **on the ferry to Zanzibar**. The tour ends after breakfast on **day 22 in Johannesburg**.

Meeting point in **Dar Es Salaam**

Address:

**Kipepeo Village**

Kipepeo Beach

Mjimwema

PO Box 1530

Dar Es Salaam

Contact details:

Tel: + 255 754 276 178

+ 255 713 757 515

Website:

[www.kipepeovillage.com](http://www.kipepeovillage.com)

Pre-dep. meeting:

On the ferry over to Zanzibar

Tour start time:

08:00 on day 1

Tour end point in **Johannesburg**:

Address:

**Backpackers Ritz**

1A North Rd

Dunkeld West

Johannesburg

Contact details:

Tel. +27 11 325 7125/2520

Fax +27 11 325 2521

E-mail:

[ritz@iafrica.com](mailto:ritz@iafrica.com)

Tour end time:

Late afternoon/ early evening of day 22

### EXTENDING YOUR STAY

We recommend you stay in Dar es Salaam the night prior to departure as the tour departs early on day 1. We also recommend you book a night in Johannesburg at the end of the tour as final day travel delays can interfere with evening

flight times. 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 so please contact Acacia or your agent to check current prices.

Description	Price (US\$)	Description	Price (ZAR)
<b>Dar es Salaam</b>		<b>Johannesburg</b>	
Pre tour accommodation – Banda – room/pn	\$15-35	Post tour accommodation – dorm pp/pn	R100
Pre tour accommodation – Chalet B&B room/pn	\$55-105	Post tour accommodation – twin pp/pn	R140
<b>Zanzibar</b>		Post tour accommodation – single pp/n	R180
Pre tour accommodation – pp/pn	\$25		

## 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 evenings and early morning game drives. You also require 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 is 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**, sent out when you book this tour.

## 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.

Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
Tanzania	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R*	R
Malawi	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R*	R
Zambia	R	R	R	R	R	R	-	R	C	R
Botswana	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	*	-
S. Africa	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](http://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
Tanzania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Malawi	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Zambia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	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
S. Africa	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

## 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 any 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. In East Africa especially, it is best to bring US dollars, but make sure they are **clean, post-2001 edition notes**. Older or dirty notes may not be accepted.
- **Currencies:** Tanzania – Tanzanian Shilling; Malawi – Malawian Kwacha; Zambia - Zambian Kwacha; Botswana – Pula; South Africa - Rand
- **ATM machines** are found in most major cities but are sometimes unreliable.
- **Credit cards** are useful for paying for optional activities in Zanzibar. They may be suitable to use in some major centres for cash advances but please do not rely on them as the charges for using cards are high by Western standards.
- **Travellers cheques** can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

## 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 either pay the Basic Local Payment and pay for your excursions along the way, or pay for everything up front in the Fully Inclusive Local Payment.

Payment must be made in **US\$ cash in clean, post-2001 edition notes**. Traveller's cheques and credit cards are **not** accepted. 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 and on the rare occasion where there is a short-fall, 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

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 for services rendered. This is at your own discretion.

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

In order to give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer a number of optional activities, where possible. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (in US\$ unless otherwise stated, subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price	Activity	Price
<b>Zanzibar (Tanzania)</b>		Zambezi Jet Boating & Cable Car	\$95
Scuba Diving (Mnemba island)	\$150	Crocodile Farm	\$20
Snorkelling Day Trip	\$30-45	Half day/ Full day Canoe Safari	\$95/ \$135
Accommodation & Food (per day)	\$35	Horse Riding	\$75
Spice Tour	\$20	Elephant Interaction	\$50
Dolphin excursion	\$35	White Water Rafting/ Riverboarding	\$130/ \$155
<b>Malawi</b>		Flight over the Falls	£130
Snorkelling	\$15	Zambezi Sunset Cruise	\$45
Scuba Diving	\$35	Lion Encounter	\$115
Horse Riding (half day)	\$45	<b>South Africa</b>	
<b>Livingstone</b>		Kruger Night drive	R320
Gorge Swing/ Abseiling (half day)	\$75/ 95		

## 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 - TANZANIA

### Facts

Capital:	Dodoma
Size:	945 087 sq km / 364 900 sq
Population:	36,766,356 (Sept. 05)
Groups:	Mainland: native African (mostly Bantu tribes), other (Asian, European, Arab) Zanzibar: Arab, native African, mixed Arab and native African
Languages:	Swahili, English, Nyamwezi, Arabic
Local time:	GMT + 3
Seasons:	Dry (January-March, July-October), short rains (November/December), long rains (April-June)
Currency:	1 Tanzanian Shilling
Telephone:	Country code 255 , international access code 00
Electricity:	230 V / 50 Hz, round pins with ground or rectangular blade plug

The United Republic of Tanzania (the largest country in East Africa, including the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) came into existence in 1964, three years after the initial independence from Britain by Tanzania. Although it shares many characteristics with its northern neighbour (especially the Swahili culture and language), it has developed along more socialist lines than has Kenya, and has not been as receptive toward foreign investment. Possibly for this reason Tanzania has not had the growth in industry that Kenya has enjoyed and the casual visitor will notice many differences of this nature between the two countries. However, Tanzania's game parks are - if anything - even better known than those of Kenya. The Serengeti National Park and neighbouring Ngorongoro Conservation Area are truly world renowned, as is Africa's highest peak Mount

Kilimanjaro. All of these highlights are within easy reach of Nairobi, attracting many tourists and earning Tanzania much needed foreign exchange.

## Points of Interest

### Zanzibar

Zanzibar is Tanzania's **island getaway**. It has a colourful history, spice plantations and **beautiful beaches**. Zanzibar was once a trading centre for spices and slaves and a base for 19<sup>th</sup> century explorers such as Speke, Burton and Livingstone. Over the centuries, Zanzibar traded with the people of the Arabian peninsula who arrived on dhow sailboats with the annual trade winds. The Arab influence is evident in the unique architecture and diverse street stall offerings of the capital, Stone Town. In fact the Arab influence can be seen right along the East African coast with the Swahili language and culture displaying the mix of Arab and African cultures over the centuries.

The capital **Stone Town** with its intriguing alleyways and markets is an interesting mix of cultures and known for its intricately carved wooden doors. Make sure to go on a **Spice Tour** where you will learn everything about, well, spices. Other trips include swimming with dolphins or snorkelling/diving around the island.

## Useful Swahili Words

<b>Hello</b>	Jambo	<b>Yes</b>	Ndiyo
<b>How are you?</b>	Habari gain?	<b>No</b>	Hapana
<b>Thank you</b>	Ahsante	<b>Bring here</b>	Lethe hapa
<b>Go away</b>	Enda	<b>Today</b>	Leo
<b>Slowly</b>	Pole pole	<b>Tomorrow</b>	Kesho
<b>Coffee</b>	Kahawa	<b>To sleep</b>	Kulala
<b>Tea</b>	Chai	<b>Goodbye</b>	Kwaheri
<b>Milk</b>	Maziwa	<b>How much?</b>	Ngapi?
<b>Water</b>	Maji	<b>Come here</b>	Njoo hapa
<b>Sugar</b>	Sukari	<b>Welcome again</b>	Karibu tena
<b>Food</b>	Chakula	<b>See you</b>	Tutaonana
<b>Please</b>	Tafadali	<b>No, thanks</b>	Hapana sante

## Country Information - MALAWI

### Facts

Capital:	Lilongwe
Size:	118 484 sq km / 45 747 sq miles
Population:	12,158,924 (Sept. 05)
Groups:	Chewa, Nyanja, Tumbuka, Yao, Lomwe, Sena, Tonga, Ngoni, Ngonde, Asian, European
Languages:	English, Chichewa
Local time:	GMT + 2
Seasons:	Rainy season (November to May)
Currency:	1 Malawian Kwacha = 100 Tambala
Telephone:	Country code 265, international access code 101

Electricity: 220 V / 230 V / 240 V / 50 Hz, rectangular blade plug

Established in 1891, the British protectorate of Nyasaland became the independent nation of Malawi in 1964. The Republic of Malawi is in Southern Africa. Countries bordering Malawi are Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. Lilongwe is the capital of Malawi and Blantyre the largest city, is an important commercial and industrial centre. Malawi's terrain consists of plateau and mountains. Lake Malawi is drained by the Shire River, a tributary of the Zambezi. Lake Malawi (600 kilometres long) is one of Africa's largest lakes. Other lakes in Malawi include Lake Chilwa and Lake Malombe. Together Malawi's lakes cover around one-fifth of the country. Malawi has a sub-tropical climate. The rainy season runs from November to May. The lakes are home to hundreds of species of fish. Perhaps the most famous is the cichlid family of fish. The lakes are also the habitat of a variety of birds such as the stork and the giant kingfisher. The population of Malawi is around 12 million. English and Chichewa are both official languages.

## Points of Interest

### Lake Malawi

Malawi is dominated by the **third largest lake** in Africa which takes up a fifth of the whole country. Its nickname 'calendar lake' derives from its dimensions: it is 365 miles (590 kilometres) long and 52 miles (85 kilometres) wide. It is home to more than **500 different species of fish** – more than in North America and Europe combined! Most of them belong to the family of cichlids many of which are endemic to Lake Malawi. The clear waters of this lake are also one of the **world's premier fresh water dive and snorkelling spots**. Other water sports on offer include fishing, water skiing, windsurfing and sailing. A particularly nice beach where most travelers stop is **Kande Beach**.

### Lilongwe

Malawi's capital (since 1975) is divided into two parts: the New and the Old City. The first has all the typical capital things like hotels and offices whereas the older part has markets and bus

## 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: 220V / 230V / 50Hz, round pin attachment 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 Zaire - 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 so well known as those of Kenya and Tanzania, are large and well stocked with wildlife of all types. The long standing leader Kenneth Kaunda was defeated in elections in 1991, the country's first multi-party elections in 19 years, and today Zambia is one of Africa's newest democracies - although it is struggling to maintain living standards at a time when earnings from its mineral exports are dropping.

## Points of Interest

### Victoria Falls

'Mosi-oa-Tunya' - the smoke that thunders is what the locals call Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World and a World Heritage Site. The **waterfalls** are 1,708 meters wide and drop between 90 metres and 107 metres into the Batoka Gorge and an average of 550,000 cubic metres of water plunge over the

edge every minute. Even from as far as 70 kilometres away this spectacle can be seen. Batoka Gorge also forms the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. David Livingstone first came here in 1855 and reported about 'Scenes so lovely, they must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight'.

Today, visitors come here not only to look at the waterfall, but also to experience it in different ways. From Livingstone (named after the explorer), you can book activities like white water rafting, river boarding, jet boating, bungee jumping, canoeing, helicopter flights, sunset cruises and elephant back safaris.

## 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 neighbour's - especially those to the north. The economy relies on mining (Botswana supplies de Beers with over 50% of its diamonds), cattle ranching and tourism. Although relations with South Africa have been strained, Botswana is heavily reliant on that country for its rail, air and sea links. 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

### Chobe National Park

This park, 11,000 sq kilometres in size is located in the north where Botswana meets Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Its main attraction are its 25,000 elephant population – part of a huge 'superpopulation' that exist across the northern belt of Botswana and the north west of neighbouring Zimbabwe. In this area elephant numbers are thought to total 120,000 - the **highest concentration of elephants in the world**. The Chobe River, its floodplain and nearby teak forest marks the heart of the park and its here that animals come to drink and bathe. Besides elephant, you will also come across antelope, buffalo, crocodile, lion, hippo and a number of birds including the African fish eagle. They are best spotted at the end of the day during **game viewing boat cruises**.

In the southern part of Chobe lies the Savuti region which is particularly good for game watching; ancient **San rock paintings** can also be found here.

## 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, with abundant wildlife and spectacular scenery; a land of beauty with a social and political structure that is anything but! A country having three capitals - Pretoria the Administrative, Cape Town the Legislative, and Bloemfontein the Judicial. 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 a provider of electricity and high tech products. A good network of roads and an abundance of high quality camp sites (as well as beautiful scenery) makes travelling in and around South Africa an easy and very rewarding experience.

## Points of Interest

### Kruger National Park

Kruger National Park is where the **greatest diversity of wildlife in Africa** can be experienced. Kruger Park stretches 352 kilometres from north to south along the Mozambique border. At 24,000 sq kilometres, it is **South Africa's largest game reserve**; it contains 5 river systems and 16 different ecosystems with 457 types of trees and shrubs and 1,500 smaller plants. It is home to 147 mammal species, 500 species of birds, 116 reptiles, 34 amphibians, 49 fishes and countless insects. No wonder the park is visited by almost 1 million people each year, most of whom come here to see the famous '**Big 5**' (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and rhino).

Kruger National Park was established in 1898 to protect the wildlife of the South African Lowveld. Today, it is part of the **Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park** connecting it with the Limpopo National Park in Mozambique in the east and with Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe in the north. To the west, it is **linked to numerous private game reserves** with Klaserie, Sabi Sands, Timbavati and Manyeleti being the most known ones.

Recently all the fences separating the private game reserves from the national park have been dismantled, creating an area known as the '**Greater Kruger**'.

But Kruger does not only offer great wildlife in beautiful landscape, it also has **cultural heritage sites** showing that man has lived in the Lowveld for centuries: bushman rock paintings and the archaeological sites of Masorini and Thulamela Hill.

### 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.

## 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 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](mailto: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.

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