

ACACIA AFRICA

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 in '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

Evocative and exotic, Zanzibar conjures up images of idyllic, sandy, palm fringed beaches, romantic winding cobbled alleys and lush tropical forests. You will find all of these and an intriguing past on the island. Zanzibar was once a major trading centre for spices and slaves as well as base for the great 19th century European explorers such as John Hanning Speke, Richard Burton and David Livingstone. Indeed the spice trade is centuries old: Zanzibaris have traded with the people of the Arabian peninsula for generations, plying the ocean in simple dhow sailboats relying on the annual trade winds for passage. The Arab influence is evident in the architecture and diverse street stall offerings of the capital, Stone Town. In fact it can be seen right along the East African coast with the *Swahili* language and culture displaying the mixing of Arab and African cultures over many centuries.

Our time on the island is not structured and your time is at leisure. Perhaps the best way to see Stone Town is on foot: explore the bazaars, shops, mosques, palaces, courtyards and myriad intricate alleyways of the old town. Spices are grown in plantations nearby and you can take day-tours to visit some and have your senses dazzled by the tastes and scents experienced. But if it's white sand, sparkling ocean and hot sun you prefer – head for the northern beaches and enjoy the Indian Ocean at its best. Try snorkelling and diving, indulge in some sumptuous seafood, or simply relax beneath a coconut palm with a cocktail and a good book.

After three nights on the island we cross back by ferry to the African mainland and Dar es Salaam.

NB As we leave the truck on the mainland, food and accommodation on Zanzibar is not included in the price or Local Payment. The time is yours to enjoy at leisure. Your tour leader will assist (if you wish) by booking suitable and well priced accommodation in Stone Town or on the beach (budget approx \$30-35 per night), unless you would like to book something independently in advance.

DAY 4 - 10

Mukumi National Park – Lake Malawi Beaches

After returning from Zanzibar we spend one further night in Dar es Salaam before driving across country towards Malawi on the main road running through Mikumi National Park. 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. Freshwater and safe for swimming, Lake Malawi is also a major visitor attraction.

We camp along the lakeshore, usually by one of the beaches. There is normally a range of water sports available and time to relax. The Malawi people are well known amongst travellers as being amongst the friendliest in Africa and there is usually the opportunity to meet some of the locals from the nearby communities.

DAY 11 - 16

Lusaka – Livingstone & Victoria Falls

Leaving Malawi we cross into Zambia. We drive over the Luangwa River and pass through the capital city, Lusaka, to Livingstone and Victoria Falls, arriving on day 22 of the tour. Our camp is on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River, one of Africa's major rivers, the largest flowing eastward into the Indian Ocean. Time is at leisure. Take advantage of the wide range of optional activities typically available here: white water rafting, bungee jumping, abseiling, gorge swinging, canoeing, elephant and horse riding, lion walks, game drives and scenic flights. Naturally a visit to the Victoria Falls themselves is a 'must'. At over a mile wide and 100m deep, the 'Falls' is the largest curtain of falling water in the world. 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'.

NB 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 restaurant overlooks the Zambezi River and offers a selection of reasonably priced meals and snacks throughout the day (we suggest you allow US\$30-\$40 per day). Alternatively Livingstone town is a short taxi ride away, where you can eat out at one of the local restaurants.

DAY 17 - 22

Livingstone – Chobe National Park 'Greater Kruger' National Park - Johannesburg

From Livingstone, we head to the Chobe National Park, in the northern corner of Botswana. Chobe is home to large populations of elephant, as well as lion and abundant birdlife. We take a late afternoon cruise on the Chobe River to see hippo, perhaps buffalo or elephant coming to drink at the end of the day.

We continue across the flat grasslands of southern Botswana travelling via Nata and Francistown, desert frontier towns, to South Africa. Once border formalities are complete we continue to South Africa's premier game reserve, the Kruger National Park. The fences between the national park and adjacent private game reserves have been removed resulting in the huge 'Greater Kruger' - an area of over 24,000 square kilometres. We spend two nights within the Kruger area and hope to catch sight of some of Africa's marvellously diverse wildlife: lion, elephant, buffalo, leopard, giraffe, and some of the 500 species of bird that inhabit the park. The landscape is mainly flat bush and savannah but there is a good road network within the park and time we have available, whilst limited given the area involved allows us to glimpse the diversity. In addition to morning gamedrives there may also be the option of a cultural evening at one of the local villages to round off our tour.

On our final day we leave Kruger and drive to Johannesburg, where our tour ends at approx 18:00-19:00.

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 including sleeping mattress, all road tolls and vehicle taxes, transport, services of driver and tour leader, meals as indicated.

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 flysheets, 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 and bar/restaurant. NB: Accommodation on Zanzibar is not included in the tour price or Local Payment [allow USD 30-35/day]

TRANSPORT

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

MEALS

Meals included are – Breakfast (B) x18, 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. NB: meals are not included on Zanzibar.

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. Dar es Salaam and Johannesburg are well served by airlines and your travel agent will be able to 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 in the late afternoon/early evening of **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

Pre-dep. meeting:
Tour start time:

On the ferry over to Zanzibar
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

Tour end time:

Late afternoon/ early evening of day 22

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 the Cape Town 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	Description	Price
Dar es Salaam	(USD)	Johannesburg	(ZAR)
Pre tour accommodation – Banda – room/pn	\$15-35	Post tour accommodation – Dorm pp/pn	R110
Pre tour accommodation – Chalet B&B room/pn	\$55-105	Post tour accommodation – Twin pp/pn	R170
Zanzibar		Post tour accommodation – Single pp/pn	R200
Pre tour accommodation – pp/pn	\$30		

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 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
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 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	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
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\$15-25 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: Tanzania (including Zanzibar): Tanzania Shilling; Malawi - Malawi Kwacha; Zambia – Zambia Kwacha; Botswana – Pula; South Africa : Rand.
- **ATM machines** are found in Dar es Salaam, on Zanzibar and in main cities on tour to Johannesburg BUT may be unreliable and therefore we recommend you do **not** rely on them!
- **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**. Traveller's 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
Zanzibar (Tanzania)		Livingstone	
Scuba Diving (Mnemba island)	\$150	Gorge Swing/ Abseiling (half day)	\$110-\$155
Snorkelling Day Trip	\$30-45	Bungi	\$95
Accommodation & Food (per day)	\$35	Crocodile Farm	\$25
Spice Tour	\$25	Half day/ Full day Canoe Safari	\$95/ \$120
Dolphin excursion	\$35-\$40	Horse Riding	\$75 - \$110
Malawi		Game-walk	\$70
Snorkelling	\$20	White Water Rafting/ Riverboarding	\$155/ \$175
Scuba Diving	\$40	Flight over the Falls	\$130
Horse Riding (half day)	\$45	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 - 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 gaining independence from Britain. Although it shares many characteristics with Kenya (particularly with the Swahili culture and language), it does not have the same ethnic mix and following independence developed along more socialist lines than Kenya. Possibly for that reason Tanzania did not experience the growth in industry that Kenya enjoyed , although in recent years it has made up much ground on its northern neighbour. Tanzania's game parks however are - if anything - even better known than Kenya's. The Serengeti National Park and 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

Serengeti National Park

Of all the wildlife sanctuaries in Africa, the Serengeti is probably the most famous. With 14,763 square kilometres (the size of Northern Ireland) and no fences between the adjacent game parks. The Masai word is 'siringitu' – meaning 'endless plains'. The landscape, formed by volcanic activity, varies from grassy plains in the south, to savannah and hilly grassland in the north to extensive woodland and black clay plains in the west. Small rivers, lakes and swamps are scattered throughout. Each area has its own particular atmosphere and wildlife.

The wildlife here comes in large numbers: 1.3m wildebeest, 200000 zebra, 1500 lion, 1000 elephant, 300000 gazelle, 25000 buffalo, 72000 topi, 500 giraffe and 10000 eland. As well as some 500 bird species.

Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area

Located between the Serengeti and Lake Manyara, sits **Ngorongoro Crater**, the largest unbroken caldera in the world and a World Heritage Site. Some 600 metres deep and 16km wide, the Ngorongoro hosts almost all animal species found in East Africa, including zebra, wildebeest, rhino, lions, cheetah, elephant, hyena, warthog, impala, buffalo, hartebeest, eland, various antelope and birds. The rim of the crater, where all the lodges are located, offers spectacular views.

Olduvai Gorge

The name Olduvai derives from a misspelling of Oldupai, the correct Masai word for the wild sisal plant fibre growing in the gorge. Located between the Serengeti and Ngorongoro, the Olduvai is where Drs Mary and Louis Leakey discovered early remains of mankind in the late 1950's and later an ancient human footprint. It became known as the 'Cradle of Mankind' - as the findings suggest that our species first evolved in this area.

Zanzibar

Zanzibar is Tanzania's 'spice island'. It has a colourful history, spice plantations and **beautiful beaches**. Once a trading centre for spices and base for 19th century explorers such as Speke, Burton and Livingstone the island had a darker history too – as a staging post for slaves being shipped out of the African heartland to the Middle East and elsewhere. Zanzibar's traditional trade has always been with the Arabian peninsula, historically by traditional dhow sailboat plying the ocean by the annual trade winds. The Arab influence is evident in the architecture and diverse street stall offerings of Stone Town – and in fact this same influence is seen right along the East African coast with the Swahili language and culture displaying the mix of Arab and African cultures over the centuries.

Useful Swahili Words

Hello	Jambo	Yes	Ndiyo
How's things?	Habari gani?	No	Hapana
Thank you	Asante	Bring here	Lete hapa
Mister	Bwana	To eat	Kula
Go away	Enda	Today	Leo
Slowly	Pole pole	Tomorrow	Kesho
Coffee	Kahawa	To sleep	Kulala
Tea	Chai	Goodbye	Kwaheri
Milk	Maziwa	How much?	Ngapi?
Water	Maji	Come here	Njoo hapa

Sugar	Sukari	Welcome again	Karibu tena
Food	Chakula	See you	Tutaonana
Please	Tafadali	No, thanks	Hapana santé

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. Countries bordering Malawi are Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. Lilongwe is the capital but Blantyre the largest and most important commercial and industrial city. The country's terrain consists of plateaux and mountains but is dominated by the enormous Lake Malawi, 600km long and some 85km wide, one of Africa's 'great lakes'. The climate is sub-tropical with rains mainly from November to May. The population of Malawi is around 12 million with English and Chichewa being the main languages.

Points of Interest

Lake Malawi

The third largest lake in Africa, taking up a fifth of Malawi's total land area. Sometimes known as the 'calendar lake' (from its imperial dimensions: 365 miles long and 52 miles wide, the lake is freshwater and home to more than 500 species of fish – more than in North America and Europe combined! The clear waters of this lake are also one of the world's premier fresh water dive and snorkelling spots and the major tourist attraction – the water being broadly safe for swimming. Many water sports are available - including fishing, water skiing, windsurfing and sailing.

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 so well known as those of Kenya and Tanzania, are large and well stocked with wildlife of all types. Zambia is one of Africa's newest democracies with its first multi party elections in 1991.

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: 1,708 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. The Batoka Gorge forms the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. David Livingstone, the first European to see Falls in 1855 (and who named them after Queen Victoria) 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 themselves but also to try the various adventure activities available in the area -white water rafting, river boarding, jet boating, bungi, microlighting, helicopter flights, sunset cruises and elephant back safaris to name a few. Most tours spend several days in the area, just outside Livingstone, the nearest town, giving opportunity to view the Falls themselves and to try some of the adventure activities available. If your tour starts or finishes here though we do recommend you planning on having another day or so if time allows.

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. Botswana is heavily reliant on South Africa for 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 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. The Chobe River, its floodplain and nearby teak forest marks the heart of the park and it is there that animals come to drink and bathe. Besides elephant, you may also see antelope, buffalo, crocodile, lion, hippo and a number of birds including the African fish eagle.

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.

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

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

<p>Acacia Adventure Holidays Ltd 23A Craven Terrace London W2 3QH</p> <p>UK Tel. +44 (0)20 7706 4700 Fax. +44 (0)20 7706 4686 SA Tel. +27 (0)21 556 1157 Fax. +27 (0)21 557 5983</p> <p>Email: info@acacia-africa.com Website: www.acacia-africa.com</p>	 The logo for Acacia African Adventure features the text 'ACACIA AFRICAN ADVENTURE' in a stylized font. 'ACACIA' is in orange, 'AFRICAN' is in black, and 'ADVENTURE' is in orange. The text is set against a background of a stylized acacia tree and a globe.	 The logo for ABTA (Association of British Travel Agents) consists of a circular emblem with a stylized globe design. Below the emblem, the letters 'ABTA' are written in a bold, sans-serif font, with the full name 'Association of British Travel Agents' in a smaller font underneath.	 The logo for ATTA (African Travel & Tourism Association) features a stylized map of Africa in the center. The text 'african travel & tourism association' is written in a circular path around the map. Below the map, the word 'atta' is written in a bold, lowercase font, followed by 'incorporating the Indian Ocean Islands' in a smaller font.
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