

## DOSSIER: NJV – 7 Day Okavango Expedition – North

### Local Payment – USD 295

Payable in cash to the guide on departure. Only small denominations (\$50, \$20, \$10, \$5) notes printed after 2000 will be accepted. This payment covers the Victoria Falls NP Entrance Fee, Chobe NP Fee and River Cruise, Flight in and out of the Okavango Delta and Okavango Delta Excursion.

### Countries Visited

South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe

### Vehicle

Overland Truck

### Malaria

Malaria prophylactics are required.

### Departure Point

8am from The Airport Grand Hotel, 100 North Rand Road, Bardene, Boksburg, South Africa. Tel: +27 (0) 11 823 1843  
[www.legacyhotels.co.za/content.aspx?h=6](http://www.legacyhotels.co.za/content.aspx?h=6)

### End Point

Savanna Lodge, 68 Courtney Selous Crescent, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Tel: +263 13 44424  
[www.safpar.co.za/savanna.html](http://www.safpar.co.za/savanna.html)

### Alternative End point:

If you do not wish to enter Zimbabwe you are welcome to end the tour in Kasane at Thebe River Safaris. If you end the tour in Botswana your Local Payment will be discounted by the Victoria Falls NP Fee.

### Included

Meals as indicated on the itinerary, accommodation, registered guides, transport and selected activities as per itinerary.

### What's excluded

All items of a personal nature, alcohol, snacks, souvenirs, tips and optional activities (see list for an indication of prices).

### Health

Please inform us of any pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or asthma and any prescription medicine you may be taking. We also need to know about any food allergies or physical disability that you may have.

### Visas

Please note that these are your responsibility. Some nationalities require visas for Botswana. Most nationalities will require visas for Zimbabwe. See Pre Departure Booklet for more information.

### Climate

The African sun is very strong, especially in Botswana. Please use a factor 30 sunscreen and wear a hat. You should drink at least 3 litres of water per day to avoid dehydration. It can also get very cold during winter months on this route. Please see Pre Departure Booklet for detailed information.

### Currency and Banking

South Africa Rand and USD is best to use. Travellers Cheques can take a long time to change into cash and often incur unreasonable charges. Credit Cards cannot always be processed and not at all in Zimbabwe. USD Notes printed before 2000 (i.e. the old style notes) will not be accepted and many places will not accept USD100 notes, so make sure to bring lots of USD1, USD5 and USD10 notes for tips and craft markets. USD20 and USD50 notes are good to change in to local currency. Please see Pre Departure Booklet for detailed information on each country.

### Vaccinations

No vaccinations are prescribed by law by the countries being visited on this tour. Please see the Pre Departure Information booklet for detailed information on vaccinations in Africa.

### Onward Travel

This tour can be linked to the East African Adventure tour.

### Pre and Post Tour Accommodation

If you require accommodation before or after your tour we can arrange this for you. We can also arrange airport transfers – contact your travel agent to make these bookings.

### Arrival

Please be sure to arrive 1 day before your tour is due to depart. This will avoid any problems such as forgotten luggage, misplaced bags or any unpredictable problems such as airline strikes or delayed flight arrival.

### Departure

Please book your flight to depart the day after the tour officially ends. This is to account for any delays that we may experience due to unpredictable road conditions.

**Note: All information is subject to change without prior notice. Travel times and campsites can change depending on road or weather conditions, etc. These are used as a guideline only.**

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Country	Area	Activity	Price Range
Botswana	Okavango	Tips for Polers – Per Person, Per Day	\$5 to \$8
Botswana	Kasane	Chobe National Park Game Drive	\$40 to \$50
Zimbabwe	Victoria Falls	Dinner at local restaurant	\$45 to \$60
Zimbabwe	Victoria Falls	White Water Rafting - Full Day	\$110 to \$150
Zimbabwe	Victoria Falls	Combo River Board and Rafting - Full Day	\$140 to \$160
Zimbabwe	Victoria Falls	Bungee Jump	\$95 to \$150
Zimbabwe	Victoria Falls	Zambezi Sunset Cruise	\$45 to \$60
Zimbabwe	Victoria Falls	Elephant Encounter	\$95 to \$120
Zimbabwe	Victoria Falls	Lion Encounter (Walking with Lions)	\$115 to \$130

## Note:

There are more optional activities being created every day – we have listed only the most popular. If there is something specific you would like to do then speak to your guide as they will be able to assist you.

## DAY 1 Botswana – Palapye

We depart Johannesburg heading north to Botswana. After border formalities we continue towards Palapye, previously known as Phalatswe, where we'll spend our first night. Palapye is located on the banks of the Lotsane River.

Meals:	Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp Itumela <a href="http://www.palapye.com/CampItumela/">www.palapye.com/CampItumela/</a>
Facilities:	Hot showers, shared ablutions, swimming pool, bar.
Route:	Johannesburg to Palapye. ±600 km
Travel time:	±10-12hrs plus a border crossing
Border posts:	South Africa: Groblersbrug, + 27 (0)14 7671 019, Open: 08h00-18h00 Botswana: Martinsdrift, + 267 4940 254, Open: 08h00-18h00

## Botswana

The earliest inhabitants of the region were the San, who were followed by the Tswana. Today about half the country is ethnic Tswana. The term for the country's people, Batswana (singular: Motswana), refers to national rather than ethnic origin. Encroachment by the Zulu in the 1820s and by Boers from Transvaal in the 1870s and 1880s threatened the peace of the region. In 1885, Britain established the area as a protectorate, then known as Bechuanaland. In 1961, Britain granted a constitution to the country. Self-government began in 1965, and on Sept. 30, 1966, the country became independent. Botswana is Africa's oldest democracy.

The new country maintained good relations with its white-ruled neighbours but gradually changed its policies, harbouring rebel groups from South Rhodesia as well as some from South Africa. Although Botswana is rich in diamonds, it has high unemployment and stratified socioeconomic classes. In 1999 it suffered its first budget deficit in 16 years because of a slump in the international diamond market. Yet it remains one of the wealthiest as well as most stable countries on the continent.

Palapye is a large town in Botswana, situated about halfway between Francistown and Gaborone. Over the years its position has made it a convenient stopover on one of southern Africa's principal north-south rail and road routes. It also has a small airfield, as well as the Morupule Colliery coal mine, which supplies Morupule Power Station, Botswana's principal domestic source of electricity. In 1997 Palapye was said to be the fastest-growing village in Africa, with plans to expand its population from 30,000 to 180,000. Nearby stand the remains of Phalatswe, also called Old Palapye, the capital of the Bamangwato people under Khama III from 1889 to 1902.

## DAY 2/3 MAUN – OKAVANGO DELTA

Our journey takes us from Palapye towards Maun. We arrive in the afternoon where we leave our truck behind, board our planes, and head into the Delta. After a wonderful scenic flight we arrive at our base for the next two days. During our time in the Delta we enjoy the best nature has to offer. We go on nature walks and if possible will explore the Delta by mokoro. The Delta is truly spectacular and unforgettable experience.

### Day 2 (Delta Day 1)

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Permanent tent: Oddballs <a href="http://www.okavangodelta.info">www.okavangodelta.info</a>
Facilities:	Shared ablutions, bar, hot water
Included Activities:	Scenic Flight into Delta
Route:	Maun to Delta
Travel time:	±7-9hrs plus 45 minute flight to Oddballs Camp

### Day 3 (Delta Day 2)

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Permanent tent: Oddballs <a href="http://www.okavangodelta.info">www.okavangodelta.info</a>
Facilities:	Shared ablutions, bar, hot water

## Maun

Since Maun's founding in 1915 as the tribal capital of the Batawana people, it has had a reputation as a hard-living 'Wild West' town helping the local cattle ranching and hunting operations. However, with the growth of the tourism industry and the completion of the tar road from Nata in the early 1990s, Maun has developed swiftly, losing much of its old town character. It is now home to over 30,000 people. Maun is today a thriving, chaotic tourist town, infamous for its infestation of donkeys and to lesser extent, goats. These animals can be seen standing around on their own as the local farmers arrive in the innumerable taxis to sell their wares on the kerbside.

With the influx of tourism dollars, the typical traditional Rondavels of yesteryear have been replaced by square but modestly sized cinderblock homes roofed with tin and, rarely, tiles. It is not unusual to see mud rondavels with satellite dishes, attesting to the increasing affluence of Botswana, and the increasingly reliability of power and communications in Maun. Likewise, mobile phone service in Maun is excellent to a range of about 20 to 25km depending on weather. Opposite the main shopping strip which has grown around Riley's Garage, multi-level air-conditioned shopping centres are incongruously surrounded by potholes, dusty or muddy car parking lots, also inevitably a marketplace for whoever wishes to sell. There is now, also, no less than three major chain supermarkets, Cbstore, Spar, Shoprite and a Nandos.

## Okavango delta

The Okavango delta is one of the world's largest inland water systems. Its headwaters start in Angola's western highlands, with numerous tributaries joining to form the Cubango River, which then flows through Namibia (called the Kavango) and finally enters Botswana, where it is then called the Okavango. Millions of years ago the Okavango River used to flow into a large inland lake called Lake Makgadikgadi (now Makgadikgadi Pans). Tectonic activity and faulting interrupted the flow of the river causing it to back up and form what is now the Okavango Delta. This has created a unique system of waterways that now supports a vast array of animal and plant life that would have otherwise been a dry Kalahari Savannah.

The delta's floods are fed by the rains in Angola and Zambia, which start in October and finish sometime in April. The floods only cross the border between Botswana and Namibia in December and will only reach the bottom end of the delta (Maun) sometime in July, taking almost nine months from the source to the bottom. This slow meandering pace of the flood is due to the very minor drop in elevation - little more than 60 meters over a distance of 450 kilometres! The delta environment has large numbers of animal populations that are otherwise rare, such as Crocodile, Red Lechwe, Sitatunga, Elephant, Wild dogs, Buffalo, Wattled crane, as well as the other more common mammals and bird life.

## DAY 4 GWETA

We leave the Delta behind us and travel east to Gweta, which is located halfway between Maun and Nata, near the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park.

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp. Planet Baobab <a href="http://www.unchartedafrica.co.za/page.php?p_id=60">www.unchartedafrica.co.za/page.php?p_id=60</a>
Facilities:	Hot showers, restaurant, bar, swimming pool.
Route:	Maun to Gweta. ±201 km
Travel time:	± 3-4hrs plus 45 minute flight from Oddballs Camp to Maun

Along the cracked and crop-less landscape on the road between Maun and Francistown, where elephants tear up any tree that dares to raise its head, a large grey hulk looms into sight at the edge of the road. If this is an elephant it is a very peculiar one! As the eyes recognise a giant anteater, the brain begins to wonder what might have been in that last beer?

But, follow the side road pointed out by that anteater snout and you will discover the intriguingly named "Planet Baobab". Welcome to the Baobab capital of the world and home of the Kalahari Surf Club! The average age of each baobab tree; 4000 years and beyond, the boundless salt pans of the Makgadikgadi, a lunar landscape the size of Switzerland.

Thankfully, the funkiest bar in the Kalahari awaits your pleasure, a well known watering hole for travellers of every description and the more colourful characters from Maun. At any one time, locals jostle the cross-continentals who have slogged it through the bush, and worse, to get here. Just a stone's throw from all this beer and bustle is the elephant's paddling pool. Oblivious to Guests crouching in the nearby trees, the elephants and travellers mostly ignore each other.

## DAY 5 Kasane - CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Today we head north to Kasane, on the banks of the Chobe River. Apart from being the 2nd biggest National Park in Botswana, Chobe NP is renowned for its high population of migratory elephants. The afternoon is spent game viewing on a boat cruise, into the renowned Chobe NP. This is an excellent opportunity to view some of Africa's spectacular wildlife. You also have the chance to experience an early morning game drive the next day.

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp. Thebe River Safaris (no website available)
Facilities:	Hot showers, swimming pool and bar.
Included Activities:	Sunset Boat Cruise in the Chobe NP
Route:	Gweta to Kasane. ±400 km
Travel time:	± 6-7hrs

## Chobe National Park

The Chobe National Park, which is the second largest national park in Botswana and covers 10,566 square kilometres, has one of the greatest concentrations of game found on the African continent. Its uniqueness in the abundance of wildlife and the true African nature of the region, offers a safari experience of a lifetime.

The park is divided into four distinctly different eco systems: Serondela with its lush plains and dense forests in the Chobe River area in the extreme north-east; the Savuti Marsh in the west about fifty kilometres north of Mababe gate; the Linyanti Swamps in the north-west and the hot dry hinterland in between.

The original inhabitants of what is now the park were the San people, otherwise known in Botswana as the Basarwa. They were hunter-gatherers who lived by moving from one area to another in search of water, wild fruits and wild animals. The San were later joined by groups of the Basubiya people and later still, around 1911, by a group of Batawana led by Sekgoma. When the country was divided into various land tenure systems, late last century and early this century, the larger part of the area that is now the national park was classified as crown land. In 1931 the idea of creating a national park in the area was first mooted, in order to protect the wildlife from extinction and to attract visitors. In 1932, an area of some 24,000 square kilometres in the Chobe district was declared a non-hunting area and the following year, the protected area was increased to 31,600 square kilometres. However, heavy tsetse fly infestations resulted in the whole idea lapsing in 1943.

In 1957, the idea of a national park was raised again when an area of about 21,000 square kilometres was proposed as a game reserve and eventually a reduced area was gazetted in 1960 as Chobe Game Reserve. Later, in 1967, the reserve was declared a national park - the first national park in Botswana. There was a large settlement, based on the timber industry, at Serondela, some remains of which can still be seen today. This settlement was gradually moved out and the Chobe National Park was finally empty of human occupation in 1975. In 1980 and again in 1987, the boundaries were altered, increasing the park to its present size.

## The Chobe Elephant

A major feature of Chobe National Park is its elephant population. First of all, the Chobe elephant comprise part of what is probably the largest surviving continuous elephant population. This population covers most of northern Botswana plus northwestern Zimbabwe. The Botswana's elephant population is currently estimated at around 120,000. This elephant population has built up steadily from a few thousand since the early 1900s and has escaped the massive illegal poaching that decimated other populations in the 1970s and 1980s.

The Chobe elephant are migratory, making seasonal movements of up to 200 kilometres from the Chobe and Linyanti rivers, where they concentrate in the dry season, to the pans in the southeast of the park, to which they disperse in the rains. The elephants, in this area have the distinction of being the largest in body size of all living elephants though the ivory is brittle and you will not see many huge tuskers among these rangy beasts.

## DAY 6 ZIMBABWE - VICTORIA FALLS

On arrival in Victoria Falls we have time to plan the next day's adventure activities before we visit the spectacular Victoria Falls National Park and experience the thundering of the mighty Zambezi. The popular optional sunset cruise includes dinner and drinks. *Optional Activities: Chobe morning game drive.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation:	Hostel: (Dorm Rooms) Savanna Lodge <a href="http://www.safpar.co.za/savanna.html">www.safpar.co.za/savanna.html</a>
Facilities:	Drinkable water, hot showers, shared ablutions, bar, swimming pool.
Route:	Kasane to Vic Falls. ±100 km
Travel time:	±2 hrs plus border crossing
Border posts:	Botswana: Kazangula Road, +26721 50320, Open: 06h00-20h00 Zimbabwe: Kazangula Road, +26721 50320, Open: 06h00-18h00

The small tourist town of Victoria Falls is located within walking distance of the famous waterfall. Victoria Falls is also an adventure hub with activities that include the ever-popular white water rafting, the flight over the Falls, an encounter with the Lions as well as the opportunity to ride an Elephant!

Once we have crossed the border in to Zimbabwe it is a short drive to town where we will be briefed about all the different activities available. Choose carefully as almost all of them are really worth doing, speak to your guides for some advice. Please be aware that you cannot use credit/debit cards in Zimbabwe, so cash (Rand or USD) is best. The prices of the activities are listed at the beginning of this dossier so you can make sure to bring what you need.

## The Victoria Falls

Mosi-oa-Tunya is the name used by the local people and Victoria Falls is the later name given by Scottish explorer Dr. David Livingstone for Britain's Queen Victoria.

While it is neither the highest nor the widest waterfall in the world, the claim it is the largest is based on a width of 1.7 kilometres (1 mile) and height of 108 meters (360 ft), forming the largest sheet of falling water in the world.

The unusual form of Victoria Falls enables virtually the whole width of the falls to be viewed face-on, at the same level as the top, from as close as 60 metres (200 ft), because the whole Zambezi River drops into a deep, narrow slot like chasm, connected to a long series of gorges. Few other waterfalls allow such a close approach on foot.

Victoria Falls are one of Africa's major tourist attractions, and are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The falls are shared between Zambia and Zimbabwe, and each country has a national park to protect them and a town serving as a tourism centre: Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park and Livingstone in Zambia, and Victoria Falls National Park and the town of Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.

For a considerable distance above the falls, the Zambezi flows over a level sheet of basalt, in a shallow valley bounded by low and distant sandstone hills. The river's course is dotted with numerous tree-covered islands, which increase in number as the river approaches the falls. There are no mountains, escarpments, or deep valleys which might be expected to create a waterfall, only flat plateau extending hundreds of kilometres in all directions.

The falls are formed as the full width of the river plummets in a single vertical drop into a chasm 60–120 metres (200–400 ft) wide, carved by its waters along a fracture zone in the basalt plateau. The depth of the chasm, called the First Gorge, varies from 80 metres (262 ft) at its western end to 108 metres (360 ft) in the centre. The only outlet to the First Gorge is a 110- metre-wide (360 ft) gap about two-thirds of the way across the width of the falls from the western end, through which the whole volume of the river pours into the Victoria Falls gorges.

There are two islands on the crest of the falls that are large enough to divide the curtain of water even at full flood: Boaruka Island (or Cataract Island) near the western bank, and Livingstone Island near the middle. At less than full flood, additional islets divide the curtain of water into separate parallel streams. The main streams are named, in order from Zimbabwe (west) to Zambia (east): Leaping Water (called Devil's Cataract by some), Main Falls, Rainbow Falls (the highest) and the Eastern Cataract.

## DAY 7 VICTORIA FALLS

Most people will spend the day White Water Rafting, a not-to-be-missed experience of a lifetime! Vic Falls offers many exciting alternatives. *Optional Activities: White Water Rafting, Bungee Jump, Elephant Excursion, Dinner out.*

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked through AFTours

### Tour Ends

This tour ends today at the Savanna Lodge. You need to pre book this accommodation through your travel agent or AFTours.

**NB –** It is possible to book our NATVJ transfer to Johannesburg (2-days) straight after this tour, as this is one of the cheapest ways to get from Victoria Falls to Johannesburg. The transfer will depart on the next day at 6am.

### TIPPING ON TOUR

Southern Africa: In general tipping in restaurants is generally expected and is around 10% for good service, more if you have received exceptional service, and, feel free not to tip at all if you received poor service. Tipping taxi drivers etc is really at your own discretion and not always expected. If in doubt please ask your guides.

Our guides do work hard, but they are also paid at (and often above) industry levels for this work. Our Crew can be tipped if you feel that they have done a good job and/or gone above and beyond the call of duty.

The best way to arrange tips is to elect one person in the group to collect the money. We recommend USD1 (or about R5) per day per person, per guide as a fair tip. So if you have 3-crew on a tour, we would recommend that 3 envelopes are used and each crew members name written on one. Place what you feel is fair in to each envelope and the elected person can give these to the crew at the end of the tour. If you do not feel that the crew deserve a tip, please, do not tip them. You must remember that tipping is only for exceptional service and is not at all compulsory or expected.

### THANK YOU FOR TRAVELLING WITH ADVENTURE FANTASY TOURS (AFTours)

At the end of your tour you will be provided with feedback forms. These forms are confidential and should be given to your crew in a sealed envelope. If you are not sure of the confidentiality of the feedback form please feel free to email us as well on [admin@overlandtravel.com](mailto:admin@overlandtravel.com) Please make sure to also complete the feedback form as we use the answers on these forms to improve and maintain our service levels.

*Accommodation providers are subject to change without notice, the accommodation listed in this dossier is our preferred supplier, but sometimes due to availability, we are unable to make use of the property listed in this dossier. If we cannot use the accommodation provider as listed we will substitute another property of similar standards, however, en-suite facilities are not always guaranteed.*