

AFRICA – SAFARI & CRUISING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

9-day / 8-night safari & PREMIUM PLUS cruising holiday South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe



Explore Southern Africa for a once-in-a-lifetime experience in luxurious lodges, and on board a new ship designed to provide an intimate look at the nature. This holiday, combines land and water in a unique and unforgettable in-depth exploration of South Africa, Botswana, Namibia & Zimbabwe, with a combination of safari, cruising on a luxury hotel boat, and guided touring.

Highlights include a visit to **Johannesburg**, the largest city in the centre of South Africa. Travel to the **Chobe National Park** in Botswana, staying in a luxurious safari lodge on an island in the **Zambezi River**. See elephant, hippo, crocodile and many of the park's bird species. Visit islands on the Zambezi River to learn more of the local customs and culture. Spend three nights on-board a PREMIUM PLUS hotel boat on **Lake Kariba**, discovering the lake's tributaries and gorges. See Matusadona **National Park**, a sanctuary for the endangered black rhino, enjoy a tour of **Victoria Falls**, one of the world's largest, spectacular waterfalls.

On this all-inclusive luxury holiday, travel at a relaxed pace on a beautifully appointed hotel boat with just eight cabins, two with private balcony. The exclusive safari lodge too has just eight bungalows, each with its own terrace and private pool. On-board, there is one crew member for each passenger, and the staff multi-lingual with English as the main language. All meals are included, with a focus on refined local cuisine.

Cost from: **Low season:** \$8975 per person twin-share (in March, November & early December)
High season: \$9895 per person twin-share (in April to October)
 Christmas/New Year departures from \$9265 per person twin-share
 Balcony cabin supplement from \$410 - \$715 per person twin-share
 Single supplement on request, limited availability

Departs: 25th, 28th April; 7th, 10th, 13th, 19th, 22nd, 25th, 28th May;
 3rd, 9th, 12th, 18th, 21st, 30th June; 3rd, 6th, 9th, 12th, 15th, 18th, 21st, 27th, 30th July;
 2nd, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th, 20th, 23rd, 29th August; 4th, 7th, 10th, 13th, 19th, 22nd, 28th September;
 1st, 4th, 7th, 10th, 13th, 16th, 19th, 22nd, 28th October;
 3rd, 6th, 9th, 15th, 18th, 21st, 24th, 27th, 30th November;
 3rd, 6th, 9th, 12th, 15th, 18th, 21st, 24th, 27th December, 2020

Christmas/New Year departures: 18th, 21st, 24th, 27th December, 2020
This is a special Christmas itinerary – ask for itinerary details and costs

Includes: 2 nights in 4-star hotels; 3 nights in twin-share bungalows at a private 5-star safari lodge; 3 nights onboard the hotel boat in twin-share cabin; excursions, transfers and flights as per itinerary; all meals; a beverage with meals; services of a local guide; tips and gratuities.

Not included: Optional excursions; personal expenses; visa or passport charges (Zimbabwe visa from USD30 paid locally); Botswana tourism levy (from USD30 paid locally); tips or gratuities for hotel boat crew or lodge staff; additional drinks with meals. Transfer Johannesburg airport to hotel or Victoria Falls hotel to airport not included but can be booked at additional cost, ask for details.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Embark for a unique cruise for three nights on Africa's Largest Man Made Lake - Lake Kariba. Lake Kariba stretches the long border between Zambia and Zimbabwe, and represents a precious resource for the animals that gravitate to its shores. These days are marked by wildlife along the banks of the lake, water safaris to islands and inlets of Matusadona National Park (Zimbabwe), and African Sunsets viewed from the Sun Deck. On land and on water safaris, we'll take you to the deepest treasures on the African continent. Encounters with mammals that dot the shores will be on small boats and once the engines are cut, you'll experience the wild up close - revealing in the sounds of nature and the animals just a few metres away.

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Johannesburg (South Africa)

Arrive in Johannesburg by 11.30am to meet your guide and other passengers. After lunch have a guided coach tour of the city including a visit to the Apartheid Museum focused on South Africa's turbulent 20th Century history. Johannesburg is a city of contrasts, South Africa's financial capital, the richest town in Africa, and the divide between rich and poor is vast. The city has a vibrant, lively atmosphere with much evidence of the urban revival. Check into the hotel with time to settle into our rooms before dinner.

Day 2: Johannesburg – Kasane (Botswana)

Take a flight from Johannesburg to Kasane, Botswana. We use small boats to reach our exclusive 5-star safari lodge. Watch for the numerous birds living among the flooded flatlands and with luck we may even catch a glimpse of hippos or crocodiles basking in the sun. You'll be greeted by our crew upon arrival and settle in to your beautifully appointed bungalow, then dine in absolute tranquillity, at the heart of the wilderness.

Day 3: Chobe National Park

Spend a full day on safari to explore Chobe National Park, home to more than a quarter of Africa's elephants. Have lunch in a "floating restaurant" in the middle of the river surrounded by nature. Afterwards, sail up the Chobe River aboard small private boats, to Sedudu Island and its marshes once the subject of a border dispute between Botswana and Namibia. Return to the lodge for dinner and overnight.

Day 4: Impalila Island (Namibia)

Head to Impalila Island, at the easternmost tip of Namibia, to visit traditional Namibian villages and learn about the culture, customs and history of the local people. We return to our lodge for lunch. This afternoon, there is free time to relax at the lodge, or join an optional cruise on the Zambezi River on small private boats. We dine at the lodge, then after dinner hear from a local about the traditions the island.

Day 5: Kasane – Lake Kariba

Transfer to Kasane airport for a small plane flight to Kariba. This is a truly scenic flight, with wide-ranging views over Lake Kariba and the changing landscapes of the wilderness. From Kariba airport transfer you to our luxury hotel barge for lunch. After lunch we begin our journey across the lake. Lake Kariba was created by damming the Zambezi River at Kariba Gorge in the 1950's. Flooding flatlands, hills and forests, created unique and iconic landscapes. Kariba's shorelines are home to large populations of wildlife and its waters teem with fish. There is much to explore, as the lake is over 200km long and about 40km across at its widest point.

Day 6: Lake Kariba, the Gache-Gache River and Sanyati Gorge

At sunrise, we sail through the mysterious landscapes of Lake Kariba where drowned trees reach skywards from the depths of the reflective water. On small private boats we meander along the Gache Gache River to discover its tiny, unspoiled inlets, unique wildlife and magical atmosphere. Return to the barge for lunch. In the afternoon, until sunset we sail through the Sanyati Gorge, one of the most impressive gorges at Lake Kariba.

Day 7: Lake Kariba and Matusadona National Park

Safari in and around Matusadona National Park this morning, bordered by the Sanyati and Ume Rivers, the park is home to elephant, hippo, crocodile, buffalo and abundant birdlife, including the African sea eagle, the yellow-billed stork, and the black heron. We may spot lion, leopard or the rare black rhino. Return to the ship

for lunch at sail. In the afternoon enjoy an intimate discussion to learn more about the lake's creation, its inhabitants and its ecosystem.

Day 8: Lake Kariba – Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)

At sunrise, set sail towards Kariba, passing the gigantic Kariba Dam, built between 1955-58 to form the lake which today provides 70% of Zimbabwe's power. Learn the legends around the creation of the lake, including the tale of NyamiNyami, the river god. Fly from Kariba to Victoria Falls and join a lunch cruise upstream on the Zambezi River. In the afternoon we set off by foot towards Victoria Falls, one of the most spectacular attractions in Africa and one of the most unusual waterfalls in the world. From a vantage point with exceptional views; see the Zambezi River plunging over the cliff to become the largest waterfall in the world, creating the *smoke that thunders* (from the indigenous Lozi name for the falls, *Mosi- oa-Tunya*). Farewell dinner is a traditional outdoor *boma* dinner glittering African sky, with traditional dance and music.

Day 9: Departure day

Tour arrangements end after breakfast at your hotel. There is an optional early morning excursion of a helicopter flight over Victoria Falls (at extra cost - must be reserved when booking your holiday).

OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR CAPE TOWN EXTENSION

5-day / 4-night pre-tour - Cape Town, Robben Island, Groot Constantia vineyard & Cape of Good Hope.

Includes: 4 nights' accommodation in 4-star hotels; all meals except dinner on the first night; a beverage with meals; transfer to Cape Town airport and flight from Cape Town to Johannesburg, excursions as per itinerary, tips & gratuities, services of a guide.

Cost from: \$3650 to \$5475 per person, depending on numbers. Single room supplement from \$1320.

Day 1: Arrive Cape Town

Arrive Cape Town and check into your hotel from 3pm. Dinner is at own arrangements this evening.

Day 2: Cape Town city tour & Table Mountain

After breakfast tour the city of Cape Town, one of the world's most beautiful cities with modern towers in the city centre, cobblestone roads and many historical monuments overlooked by Table Mountain. We take the Table Mountain cableway to view Table Bay and surrounding mountains.

Day 3: Robben Island & Groot Constantia Wine Estate

In the morning, we have a guided tour of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Robben Island, the former prison where Nelson Mandela was an inmate for 18 years. Return to Cape Town for lunch on the Victoria & Albert waterfront before visiting the Groot Constantia wine estate, the oldest in South Africa dating back to 1685. Enjoy an afternoon of wine tasting including South Africa's flagship wine, Pinotage.

Day 4: Cape of Good Hope

We set out for the legendary along Chapman's Peak Drive and the Atlantic and southwestern tip of South Africa to the Cape of Good Hope. Take in beautiful valleys, bays and beaches with diverse and unique fauna and flora. At Cape Point take the Flying Dutchman funicular up to the lighthouse for views of the cape and the Atlantic Ocean. After lunch visit the penguin colony at Boulders Beach near Simon's Town, home to around 2500 African penguins, the only penguin to nest on the African continent. Return to Cape Town for dinner.

Day 5: Cape Town – Johannesburg

Early transfer to Cape Town airport and board a scheduled flight to Johannesburg where you make your own way to our joining point hotel to meet up with your guide and group by 11am as per Day 1 of the main itinerary.

Pre-tour or post-tour extensions in Victoria Falls or Johannesburg are available – ask for details.

Outdoor Travel offer safari and walking holidays in Kenya or Uganda or inn-to-inn cycling in the Kruger / Blyde River Canyon area of South Africa. Hotel barge cruises are available in **Ireland** on the River Shannon, Windsor on the **River Thames** near London, in Scotland on the Caledonian Canal, in **Burgundy**, the **Loire Valley**, the **Bordeaux** region, **Provence** or on the **Canal du Midi** in the south of France and in **Venice** in Italy.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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