

ACACIA AFRICA

AFRICAN INSIGHT (NORTHBOUND) – TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code NAI7

JOHANNESBURG – LIVINGSTONE

7 DAYS

Tour Departure – 07:00

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Greater Kruger & Kruger National Park
Chobe National Park
Livingstone and Victoria Falls area

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



INTENDED ITINERARY

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

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

Duration: 7 Days

Countries visited: South Africa, Botswana, Zambia

DAY 1 - 2 Greater Kruger

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

DAY 3 - 5 Chobe National Park

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

DAY 6 -7

Livingstone – Victoria Falls

From Kasane it is a short drive to Livingstone and Victoria Falls (Zambia side), where we arrive around the middle of the day. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure. Numerous activities and excursions are typically available - easily enough for another day or two if time allows: white water rafting, bungee jumping, abseiling, gorge swinging, scenic flights (microlight, helicopter or small aircraft), canoeing, elephant back safaris and horse riding. Don't leave Africa without seeing the Victoria Falls themselves. At over a mile wide and some 100 metres deep, in high water it forms the largest curtain of falling water in the world with spray visible from 20 kilometres away, hence their local name Mosi au Tunya ('smoke that thunders').

Arrangements end after breakfast on Day 7.

TOUR INFORMATION

Travelling overland is great fun, but it can also be challenging! This is a *participation* tour and your help will be needed in setting up the camp each night and assisting (usually on a rota basis) with the various day to day campsite duties, such as shopping, cooking and keeping the truck and camp tidy. But don't worry it's not all hard work and it's a great way to meet the local people and get to know your fellow travellers. Your contribution benefits the success of the tour - most people find the greater their involvement, the greater their enjoyment of the whole trip.

Africa is an adventure destination and travelling here is not always predictable so be prepared to "expect the unexpected" in difficulties or delays which might come our way! However, you'll soon find that the diversity of the African landscape, the wildlife and the communities we pass on our way, make the sometimes rough travel and long driving days worthwhile.

Come with a sense of adventure and a flexible attitude and you will be sure to enjoy your Acacia overland tour across this amazing continent.

TOUR STYLE

Acacia Overland Tour

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Local Payment excursions, visas, travel insurance, flights, departure taxes, airport transfers, sleeping bag, optional activities, drinks, tips, meals not mentioned in itinerary, items of a personal nature.

ACCOMMODATION

We use 2-person dome tents with fly sheet and sewn in ground sheets, zip-up insect screens and foam sleeping mattresses. We mainly use designated campsites, which usually have reasonable wash and shower facilities, electricity points and sometimes even a small shop, bar or swimming pool.

TRANSPORT

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

MEALS

Meals included are - Breakfast (B) x5, Lunch (L) x4, Dinner (D) x6

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

GAME PARK VISITS

In order to maximise the quality of game driving and to comply with local authority rulings, some of our National Park visits and game viewing is carried out using services provided by local African ground handlers. As well as enhancing our experience it also allows us to contribute at a 'grassroots' level to local economies from which local people benefit. These local services are included in the Local Payment.

TOUR PREPARATION

BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent your booking documents and a pre-departure booklet with detailed information to help you prepare for your trip. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving details of your joining hotel. Johannesburg is well served by a variety of airlines and easily connects with Livingstone. Your travel agent can advise on flights to and from the start and finish of your tour.

JOINING INFORMATION

This tour starts in Johannesburg. **The pre-departure meeting is held at 18:00 on the evening prior to departure. The tour begins at 07:00 on day 1 and ends in Livingstone on day 7**

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

PRE TOUR ACCOMMODATION

This tour departs Johannesburg early on day 1; we strongly recommend therefore that you plan to arrive the day before departure to overcome any jet-lag and to acclimatise to Africa. We would be happy to book pre-tour accommodation for you – please call or email us (or speak to your agent) with your arrival details and accommodation requirements.

However please book early to avoid disappointment and the risk of having to find more expensive (or less convenient) lodgings.

If time allows, we also suggest planning a night or two extra (after your tour) to make the most of this part of Africa. Accommodation is usually available locally on arrival and there is a variety of activities and excursions in the Livingstone/ Victoria Falls area you can arrange yourself on arrival.

See below for a guide to extra accommodation costs. These prices are correct at time of print but are subject to change so please check with Acacia or your agent for current prices.

Description	Price (£)	Description	Price (£)
Johannesburg		Livingstone	
Pre tour accommodation – Dorm pp/pn	£16	Post tour accommodation – Tented pppn TW	£12
Pre tour accommodation – Twin pp/pn	£23	Post tour accommodation – Tented pppn SI	£18
Pre tour accommodation – Single 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 some of the areas visited on this tour are **malarial**. We strongly recommend your seeking professional medical advice for the appropriate anti-malarial tablets.

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

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

VISA REQUIREMENTS

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

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

MONEY MATTERS

PERSONAL EXPENSES

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

- **Spending money** is best carried as cash in US dollars, Sterling or Euro which you then exchange into local currency on arrival and as you go. Your guide can advise how and when you can change the rest of your money throughout the tour.
- **Currencies** are as follows: South Africa – Rand; Botswana – Pula; Zambia – Zambian Kwacha.
- **ATM machines** are available throughout South Africa and in major centres in Botswana and Zambia however are not always reliable. Please remember that cash will only be dispensed in local currency and do not provide you with US Dollars (and therefore cannot be used to draw your Local Payment).
- **Credit cards** can be used to pay for optional activities although charges 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 group meeting on the first evening.

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.

For the Africa Insight tour:

The Basic Local Payment is: USD 190 per person

The Inclusive Local Payment is: USD 250 per person

Payment must be made in **US\$ cash in clean, post-2005 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 may be asked to contribute further.

TIPPING

This is always a matter for your 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

Some optional activities are available during the tour - no need to decide before you go, make your mind up when you are there – but many others are available in the Livingstone/ Victoria Falls area – depending on what time you have available. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (in US\$ unless otherwise stated. subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price	Activity	Price (USD)
South Africa		Livingstone (con'd)	
Kruger night drive (if avail)	\$ 45	Vic Falls bungi (single/tandem)	\$120
		Game walk	\$75
Livingstone		Croc farm tour	\$30
Horse Riding	\$80	Gorge Swing	\$60
Elephant Interaction	\$50	Zambezi Jet Boating & Cable Car	\$95
White Water Rafting/ Riverboarding comb	\$145/ \$175	Half day/ Full day Canoe Safari	\$95/ \$130
Flight over the Falls (from)	\$130	Zambezi Sunset Cruise	\$60
		Lion Encounter	\$130

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 refer to: http://www.acacia-africa.com/travel_info/travel_documents.php for more details.

ACACIA ON THE ROAD



RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

We strongly 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.

GET CONNECTED

Join our facebook group www.facebook.com/AcaciaAfrica and get connected with other Acacia travelers, check out the pictures, videos and feedback from their tours and meet up with other people booked on your tour

Follow us on twitter @AcaciaAfrica and get the latest buzz. Got a question? Ask us on twitter!

Follow our blogs from the road <http://acaciaontheroad.blogspot.com/> and <http://africastuckonyou.blogspot.com/> get regular updates from our crew on the road as well as other Acacia Travellers

Don't forget to sign up to our newsletter to get regular updates and special offers www.acacia-africa.com

For information on our Premium Overlanding, Acacia Small Group Safaris, Short Safari's & Treks, Short Breaks & City Stays, Voluntours and Dive Tours please visit www.acacia-africa.com



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