

# ACACIA AFRICA

## SOUTH WEST SAFARI – TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code SWS25

JOHANNESBURG – CAPE TOWN

25 DAYS

Tour Departure – **07:00**

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

### HIGHLIGHTS

Kruger National Park  
Victoria Falls - Livingstone  
Chobe National Park  
Okavango Delta  
Kalahari Bushman Walk  
Windhoek  
Etosha National Park  
Spitzkoppe  
Swakopmund  
Namib Naukluft Park  
Sossusvlei Sand Dunes  
Fish River Canyon  
Cape Flats Township Tour



From Africa's premier attraction, Victoria Falls to its most beautiful city – Cape Town – via the world's oldest desert, the Namib-Naukluft, the tranquil wilderness of the Okavango Delta, the dramatic Fish River Canyon and the prime game reserves – Etosha, Chobe and Kruger– this is a superb introduction to southern Africa!

### 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.

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:** 25 Days

**Countries visited:** Zambia, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa

#### DAY 1 - 2

Greater Kruger, Kruger National Park

From Johannesburg - South Africa's commercial capital - we travel through scenic Mpumalanga to South Africa's most famed national park – the Kruger. The fences between the park's borders and private game reserves on the fringes of Kruger have been recently taken down to form Greater Kruger and the park's wildlife is free to roam the whole area. Kruger and Greater Kruger cover over 24,000 sq km and are home to an incredible wealth of African animals from the miniscule dwarf mongoose to all of Africa's famed Big 5 mammals. 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

Polokwane, Nata, Kasane, 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 Makgadikgadi salt pans to Kasane and the Chobe National Park. Chobe is a vast reserve of some 11,000 sq km with river plains and forests which support a variety of wildlife. It is perhaps most known for its elephant populations and it is thought that some 40,000 elephants inhabit this area. Whilst in the park we take an afternoon river cruise, time to relax and watch for wildlife coming to the river to bath and drink in the lowering light.

### DAY 6

Livingstone – Victoria Falls (Zambian side)

From Kasane it is a short drive to Livingstone and Victoria Falls (Zambia side) where our tour ends. There are numerous activities and excursions to choose from around Victoria Falls which will amply fill your time here on the tour and any extra time you wish to spend in Livingstone before your onward travel. Feed your hunger for adrenaline with white water rafting, bungee jumping, abseiling, gorge swinging and amazing scenic flights (microlight, helicopter or small plane) or enjoy the surroundings on canoeing safaris, elephant back safaris and horse riding treks. However, don't leave without seeing the thundering Victoria Falls themselves. At over a mile wide and over 100 metres deep, the Falls produce the world's largest curtain of falling water in the world. Up close they are formidable and at times of high water, the spray can be seen from 20 kilometres away, hence their local name Mosi au Tunya – the 'smoke that thunders'.

### DAY 7

Livingstone / Waterfront

We have the day at leisure in Livingstone. There is time to do some more adventure activities, or if you've had your fill of 'adrenaline running' then take a time out and relax. Sit with a coffee or a coke and stare out over the Zambezi River for an hour or two, try to spot hippo or croc in the deep grey waters of this massive river. Or go into Livingstone – a small town but worth a wander up and down the street. If you are feeling more adventurous you could organise a day trip across the border into Zimbabwe (but check the visa situation before you go – both Zimbabwe and Zambia require visas and if you only have a single entry visa for Zambia you may have to buy a second visa when you come back from Zimbabwe at the end of the day! If you are interested in this idea, be sure to speak to your tour guide for practical advice).

Overnight at camp in Livingstone.

**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 good selection of reasonably priced meals and snacks throughout the day (we suggest you allow US\$25-\$35/ day).

### DAY 8 - 9

Chobe National Park, Kasane

After breakfast we leave Livingstone and travel to Botswana and the Chobe National Park. Situated in the extreme northern part of Botswana, Chobe is home to large populations of elephant as well as lion and abundant birdlife, including the African fish-eagle. In the late afternoon we take a cruise on the Chobe River - a delightful way to see hippo or elephant, sometimes buffalo, come to the river for bath and drink. Earlier in the day we take an early morning game drive into the park itself for a glimpse of Botswana's premier game reserve.

### DAY 10 - 12

Maun, Okavango Delta

Further south, we cross the fringes of the Kalahari Desert and make our way to Maun and the Okavango Delta. A natural wetland system spreading over some 1.6m hectares of northern Botswana, the results from rivers that rise in Angola and flow south then divide repeatedly to form an intricate floodplain of channels and islands which spreads out into a broad flat inland delta – the only one of its kind in the world. Our overnight excursion gives us the opportunity to explore some of the area on foot and by dugout canoe (makoro).

This is a very unspoilt wildlife area. We search amongst the giant lily pads, tall grasses and narrow channels for hippo, crocodile and a variety of birds. We camp for a night in the Delta itself on one of the river islands - an unforgettable wilderness experience!

**DAY 13 - 14**  
Ghanzi - Windhoek

Leaving the Okavango we travel south-west skirting the Kalahari. We stop at Ghanzi and take a guided Bushman Walk to discover some of the secrets of this immense terrain and gain a glimpse of how the indigenous people live in this area. The following day we continue west into Namibia and stop a night in the capital Windhoek, a city steeped in German atmosphere and architecture. Enjoy the contrast from the previous few nights, perhaps with a flagon of ale at one of the local taverns.

**DAY 15 - 19**  
Etosha National Park - Swakopmund

We make our way north to Etosha National Park, a vast reserve of over 20,000 square kilometres surrounding a central salt depression or 'pan.' The pan is seasonally filled with water but managed year-round waterholes sustain some 114 mammal and 340 bird species. We spend two nights in Etosha, camping near a floodlit waterhole which offers exciting night viewing for those who wish to stay up late.

Turning south again, we pass through the eerie Spitzkoppe area and travel along some of the desolate Atlantic coast, to the colonial town of Swakopmund, Namibia's main seaside resort.

Sandwiched neatly between the desert and the ocean, this delightful coastal oasis has developed into something of an adventure centre. Try 'quad biking, sand boarding, or skydiving (weather permitting) or for those preferring a slower pace, take a coastal walk or indulge in Swakopmund's café culture at your own leisure.

**DAY 20 - 22**  
Namib Naukluft Park – Fish River Canyon

Continuing south through the barren desert we reach the Namib Naukluft Park. The world's oldest desert and containing some of the highest sand dunes in the world – some of Sesriem and Sossusvlei's dunes are over 300m high – this is an ideal spot to clamber to the top of one and see the sun rise over the empty desert. We continue deeper into the park for a nature walk across the salt pans and flat valley floors. Don't forget your camera - the changing colours of the sand as the sun rises and sets throughout the day offer brilliant photographic opportunities.

Continuing to the very south of Namibia we admire the awesome beauty of the Fish River Canyon. One of the natural wonders of Africa, some 500m deep and over 160km long, this is the second largest canyon in the world after America's Grand Canyon. Again, there are plenty of opportunities for keen photographers as we spend time around this area and visit the canyon's infamous sharp river bend known as 'Hell's Corner.'

**DAY 23 - 25**  
Gariep River – Cape Town

On our final leg of the journey we leave Namibia and enter South Africa stopping en route for a night next to the desolate but striking Gariep (Orange) River.

We continue south and notice the desert slowly give way to the increasingly fertile Cape Province. On the edge of Cape Town itself lie the Cape Flats, home to Cape Town's townships. We visit some of the local people and community projects in the area. The townships illustrate both South Africa's tumultuous history and its hope for the future. Finally we continue to cosmopolitan Cape Town, without doubt one of the world's most beautiful cities. If time allows we recommend you spend a few days exploring the city and surrounds. Take advantage of the variety of activities normally available here – from abseiling Table Mountain and shopping at the V&A Waterfront, to wine tasting in the nearby winelands of Paarl and Stellenbosch.

## 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 & Victoria Falls visit.

### 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 sheets, 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, bar or swimming pool. We bush camp for one night in the Okavango Delta, where there are little or no facilities, but just us amidst beautiful wild scenery.

### 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) x24, Lunch (L) x19, Dinner (D) x19

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.

### 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 and Cape Town are well served by a variety of airlines and your travel agent can advise on flights to the start of the tour.

### JOINING INFORMATION

This tour starts in Livingstone. **The pre-departure meeting is held at 18:00** on the evening prior to departure. **Our tour departs Johannesburg early on Day One. The tour ends in the late afternoon of day 25 on arrival in Cape Town.**

Meeting point in **Johannesburg** :  
Address:

**Backpackers Ritz**  
1A North Rd  
Dunkeld West  
Johannesburg  
Tel. +27 11 325 7125/2520  
Fax +27 11 325 2521  
[ritz@iafrica.com](mailto:ritz@iafrica.com)  
[www.backpackers-ritz.co.za](http://www.backpackers-ritz.co.za)

Contact details:

E-mail:  
Website:

Pre-dep. meeting:

18:00 day prior to departure day

Tour start time:

Confirmed at pre departure meeting, normally 07h00.

Tour end point in **Cape Town**:  
Address:

**Ashanti Lodge Green Point**  
23 Antrim Rd  
Three Anchor Bay,  
Green Point  
Cape Town, 8005,  
Tel +27 (0)21 433 1619  
Email: [info@ashanti.co.za](mailto:info@ashanti.co.za)

Normal end time

Late afternoon/ early evening on day 25

### 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 Cape Town area you can arrange if you have the time.

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 (£)
<b>Johannesburg</b>		<b>Cape Town</b>	
Pre tour accommodation – Dorm pp/pn	£14	Post tour accommodation – Dorm pp/pn	£14
Pre tour accommodation – Twin pp/pn	£20	Post tour accommodation – Twin pp/pn	£22
Pre tour accommodation – Single pp/pn	£29	Post 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
S. Africa	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	*	R
Namibia	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	R	*	R
Botswana	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	R	*	R
Zambia	R	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](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
S. Africa	No	Yes	No														
Namibia	No	Yes	Yes														
Botswana	No	Yes															
Zambia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	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 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: South Africa – Rand; Namibia – Namibian Dollar; Botswana – Pula; Zambia – Zambian Kwacha. Please note that Rand is legal tender in Namibia at the same rate of exchange as the Namibian Dollar.
- **ATM machines** are available throughout South Africa and Namibia 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 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 SOUTH WEST SAFARI 25 DAY tour:**

The Basic Local Payment is: USD 675 per person

The Inclusive Local Payment is: USD 950 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 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. All prices subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price	Activity	Price (USD)
<b>South Africa</b>		<b>Livingstone</b>	
Orange River Canoeing	R200	Vic Falls bungi (single/tandem)	\$120
<b>Namibia</b>		Game walk	\$75
Quad Biking	N\$500	Croc farm tour	\$30
Sand Boarding	N\$250- N\$350	Gorge Swing	\$60
Deep Sea Fishing	N\$850	Zambezi Jet Boating & Cable Car	\$95
Scenic flights	N\$2695	Half day/ Full day Canoe Safari	\$95/ \$130
Tandem skydive	N\$1900	Zambezi Sunset Cruise	\$60
Dolphin Cruise	N\$480	Lion Encounter	\$130
Kayaking	N\$600	White Water Rafting/ Riverboarding comb	\$145/ \$175
<b>Botswana</b>		Flight over the Falls (from)	\$130
Okavango scenic flight per 5-seater plane	\$400		
Kalahari desert swim excursion	50BP		

## 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](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](http://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](http://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](http://www.acacia-africa.com)



## Acacia Adventure Holidays Ltd

### London

23A Craven Terrace  
London  
W2 3QH  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7706 4700  
Fax: +44 (0)20 7706 4686  
Email: [info@acacia-africa.com](mailto:info@acacia-africa.com)

### Cape Town

PO Box 29632  
Rhine Road  
Cape Town 8005  
Tel: +27 (0)21 556 1157  
Fax: +27 (0)21 557 5983  
Email: [info@acacia-africa.com](mailto:info@acacia-africa.com)