

ACACIA AFRICA

Updated 28 OCT11
FOR 2012
DEPARTURES

SOUTHERN AFRICAN MAGIC (CAMPING) TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code – SAM14

JOHANNESBURG - JOHANNESBURG

14 DAYS

Departure Point & Time: **05:00 pick-up from joining hotel on Day One**

HIGHLIGHTS

Blyde River Canyon
Three Rondavels
Oliphant's River Cruise
Kruger National Park
Polokwane Reserve
Victoria Falls - Livingstone
Chobe National Park
Okavango Delta
Khama Rhino Sanctuary



An exciting circuit, encompassing Kruger National Park, Victoria Falls, Okavango Delta & the Kalahari Desert. Enjoy the wilderness of northern Botswana and the adrenaline activities at Victoria Falls, while discovering Africa's beautiful landscape and people.

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.

Duration: 14 Days
Countries visited: South Africa, Botswana, Zambia

DAY 1
Blyde River Canyon, Cheetah Project, Greater Kruger
D
Camping

Departing from South Africa's largest city, Johannesburg, we drive through scenic Mpumalanga to the Great Kruger area. En route we enjoy the spectacular scenery of the Blyde River Canyon and the Three Rondavels rock formations. After lunch we visit a cheetah project to see the remarkable work done by volunteers rehabilitating these gentle predators, and other endangered mammals of the area. We complete our first day on arrival at camp on the banks of the Oliphant's River. This is a relaxing and enjoyable place for our first night in the African wild – where it is not uncommon to see wildlife come to the river to drink in the evening.

DAY 2 - 3
Oliphant's River Cruise - Kruger National Park
Bx2 Lx2 Dx2
Camping

We rise early for a river cruise on the Oliphants River, and follow that with a visit to South Africa's premier game reserve, the Kruger national Park. With over 2 million hectares of fertile land the Kruger contains an unrivalled diversity of wildlife, as well as some important historical and archaeological sights. We explore the wilderness and hope to see some of Africa's 'Big 5' (elephant, rhino, leopard, lion and buffalo) as well as some of the smaller and more rarely seen animals.

We also visit an old colonial town for a glimpse of what life was like for South Africa's pioneering folk. Our route through the park is dependent on recent sightings and seasonal conditions but we concentrate on the areas near the Transfrontier National Park. This remote area is away from the larger numbers of visitors who enter the park in the south. Recently established, when fences between countries were removed, this special area provides natural migration routes for wildlife between South Africa and its neighbours, and promises some rewarding game drives. A typical day generally involves an early morning game drive and a return to our camp for lunch to rest during the heat of the day before going out again later in the late afternoon when predators come out to hunt.

DAY 4 - 5
Polokwane Game Reserve, Botswana - Nata
Bx2 Dx2
Camping

This morning we make our way out of the Kruger area, heading towards Botswana. We stop just short of the border in the town of Polokwane, where there is time to enjoy a walk in the local game reserve, which contains over 21 species of mammal including the white rhino and 200 species of birds. The following morning we cross into Botswana, continuing north. We spend the day driving around the Kalahari, a massively arid area extending through southern and central Botswana. We overnight a lodge near Nata, a small town near the Magkadikgadi Pans. This region was once a vast super-lake - today it is a shimmering expanse of white dry salt pans. Occasionally it fills with seasonal rains and then is transformed into a large flat lake, attracting birds and animals which enjoy the brief harvest of algae and plant life. It is not uncommon to see elephant wandering through camp at night.

DAY 6 - 7
Livingstone
Bx2 Dx1
Camping

We leave Nata early and continue to Kasane and the ferry crossing into Zambia. After a short drive further we arrive in the town of Livingstone a few kilometres from Victoria Falls (local name: 'Mosi oa Tunya' - 'the smoke that thunders') referring to the spray that rises from the falling water when the river is in full flood. We have two days at our campsite on the banks of the Zambezi river. There are many activities here – eg scenic flights, whitewater rafting, canoeing, bungy, gorge swinging, jet boating, game drives, elephant back safaris and river cruises – but spare some time to visit the 'Falls' themselves to see the spectacle and the cavernous Batoka Gorge. Our accommodation also has small pool, bar, restaurant and riverside deck allowing ample opportunity to relax and enjoy the tranquil surrounds.

DAY 8
Livingstone – Chobe National Park, Kasane
B D
Camping

We leave Livingstone and take the short drive back into Botswana. We now visit Chobe National Park with optional river cruise or gamedrive (either at own expense) . Chobe is particularly known for its elephant population - an estimated 40000 animals roam within the park boundaries. Tonight we camp near in Kasane close to the Chobe River.

DAY 9 - 12
Maun, Okavango Delta
Bx4 Lx2 Dx4
Camping

There may be a final opportunity to take the optional game drive in Chobe before we leave for Maun in central Botswana. Maun is the gateway to one of the world's most unique and beautiful ecosystems – The Okavango Delta. This beautiful region is a natural wetland system spreading over some 1.6 million hectares of northern Botswana resulting from rivers that flow south from Angola, and dividing repeatedly on the flat Botswana plains to form an intricate floodplain of channels and an inland 'delta', the only one of its kind in the world. We spend two nights camping in the wilderness with experienced and knowledgeable 'polers' who guide you through the labyrinthine channels in dug-out canoe (mokoro), and on foot.

We camp on one of the islands in the middle of the Okavango, a true wilderness experience, especially so at night when you sleep to the sounds of the African bush which stretches for miles all around.

DAY 13
Maun, Khama Rhino Sanctuary
B D
Camping

For those wanting more adventure there is an opportunity for scenic flights over the Okavango area (time permitting and at own expense), which is a superb way to appreciate the immensity of this 'water world'.

Eventually we leave Maun for the Khama Rhino Sanctuary situated not far from the South African border. In 1989 a group of locals wished to convert the Serwe Pan, previously a hunting area, into a conservation region for the rhino that inhabit the area. The Pan was chosen because of its 'rhino-friendly' habitat and its proximity to a Botswana Defence Force base which could provide 24 hour protection. Located on the edge of the vast Kalahari, which is a prime habitat for white rhino, zebra, wildebeest and giraffe we can see game at several of the reserve's natural waterholes. Khama is a community based wildlife project which benefits the local community and protects a great many endangered rhino.

DAY 14
Johannesburg
B

On our last day we travel into South Africa to Johannesburg ending our tour in the late afternoon/early evening.

TOUR INFORMATION

TOUR STYLE

Acacia Small Group Safari

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Tour highlights, transport, accommodation, bedding, meals as indicated, camping equipment, services of an English speaking driver and tour leader

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Visas, travel insurance, flights, airport transfers, optional activities, laundry, tips to driver & local guides, passport & visa fees & items of a personal nature.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is in twin share dome tents with ground sheets and mosquito nets. We stay in designated campsites in comfortable and in picturesque locations with toilet and shower facilities and perhaps a swimming pool, restaurant and bar, allowing you to relax at the end of the day. Two nights are spend bush camping on an island in the Okavango Delta with very basic facilities.

TRANSPORT

Minibus or microbus, dug-out canoe (mokoro)

MEALS

Meals are mainly prepared in camp by the tour leader and group members are invited to assist. We use fresh produce wherever available and are able to cater for special dietary requirements, providing you advise us in advance.

TOUR PREPARATION

BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent pre-departure information and related documents. 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. Your travel agent can advise on flights to and from the start and finish of your tour.

JOINING INFORMATION

Meeting 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
 Website: www.backpackers-ritz.co.za

Tour start time: 05:00 on day 1

Tour end point in **Johannesburg**: **As above**

Tour end time: Late afternoon/ early evening on day 14.

EXTENDING YOUR STAY

We recommend you arrive the day before and take a few extra days in Livingstone/ Vic Falls before the tour to enjoy more of the activities on offer in the area. We also recommend a stay overnight in Johannesburg the night of day 7. 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 in June/July for the 2010 World Cup - please therefore contact Acacia or your agent to check current prices.

Description	Price (GBP)	Description	Price (GBP)
Johannesburg		Livingstone	
Pre/Post tour accommodation – Dorm pp/pn	£16	Accommodation twin Adventure tent	13
Pre/Post tour accommodation – Twin pp/pn	£23	Accommodation single adventure tent	19
Pre/Pos 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 will need a sleeping bag (which can be hired: ZAR 100). We recommended you pack a small torch, mosquito spray and a money pouch/ belt that can be easily hidden and worn beneath your clothing. Please try to avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use your hotel safe to store the bulk of your money, passport, and airline tickets.

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 note some areas visited are **malarial**. We recommend you speak to your doctor or travel clinic about 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	R
Zambia	R	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	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes									
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 any 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 exchanged 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; Zambia – Zambian Kwacha; Botswana – Pula.
- **ATM machines** are found throughout South Africa, Botswana and Livingstone although may be unreliable (and so we ask that you please do not rely on them). Please bear in mind that only Local currency will be dispensed so they cannot be relied upon for drawing your Local Payment
- **Credit cards** may be used to pay for larger optional activities although fees for use may be higher than you are accustomed to at home. Fees may be high by western standards (5% is not uncommon).
- **Travellers cheques** can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

LOCAL PAYMENT

The Local Payment (LP) set out in the brochure is to be paid to the tour leader on arrival at the start of the tour in US\$ cash. It is used to pay for running costs on the road. NB Travellers' cheques and credit cards are not accepted as means of paying your Local Payment; it is a US\$ cash only payment.

TIPPING

As in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy, tipping has become a custom, especially where for local guides for services rendered. Naturally however this remains a decision for you and you alone and would in any event depend on the level of service provided.

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 (subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price (US\$)	Activity	Price (US\$)
Kruger National Park		Crocodile Farm	\$20
Kruger Night Game Drive	\$45	Zambezi Sunset Cruise	\$45 - 70
Livingstone		Bungy Jump over the Falls	\$90-155
Abseiling/ Gorge Swing x 2	\$100-130	Chobe National Park	
Zambezi Jet Boating & Cable Car	\$110	Chobe Open Vehicle Safari	\$45
Elephant back safari	\$160	Chobe 'Fish Eagle' River Cruise	\$45
Riverboarding	\$150	Okavango Delta	
Flights over the Falls (various modes)	\$135 - \$270	Okavango Delta Flight	\$80 - \$90
Lion Encounter	\$140-225		

NB The above costs have been converted into approximate US dollars for convenience. Expect to pay for some optionals in the local currency.

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 help provide specialist travel insurance for this tour through our local operator. Please contact Acacia for more information.

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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