

ACACIA AFRICA

REDISCOVER ZIMBABWE - TOUR DOSSIER

TOUR CODE – RZ7

VICTORIA FALLS – VICTORIA FALLS

7 DAYS

Tour departure – 09h00 from Victoria Falls Adventure Lodge, Victoria Falls

HIGHLIGHTS

Hwange National Park
Hwange concession night-drive
Wild Dog Project
Matopos National Park
Great Zimbabwe National Monument
Antelope Park - Private Game Reserve

A safari of discovery through a magnificent country forgotten by tourism for the last decade, combining some of the best Game Parks and Reserves, the culture and history of ancient monuments and sites and an introduction to the wonderfully welcoming people of Zimbabwe.



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: 7 Days
Countries visited: Zimbabwe

DAY 1
Bulawayo
L D
Camping

Departing Victoria Falls we drive south for Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second city. The afternoon is yours to explore at leisure. Bulawayo is a pleasant city with broad tree-lined avenues and wide open spaces. There is a fascinating National History Museum, which recounts much of Zimbabwe's traditional and colonial past; also near the Old Town Hall there is a lively curio market where you can try your bartering skills if you see a bargain. A wide array of handicrafts and artwork are on display here made by skilful local craftsmen and women.

DAY 2
Bulawayo / Matopos National Park
B L D
Camping

Matopos National Park is located a short distance outside Bulawayo and knowledgeable guides will take us to this very beautiful park. The wind-sculptured Matobo Hills are the site of numerous Bushman paintings and the area holds a special cultural and spiritual importance to the indigenous people. It is also the burial site - at 'World's End' - of Cecil John Rhodes, the 19th century pioneer and colonialist.

The reserve has the largest concentration of Black and White Rhino in Africa and provided conditions are right our guides will lead us on foot to some of the concealed places in search of these magnificent animals. Approaching these huge herbivores is a heart racing and memorable experience.

DAY 3
Great Zimbabwe
Bx1 Lx1 Dx1
Camping

Leaving Bulawayo we cross towards the east of the country to the small town of Masvingo. Nearby is one of the most important archaeological sites in Southern Africa: the Great Zimbabwe National monument. Once the home to an indigenous population of some 10,000 people and dating back to 1200AD, the area holds special significance to the country which took its name. We camp nearby for easy access and ample time to explore the ruins at leisure. If you have the energy trek to the top of the Hill Enclosure to enjoy the peaceful African sunset.

DAY 4
Antelope Park, Gweru
B L D
Camping

Located on Zimbabwe's central plateau, we pass through the town of Gweru and make camp at the Antelope Park Private Game Reserve. This is home to numerous antelope as well as zebra and giraffe. There is the opportunity to try various (optional) activities here including game drives, (or walks), elephant back riding, river cruise, horse riding or even to try "Walking with the Lions" where you "join the pride" and venture out into the bush with several 6-18 month old lion cubs. Walk where they walk and go where they go; enjoy their play and exploration of their world – a real 'Africa' experience.

DAY 5
Hwange National Park
Bx1 Dx1
Camping

This morning we have the opportunity to try further activities before we leave the Antelope Park and head for the world famous Hwange National Park. Zimbabwe's largest and best known game park was (in early 19th century) the royal hunting grounds of the Ndebele warrior-king Mzilikazi and in 1929 was set aside as a National Park. The Park covers an area of over 14,600 sq kms and is particularly known for its elephant populations. We take a night game drive in a game concession area adjacent to the National Park where we search for a variety of nocturnal animals including the ever elusive leopard.

DAY 6
Hwange National Park
Bx1 Lx1 Dx1
Camping

Today we transfer to open safari vehicles and enter the Hwange National Park. Located in the far west of the country, Hwange sits in a remarkable belt of Africa, extending into neighbouring Botswana. As well as elephant the park contains over 100 mammal species including Africa's "Big 5" (leopard, lion, elephant, rhino and buffalo), giraffe, gemsbok and the brown hyena. There will be a morning game drive, after which we return to camp for lunch and to relax through the heat of the day. Later in the afternoon we head out again for another game drive hoping to glimpse wildlife not seen earlier. We return to camp at dusk for overnight.

DAY 7
Victoria Falls
Bx1

Our final day is spent returning to Victoria Falls. On the way we visit the Hwange Wild Dog project. Here we see the efforts made to rehabilitate and release injured and orphaned wild-dog. This is extremely valuable work on a species thought to number a mere 3000 remaining individuals in all of Africa. We then continue to the 'Falls' and the end of our journey. Be sure to allow some extra time here to enjoy the spectacular 'Falls' themselves and the mighty Zambezi River.

TOUR INFORMATION

TOUR STYLE

Acacia Small Group Safari. These safaris are operated by a locally based (African) ground handlers who have maintained standards at a high level over a period of time. We believe that working with a local operator in this way assists the community to benefit in a sustainable way from tourism. At the same time it provides our clients with the extensive local knowledge and enthusiasm of the local staff and guides employed to ensure your safari is as enjoyable as it is memorable.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Tour highlights, transport, use of all camping equipment, meals as indicated, 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 and a sleeping bag or similar for camping.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is 2 person dome tents in designated campsites with shared facilities. Mattresses provided. Please bring your own sleeping bag. Overnight temperatures vary widely depending on the time of year: from Oct - Mar it may remain at around 20 Celsius through the night but in the (southern) winter months Apr - Sept it can fall to zero!

TRANSPORT

Minibus or 12 safari – truck; open safari vehicle in Hwange and Matopos National parks.

MEALS

Meals included are stated in the itinerary.

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. Victoria Falls has an international airport with good connections to/from Johannesburg. Your travel agent can advise on flights to and from the start and finish of your tour.

JOINING INFORMATION

Tour starting/ending point in **Victoria Falls**:
Address:

Victoria Falls Adventure Lodge

Strand 954 Corner of
Pioneer Rd & Spencer St
Victoria Falls
Zimbabwe

Contact details:

Tel. + 263 13 44424

Tour start time:

09:00 on day 1

Tour end time:

Early/ mid afternoon on Day 7

PRE TOUR ACCOMMODATION

This tour departs Victoria Falls on day 1; we strongly recommend 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 the Victoria Falls area. Accommodation is usually available locally on arrival and there is a variety of activities and excursions in the area – not least of which is the Victoria Falls National Park which you can walk to from town and wander through at leisure (USD 30 entry fee) – for some spectacular (and unfenced – please take care!) views of the Zambezi River and the 'Falls themselves.

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. A Sleeping Bag or similar will be required for camping. We recommended you pack a small torch or headlamp, mosquito spray and a money pouch/ belt that is 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.

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.

Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
Zimbabwe	R	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.

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
Zimbabwe	Yes																

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

MONEY MATTERS

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.

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.. US dollars is the currency of Zimbabwe..
- **ATM machines** are found in Bulawayo & Victoria Falls but please note they may not be reliable.
- **Credit cards** can be used to pay for larger optional activities although there may be a small charge for using it. NB: the Antelope Park accepts cash only for optional activities.
- **Travellers cheques** can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

TIPPING

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 at the end of a tour for services rendered. This is at your own discretion.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

In order to give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer a number of optional activities. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price (US\$)	Activity	Price (US\$)
Livingstone			
Abseiling/ Gorge Swing x 2	\$60/ \$80	Elephant Back Safari	\$120
Zambezi Jet Boating & Cable Car	\$100	Jet Boat – Helicopter Combo	\$250
Horse Riding	\$70 - \$120	Fishing Safaris half/ full day	\$230 - \$330
Riverboarding combo	\$155	Lion Encounter	\$125
Flights over the Falls (various modes)	\$120 - \$255	Vic Falls tour	\$45
Flying Fox	\$35	Bungy Jump over the Falls	\$120



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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