

ACACIA AFRICA

VICTORIA FALLS & GAME PARKS- TOUR DOSSIER

TOUR CODE – VFG5

VICTORIA FALLS – VICTORIA FALLS

5 DAYS

Tour departure – **Meet upon arrival at Victoria Falls Airport**

HIGHLIGHTS

Victoria Falls
Zambezi Sunset cruise
Hwange National Park
Wild dog Project
Guided tour of Victoria Falls

A great 5-day break near Victoria Falls, combining the largest curtain of falling water on earth with a memorable visit to Zimbabwe's Hwange Game Park and an introduction to the wonderfully welcoming people of this beautiful country.

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.

This tour is operated in association with a local operator. Acacia is proud to be working with local companies supporting local communities.

Duration: 5 Days
Countries visited: Zimbabwe

DAY 1 Hwange National Park Dx1 Lodge

Today we leave Victoria Falls and head south through teak and mopane forests, local villages and the coal mining town of Hwange before arriving at Zimbabwe's premier National Park. In the far west of the country, Hwange National Park sits in a remarkable belt of Africa, that extends into Botswana and lays claim to home of the largest surviving continuous elephant population. As well as healthy elephant herds the park is home to over 100 mammal species including the Big 5, giraffe, gemsbok and brown hyena. The park's conservation project with its wild dog population has been a recent success story and is thought to be one of the largest surviving groups in Africa. On arrival to the border of the park we check into our lodge accommodation where we have time to relax and chill beside the pool or sit quietly by the waterhole. Here we hope to see all the animals come in to drink the water in the heat of the day.

DAY 2 Hwange National Park/ Wild Dog Project Bx1 Lx1 Dx1 Lodge

The following morning we are out early for some game viewing. Hwange borders the Kalahari Desert in Botswana and at certain times of the year the landscape is quite dry. However, by driving between waterholes we are able to maximise our chances of seeing animals as they come to the water to quench their thirst. Before returning to our lodge we take a visit to the Hwange's Wild Dog project. Here we take a fascinating guided tour of the centre to see the efforts going into the rehabilitation and release of injured and orphaned dogs. This is extremely valuable work being carried out, on a species of which there are thought to be only 3000 individuals remaining in the world. This afternoon/evening we have the opportunity to take another game drive in the game concession area adjacent to the National Park. This game drive will continue after sunset giving you the opportunity to see the game under spotlight.

DAY 3
**Hwange National Park/
Victoria Falls**
Lodge (Bx1)

Today we will embark on our final game drive to find any animals you may not have spotted before leaving back to Victoria Falls. Upon arrival to the falls you have the opportunity to settle in to your comfortable garden guesthouse/lodge on the edge of Victoria Falls town before your afternoon activity. Once you have settled you will join professional guides for a game walk in the Zambezi National Park which is located on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River and close to the mighty Victoria Falls themselves. Here you have the opportunity to see wildlife as you walk the guided trails of the park. In the evening you have the opportunity to treat yourself to local cuisine in the many beautiful restaurants in the town or simply relax at your lodgings and soak up the day's adventures.

DAY 4
Victoria Falls
Bx1
Lodge

Today is yours at leisure. This day is designed to allow you to try some of the numerous activities on offer in the Victoria Falls area. There is something to suit all tastes. For adrenaline seekers why not get wet and wild, white water rafting the Zambezi or taking a popular jet boat ride. Alternatively jump at the Bakota Gorge's 111m bungy site, experience, a gorge swing or try abseiling above the rapids.

For something more sedate, take a canoe safari on the Upper Zambezi and paddle the river past elephants and wallowing hippo. Enjoy scenic flights over the Falls by helicopter and plane or take an elephant back safari, riding atop one of the Big 5 for a unique game walk in the African bush.

In the afternoon we head out to the Upper Zambezi River for a late afternoon cruise. Enjoying a few sundowners and buffet dinner as we watch the hippos and crocodiles languish nearby, is a great way to enjoy your Victoria Falls break.

DAY 5
Victoria Falls
Bx1

This morning we visit Victoria Falls National Park and take walks to the many look out points which you can see Africa's natural spectacle. Mosi-oa-Tunya' - the 'smoke that thunders' (the local name for Victoria Falls) is one of Africa's most enduring sights: – one of the seven Natural Wonders of the World and a World Heritage Site. The river is 1,708 metres wide at the top and drops between 90 and 107 metres into the Batoka Gorge, with an average of 550,000 cubic metres water/minute plunging over the edge. In high water season between April and May spray can be seen from 20-30 kilometres away. Our tour finishes on return to our lodge and a transfer to the Airport for your onward flights.

TOUR INFORMATION

TOUR STYLE

Acacia Small Group Safari

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Tour highlights, transport, accommodation, Victoria Falls airport transfers, meals as indicated, cooking and camping equipment and services of an English speaking driver and tour leader.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

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

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is a comfortable lodge with en suite facilities, a swimming pool and bar

TRANSPORT

Minibus or microbus, River boat

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 as a transfer is included please ensure that you provide us with your flight arrival details so that we can arrange the transfer accordingly. Victoria Falls has an international airport and has regular flights from Johannesburg, southern Africa's main gateway.

JOINING INFORMATION

Tour meeting point in **Victoria Falls**: Pick up at Victoria Falls Airport on arrival.
Please provide us with your arrival details.
Tour start time: Upon on day 1 but no later than 2pm.
Tour end time: A transferred to Victoria Falls Airport is included in the price.

EXTENDING YOUR STAY

If you require extra accommodation before or after your tour this can be pre booked. Please contact Acacia or your agent for details.

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. 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 | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | 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

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, however you can spend Rand, Pula in the supermarkets
- **Currencies** are as follows: US Dollars - USD
- **ATM machines** are found in Victoria Falls. Please note they are sometimes unreliable.
- **Credit cards** can be used to pay for larger optional activities although there may be a small charge for using it.
- **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 on the tour. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (subject to change and availability).

| Activity | Price (US\$) | Activity | Price (US\$) |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--|---------------|
| Full Day Rafting | \$120 | Livingstone | |
| Jet Boating | \$100 | Crocodile Farm | \$20 |
| Helicopter Flight over the Falls | \$125-\$240 | Zambezi Sunset Cruise | \$47- \$68 |
| Elephant Safari | \$120 | Bungy Jump over the Falls | \$120 |
| Meal at "The Boma" | \$50 | Riverboarding | \$150 |
| Abseiling/ Gorge Swing x 2 | \$115 | Flights over the Falls (various modes) | \$120 - \$240 |
| Zambezi Jet Boating & Cable Car | \$100 | Flying Fox | \$35 |
| Horse Riding | \$70 - \$120 | Abseiling/ Gorge Swing x 2 | \$35/ \$115 |

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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