



# The Wildlife & Culture of Botswana & Zimbabwe

**Wildlife... Culture... Victoria Falls.... amazing accommodation and guiding too! Fly between different ecosystems from the wetlands of the Okavango Delta to the grasslands to the arid Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe. Along the way, see incredible wildlife - up close and personal! Choose your budget according to lodges - but of course this is just an example of what we can do for you - customize how you like! One thing won't change... this is truly a trip of a lifetime!**

**Day 1 - In Transit from Canada to London/Amsterdam - usually an overnight flight.**

**Day 2 - In Transit from London/Amsterdam to Johannesburg - usually an overnight flight.**

**Day 3 - D'Oreale Grand, Johannesburg, SA (1 night):** Arrive in Johannesburg, South Africa where you will pass through immigration, pick up your luggage, clear customs and proceed outside where a driver will be waiting for you and transfer you to the D'Oreale Grand Hotel on a B&B basis. The rest of the day at leisure to R&R and get ready for your safari!

**D'Oreale Grand Hotel, Johannesburg** - Similar to the well-known Caesars resorts in Las Vegas, Atlantic City and Lake Tahoe, the deluxe five-star D'Oreale Grande Hotel features 196 beautifully appointed rooms and suites, which provide the optimum in convenience and regal comfort. Fitted with state-of-the-art facilities, each room overlooks either the front gardens with their magnificent sculpture of Caesar the Conqueror, or the panoramic views across the landscaped Gardens of Vespasian. Overlooking the magnificent gardens and pool area of D'Oreale Grande Hotel, the elegant conservatory-style Aurelia's Restaurant adapts from a light and breezy breakfast and lunch ambience to a sophisticated dining experience by night. There is a mall attached to the hotel that has a number of restaurants, shops and a wonderful museum with information on Nelson Mandela and his work. Very moving...



## **Day 4 - Botswana Okavango Delta**

**(3 nights):** Your adventure begins! You will take the hotel shuttle to the airport and connect with your Air Botswana BP212 flight departing Joberg at 1010hrs arriving Maun, Botswana at 1150hrs. Here we will be met and connect with a flight to the Okavango Delta on a full board basis for 3 nights. The next two full days and 3 nights will allow you to settle in and enjoy the area. Game activities include mokoro (dug out canoes) rides, boating, walking and game drives.

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**Option 1: Xigera Camp -**

[http://www.wildernesssafaris.com/botswana\\_okavango\\_delta/xigera\\_camp/](http://www.wildernesssafaris.com/botswana_okavango_delta/xigera_camp/) - Nestled in a magnificent riverine forest, Xigera Camp epitomizes the region: a tranquil true Okavango Delta experience. Xigera Camp feels like a place apart, a blue-green bubble in which birds sing and baboons bark, people laugh and glide by on mokoro. Each tent looks out over water that idles dreamily past, undisturbed by the urban cacophony of modern living

**Option 2: Camp Okavango - [www.desertdelta.com](http://www.desertdelta.com)** Camp Okavango's elegant thatch and lethaka main lodge building, shaded by giant Mangosteen Trees, features a cocktail bar, lounge and wildlife reference library. The dining room leads onto an expansive open-air patio for evenings around the fireside offering guests a chance to view the stars beneath the crystal clear skies of Botswana. Other facilities include a secluded bird-viewing hide and a sun-kissed deck with plunge pool for relaxing during the hot midday hours.

**Option 3: Pom Pom Camp - <http://www.pompomcamp.com/>:** The main building is attractively designed and constructed of thatch and canvas and comprises lounge, dining, bar and pool areas, as well as a gift shop and the boma area. The swimming pool is situated close to the main lodge and the bar, making a perfect location to enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the heat of the day. Accommodation consists of nine luxury safari tents in true traditional safari style, all with full en-suite semi open ablution facilities. Eight en-suite safari tents with overlooking views of the Pom Pom lagoon. The tents are uniquely positioned under the shade of the surrounding trees.

**Day 5 & 6:** Full days at the camp enjoying amazing wildlife by foot, vehicle and boat!

**Day 7 - Botswana Grasslands (3 nights):** A short flight takes you to the grasslands where you will enjoy some of the best wildlife viewing including elephant, zebra, antelope, gazelles and all the predators - lion, leopard cheetah and the endangered wild dog. Don't forget the amazing birdlife! Activities include game drives and walks with your incredible guides! B,L,D



**Option 1: Duma Tau -**

[http://www.wilderness-safaris.com/botswana\\_linyanti\\_selinda/dumatau\\_camp/](http://www.wilderness-safaris.com/botswana_linyanti_selinda/dumatau_camp/) DumaTau Camp is a ten-roomed luxury tented camp located in the private 125 000-hectare Linyanti Wildlife Reserve which borders the western boundary of Chobe National Park in northern Botswana. It is situated close to the source of the Savute Channel on one of the many lagoons within the Linyanti Swamp system, which makes game drives along the Savute one of the highlights of a stay here. DumaTau Camp lies under a shady grove of mangosteen trees, raised off the ground to overlook a large hippo-filled lagoon. The tents are spacious, under thatch with canvas walls, en-suite bathroom facilities and an outside shower. Guests can enjoy the night sounds of Africa from the comfort of their rooms, and shower under the stars! There is a dining room, pub, lounge, swimming pool and a special guest bathroom with a fantastic view.

The region has all the habitat diversity to make it a haven for wildlife, and is well known for its elephant concentrations as they congregate along the waterways and lagoons during the dry winter months. General wildlife viewing is excellent year round including impala, wildebeest, red lechwe, Burchell's zebra, giraffe, Cape buffalo, chacma baboon, vervet monkey, and warthog. Predator sightings of lion, leopard, cheetah, wild dog and spotted hyena are good.

**Option 2: Savuti Safari Lodge [www.desertdelta.com](http://www.desertdelta.com):** The area is renowned for its population of bull elephant and for the unique interaction of the resident predator species. The close proximity of wildlife translates itself into the recently refurbished, modern African décor. All suites have private decks, combined bedroom and sitting areas and en-suite facilities. The sitting area, library and cocktail bar are situated in an exquisite thatch and timber main building. Savute boasts a viewing deck, an al fresco dining area and swimming pool – which is



ideal for watching game at the waterhole. These features set the lodge apart from other typical safari destinations. Open 4x4 game drives are conducted in the Savute area, including the famous Savute Marsh, and the ancient San rock paintings at Gubatsa Hills, add magic to a delightful African safari.

**Option 3: Linyati Bush Camp - [www.africanbushcamps.com](http://www.africanbushcamps.com):**

Linyanti Bush Camp is a small, intimate 12 bedded tented camp on the banks of the Linyanti marshes in a private reserve, which borders the western boundary of Chobe in the

Chobe Enclave. The camp is limited to small exclusive groups who seek a personalized experience in a private concession away from the main tourists routes. Activities from the camp consists of game drives, walking, spot lighting and hides. This safari camps provides the perfect atmosphere for an authentic and wild safari experience. The area is best known for its large populations of Elephant and buffalo that congregate in vast numbers especially during the dry season. Lion, sable, roan, leopard, wild dog, and a number of the plains game can be enjoyed at Linyanti. The rare and elusive sitatunga antelope, red lechwe, hippo and crocodile can be found in the surrounding marshes. The Linyanti Swamps are one of the most attractive areas in the park as it is the only source of water in the dry months where a lot of the wildlife moves to, boasting a great diversity of game and a restful atmosphere. The area's relative remoteness makes it a favoured wild safari destination and one of the best areas in Northern Botswana. The area also offers spectacular birding all year round and is best known for its enormous herds of elephants which move down to the Linyanti River at the start of the winter months and only move back inland once the main rains arrive

**Day 8 & 9:** Full days to watch incredible wildlife interactions by foot and vehicle!

B,L,D

**Day 10 - Ilala Lodge, Zimbabwe - [www.ilalalodge.com](http://www.ilalalodge.com) (1 night):** Leave the Botswana bush behind as you fly to Kasane Botswana and then transferred by road to the Ilala Lodge in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe on a B&B basis. B

**Day 11 - Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe (3 nights):** Depart Victoria Falls by road as you travel through the countryside to Hwange National Park - a special place!

**Hwange National Park** - Hwange National Park is one of Africa's finest havens for wildlife and is home to vast herds of elephant, buffalo, zebra and has a very large concentration of giraffe. It is also home to many predators and endangered species plus very large and varied birdlife. The park is situated on the main road between Bulawayo and the world famous Victoria Falls. Hwange National Park covers just over 14,600 square kilometers.



The Park is home to 105 mammal species, including 19 large herbivores and eight large carnivores. Elephant make up the largest proportion of the biomass. All Zimbabwe's specially protected animals are to be found in Hwange and it is the only protected area where gemsbok and brown hyena occur in reasonable numbers. The population of wild dog to be found in Hwange is thought to be of one of the largest surviving groups in Africa today. The landscape includes desert sand to sparse woodland as well as grasslands and granite outcrops. Due to the lack of water, man-made waterholes were introduced to sustain the animals through the dry season. The

park has an interesting variety of landscapes with one part running alongside the Northeastern end of the Kalahari Desert. The south is sandy with extensive forests and open grassland. A feature of the area is ancient fossil dunes - ancient sand dunes held together by vegetation. To travel through Hwange National Park today is to see what much of the interior of Africa might have been like more than 150 years ago.

**Option 1/2: Makalolo Plains, Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe:**

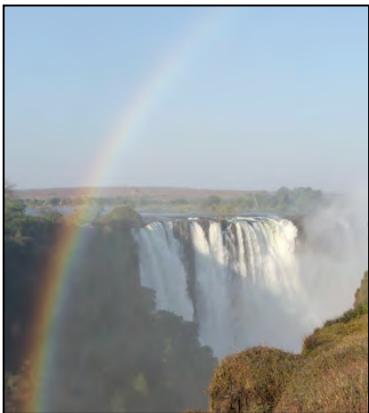
**[http://www.wilderness-safaris.com/zimbabwe\\_hwange/makalolo\\_plains\\_camp/](http://www.wilderness-safaris.com/zimbabwe_hwange/makalolo_plains_camp/)**

Makalolo Plains, situated in a remote and private concession within the vast Hwange National Park, is one of the few camps built within the Park. Hwange is legendary for its wonderful array of wildlife, particularly the massive herds of elephant and buffalo, and summer sees the large antelope herds migrate onto the plains, closely followed by large predators. The camp is built on raised teak decks and boardwalks, providing panoramic unique views over the Somavundla Pan with its excellent concentrations of wildlife. Accommodation consists of ten large, comfortable tented rooms with en-suite facilities as well as an outdoor shower for those who enjoy showering under the stars. The lighting in the rooms is battery-powered so there is peace and quiet in camp, allowing one to listen to the sounds of the bushveld instead. The main area has a lounge, pub, plunge pool and dining area where delicious meals are served. While the emphasis is on game drives, night drives and guided walks, well-situated hides or raised viewing platforms provide the ideal manner to while away the lazy midday hours, watching wildlife come down to the waterholes to drink.

### Option 3: Somalisa Camp

<http://www.africanbushcamps.com/bush-camps-zimbabwe/somalisa-camp>:

Somalisa Camp is set in the heart of Hwange National Park, known as the land of the giants for its big elephant herds. Somalisa is an authentic bush camp, a blend of old African charm and elegance together with an exclusive safari experience. Its stunning location tucked away on an acacia island along the edge of an ancient seasonal flood plain gives it breath-taking views of the savannah plains of the famous Kennedy Vlei. Only six elegantly furnished canvas tents with en suite bathrooms, flush toilet and romantic alfresco bush shower make up this camp. The décor echoes of an old era, from colonial to the ancient tribes of Africa, telling the story from all corners of this magnificent continent. It's stunning main area and pool lends to complete relaxation, whether it be with a cup of tea or one of our refreshing cocktails; overlooking the pan where the herds of game congregate in large herds, offering rare moments of outstanding nature. Your senses will be awakened and you will feast on our sumptuous cuisine, a balance of organic produce and innovative gourmet meals complemented by a choice of South African and Australian wines. Our meals are inspired by the Far East, Europe and Africa. The use of solar lighting ensures your comfort without interfering with the environment and the area's natural surrounds. The lounge and dining area is at the forefront of the camp, tucked under a soaring canopy of trees.



**Day 12 & 13:** Full days to enjoy this great park.

**Day 14 - Ilala Lodge, Victoria Falls:** Today you head back to Victoria Falls by air and time to visit the Smoke that Thunders (\$20USD park fees extra). Vic Falls is a great place to shop or if you crave more adventure, there is white water rafting, bungee jumping or a host of other activities. B

**Day 15 - In Transit:** Depart from Victoria Falls to Johannesburg connecting to your flight home arriving the next day or carry on to Cape Town.... The Garden Route.... Europe.... London...

### Land Only Based on Two People Sharing - Approximate pricing for 2011 - Subject to Change

Season - Pricing in Canadian \$	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Low - Jan to June 15, Nov 15 to Dec 15	\$9995	\$8795	\$8095
High - June 15 to Nov 15, Easter & Christmas	\$12,995	\$11,995	\$10,995

**International Air - From \$2800.00 CDN per person (depending on airline and availability)**

**ALL INCLUSIVE OF:**

Predeparture package with unlimited information, Luxury accommodation & meals as stated in itinerary, Air and ground transportation between lodges, Game activities and park entry fees, Safari luggage and safari shirt.

**WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:**

Items of a personal nature; cancellation, baggage, emergency evacuation or medical insurance; visa's for Zimbabwe (\$65USD) and their respective fees; meals and activities not stated; any new Government taxes; Departure taxes of approximately US\$30 per person

**CLIMATE:** Mainly temperate. Summer, between October and April, can be very hot, but daytime temperatures typically hover around 30°C (86°F). The rainy season lasts from January to March. Winter, from May to September, brings cooler weather with an average temperature of 25°C (77°F); early mornings and evenings may be cold and frosty, particularly in the Kalahari. The average annual rainfall decreases westwards and southwards.

*While we at Nature Encounters Tours & Travel try to keep our pricing competitive for our guests, we do not have control over increases in game park fees, fuel surcharges or the value of our dollar - to name a few. We will endeavor to inform our guests of increases as soon as we hear about them and add those increases, at our cost only, to our guest invoices.*

**To Book Your Safari Contact:**

**Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Ltd. Toll Free 1-866-949-3007**

**carol@natureencounterstours.com www.natureencounterstours.com**

**Extend Your Safari! The Garden Route, The Winelands and Cape Town**

**Fancourt Hotel, George 3 nights B&B [www.fancourt.co.za](http://www.fancourt.co.za):** Fly from Vic Falls to Joberg and on to George where you will be met by your private guide who will show you the amazing sights in Knysna, George and Plettenburg Bay. "GO-AS-YOU-PLEASE" basis.

**Le Quartier Francais, Franschoek 1 night B&B [www.lqf.co.za](http://www.lqf.co.za):** Depart to the Winelands for a full day tour & wine tasting with your private driver/guide. Entry fees and meals not included. Arrive at Le Quartier Francaise where you will check in and the rest of your day will be at leisure.

**Table Bay Hotel, Cape Town 3 nights B&B - [www.lhw.com/tablebay](http://www.lhw.com/tablebay):** More winelands touring then your guide will drive you back to Cape Town and the Table Bay Hotel. City Tour & Table Mountain Half-Day Tour & Cape Point Tour Full Day Tour respectively with your private driver/guide included. Entry fees and meals not included Return to Table Bay Hotel for overnight. Next day at leisure - possible Robben Island Tour on own or catch up your last minute shopping. Late in the day and transferred to the airport to connect with your flight home full of memories that only Africa can give!

Not inclusive of items of a personal nature, gratuities or drinks.

Pricing is based on availability.

**Garden Route and Cape Town Extension - Land Only Based on Two People Sharing**

**Approximately \$3000-4500.00 CDN per person sharing depending on dates, availability, accommodation. Option to tailor this extension according to budget/time.**

## About Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Ltd.

Welcome to Nature Encounters Tours & Travel! We have traveled the globe in search of destinations that will put you in touch with our passion – nature! Our experience, and that of our guides, is matched by a personalized service that keeps our clients returning to travel with us year after year. From the moment you inquire about a location to joining a small, intimate group departure – we are dedicated to ensuring your trip is memorable.

On safari, you can experience everything from watching a lioness care for her young in the hollow of an old tree to having a magnificent five-ton elephant display his enormous ears and mock charge your vehicle . . . or lay on a sandy beach that goes on for miles and miles while listening to the sound of the Indian Ocean. Your accommodation and meals, in either lodges or tented camps, range from truly comfortable to absolutely luxurious. Backpacking was never like this! Swimming pools, gardens and the fragrance of wild basil will surround you as your binoculars scout the magnificent scenery for cheetah, elephant, zebra, lilac breasted rollers, hyena, and tawny eagles to name a few. Your game activities can include driving in national parks watching for wildlife along the way, walking with an experienced guide looking for all the little things you may have missed by driving, and boating or canoeing – enjoying some of the most incredible rivers and lakes.

Ecotourism is an important part of the Nature Encounters Tours & Travel experience. Our clients are happy to contribute to a sustainable industry where the local people, as well as the wildlife, benefit from their visit. Be it the CAMPFIRE project in Zimbabwe, where the local fishing villages gain from having tourists visit and bring school supplies, or Daphne Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage in Kenya where our clients help provide financial assistance for anti-poaching efforts. Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Ltd. support many schools – such as the Jacob Basson School in Khorixas, Namibia, the A.I.C. Girls' School in Kajiado, Kenya, and conservation groups that are near and dear to us: the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, Jane Goodall Chimp Research in Gombe Stream and The Serengeti Lion Research Project to name a few. We do indeed walk the talk . . .

Our goal is to give our clients an experience they won't ever forget – from dancing with the Maasai in East Africa to enjoying watching the antics of a pair of polar bears enjoy a tussle in the snow to photographing and observing the many species that live in our great world.

**Join us for the vacation of a lifetime!**