



**Nature  
Encounters**  
**Tours & Travel**  
A part of Africa since 1990

# The Delta, The Desert & The River! Botswana & Zimbabwe

## September 2023!

Visit 4 different ecosystems! Enjoy the waterways of the Okavango Delta by mokoro (traditional canoe), the dry habitat of Hwange

National Park, Zimbabwe where herds of elephant are abundant and so are the big cats!

Then to the Lower Zambezi where you will have a chance to walk in the Mana Pools floodplain and glide down the river in a canoe (optional). Also included is a visit to “the Smoke that Thunders” – the mighty Victoria Falls! Wildlife viewing activities include boating, walking and driving to see elephant, giraffe, zebra, lion, leopard and more! Your accommodation is authentic Africa filled with all the conveniences such as ensuite washrooms! Couple that with amazing meals and expert guiding... Truly the trip of a lifetime!



**September 11/12/13, 2023: In transit from North America to Johannesburg, South Africa.**  
Option to stop over in Europe or arrive in Joburg a little early and maybe partake in a tour of historical Soweto and visit the Apartheid Museum or how about a few days in “The Mother City” – Cape Town? We would be happy to book your flights or extensions for you!

**September 12, 2023 – Cape Town, SA (1 night):** One night in Cape Town prior to the start of your safari! The group starts with one night in Cape Town, however, you are welcome to travel through Johannesburg on Sept. 20 if the works better for your flight schedule.

**September 13 – Camp Okavango -**  
<http://www.desertdelta.com/>  
**(3 nights):** Your safari begins as we connect with our flight to Maun Botswana and then a smaller plane to Camp Okavango 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 (dugout canoes) rides, boating and walking. B,L,D



Camp Okavango's main area comprises of a network of interconnected walkways linking up two lounge areas, a dining room, library, self-service bar and curio shop. Sweeping ramps lead to the lower level deck with two open-air fire pits and comfortable seating areas to relax and take in the natural surroundings. There is a third deck with a rim flow swimming pool and thatched lounge deck for those warm summer days. With its open-air design



and elevated position, the new Camp Okavango is an eco-sensitive lodge which captures the very essence of the Okavango Delta.

Water-based activities are conducted by experienced professional guides who will expertly navigate guests through the many meandering, reed-lined waterways. Roam the vast expanses of water from the comfort of a modern motorboat or explore the intricacies of the Okavango Delta the quiet old-fashioned way, in the traditional mokoro (dugout canoe). For those wanting to get a little closer to nature, guided bush walks are conducted on a number of the nearby islands, offering an opportunity to track some of the larger



land-based species that inhabit this water wilderness. Birding opportunities are outstanding and anglers may put their skill against bream and tiger fish. Camp Okavango is a water-based camp and game-drive activities, using safari vehicles, are not possible.



**September 14 & 15:** Full days at the camp enjoying amazing wildlife by foot & boat! B,L,D

**September 16 – Ilala Lodge, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (1 night):** A varied and long travel day as we fly to Kasane, Botswana and then by road through the Kazungula Border to the town site of Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe to our lodge on a B&B basis. Here we will visit the Smoke that Thunders! B,L

## **September 17 - Hwange National Park: Somalisa Camp**

(3 nights) - <http://www.africanbushcamps.com/camps-and-safaris/zimbabwe-safari-camps/somalisa-camp-in-hwange/>: More fun! We depart by road to Hwange National Park Main Camp passing through traditional Ndebele villages on your way. We will stop at a local school and meet some of the hard-working students. Also, today we will visit the Painted Dog Research Centre and have a chance to hear about their work. After lunch.... game drive Somalisa Camp, where we will spend three nights. B,L,D

**Somalisa Camp** is set in the heart of Hwange National Park, known as the land of the giants for its large elephant herds. An authentic tented bush camp, Somalisa Camp offers 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 breathtaking views of the savannah plains of the famous Kennedy Vlei line.



At Somalisa Camp, we will experience the heightened romance of the African Bush in one of the most natural environments in Africa. This is the way Africa was meant to be explored. The camp is made up of elegantly furnished canvas tents with en suite bathrooms, flush toilet and romantic alfresco bush showers. 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, offering rare moments with nature and outstanding experiences.

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. 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 surroundings. The lounge and dining area are at the forefront of the camp, tucked under a soaring canopy of trees. Wide and well-traversed elephant paths make up the paths connecting your room to the main area.

Activities include guided walks lead by qualified and passionate guides who will share their knowledge and love of the bush with you;

game drives and spot lighting as well as game viewing from hides.

#### The Area:

Walking and game drives will allow you the opportunity to observe elephant, kudu and sable antelope, zebra, wildebeest, gemsbok, the rare and endangered roan antelope, buffalo, giraffe, white rhino, lion, leopard, hyena, and many other wildlife species. The Kennedy Vlei is littered with flamboyant colors from all its seasonal wild flowers that emerge as the first

rains begin, and as the grass dries out, the large herds of buffalo, zebra and elephant are in abundance.

**September 18 & 19 :** Full days to enjoy the camp and this beautiful park.

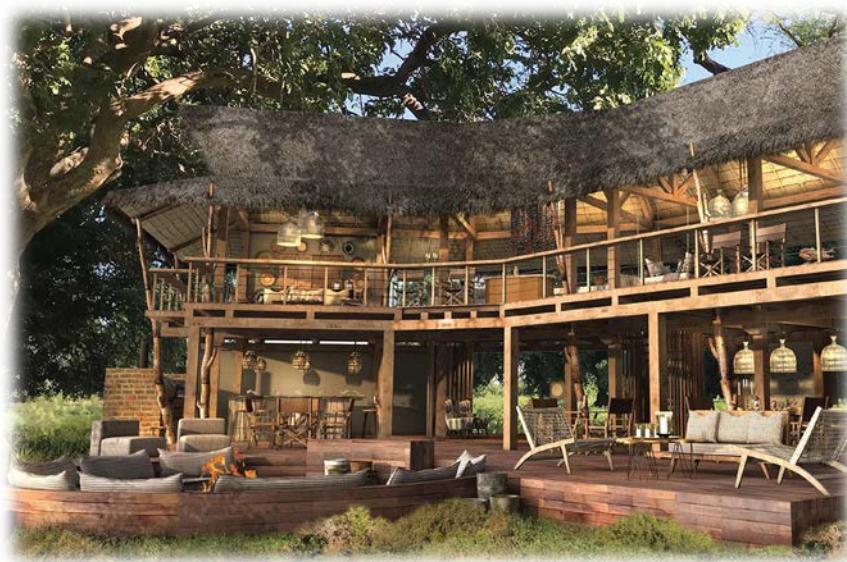
#### **September 20 – Nyamatusi Camp, Mana Pools National Park (3 nights)**

<https://africanbushcamps.com/camps/nyamatusi-camp/>: After breakfast at Somalisa Camp, we will be transferred by light aircraft from Hwange to Mana Pools and begin your 3 nights on the Zambezi River in our camp for an experience like no other.



**Nyamatusi Camp:** Set in one of the wildest and most remote parts of Africa, on the banks of one of the oldest rivers in the world, Nyamatusi allows guests to

experience an authentic view of the old untouched Africa. Inspired by the traditional custodians of the land who respected the river as the source of life, the design of the camp subtly incorporates the element of water and pays homage to the astounding beauty of the mighty Zambezi River. Here you will find luxury tented suites with uninterrupted views of the river and escarpment beyond, the



camp inspires a feeling of remoteness. There is an abundance of game and birds dance on the breeze. Guests are able to spend their days walking in the footsteps of ancient explorers and following the tracks of elephant. Here, visitors can watch the drama of the wild play out before their eyes on game drives and canoeing safaris and marvel at the incredible sights and sounds of one of Africa's last remaining wild frontiers.



**Mana Pools National Park** is an area that has been declared a world heritage site by UNESCO as the number of visitors to the park is strictly controlled. In Mana Pools the Zambezi River meanders through a wide valley, repeatedly splaying out into islands, channels and sandbanks, with escarpments rising dramatically on either side. Along the old banks of the river are the Four Pools, which give Mana its name – depressions filled with water in abandoned river channels.

Chine and Long Pool hold water throughout the year and attract large



animal concentrations in the dry season. Herds of Buffalo, elephants, a variety of antelope and predators roam the Mana Pools floodplain. It is quite common to see up to 10 different species of animal in one sweep on the Mana Pools flood plain in the dry months. Spending hours with a herd of buffalo or a few elephants, following predators hunting while on foot or canoeing past large pods of hippo will keep you awe inspired at the magical offerings of Mother Nature.



### Activities in Mana Pools

are diverse and range from game drives, exciting walking safaris, canoeing safaris and interactions with relatively relaxed wildlife in Mana Pools are unique. The combination of these interactions with such concentrations of wildlife and the sceneries dominated by the escarpment and river that characterize the rich alluvial floodplains create an unmistakable image.

**September 21 & 22:** The day usually starts with an early wake-up call followed by a light breakfast and a hot beverage. At about sunrise we will then embark on a morning activity which usually is a combination of a nature drive/walk or one of the two, a canoe safari or a boat cruise dependent on the area. This usually takes up to mid morning to midday when we return to camp for a brunch type meal. In the heat of the days we can go out on another activity, sit at a watering hole or along the river with our guide enjoying the scene and possibly wildlife coming for a midday drink or... relax and take a siesta in your tent. An afternoon

high tea will have the party ready for the afternoon adventure which is determined by what you want to do and wildlife around the area. We get back to the camp just after sunset. Going out for the whole day is also a popular way of enjoying different moods as the day progresses. Dinner is set under the stars with a 3-course bush meal specially prepared by our bush chef after which we sit around the fire sharing our experiences of the day, enjoy the sounds of the night & some stargazing before retiring to bed. B,L,D



**September 23, 2023 – Ilala Lodge, Victoria Falls (1 night):** Sadly, we say goodbye to the Zimbabwe bush and fly back to Victoria Falls for 1 night. Time to explore this fun town and have a traditional dinner tonight! B,D

**September 24, 2023 – In Transit:** Sadly, we say goodbye to the African bush as you will fly out of Victoria Falls to Johannesburg to connect to your international flight or extend your time in Africa! We'd be happy to design an itinerary perfect for your timing and budget! B

**Extension Options... See separate itineraries**

**Cape Town** - Start your vacation and recover from jet lag with 4 nights in Cape Town.

**Namibia** - Join Carol to visit this amazing land full of stunning landscapes & unique wildlife!



***The Desert, The Delta & the River... Botswana & Zimbabwe - Per Person Sharing***

**\*\*Pricing subject to change for 2023**

**8 - 10 Guests - \$15,995USD**

**15 - 18 Guests - \$14,995USD**

**11 - 14 Guests - \$15,395USD**

**Single Supplement - \$3095USD**

**Payment options –**

- USD Bank Draft or USD Cheque – amount above
- USD Credit Card – amount above plus 4% service fee
- CDN Cheque or E Transfer – amount will be the closest CDN/USD exchange rate we receive through our bank
- CDN Credit Card – amount will be the closest CDN/USD exchange rate we receive through our bank plus 4% service fee

*\*\*\*Please Note: Yes... we are a Canadian company and prefer to price in Canadian \$. Our ground operator's quote in USD and with the volatility of the exchange rate, we have decided to price in USD which allows our guests to make their best decision on currency & method of payment.*

**ALL INCLUSIVE OF:**

Predeparture package with unlimited information; Luxury accommodation & meals as stated in itinerary; Internal Air (starting Maun / ending Victoria Falls) and ground transportation between lodges; Game activities and park entry fees; Safari luggage, journal and safari shirt; Gratuities for guides and camp staff; Donation to a wildlife research group on location; Tour leading/guiding services of wildlife photographer and owner of Nature Encounters Tours & Travel - Carol Petersen

**WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:**

International Air (we would be happy to help you); Items of a personal nature; cancellation, baggage, emergency evacuation or medical insurance; visas for Zimbabwe (\$100CDN – we will coordinate for you) and their respective fees; meals and activities not stated; any new Government taxes; Departure taxes of approximately US\$30 per person

**Botswana & Zimbabwe climate** is semi-arid. Though it is hot & dry for much of the year, there is a rainy season, which runs November to March. Rainfall is erratic, unpredictable and highly regional. Often a heavy downpour may occur in one area while 10 or 15 kilometers away there is no rain at all. Showers are often followed by strong sunshine so that a good deal of the rainfall does not penetrate the ground but is lost to evaporation and transpiration. As a result of global warming weather patterns around the world are changing and Zimbabwe & Botswana are no exceptions. The following information on climate and what to expect from the bush is purely a guideline. Spring: September-October The climate is changing & winter is all but gone. With the oncoming threat of rain, the air becomes hot & October daytime temps head into the high 30's°C with nighttime temps averaging the low 20's°C.



*\*\*\*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.*

We would be happy to design an itinerary for any extension you would like to add. As a group we are offering 5 nights in Cape Town prior to your safari to recover from jet lag and The Best of Namibia after this safari. Happy to help you with a few nights in Amsterdam or Paris... or... what is your dream vacation?

## About Your Tour Leader - Carol Petersen



Wildlife photographer, videographer and Nature Encounters Tours & Travel owner Carol Petersen, is an avid wildlife advocate! Carol has been traveling to Africa since 1990 and led over 90 safaris to South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Namibia, Madagascar, Uganda, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, Egypt, Galapagos, Ecuador and India as well as river & ocean cruises in Europe, Mekon, Baltic & Antarctica. The quote "Once you've been a part of Africa, it becomes a part of you" best describes Carol's love for this special part of the world.

Whether it be canoeing down the Zambezi River within a few feet of a 5-ton bull elephant, capturing some precious moments with a family of wild gorillas, watching a pair of blue-footed booby's do their magical courting dance or following the alarm calls of Langur Monkey's in hopes of finding the very endangered Bengal Tiger.... that is Carol's idea of spending quality time.

In her dedication to preserving wild spaces, she encourages travelers' goers to walk lightly and appreciate these special places challenges. Carol walks the talk by contributing to environmental groups such as The Friends of the Galapagos, Daphne Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage, The Cheetah Conservation Fund and Wildlife SOS in India. Other special projects include providing radio collars for lion conservation and purchasing school supplies, mattresses and supplies for the Kajiado Girls School - home to many rescued young women in Kenya. Her keen interest in our environment, endangered species and the enhancement of the ecosystems of our planet is a never-ending endeavor. Carol's also has a great love for the people she meets on her travels and works to support artisans in many countries. Carol is very proud to have been chosen for a "Woman of Vision" award for her conservation efforts – an honor bestowed to 12 women per year by a Calgary television station.

*"Once You've Been a Part of Africa . . . It Becomes a Part of You"*

*To Book Your Safari Contact: Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Ltd.*

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## *About Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Ltd.*

Welcome to Nature Encounters Tours & Travel! We have travelled 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 guests returning to travel with us year after year. From the moment you inquire about a location to the start of your small 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 guests are happy to contribute to a sustainable industry where the local people, as well as the wildlife, benefit from their visit. We support villages and schools such as the A.I.C. Girls' School in Kajiado, Kenya and conservation groups that are near and dear to us - the Painted Dog Conservation Project, Tikki Hywood Trust, Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit, The Serengeti Lion Research Project, Wildlife SOS in India and Friends of the Galapagos to name a few. We do indeed walk the talk . . .

Our goal is to give our guests 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!*

