



*Nature
Encounters
Tours & Travel*

Botswana & Zimbabwe Expedition

September 2024



Botswana & Zimbabwe Expedition

One of our very favourite destinations offering wildlife viewing by boat, canoe, traditional mokoro, vehicle and foot! Enjoy the 4 amazing ecosystems starting with the waterways of the Okavango Delta, 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 more than authentic Africa under canvas, filled with all the conveniences such as ensuite washrooms and bucket showers! Couple that with amazing meals and expert guiding...

Truly the trip of a lifetime!



Cape Town, South Africa

September 16/17, 2024: In transit from North America to Cape Town, South Africa. Option to stop over in Europe or arrive in Cape Town early and join in the 4-night extension where you



will visit Cape Point, Winelands and make it to the top of Table Mountain. If you would rather just enjoy a night or 2 without tours that can be arranged as well.

September 17, 2024 – 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 where Tour Leader Carol Petersen will be anxiously waiting for you and transfer you to your hotel for a well-deserved rest!

The Okavango Delta, Botswana

September 18, 2024 – Camp Okavango - (3 nights): <http://www.desertdelta.com/> Your safari begins as we connect with our flight to Maun Botswana (flight not included but will be booked by Nature Encounters Tours) and then a smaller plane (flight included) 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 19 & 20 : Full days at the camp enjoying amazing wildlife by foot & boat! B,L,D

The Smoke That Thunders – Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

September 21 – Ilala Lodge, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (1 night) <https://www.ilalalodge.com>



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 have a private tour to visit the Smoke that Thunders!



Return to the lodge for dinner (own account). Ilala Lodge Hotel is ideally located only 8 minutes away from the spectacular Victoria Falls. A family run hotel, Ilala Lodge has 73 stylish, well-appointed spacious rooms, that offer the ultimate in comfort and luxury. As the closest hotel to the beautiful Victoria Falls, the spray makes for a perfect backdrop during your stay. Diners can see the spray and hear the thunder from the Victoria Falls, while they enjoy al-fresco dining at the Cassia Restaurant. All rooms have en suite bathroom with separate shower, air conditioning, overhead fan, satellite TV hair dryer, safe and have individual coffee, free WiFi, room service and tea facilities.



The rooms are spacious with railway teak furnishings. All rooms look towards the Falls and National Park. There are often wild animals grazing on the lawn. All rooms have either a private patio or their own seating area on the lawn facing the Falls.

Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe

September 22 - Hwange National Park: Somalisa Expeditions Camp (3 nights)

<https://africanbushcamps.com/camps/somalisa-expeditions/> More fun! We depart by road to Hwange National Park Main Camp passing through traditional Ndebele villages on your way.

We will also visit the Painted Dog Research Centre and have a chance to hear about their work. After lunch.... game drive to Somalisa Expeditions Camp, where we spend three nights. B,L,D



Somalisa Expeditions is set in the heart of Hwange National Park and is known as the land of the giants for its big elephant herds. Somalisa Expeditions offers one of the most authentic ways to experience this exceptional wildlife haven. Nestled under an incredible grove of Acacias, along the edge of a seasonal flood plain. Somalisa Expeditions' main area includes a lounge and dining area on raised decking which overlooks a small pool,



which elephants have become habituated to drinking out of. Add to this, the water hole is frequently used as a 'mud-bath' and a popular rendezvous for the elephants. The up-close encounters and photographic opportunities with these majestic animals are endless. Consisting of six elegantly furnished Luxury Meru Style Tents, each tent has en-suite bathroom with an outdoor feel. 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 night drives.



Wildlife sighting include elephant, kudu, sable antelope, zebra, wildebeest, gemsbok, the rare and endangered roan antelope, buffalo, giraffe, lion, leopard, hyena and many other wildlife species.



September 23 & 24 :
Amazing days spent in Hwange National Park and Somalisa Expeditions walking and game drives. B,L,D

Mana Pools National Park, Zimbabwe

September 25 – Zambezi Expeditions, Mana Pools National Park (3 nights)

<https://africanbushcamps.com/camps/zambezi-expeditions/> :



Another ecosystem and adventure awaits as we fly to the Zambezi River and Mana Pools National Park.

Legendary Mana Pools is known for its wildlife rich flood plains and magnificent views of the Zambezi River with the Zambezi Escarpment as a dramatic backdrop to the scenery. The river boasts some of Africa's most amazing adventure canoeing safaris creating the perfect combination of

beauty and fun and making this World Heritage site a must-visit national park.

Zambezi Expeditions offers one of the best ways to experience Mana Pools on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River.



Comfortable yet classic, the camp offers the kind of intimacy with nature that can only be achieved by immersing yourself in the heart of the wild.



Fall asleep to the sound of the flowing river and chuckles of hippo and wake-up with the dawn chorus to a spectacular African sunrise. The 12-bed luxury camp comprises of 6 twin bedded mini-Meru style tents with an en-suite bathroom at the rear of the tent. Each bathroom comes with its



own toilet as well as a bucket shower, taking guests back to that bygone era of the original expedition camps. With unique access to the Zambezi River, your days will be filled with adventurous canoeing safaris (optional), tracking game along the shorelines by foot and game drives in an open 4x4 along the flood plains and into the heart of the Mana Pools UNESCO World Heritage Site.

September 26 & 27: The most incredible place to spend time walking, canoeing, game driving. Wildlife will be coming through the camp on a regular basis... just keep an eye out!

We will be joined by one of Africa's best guides who calls this area home. A very special place. B,L,D



The Smoke That Thunders – Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

September 28 – Ilala Lodge, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (1 night): We fly back to Victoria Falls for 1 more night to enjoy some last-minute shopping, another view of the falls or just relaxing by the pool. This evening, you will be treated to a traditional dinner complete with drumming – put on your dancing shoes!



September 29, 2024 – In Transit: Sadly, we say goodbye to the African bush as you will fly out of Victoria Falls to Johannesburg or Cape Town (flight not included) to connect to your

international flight or extend your time in Africa! How about the exploring the Garden Route in South Africa and our all-time favourite, the marine environment in Mozambique with powdery white sand beaches! We'd be happy to design an extension perfect for your timing and budget! B



Botswana & Zimbabwe Expedition

10 Guests - ~~\$16,295USD~~ per person **NOW \$15,195USD PP**

8 Guests - ~~\$16,895USD~~ per person **NOW \$15,695 USD PP**

6 Guests - ~~\$17,695USD~~ per person **NOW \$16,395USD PP**

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

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

ALL INCLUSIVE OF: Predeparture package with unlimited information; Luxury accommodation as stated in itinerary; Air and ground transportation between lodges; All meals at lodges while on safari, bed and breakfast in Cape Town & Victoria Falls; Game activities and park entry fees; Gratuities for guides and lodge/camp staff; Donation to a wildlife conservation group you will visit; Tour leading by photographer and Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Owner Carol Petersen who has lead over 100 safaris!

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED: International Air; Items of a personal nature; cancellation, baggage, emergency evacuation or medical insurance; visas for Zimbabwe (purchase on arrival) and their respective fees; drinks; laundry; meals and activities in Victoria Falls; any new Government taxes, new park fees or fuel surcharges; 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. In September and October, the temperatures are heating up with highs in the mid 30's°C with nighttime temps averaging the low 20's°C. You may experience a thunder shower which is often followed by strong sunshine so that a good deal of the rainfall does not penetrate the ground but is lost to evaporation. As a result of global warming weather patterns around the world are changing and Zimbabwe & Botswana are no exceptions.



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 100 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, Mekong, 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' goes 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 <https://www.galapagos.org> Sheldrick Wildlife Trust <https://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org> The Mara-Meru Cheetah Project <http://marameru.org> Painted Dog Conservation <https://www.painteddog.org> Tikki Hywood Foundation <https://www.tikkihywoodfoundation.org> Wildlife SOS <https://wildlifesos.org>

Other special projects include providing radio collars for lion conservation and purchasing school supplies, mattresses and supplies to many rescued young women in Kenya <http://beyondbriderescue.com> . Her keen interest in our environment, endangered species and the enhancement of the ecosystems of our planet is a never-ending endeavor. Carol also has a great love for the people she meets on her travels and works to support artisans in many countries. She 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"



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 or the design of your custom itinerary - just for you, we are dedicated to ensuring your trip is memorable.

Owner Carol Petersen has been traveling to Africa since 1990 and led over 100 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, Mekong, 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. She has created amazing relationships with guides, lodges and ground operators which relies on mutual trust and respect.

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 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 roller, 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 Beyond Bride Rescue Foundation, A.I.C. Girls' School in Kajiado, Kenya and conservation groups that are near and dear to us - the Mara-Meru Cheetah Project, Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, 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!

Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Ltd

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