



*Nature
Encounters
Tours & Travel*

The Delta, The Desert & The River

September/October 2025



The Best of Botswana & Zimbabwe

Visit 4 different ecosystems and the wildlife and people that live there!

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 game drives to see elephant, giraffe, zebra, lion, leopard and more! Your accommodation is authentic Africa filled with all the conveniences including beautiful ensuite washrooms! Couple that with amazing meals and expert guiding – truly the trip of a lifetime!

September 22/23/24: 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 – see separate itinerary

September 24 – Cape Town, SA (1 night): Arrive Cape Town (or come early and enjoy this beautiful city) where Carol will meet you and transfer to our hotel for a good rest.

September 25 – Xugana Island Lodge - (3 nights):

<https://desertdelta.com/camps/xugana-island-lodge/>

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 Xugana Island Lodge with all your meals and activities included for 3 nights. The next two full days will allow you to settle in and enjoy the area. Game activities include mokoro (dugout canoes) rides, boating and walking. Such a unique and exciting ecosystem!

B,D





Xugana Lagoon is widely recognized as the most spectacular permanent water site in the entire Okavango Delta, which itself is Africa's largest and most awe-inspiring oasis. The Okavango River rises in the highlands of Angola yet never reaches the sea, instead its immense waters empty over the sands of the Kalahari where the great thirst of the desert is quenched in a wilderness of freshwater lagoons, channels and islands. Xugana Island Lodge is situated on a private concession and takes full advantage of this magnificent site.



An expansive deck and al fresco dining area overlooks the vast, pristine body of water that makes up the permanent Okavango Delta. The lounge, bar and dining areas are set back under the Ebony and African Mangosteen tree canopy in open-sided thatched structures, and the swimming pool, located within the mature gardens in the centre of the island, is a perfect place to relax. The lodge accommodates only sixteen guests in large, raised, reed and thatch lagoon-facing chalets, with en-suite facilities and private viewing decks optimally placed on the shaded fringe of the island.

September 26 & 27: Full days at the lodge enjoying amazing wildlife by foot & boat! B,L,D



September 28 - 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, and you can easily explore the townsite by foot.





Diners can see the spray and hear the thunder from the Victoria Falls, while they enjoy al-fresco dining at the Cassia Restaurant, oh and there are often 4 legged visitors looking for a table... elephant, warthog and hippo have been seen dining on the grassy area below the dining room. 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. They are spacious and look towards the Falls and National Park from your private patio or balcony.

September 29 - Hwange National Park: Somalisa Camp (3 nights) -

<https://africanbushcamps.com/camps/somalisa-camp/> More fun! We depart by road to Hwange National Park Main Camp passing through traditional Ndebele villages on your way. We will stop at the Painted Dog Research Centre and have a chance to hear about their work. After lunch.... game drive to 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 led by qualified and passionate guides who will share their knowledge and love of the bush with you, game drives as well as game viewing from hides.

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 wildflowers 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 30 & October 1 : Full days to enjoy the camp and this beautiful park.



October 2 – 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.

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 National Park are diverse and range from game drives, canoe safaris and exciting walks with relaxed wildlife. 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. Your guides are the key to this area as they have spent much time here and know the area and it's wildlife very well.

Nyamatusi Camp, our safari lodge is set in one of the wildest and most remote parts of Africa, on the banks of the Zambezi, one of the world's oldest rivers.

Embracing comfort, this property embodies sustainable design. Fully solar-powered and built from all-natural materials it encompasses its wilderness location in the most elegant way. Here, your Mana Pools safari plays out against a sweeping riverine landscape, where epic encounters of the giants that roam this land await.

Consisting of six luxury tented suites, with uninterrupted views of the river and escarpment beyond, our lodge invites a blissful escape to nature. Each romantic guest tent is adorned with soft drapery and is replete with air-conditioning, indoor and outdoor shower and a private viewing deck, and plunge pool.

Thoughtfully located charging points are placed in your guest tent for those all-important cameras. Marvel at the incredible sights and sounds of one of Africa's last remaining wilderness hinterlands from the cozy bar or refreshing pool. Nyamatusi Camp, lightly translated, means 'wild game'.

Here, you spend your days walking in the footsteps of ancient explorers and tracks of elephants that crisscross the floodplain. Watch the drama of nature play out before your eyes on game drives or thrilling canoeing safaris. All these activities are included in your stay and led by qualified and passionate guides, keen to share their knowledge and love of the bush with you.





October 3 & 4 : The day usually starts with an early wake-up call followed by a light breakfast and a hot beverage. At sunrise we embark on a morning activity which usually is a combination of a nature drive/walk or a canoe safari on the mighty Zambezi. This usually takes up to mid-morning when we return to camp for brunch. In the heat of the day, enjoy your beautiful accommodation complete with outdoor shower and plunge pool - you may even have to "share" your plunge pool with one of the local elephants! Afternoon activities start with high tea and then we will be off walking, driving and or paddling. We get back to the camp just after sunset. Dinner is set under the stars with an amazing 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. These are full days with adventure around every corner.



October 5 - Ilala Lodge, Victoria Falls (1 night): Today we fly back to Victoria Falls for 1 night. Time to explore this fun town and enjoy a traditional dinner tonight. B,D

October 6, 2025 – 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! We'd be happy to design an itinerary perfect for your timing & budget! B

The Desert, The Delta & the River... Botswana & Zimbabwe

Pricing is Per Person Sharing – Single Supplement is an additional \$3095USD

6 Guests - \$21,295 USD

8 Guests – \$20,095 USD

10 Guests - \$19,195 USD

12 Guests - \$18,795 USD

14 Guests - \$18,495 USD

16 Guests - \$18,295 USD

Payment options – Payment in USD is preferred due to the unreliable CDN/USD exchange rates

- USD Bank Draft or USD Cheque– amount above
- USD Credit Card – amount above plus 4% service fee
- CDN Cheque – amount closest to CDN/USD exchange rate we receive through our bank
- CDN Credit Card – amount closest to 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 \$, however, our ground operator's quote in USD and with the instability of the exchange rate, we have decided to price in USD. This allows our guests to make their best decision on currency & method of payment. As well, we endeavour to keep our pricing competitive for our guests, however, we do not have control over increases in game park fees, fuel surcharges or the value of our dollar - to name a few. If there are any increases, we will inform our guests as soon as we hear about them and add those increases, at our cost only, to our guest invoices.*

What is Included: 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 Carol Petersen, wildlife photographer/owner Nature Encounters Tours & Travel.

What is Not Included: International Air (we would be happy to help you) ; Items of a personal nature; Travel insurance including medical/cancellation/emergency evacuation; visas for Zimbabwe and their respective fees (\$75USD per person purchase on arrival); meals and activities not stated; any new Government taxes

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 and 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.

**Want to start a bit early or not ready to go home?
Below are some ideas on extending your safari or let us design the
perfect itinerary for you! Where would you like to go....**



Cape Town! Get over your jet lag in beautiful Cape Town, SA for 4 nights while enjoying privately guided tours of Cape Point, Table Mountain and the Winelands. Our hotel is in the gorgeous, convenient and very safe Victoria & Alfred Waterfront where you will be welcomed as family! *** Pricing TBA



Mozambique! Oh, how we love our special marine resort Azura Benguerra Resort where your job for the day will be exploring the Indian Ocean marine environment – have you seen a Dugong? There is kayaking, beach walking or just enjoying your private plunge pool steps away from the beach - simply amazing! *** Pricing TBA

<https://www.azura-retreats.com/benguerra-introduction>



Gorilla Trekking in Rwanda! A very special journey where you will be treated to time with the marvelous Mountain Gorillas. We are happy to design an itinerary to match your dates and budget.

***** Pricing TBA according to your dates/budget**

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' goers to walk lightly and appreciate these special places challenges.



Carol walks the talk, 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 – 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!



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

Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Ltd

**Mailing Address: #26 3871 River Road W
Ladner, BC Canada V4K 3N2**

<https://www.natureencounterstours.com>

carol@natureencounterstours.com

Phone / WhatsApp +1 604 947 9005