



**Nature
Encounters
Tours & Travel**

The Best of Zimbabwe with the Okavango Delta

September / October 2027



The Best of Zimbabwe with Extension to Okavango Delta, Botswana

Begin your journey in the dry savannas of Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe where vast herds of elephant roam freely and big cats prowl the plains. Continue to the mighty Zambezi River at Mana Pools National Park, a place of rare beauty and unforgettable encounters. Your adventure then moves inland, where your lodge overlooks a bustling waterhole alive with wildlife drama. No trip would be complete without witnessing “The Smoke that Thunders” - Victoria Falls, one of the world’s greatest natural wonders. For those who wish to extend the magic, an optional journey into the legendary Okavango Delta awaits. Wildlife activities include boating, walking safaris and game drives, offering close encounters with elephant, giraffe, zebra, lion, leopard and more. Your accommodations embody authentic Africa - beautifully designed with ensuite washrooms, modern comforts and a touch of rustic charm. Add to this gourmet meals and expert guiding and you have the makings of an extraordinary adventure.

In transit from North America to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Option to stop over in Europe or Cape Town to ease your jet lag! ***Optional extension to the amazing Okavango Delta for 3 nights – See Below.

September 22, 2027 – Ilala Lodge, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (1 night): Arrive in Victoria Falls for just one night before we head to the bush. Enjoy the sounds of the falls as you enjoy the rest of the day with a well-deserved rest!

*** Depending on arrival time, a tour of the falls will be included either today or at the end of your safari when we return to Victoria Falls.

September 23 – Somalisa Camp, Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe (3 nights)

<https://africanbushcamps.com/camps/somalisa-camp/> You are in for a wonderfully varied day! Depart Victoria Falls along excellent roads, passing through villages where you’ll glimpse everyday life in rural Zimbabwe. A highlight stop awaits at the Painted Dog Research Centre, where you’ll learn about one of Africa’s most endangered carnivores and the inspiring efforts to protect them. Entering Hwange National Park, enjoy a picnic lunch as wildlife gathers at a nearby waterhole - your first taste of the park’s abundance. Then, set off on a thrilling game drive to your camp, a place you’re sure to fall in love with. As the sun dips below the horizon, sip sundowner’s while the bush comes alive with evening sounds. A delicious dinner follows before you drift to sleep accompanied by the unforgettable chorus of the African night.

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 24 and 25 : Two full days to enjoy the camp and this beautiful park.



September 26 – 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.

September 27 & 28: 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 star gazing before retiring to bed. These are full days with adventure around every corner.



September 29 – Kavinga Safari Camp, Mana Pools National Park (3 nights): Our next stop lies on the edge of the Ruckomechi River floodplain, deep in the heart of Mana Pools National Park. Kavinga Safari Lodge offers an intimate and immersive safari experience in one of Africa's most celebrated wilderness areas. Elevated on a ridge with sweeping views of a lively waterhole, the lodge is perfectly positioned for unforgettable encounters—elephants, lions, wild dogs, and countless bird species are regular visitors. Designed to harmonize with its natural surroundings, Kavinga blends authentic African character with modern comforts.



Your accommodation is just above the waterhole, with raised canvas tents on wooden platforms offering sweeping views of the Zambezi escarpment. Private shaded verandas invite you to watch elephants, lions, and wild dogs wander past—sometimes without leaving your room. Each tent combines rustic authenticity with thoughtful design: ensuite bathrooms, eco-friendly solar power, and natural airflow that lets the bush breathe through. With only 14 guests at a time, Kavinga feels intimate and exclusive, yet alive with the thrill of the wild. Here, luxury is defined by connection—gourmet meals under the stars, expert guiding, and the unforgettable



soundtrack of the African night. Kavinga is more than a lodge; it is a front-row seat to the drama and beauty of Mana Pools. This is where the locals go on safari...



September 30 and October 1: Spend two full days immersed in the magic of Mana Pools. Watch the unfolding drama at the waterhole from the comfort of camp, where elephants, lions, and wild dogs are frequent visitors.



Venture out by vehicle to explore the floodplain and escarpment or set off on foot for a walking safari that brings you closer to the rhythms of the bush. These days are yours to savor—whether in quiet reflection as wildlife gathers or in thrilling encounters guided by expert naturalists.



October 2 - Ilala Lodge, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (1 night): It's a bittersweet day as we bid goodbye to the African wilderness and fly to Victoria Falls. Here, you'll be treated to the awe-inspiring spectacle of the "Smoke

That Thunders", one of the world's greatest natural wonders. After soaking in the majesty of the falls, enjoy some time for last-minute shopping for a few keepsakes - perfect reminders of your unforgettable journey.

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October 3 – In transit: After an amazing adventure through Zimbabwe, it's time to head home. Your international flights depart from Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, carrying with them memories that only Africa can give. Travel well and let the spirit of the bush stay with you long after you've returned home.

The Best of Zimbabwe

September 2027

**10 Guests - \$15,795USD per person sharing
Single Supplement \$3995USD**

(pricing is pretty accurate although subject to change
until final 2027 rates are released)

***Not ready to leave Africa just yet?

Why not add more magic to your adventure. Choose to extend your safari or explore vibrant Cape Town. Share your wish list with us, and we'll make it happen!

Methods of Payment:

- USD Bank Draft or Cheque – amount quoted/invoiced
- USD Credit Card - amount quoted/invoiced plus 4% service fee
- CDN Credit Card – USD amount quoted/invoiced with the closest CDN/USD exchange rate we receive through our bank plus 4% service fee

While we are proudly a Canadian company and would ideally price in Canadian dollars, our ground operating partners quote in USD. Given the ongoing fluctuations in the US/CDN exchange rate, quoting in USD ensures transparency and allows our guests to choose the payment method that works best for them. We are committed to keeping our pricing as competitive as possible. However, certain costs - such as park fees, government taxes, and fuel surcharges - are set locally and may change without notice. We will always do our best to communicate any increases as soon as they are brought to our attention.

Thank you for your understanding.

Pre Zimbabwe Safari – Optional Extension to the Okavango Delta, Botswana \$5995USD per person sharing Single Supplement TBA

September 19, 2027 – Xugana Island Lodge, Okavango Delta (3 nights)

Your safari begins as you fly from Cape Town or Johannesburg to Maun, Botswana and then connect with a flight into the heart of the Okavango Delta. Here, you'll settle into Xugana Camp, where all meals and activities are included. Over the next three nights, immerse yourself in one of Africa's most unique ecosystems. Days unfold with a variety of adventures - glide silently through crystal-clear channels on a traditional mokoro (dugout canoe), explore the waterways by boat and set out on guided walking safaris across the islands. Each activity reveals a different perspective of this extraordinary wilderness, alive with birdlife and aquatic species. Evenings bring the serenity of the Delta with sunset reflections on the water followed by starlit dinners in camp.



Xugana Island Lodge is set on the edge of the permanent Xugana Lagoon, widely regarded as one of the most beautiful water sites in the Okavango Delta. The lodge is built in harmony with its surroundings, shaded beneath ebony and mangosteen trees, with sweeping views across the lagoon's lily-lined waters.

Accommodation consists of thatched chalets with ensuite bathrooms and private decks overlooking the water, offering both comfort and intimacy. The lodge's small size ensures a personal atmosphere, with attentive staff who make guests feel at home. Communal areas include an open-air dining deck, a cozy lounge and a fire pit where evenings are spent under the stars sharing stories of the day's adventures.



Meals are freshly prepared and often enjoyed outdoors accompanied by the sounds of fish eagles calling across the lagoon. The camp's design emphasizes simplicity and authenticity, allowing guests to feel immersed in the wilderness while still enjoying modern comforts. Xugana is celebrated not only for its setting but also for its water-based safari's. Your mokoro excursions, boating and walking safaris reveal the Delta's unique ecosystem from every angle.

October 4 & 5: Two full days at the lodge enjoying amazing wildlife by foot & boat!
B,L,D

October 6 – In Transit: A fond farewell to Africa as you will fly to Maun and then connect to your international flights home.
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Inclusions for Zimbabwe Safari -

What is Included: Predeparture package with unlimited information and group meetings by zoom or in person; Luxury accommodation & meals as stated in itinerary; Internal Air from where specified; Ground transportation between Mana Pools 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 (currently \$75USD per person purchase on arrival); Meals and activities not stated; any new Government taxes

Inclusions for Botswana Extension –

*****Currently based on 2 guests. With a larger group, Carol will join to guide you.**

What is Included: Luxury accommodation & meals as stated in itinerary; Internal Air from where specified; Airstrip Transfers; Game activities and park entry fees

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; Meals and activities not stated; any new Government taxes

Climate: In September and October, both Zimbabwe and Botswana enjoy warm, dry weather that makes it one of the very best months for safari. Days are typically sunny with temperatures ranging from the high 20s to low 30s Celsius, while nights cool down to the mid-teens, offering comfortable sleeping conditions. You can experience crisp mornings, hot afternoons with refreshing breezes off the water. Rain is rare at this time of year, so skies are clear and visibility is excellent. Wildlife viewing is superb, as animals gather around rivers and waterholes. Travelers can expect golden light for photography followed by pleasant evenings for dining outdoors.



Safari Extension Ideas...

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 favourite 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>



About Your Tour Leader Carol Petersen

Carol Petersen is a wildlife photographer, videographer and founder of Nature Encounters Tours & Travel. Since 1990, she has been traveling to Africa and has personally led over 100 safaris across the continent. Her journeys span Tanzania, Kenya, Botswana, Namibia, Uganda, Rwanda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and beyond.



Carol's passion for wildlife is the heartbeat of her work. She has spent time with elephants in Amboseli, tracked wild gorillas in Rwanda and photographed Bengal Tigers in India. Her deep connection to nature is reflected in every image and story she shares. She believes ...

*"Once you've been a part of Africa,
it becomes a part of you"*

Carol is actively involved with global conservation efforts and supports organizations including:

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 education and support to many rescued young women in Kenya <http://beyondbriderescue.com>.



Her mission is to inspire others to connect with nature, protect endangered species and experience the magic of the wild firsthand.

Whether you're dreaming of your first safari or returning for another adventure, Carol brings decades of experience, heartfelt storytelling, a deep respect for the local culture and natural world to every journey.

About Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Ltd.

Welcome to Nature Encounters Tours & Travel... where extraordinary journeys begin.

For more than 35 years, we've been crafting immersive, life-changing travel experiences that bring you face-to-face with the world's most spectacular wildlife, landscapes and cultures. Our deep, firsthand knowledge of every destination, paired with the expertise of our exceptional local guides, means you enjoy seamless service, insider access and the kind of personalized care that keeps travellers returning to us year after year. From your very first inquiry to the moment your adventure begins, we're committed to delivering nothing less than your *best vacation ever!*

Picture yourself on safari watching a lioness tenderly care for her cubs, feeling the presence of a five-ton elephant as he shows off his massive ears or relaxing on a pristine beach with the Indian Ocean whispering at your feet. Whether you stay in charming lodges or luxurious tented camps, you'll enjoy exceptional comfort, warm hospitality and settings that immerse you in the magic of the wild. Swimming pools, sweeping views and the fragrant smell of wild sage surround you as you scan the horizon for cheetah, elephant, zebra, lilac-breasted rollers, hyena and tawny eagles to name a few. Your days may include thrilling game drives in comfortable Land Cruisers; expertly guided nature walks that reveal hidden wonders or boating and canoeing through some of the world's most remarkable waterways.

At Nature Encounters Tours & Travel, responsible travel isn't a slogan, it's our foundation. Every journey supports local communities, schools and conservation efforts that protect the wildlife and landscapes you've come to experience. We proudly partner with organizations such as the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, Painted Dog Conservation Project, Tikki Hywood Trust, Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit, Mara-Meru Cheetah Project, Wildlife SOS in India and Friends of the Galapagos. When you travel with us, your adventure directly contributes to a healthier planet.

Come and dance with the Maasai in East Africa, watch tiger cubs tumble through the forests of India or photograph the whimsical courtship dance of blue-footed boobies in the Galápagos Islands. Our destinations are filled with amazing species and breathtaking places offering authentic experiences that connect you to the heart of each region.

Our mission is simple - to create unforgettable moments that stay with you forever.

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



**Nature
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Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Ltd.

carol@natureencountertours.com

www.natureencountertours.com

Phone/WhatsApp: +1 604 947 9005

Toll Free: 1 866 949 3007