

# Botswana, Namibia & Victoria Falls

## Family Tour

Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different





## **BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA & VICTORIA FALLS FAMILY TOUR**

Scottish missionary and explorer David Livingstone is believed to have been the first European to view Victoria Falls in 1855. The indigenous name for the falls is Mosi-oa-Tunya—"the smoke that thunders". While it is not the widest or the highest falls in the world, it is certainly one of the most spectacular and is a bucket list item for many travellers. It's a natural starting point for an African safari.

Botswana has a wonderfully diverse culture, with many different tribal influences coexisting with Europeans. The tribal groups within Botswana (Tswana, Katanga, Basarwa and Kgalagadi) have different languages, traditional dances and clothing, and live a vastly different lifestyle to city-dwellers. Home to large populations of wildlife, rugged national parks, wetlands alive with birds and one of the world's largest deltas, Botswana's bounty of natural treasures is remarkable. With winter sunshine, a temperate climate and golden sunsets, it's no wonder most locals have beaming smiles - they're surrounded by some of Mother Nature's greatest triumphs.

Home to proud tribes steeped in tradition, herds of rare desert-dwelling elephants, wild horses and massive colonies of seals, Namibia showcases the very best of Africa's raw landscapes. From quaint German-inspired towns to uninhabitable deserts, bushland filled with wildlife and a rocky coastline littered with shipwrecks, Namibia's untamed charm is compelling, captivating and camera-worthy. Red desert dunes, rugged bush veld, dense woodlands and plains of gravel make up Namibia's ancient terrain. Home to the monumental Fish River Canyon and sharing the iconic Kalahari Desert with South Africa and Botswana, Namibia has some of the most interesting landscapes in Africa, if not the world. Most visitors prefer to travel during the months May to October. With scarce amount of rain, it is possible to enjoy the uninterrupted sunshine. The climate is moderate and during the day it does not get extremely hot. These months are also ideal for wildlife viewing. As the landscape dries so the game in the north of the country gravitates more to waterholes.



### Day 1 IN TRANSIT

Today we fly from Sydney to Cape Town via Joburg. The best connections are with Qantas which

arrives same day late in the evening. Flight schedule: Depart Sydney 10:55hrs arriving Joburg 17:00hrs. Depart Joburg 18:45hrs, arriving Cape Town 20:55hrs. Transfer to The Portwood hotel where we'll stay for 5 nights. (25 mins drive) *Meals in flight.*

### Days 2 - 5 CAPE TOWN

Over the next four days, we'll have the opportunity to do plenty of sight-seeing in Cape Town and surrounds including;

- Shopping, eating and entertainment at V&A Harbour (a 3-minute walk from our hotel)

- Table Mountain National Park via the cable car (takes half a day and is subject to good weather - pre book tickets)
  - Robben Island jail tour - Nelson Mandela (three quarters of day and subject to weather - pre book tickets)
  - Full day Cape Tour including the Penguins at Boulders Beach, Simon Town, Cape of Good Hope, Hout Bay
  - A day in the vineyards – Paarl, Franschhoek and Stellenbosch (full day)
  - Shark cage diving at Hermanus (full day)
  - Many museums (District 6 Apartheid) and gardens (Kirstenbosch).
- Note: Breakfast is included in the



accommodation cost while in Cape Town. Other meals and day-trips to be arranged closer to the time and based on the weather. The group will fit into a mini van for any day trip we decide on. *B*



**Day 6  
CAPE TOWN –  
CHOBE  
NATIONAL  
PARK**

Today we'll fly to Victoria Falls International Airport (Zimbabwe side)

and transfer to Chobe National Park. Likely to be the 8.30am flight ex Cape Town arriving 11.00am. On arrival to the airport, we need to pay the visa fee (unavoidable). We'll take the 45 minute drive north to view the awesome Victoria Falls and do the 2- hour walk unguided. (Note that we are most likely to get wet from the spray so a poncho or light rain jacket is a good idea). Then we will drive 90 minutes south to Chobe. before being transferred to The Chobe Safari lodge – a 3.5 star resort on the Chobe River where you'll stay for three nights. Arrival time should be around 1.30 – 2.00pm. We can pick up essentials at one of the supermarkets in Kasane (over the border in Botswana) on the way. There will be minimal other opportunities for buying essentials after this. While staying at the lodge in Chobe all breakfasts and dinners are included in the tour price. Lunches at your leisure and cost. When you do your research on Chobe, you'll see that it is famous for the most concentrated population of elephants in Africa, however, there is much wildlife generally. For the safari section of the trip, there will be activities in the morning and afternoon on most days. During the middle of the day, the wildlife is less active given the heat, so we will relax at our lodge/accommodation. *B/D*



**Day 7  
CHOBE  
NATIONAL  
PARK**

After breakfast, we'll head out to Chobe National Game Park on our first safari game drive in 4WD vehicles.

This will last for around three hours and we'll spot a plethora of wildlife. On return, we'll have breakfast and chill around the pool before departing on a private afternoon safari river cruise. Spotting wildlife from the river is quite different to the safari truck experience. Get up

close to hippos, elephants, crocs, dozens of bird species, buffalo and much more. The bird life on the river can be truly spectacular with sightings of saddle-billed storks, malachite kingfishers, fish eagles, Goliath herons and beautiful bee-eaters. *B/D*

**Day 8  
CHOBE  
SAFARI  
LODGE**

Today is free to enjoy the beautiful lodge and its facilities. If you like, you can arrange for a morning or afternoon game drive at additional cost (around \$45 USD pp).

Importantly, every game drive is different. You'll see different wildlife in different situations each time you go out. Note, morning game drives start very early when the animals are active. It can be quite cold and windy in the open trucks so you need to rug-up. As soon as the sun rises, you feel the African sun warming you. *B/D*



**Day 9  
CHOBE –  
POPA FALLS,  
CAPRIVI  
STRIP**

Today we cross the border into Namibia! The approximate driving time is 5

hours and 30 minutes (438KM). We reach Popa Falls on the Kavango River mid afternoon. Our accommodation is Popa Falls Lodge where we'll spend three nights. As the sun goes down, time to enjoy G&T's overlooking the hippos in the river. The classic African postcard. Dinner all three nights is included. *B/D*



**Days 10 & 11  
POPA FALLS, CAPRIVI STRIP**

These two days are for us to enjoy quintessential Africa. Lazy starts, long breakfasts, G&T's with the sunset going down over the Kavango River. We will have the opportunity to canoe down the river (with a guide) to watch the river life, visit a local school, go for a walk to the falls where the water cascades over the rocks, swim in the pool or just watch (and listen) to the hippos in the river. *B/D*



### Day 12 CAPRIVI STRIP – ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

An early breakfast today before we head west towards

Etosha National Park. Today is a long transfer day although we might spot wildlife along the way. Lunch will comprise a picnic under a tree somewhere along the way. The transfer time is approximately 7 to 8 hours. We'll arrive late in the afternoon at our camp site – Mushara Lodge where we will camp in permanent tents - basic but comfortable. Meals are in the main communal area and there is a swimming pool. All breakfasts and dinners are included in our package. Etosha is regarded as one of the great wildlife parks in all of Africa. Over the following days, if we are lucky we will spot most of the savannah wildlife. We're guaranteed of spotting lots of wildlife mainly because we visit the water holes so the animals gather. The park is graced with elephants, giraffes, cheetahs, lions, leopards, rhinos, wild dogs, buffalo, many species of deer and the list goes on. It is a very large park and our campsite is located some distance from the park entrance. (There are other accommodation options closer but there will be crowds and this is our opportunity to camp, even if it more glamping than camping). *B/D*



### Day 13 ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Today will be take a long game drive to spot as much wildlife as we can. We'll take

breakfast and munchies with us and arrive back for a late lunch. Afternoon at leisure, dinner is at our lodge. *B/D*



### Day 14 ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

We can choose to do either a morning or afternoon game drive today

which is included in our costs. Either way, breakfast and dinner is at the lodge. *B/D*

### Day 15 ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK – WINDHOEK

After breakfast we will transfer to Windhoek, the small capital of Namibia. The drive will be about 5.5 hours so we'll check in to our hotel/lodge mid-afternoon and laze around the lodge's pool. For dinner tonight we have booked a table at Joe's Beer House, a well-known pub with a great story behind it. It's about a 20 minute walk or short taxi ride. *B/D*



### Day 16 WINDHOEK – HOMEWARD BOUND

Today, sadly, we start our journey home. We'll fly to Joburg (probably 3.00pm flight with BA, arriving 4.45pm in time for our 7.10pm connection with Qantas direct to Sydney. *B/ Meals in flight*

### Day 17 IN FLIGHT

Arrive back in Sydney at around 3.00pm. *Meals in flight*