Discovering Our Planet Together



Southern Africa Odyssey

Discover the Waterways & Wildlife of Botswana, Namibia & Zimbabwe

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Trip Details:

Days
10 Days / Jun–Sep

Price
From $19495 (+Air)

Southern Africa Odyssey

Discover the Waterways & Wildlife of Botswana, Namibia & Zimbabwe

In search of an unconventional safari? This one delivers! Featuring a diverse mix of activities in widely varied settings, it's the perfect introduction to the contrasting collage of habitats, landscapes and wildlife Southern Africa offers—or a fresh take for the seasoned safari-goer looking for something different. The centerpiece of our trip—a small-ship safari on Zimbabwe's Lake Kariba—harks back to a storied era of exploring the continent's major rivers and lakes. We travel in decidedly more luxury, though, aboard an elegant vessel built for exploring African waterways. See Victoria Falls, stay on Namibia's Caprivi Strip, and ply Botswana's Chobe River by private boat, looking for scores of elephants on the banks. On land, we get you off the standard safari circuit in Hwange National Park, with 4x4 drives and bush walks that delve deep into this vast expanse of savanna and sandveld renowned for big game.

Trip Highlights

Diverse Adventures in Four National Parks

Explore by small ship, private boat, 4x4 safari truck and on foot, on a varied itinerary spanning three countries and four national parks—including Victoria Falls

Safari Cruise: A Fresh Exploratory Approach

On a private voyage aboard a small luxury ship for just 14 guests, cruise among the islands, inlets and inland wildlife realms of Zimbabwe's vast Lake Kariba

Superb Wildlife Viewing in Private Settings

See scores of elephants along Botswana's Chobe River by private boat, and discover Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe's wildlife crown jewel, from our secluded camp

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



Southern Africa Odyssey Itinerary

Discover the Waterways & Wildlife of Botswana, Namibia & Zimbabwe

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Victoria Falls
Day 2	Victoria Falls / Chobe National Park / Impalila Island
Day 3	Chobe River Region
Day 4	Kasane / Lake Kariba
Days 5–6	Lake Kariba / Matusadona National Park
Days 7–9	Kariba / Hwange National Park
Day 10	Hwange / Victoria Falls



Day 1

Victoria Falls

Arrive at Victoria Falls, the world's largest curtain of falling water

- Walk mist-cooled trails to Victoria Falls through its spray-fed rainforest, time permitting
- Join your Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner and preview of the safari ahead

Arrive in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, where you are met by our representative once you depart your aircraft and assisted with your transit through the airport. You're accompanied on the transfer to our hotel, located in close proximity to the mighty cataract that spans the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia. For guests who arrive by noon, join our Expedition Leader for an optional guided visit to Victoria Falls National Park this afternoon, where trails lead to magnificent views of the falls. Spanning more than a mile and plummeting 350 feet into the roiling Zambezi Gorge below, Victoria Falls is the world's largest curtain of falling water. View this UNESCO World Heritage Site from varying vantage points along the rim, on trails that takes us through a rainforest microclimate created by the profuse spray. On the Zambian side of the gorge, the adjoining national park is called Mosi-oa-Tunya, meaning "the smoke that thunders" in the local language. This was the widely used Indigenous name for the falls before British explorer David Livingstone named it for Queen Victoria in 1855. This evening, gather for an orientation followed by a welcome dinner as our Expedition Leader shares an overview of the diverse safari adventures to come.

Day 2

Victoria Falls / Chobe National Park / Impalila Island

Cross into Chobe's elephant country and a private island lodge

- Search for elephants, buffalo, lions and leopards on a wildlife drive in Chobe National Park
- Cross from Zimbabwe through Botswana into Namibia's Caprivi Strip
- Settle into an intimate island ecolodge reserved exclusively for Nat Hab guests

This morning, we depart Zimbabwe and cross into Botswana for a game drive in Chobe National Park. One of the country's premier wildlife reserves, Chobe is renowned for its big game, which we seek on an overland 4x4 safari. The Chobe River flowing through the park is a lifeline for bountiful wildlife, including Africa's largest elephant population—as many as 70,000 of Botswana's 130,000 elephants live within the park bounds. We also search for buffalo, lion, leopard and more. Then it's time to cross another border into Namibia to reach a new ecolodge on Impalila Island on the Caprivi Strip. Tucked away from the larger accommodations that border Chobe National Park, this intimate lodge—exclusively for Nat Hab guests—offers a more secluded location and excellent access to the park and Chobe River for both land- and water-based exploration.

Day 3

Chobe River Region

Cruise the Chobe River through the vast KAZA landscape

- Explore river channels in search of elephants, hippos, crocodiles and abundant birdlife
- Travel through the heart of the 106-million-acre KAZA transboundary conservation area
- Return to your secluded island lodge for an evening around the campfire

With a second day in the Chobe region, we have ample time to explore on a private boat cruise. The Chobe River's channels and inlets offer exhilarating vantage points to spot hippos, crocodiles and myriad bird species that frequent the area, along with its famous elephants. We also meet villagers who live near our lodge on Impalila Island to learn about their culture, traditions and commitment to local conservation efforts. We are in the heart of the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA), a 106-million-acre expanse spanning five nations—Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe—where diverse ecosystems converge. Established in 2011, KAZA represents the world's largest transboundary conservation landscape, uniting governments, environmental groups like WWF, and the Peace Parks Foundation. Together, they aim to safeguard wildlife, empower local communities, and offer a sustainable tourism experience, showcasing the interconnected efforts crucial for KAZA's success in preserving Africa's immense biodiversity. Return in the evening to our comfortable island retreat, mulling the day's wonders around a campfire under a starry sky.

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Day 4

Kasane / Lake Kariba

Meet Impalila villagers before boarding a floating safari base

- Learn about local culture and conservation efforts during a morning village visit
- Board the Zimbabwean Dream for three days on Lake Kariba
- Settle into the rhythms of your floating safari base along the Zimbabwe-Zambia border

Return to Kasane this morning and fly on to Kariba where we board our boutique riverboat *Zimbabwean Dream.* This deluxe three-deck vessel, ideal for cruising the vast expanse of Lake Kariba, is our floating safari base for the next three days. The lake was created when the Zambezi River was dammed in the late 1950s, and it is the largest manmade body of water in the world, more than 140 miles long and 25 miles across at its widest point. Today, the dam provides electricity for 70% of Zimbabwe's residents, and the resulting lake is a haven for a wide array of waterbirds and wildlife along the border of Zimbabwe and Zambia. Lake Kariba's size makes it feel more like an inland sea, and given how few visitors this region sees, we're assured a serene experience. On board we find a relaxing rhythm, typically making two excursions per day, leaving the ship each morning and afternoon for wildlife-focused activities via smaller boats and safari vehicles.

Days 5–6

Lake Kariba / Matusadona National Park

Cruise Kariba's backwaters and safari in Matusadona

- Explore reed-fringed waterways where hippos, crocodiles and waterbirds gather
- Set out by small boat and safari vehicle for wildlife excursions
- Search Matusadona National Park for elephants, buffalo, lions and abundant birdlife

The unusual landscapes of Lake Kariba provide diverse contexts for exploration. In some places, drowned trees still jut from the water's calm surface. Via covered pontoon boat, cruise close to the shoreline and reed-fringed backwaters that shelter a variety of animals and birds. Hippos congregate along the shoreline, subtly revealing their presence as their ears and eyes peek above the water's surface. And we often see crocodiles hauled out on the lake's edge.

Along the way, explore Matusadona National Park, where we disembark for a land safari. Bordered by the Sanyati and Ume rivers, the park's 540 square miles of untouched terrain is home to elephant, Cape buffalo, impala, waterbuck, side-striped jackal and more. We'll also look for lions—though elusive, two prides inhabit the park, about 40 in all—and they are adept hunters, even killing crocodiles on occasion. We're sure to see lots of birds, with frequent sightings of Egyptian goose, marabou stork, saddle-billed stork, Goliath heron, African skimmer and the coveted African fish eagle. Some of the park's wildlife may be descendants of the more than 6,000 animals rescued during Operation Noah, following completion of the dam in 1959. As the water level rose, many creatures struggled to survive on ground that was gradually becoming submerged. A team of intrepid rangers moved large mammals, big cats, impala herds and more to safety into Matusadona, transporting many on wooden rafts.

After each full day of discovery, return to the ship to watch the sun set blood-red over the water, dine on gourmet cuisine including freshly caught bream and tilapia from the lake, and head up to the sundeck after dark to watch the sparkling stars in the black night sky.

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Days 7–9

Kariba / Hwange National Park

Search for big game in Zimbabwe's largest national park

- Stay inside Hwange for close access to wildlife-rich plains and woodlands
- Look for elephants, lions, leopards, cheetahs and African wild dogs
- Watch wildlife from Davison's Camp's waterhole viewing platform

Disembark this morning and fly to Hwange National Park. From Davison's Camp, we have exclusive proximity to outstanding wildlife viewing. Bordering the Kalahari Desert on Zimbabwe's western edge, Hwange is the country's largest and most renowned national park. Its 5,600 square miles are comprised mostly of desert sandveld with teak and mopane woodlands and dry acacia scrub interspersed with salt pans, grasslands and granite outcrops. The varied habitat is home to huge herds of elephant and buffalo, plus a vital predator population including lion, leopard and cheetah. Other game frequently on view includes zebra, giraffe, sable, roan, blue wildebeest and impala. We also keep an eye out for endangered gemsbok, brown hyena and African wild dog. The variety of birdlife is among the best in Africa, with more than 400 species. While our focus is game drives, a viewing platform at camp offers relaxed afternoon wildlife viewing at close range.

Day 10

Hwange / Victoria Falls

Fly across Zimbabwe before homeward flights

- Travel by light aircraft from Hwange to Victoria Falls
- Connect with departing flights from Victoria Falls Airport

Our safari comes to a close today as we leave the plains of Hwange behind, flying by light aircraft back to Victoria Falls for onward travels.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



Southern Africa Odyssey Accommodations

Discover the Waterways & Wildlife of Botswana, Namibia & Zimbabwe



Kaza Safari Lodge

Eight thatched chalets shaded by ancient baobab trees sit near the confluence of the Chobe and Zambezi rivers, offering close-up views of hippos, elephants and abundant birdlife.



Zimbabwean Dream

The elegant new *Zimbabwean Dream* hosts 16 guests in eight en suite cabins with floor-to-ceiling windows and a topside sundeck offering 360-degree views over Lake Kariba.



Davison's Camp

Located on the private Linkwasha Concession and one of very few camps inside Hwange National Park, classic Davison's Camp offers phenomenal wildlife viewing around a prominent waterhole.



Ilala Lodge

This luxurious boutique hotel enjoys an exclusive setting on the Zimbabwe side of the Zambezi Gorge—geographically, it is the closest accommodation to Victoria Falls, accessible via an easy walk.



Palm River Hotel

Set along a quiet stretch of the Zambezi River upstream from Victoria Falls, this riverside retreat pairs wide river views, open-air dining, and contemporary rooms with frequent wildlife sightings.

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/africa/zimbabwe-safari-cruise/accommodations.

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A Unique Combination Safari on Land and Water

Southern Africa Odyssey

Whether you've been on multiple safaris or this is your first, you won't find another itinerary offering this much variety in a safari destination that features exceptional wildlife but very few crowds. Check our the distinctive features of this wide-ranging adventure:

1 **Explore One of the World's Largest Lakes Aboard a Deluxe Riverboat**

The centerpiece of this exclusive safari is a private 3-night exploration on Lake Kariba, the world's largest manmade lake. Aboard the *Zimbabwean Dream*, an elegant new riverboat built for African waters, we have access to a vast expanse far off the conventional safari circuit—including Matusadona National Park bordering the lake. With eight cabin suites, the ship accommodates a maximum of just 14 guests.

2 **Bookend Your Time on the Water with Top Wildlife Viewing Locations**

Before and after our voyage on Lake Kariba, enjoy land safaris in two outstanding wildlife sanctuaries. Discover Hwange National Park, famed for its huge herds of elephant and buffalo, and its healthy predator populations. And visit Chobe National Park in Botswana—which is home to prolific hippo, crocodile and diverse hoofed game.

3 **Visit Four Different National Parks**

This comprehensive immersion showcases four distinctly different national parks: Hwange, Matusadona, Mosi-oa-Tunya (Victoria Falls), and Chobe. Together, the parks showcase a tremendous diversity of wildlife, habitats and dramatic landscapes.

4 **Travel with Just 14 Guests**

A small group is essential to the best safari experience, allowing us to get closer to wildlife without disturbing it and enhancing a sense of isolation in the wilderness. With no more than 14 guests aboard the riverboat, we further limit our impact by dividing into two smaller groups for most safari activities.

5 **Chartered Flights Maximize Your Time on Safari**

Traveling between safari locations by chartered light aircraft, rather than long, dusty drives over rough dirt roads, allows us to spend more time watching wildlife on safari, rather than in transit, while enjoying scenic aerial views.

6 **Stay in Seclusion at Deluxe Camps on Private Concessions**

We stay on private concessions within or adjacent to national parks wherever possible, where visitor density is very low. From intimate safari camps in secluded environs, we feel alone in the wilderness amidst an abundance of wildlife. Yet despite such isolation, surprising luxuries await—you'll lack for no comfort.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

7 **Travel with the World's Finest Naturalist Guides**

Our guests enjoy the personalized service of some of the best-trained, most experienced naturalist guides in all of Africa—a Nat Hab hallmark. Your Nat Hab Expedition Leader will accompany your group from start to finish, ensuring a superior safari experience. Our guides average 15 years' experience, with additional training and resources provided by WWF scientists. Our philosophy on this is simple: an African safari is only as good as the guide, so we provide the very best! **See Expedition Leader bios** with traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

8 **Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Superior Safari Experience**

With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive guarantee, which clearly states that we will meet the lofty expectations we set in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company. **Read our important promise.**

9 **Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey**

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

10 **Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner**

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our adventures, World Wildlife Fund—the world's leading environmental conservation organization—has named Natural Habitat Adventures as its worldwide travel partner, a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From $19495 (+Air)

Group Size
Limited to 14 Travelers

Southern Africa Odyssey Dates, Pricing & Info

Discover the Waterways & Wildlife of Botswana, Namibia & Zimbabwe

2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Jun 25 - Jul 4, 2027	**From $19495** +internal air	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available
Aug 8 - Aug 17, 2027	**From $19495** +internal air	
Aug 24 - Sep 2, 2027	**From $19495** +internal air	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available
Sep 21 - Sep 30, 2027	**From $19495** +internal air	

2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices not confirmed for 2028		
Jun 1 - Jun 10, 2028	**From $19495** +internal air	
Jul 15 - Jul 24, 2028	**From $19495** +internal air	

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Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices not confirmed for 2028		
Aug 8 - Aug 17, 2028	**From $19495** +internal air	
Aug 24 - Sep 2, 2028	**From $19495** +internal air	
Sep 21 - Sep 30, 2028	**From $19495** +internal air	

See https://www.nathab.com/africa/zimbabwe-safari-cruise/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

Trip price includes: Accommodations including 3 nights aboard the Zimbabwean Dream, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s), local guides and camp staff, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, most taxes, all permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

Internal air: Light aircraft flights within the itinerary (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least $250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins and ends in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Because it’s a long international journey, **we recommend arriving at least one night before Day 1** so you can rest and start the trip refreshed. Guests arriving early will receive recommended hotel options in their pre-departure materials.

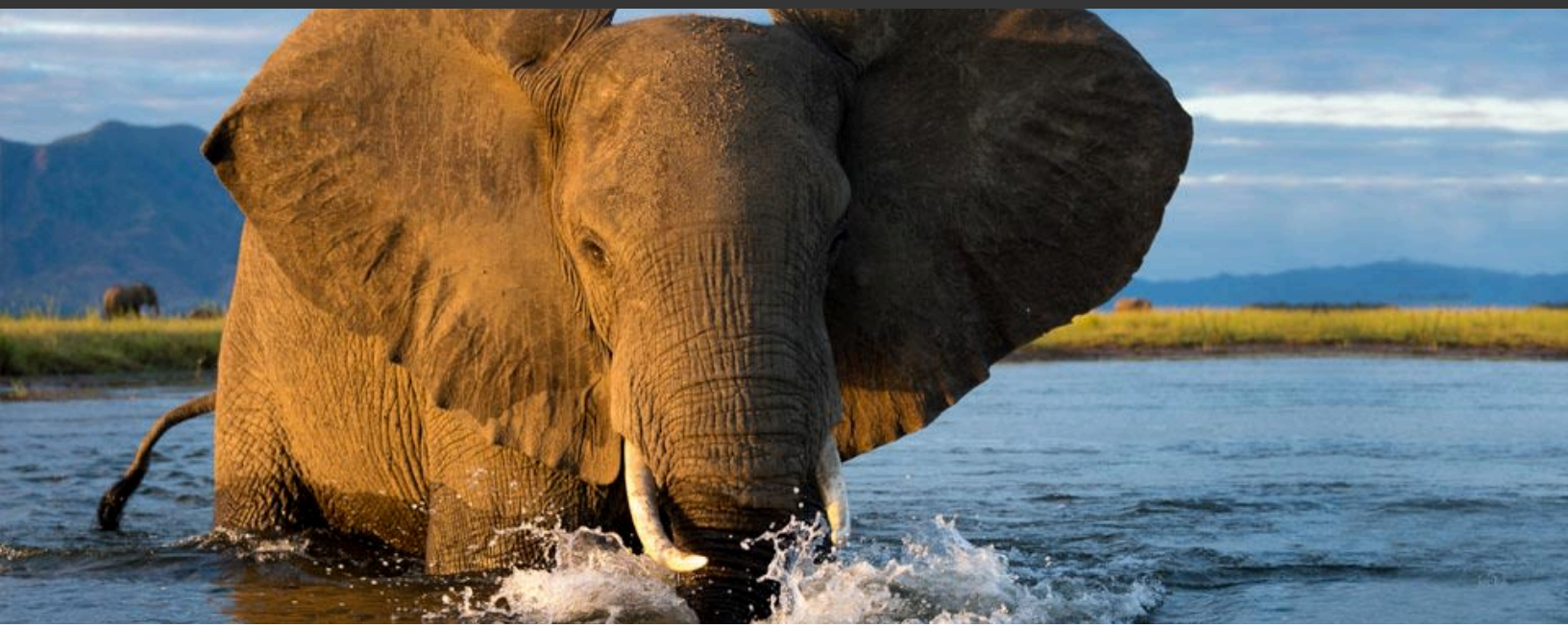
On Day 1, guests will be able to take an optional guided visit to Victoria Falls departing at 2:45 pm, and gather in the evening for a welcome dinner.

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If you plan to arrive on Day 1, we recommend Airlink flight 4Z 492, departing Johannesburg (JNB) at 10:00 am and arriving in Victoria Falls at 11:45 am.

You may depart Victoria Falls anytime after 1 pm on the final day.

Our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk can best assist with your travel reservations, as our staff is familiar with the specific requirements of this program and can help arrange the most efficient itinerary. Please call us at 800-543-8917. While we offer the best available rates to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may occasionally find special web rates or lower fares online.



Southern Africa Odyssey Extensions

Discover the Waterways & Wildlife of Botswana, Namibia & Zimbabwe



Secluded Botswana Safari

Our flagship Botswana safari—for just seven guests! A truly exclusive wilderness immersion in the Okavango Delta's best private wildlife reserves and beyond, plus Victoria Falls.

$19995 (+air)



Cape Town Extension

Discover one of the world's most entrancing cities and its natural environs. Survey the view from Table Mountain, explore the Cape Peninsula, visit Cape Point Nature Reserve, see penguins at Boulders Beach, and tour the Winelands.

$2495



Madagascar Explorer

Look for rare and endemic flora and fauna on a compact itinerary revealing a mix of contrasting ecosystems—primary rainforest, pristine beaches, ancient baobabs and coastal mangroves

$13895 (+air)



Sabi Sand Extension

An exclusive safari experience on a 160,000-acre private reserve that's one of Africa's best places to spot the famous Big Five—choose among intimate luxury camps and secluded boutique lodges.

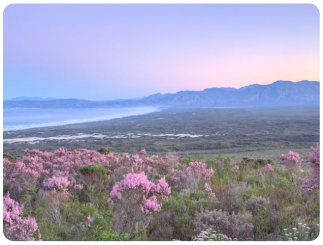
$5495



Namibia Desert Extension

Namibia's towering sand dunes, arid canyons and desert-adapted wildlife offer a distinct contrast to other southern Africa safari destinations—look for endangered black rhino, desert elephant and more.

$7395 (+air)



Wild Cape Coast Extension

From our luxury ecolodge base on the Grootbos Private Nature Reserve, explore pristine coastal wilderness including the rare Cape Floral plant kingdom and Stony Point penguin colony.

$3595

Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than $6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus $175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.