

Untouched Africa: Botswana & Zimbabwe



Explore the Okavango Delta in Mokoro, a traditional canoe.

DAY 1: FLIGHT TO VICTORIA FALLS

Board your overnight flight to another world: the stunning natural spectacles and captivating wild-life of Zimbabwe and Botswana.

DAY 2: ARRIVAL IN VICTORIA FALLS

Arriving in Victoria Falls, a Go Ahead representative will greet you and assist on your transfer to your flight to Victoria Falls. Upon discovering this legendary waterfall, explorer David Livingstone said was so lovely that it must have been “gazed upon by angels in their flight.” Enjoy an afternoon to yourself before your evening welcome dinner. Included meals: breakfast (in flight), dinner

DAY 3: VICTORIA FALLS & COMMUNITY PROJECT VISIT

It is called “The Smoke That Thunders” by native people, and today you’ll experience the jaw-dropping power and beauty of Victoria Falls firsthand. As you discover this Wonder of the World from many angles—with plenty of opportunities to photograph it—your knowledgeable Tour Director will give you a history of the Falls as well as pointing out the flora and fauna that surround it. Later, visit the Rose of Charity, an organization that is helping to transform the lives of sick and impoverished children in the region. Since 2007, the group has aimed to improve the quality of life of local children, their families and local communities by providing them with opportunities to learn and grow.

It is an inspiring insight into the life of everyday Africans working to create a better life. Included meal: breakfast

DAY 4: VICTORIA FALLS

You’ll have a day at leisure to explore this area further. The Falls themselves may beckon once again—the humbling power of a 300-foot cataract compels many to visit again—or explore the town of Victoria Falls. Or simply relax back at the hotel, hearing the roar and seeing the drifting mists of the mile-wide waterfall. This afternoon, opt for a cruise along the Zambezi River, soaking in the natural splendor of Mosi Oa Tunya National Park. Included meal: breakfast

DAY 5: TRANSFER TO HWANGE

This morning travel to Hwange National Park, the largest game reserve in Zimbabwe. The landscape diversity is striking here: cracked salt pans, grassy plains dotted with acacia, dense teak forests and mopane woodland. Once a royal hunting ground, today the region teems with protected wildlife: over 100 species of mammals and 400 species of birds. After an included lunch, rumble across the sweeping landscape on your afternoon game drive. You won’t have to look far to catch a glimpse of the park’s stunning variety of animals. Enjoy an included dinner this evening. Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

12-DAY TOUR INCLUDES

- Round-trip air transportation with a major airline and airport transfers
- Chartered flights between Chobe National Park and the Okavango Delta, and between Okavango and Maun
- The services of a bilingual Go Ahead Tour Director
- 9 nights accommodations in well-located hotels including baggage handling
- Buffet breakfast daily; 6 lunches; 7 three-course dinners, including wine or beer during select meals
- Motorized coach bus and safari transport

GAME DRIVES & WILDLIFE EXCURSIONS

DAY 5: Hwange National Park (p.m.)

DAY 6: Hwange National Park (a.m. & p.m.)

DAY 7: Hwange National Park (a.m.)

DAY 7: Chobe River boat cruise (p.m.)

DAY 8: Chobe National Park (a.m.)

DAY 8: Chobe River boat cruise (p.m.)

DAY 9: Chobe National Park (a.m.)

DAY 9: Okavango Delta (p.m.)

DAY 10: Okavango Delta (a.m. & p.m.)

DAY 11: Okavango Delta (a.m.)

Tour Highlight

The Okavango Delta – discover wildlife in one of the most spectacular safari destinations in the world. Climb aboard a canoe and drift along the Delta’s winding waterways on this eco-friendly safari adventure.

Insider’s Tip

Connect with local children at the Rose of Charity orphanage—it’s an opportunity to be inspired by the work being done to help impoverished African children.

Please see back page for important information on internal flights and baggage limits.



Every zebra has a unique pattern and set of stripes.



Hippo sightings are common in the watery wilderness of Botswana.

DAY 6: HWANGE NATIONAL PARK

This morning, you'll be on the edge of your seat as you continue to explore on a game drive. The park is brimming with buffalo, lion and a wealth of plains game like kudu, eland and waterbuck. See elephants trudge along in herds, and scour the landscape for the fastest animal on earth: the graceful cheetah, which can be found in large numbers here. After lunch, visit the Painted Dog Conservation Program, an organization dedicated to protecting the endangered African Wild Dog. Learn about the plight of the Wild Dog and see the work being done here up close, and then set off to explore the conservation area and walk through the nearby woodlands. Later, another game drive through the wildlife-rich Hwange region captures your imagination. Dinner is included this evening: the perfect cap to a day of discovery.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

DAY 7: TRANSFER TO CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Wake up early and explore the untamed Hwange once again on a game drive before crossing over the Botswana border and arriving at your next destination: Chobe National Park. This semi-arid wilderness is best known for its elephants: huge herds of them drinking and bathing along the winding Chobe River. In fact, each of the Big Five (lion, leopard, Cape buffalo, elephant and rhino) can be seen in Chobe, which is one of the reasons it's among the best off-the-beaten-path safari destinations in Africa. After an included lunch, enjoy a peaceful cruise along the Chobe River, watching elephants drink and bathe as the sun sets. Join your

fellow adventurers at tonight's included dinner.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

DAY 8: CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Today begins with a morning game drive in Chobe, Botswana's oldest national park. Comprised of both dry grasslands and permanent swampland, the park draws a dizzying array of animals: from hippos and hyenas to baboons and Cape buffaloes. The elephant dominates, though: there is a higher concentration here than virtually anywhere else in Africa. After lunch, you'll take to the waters again on an afternoon cruise—keep an eye out for Nile Crocodile sunning themselves on the bank. Later, share stories of the day's sightings over a drink and dinner tonight back at the lodge.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

DAY 9: TRANSFER TO THE OKAVANGO DELTA

Enjoy another exhilarating game drive across the varied landscapes of Chobe this morning, your eyes now scanning the horizon like a seasoned tracker. Next, you'll transfer to the airport for your chartered flight to Botswana's true safari gem: the Okavango Delta. A thrillingly unique ecosystem, the Delta offers one of the most impressive wildlife experiences in all of Africa. After lunch at the lodge, you'll explore the serene stillness of nature from a dug-out canoe known as a *mokoro*. Gliding along the reed-fringed waterways here, you'll see wildlife from a unique perspective. A delightful dinner awaits back at the lodge. Note: Boating and *mokoro* excursions are dependent on water levels.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

DAY 10: OKAVANGO DELTA

Begin your day in a *mokoro*: gracefully floating along these channels puts you directly in the world of wildlife. In silence broken only by the water lapping against your boat, you may spy giraffe, lion, leopard, jackal, impala, red lechwe or any of the other denizens of the Delta. Next, see the landscape on a guided bush walk, where you can feel even closer to this rugged landscape. Your guides will point out the natural features of interest, as well as grazing wildlife. After enjoying an included lunch, take to the water again aboard a *mokoro* or feel the wind through your hair on a motorized boat. Celebrate the shared experience you've had with fellow travelers at the farewell dinner this evening.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

DAY 11: OKAVANGO DELTA & DEPARTURE

This morning, get one last glimpse of this wild landscape on a wildlife boat excursion. Once again, a stunning variety of species is revealed as we scour the savannah: zebra, kudu, vervet monkeys, hippos and much more. Later, fly on a chartered flight to Maun where a Go Ahead representative will help you connect to your flight home or continue on to Cape Town for the tour extension.

Included meal: breakfast

DAY 12: FLIGHT HOME

Arrive home.

Included meal: breakfast (in flight)

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

Cape Town

3 nights

DAY 11: FLY TO CAPE TOWN

Fly from Maun to Africa's glittering Southern jewel: Cape Town (via Johannesburg). Nestled between Table Mountain—the iconic, 3,500 foot peak — and sparkling Table Bay, the “Mother City” of South Africa is its most picturesque. A fascinating fusion of cultures, Cape Town is home to vibrant Xhosa, Malay, and West and Central African communities. Settle into your hotel as you start to enjoy Cape Town.

Included meal: breakfast

DAY 12: CAPE TOWN

Explore a dizzying array of sights: the Houses of Parliament, the lively markets of Greenmarket Square and the 17th century Castle of Good Hope. After a stop at historic Company's Garden, ride on a cable car to the top of Table Mountain (weather dependent). Have your camera ready: the views from this lofty perch—to the city below, the wide blue ocean beyond—are breathtaking. You'll also visit the cobbled, colorful streets of Bo-Kaap as your local guide illuminates the fascinating history of this Cape Malay corner of the city.

Included meal: breakfast

DAY 13: CAPE PENINSULA

Discover the wonders of the scenic Peninsula, including Camps Bay Beach, a ribbon of white-sand beneath the verdant Twelve Apostles mountains. Winding along spectacular Chapman's Peak Drive, you'll arrive at the Cape of Good Hope Nature Preserve and legendary Cape Point. Later, stop at historic Simonstown, see the African penguins at Boulders Beach and wander Kirstenbosch Gardens, ranked among the world's best botanical gardens by *Travel + Leisure*. Tonight, savor an included dinner.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

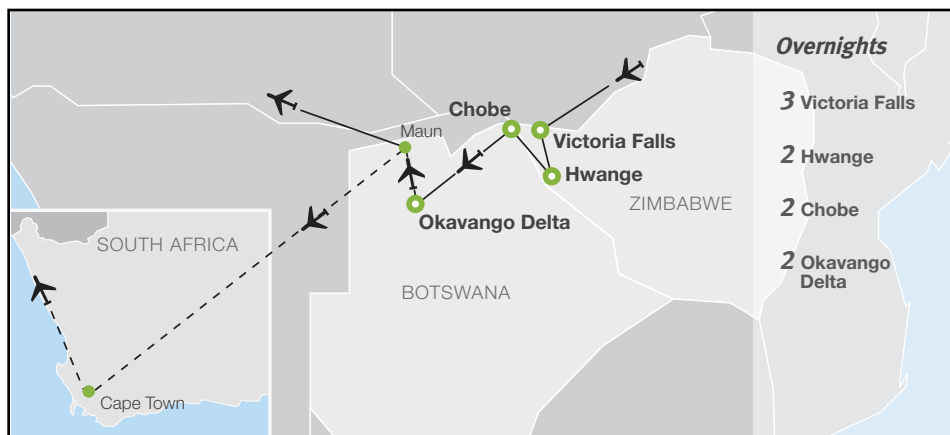
DAY 14: FREE TIME AND DEPARTURE

The morning is yours to explore, and perhaps shop at the famous Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. In the afternoon, a Go Ahead representative will escort you to the airport for your flight home.

Included meal: breakfast (in flight)

DAY 15: ARRIVE HOME

Extension is available on select departure dates, and space is limited. Please call early to hold your spot. Extension also requires a minimum of 10 travelers.



Overnights

- 3 Victoria Falls
- 2 Hwange
- 2 Chobe
- 2 Okavango Delta

Travel Pace: 4

Travel pace levels are based on criteria such as length of tour, number of cities visited, number of included activities, as well as length of flights and land transfers.

- 1 - leisurely
- 2 - comfortable
- 3 - active
- 4 - challenging

Walking on Tour

The amount of walking on “Untouched Africa: Botswana & Zimbabwe” is quite low. All game drives are conducted by a specially equipped safari vehicles, and walking is prohibited in most of these areas. The “Travel Pace” of 4 is instead based on the number and difficulty of transfers. You should expect long days in vehicles on bumpy, potholed roads. African infrastructure is not the same as that of developed nations, and you should plan accordingly.

Visit goaheadtours.com for:

- Enhanced destination information
- Featured Tour Directors
- Personalized “My Account” Page
- Tour planning
- Suggested reading lists

Climate

In the Southern Hemisphere, winter is May through August and summer November through March. In Botswana, temperatures can get quite hot (90s – 100s) in summer months, but it is temperate in winter and can sometimes be colder at night. The rainy season is October through March, although rainfall numbers are generally low. Zimbabwe has a moderate climate: it may dip into mid 40s in winter and, at times, reach the mid 90s in summer. November to May is considered the wet season. Average temperatures can be found below.

HWANGE

Jan-Mar	64°–84°F / 18°–29°C
Apr	59°–74°F / 15°–23°C
May	51°–82°F / 11°–28°C
June-July	44°–77°F / 7°–25°C
Aug	50°–82°F / 10°–28°C
Sep	59°–89°F / 15°–32°C
Oct-Nov	66°–93°F / 34°–29°C
Dec	59°–75°F / 15°–24°C

OKAVANGO DELTA

Jan-Mar	69°–91°F / 20°–33°C
Apr	61°–89°F / 16°–32°C
May	54°–84°F / 12°–29°C
June-July	48°–80°F / 9°–27°C
Aug	53°–86°F / 12°–30°C
Sep	61°–93°F / 16°–34°C
Oct-Nov	68°–97°F / 20°–36°C
Dec	69°–93°F / 21°–34°C

Pre-departure information for your tour

PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS

In order to enter Zimbabwe and Botswana, U.S. and Canadian citizens need a valid passport. The expiration date must extend at least six months beyond the date of your return home, and there should be at least one empty page for each country visited. U.S. and Canadian passport holders are also required to obtain a visa in order to enter Zimbabwe (Visas are not required for Botswana). Though it is possible to obtain a visa at the airport upon arrival, we recommend that you obtain an individual visa through Zierer Visa Service (1-866-788-1100; www.zvs.com). If you are not a U.S. or Canadian citizen, you must contact the relevant embassies as soon as possible for your specific entry requirements.

AIRPORT AND DEPARTURE TAXES

All airport and departure taxes for this tour are included in the total trip cost printed on your invoice.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Due to limited luggage space in transfer vehicles and chartered aircraft, you will need to pack in a duffel or soft-sided bag (**absolutely no wheeled or hard suitcases are permitted**). Bags must be limited to 10 inches wide by 12 inches high and 24 inches long. **Total baggage including camera equipment and hand-luggage must not exceed 44 lbs. in weight.** Options are available for excess luggage including storage and transport; please contact Go Ahead directly to go over details.

For your international flights, please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies. Bear in mind that your luggage will probably weigh more on your return trip due to souvenir shopping. There may be times when you will have to handle your own bag, and you'll find that lightweight luggage provides a distinct advantage. Make sure you label your baggage and pack any valuables, medications and documents in your carry-on luggage.

CLOTHING AND PACKING TIPS

Safaris are informal, and casual dress in comfortable lightweight cottons is appropriate. Since the temperature varies significantly from midday to evening, clothing that can be layered is a good idea, as are comfortable shoes such as sneakers or lightweight hiking boots. Sandals or other shoes that expose your skin are discouraged. We advise that you wear a hat during the day, and make sure you use a strong sunblock.

HEALTH

Visitors should be in good health. Please contact your family doctor well in advance of your departure for information regarding immunization and personal travel requirements. In general, though: a Yellow Fever vaccination is required if traveling to Botswana through South Africa. Please remember to carry your International Certificate of Vaccination

for Yellow Fever booklet as proof that you have received the vaccination.

IMPORTANT HEALTH TIPS

In order for you to stay healthy throughout your African tour, we recommend the following:

- Drink bottled water. Refrain from drinking tap water, including when brushing teeth.
- Avoid eating fresh fruits and vegetables unless they are cooked or washed in clean water and peeled.
- Bring a small first aid kit, including antacids, anti-diarrhea medication and any prescription medications.

CUISINE

You'll find that most cuisine in the game lodges reflects the region's British colonial influence. Always avoid drinking tap water in Botswana and Zimbabwe. Use bottled water for drinking and even for brushing your teeth, and be sure the bottle is sealed when you receive it. Bottled water is provided on tour each day. Remember also to avoid any drinks served with ice cubes.

TRANSPORTATION

Round-trip international flights arrive in Victoria Falls and depart from Maun, routing through South Africa on both outbound and departure flights. Internal flights depart from Chobe National Park and arrive in Okavango Delta, and from the Delta to Maun. On safari, you will be traveling in a specially equipped safari vehicles, in motorized boats or traditional poled canoes. The vehicles open at the top, allowing for a panoramic view during game drives. Window seats are also guaranteed. Please keep in mind that transfers between the different parks are long and roads are not always of the best quality. The buses are roomy and comfortable, but some bouncing is to be expected. Due to safety requirements on the chartered flights from Chobe to Okavango Delta and from Okavango Delta to Maun, passengers may be split up and not fly with their travel companions in order to comply with the maximum average weight restriction of 220lbs per person. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Go Ahead tours.

ELECTRICITY

Zimbabwe operates on 220 volts, while Botswana uses 230 volts.

TIME ZONES

Botswana and Zimbabwe are two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), or six hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Standard Time (EST). When it is noon in New York, it's 6 p.m. in Victoria Falls.

CURRENCY

The currency you will be using in Botswana is the Botswana Pula. In Zimbabwe, it is recommended that

you use U.S. dollars or South African Rand. Full banking services are available only in major towns, although ATMs are becoming increasingly more prevalent. We recommend that you carry as little local cash as possible, and small amounts of the U.S. dollars for small purchases. (Please make sure that you only bring U.S. dollars printed in 1997 or later.) Most major American credit cards are accepted at hotels and restaurants in Botswana and Zimbabwe (Visa is the most widely accepted). We suggest that you inform your bank and credit card company of your travel plans, so that they won't confuse your international purchases for fraudulent charges.

SPECIAL INFORMATION: SHOPPING

Local handicrafts are generally inexpensive and make wonderful souvenirs of your trip. You will have the opportunity to shop at outdoor markets, small shops and tribal roadside stalls and at some of the lodges. Prices in Botswana and Zimbabwe are almost always negotiated, providing an excellent way of meeting the local people.

ITEMS TO GIVE OR TRADE

Many Africans are fond of North American goods. Many travelers bring token items to offer as gifts or when bartering for souvenirs. Inexpensive items include T-shirts, baseball caps, anything imprinted with professional sports logos, pens, cosmetics and toiletries. Offering African children candy and gum is somewhat controversial because the availability of dental care for these children may be negligible. Instead, offer children's books in English or crayons.

TIPPING

All portage gratuities are included on safaris. However, it is customary to tip the safari and transportation staff at the end of the program. We recommend tipping in your tour country's currency, the equivalency of \$6USD/CAD to \$9USD/CAD per person per day for your Tour Director. On days when you are transferring, we recommend tipping the driver \$3USD/CAD per person, per transfer. Rangers and wildlife guides can be tipped \$12USD/CAD per person, per day in Hwange, Chobe and Okavango Delta (2 days each). Finally, tipping your local guide in Victoria Falls \$2USD/CAD will suffice. Tips can only be paid in cash. Please keep current local currency exchange rates in mind when tipping.

International travel is, by its very nature, unpredictable. We must therefore reserve the right to change this itinerary without advanced notice to meet with local conditions at the time of travel. We appreciate your understanding. Please refer to the current catalog for terms & conditions, dates and prices.



Go Ahead Tours is part of the EF family of companies