Code FVJ **Vic Falls to Johannesburg**

Tour Dossier Introduction

Dossier Last Updated: 14-10-2014
Tour Code: FVJ
Duration: 29 nights / 30 days
Joining City: Livingstone
Departure City: Pretoria
Nearest Joining International Airport: Livingstone Harry Mwanga Nkumbula Apt (LVI)
Nearest Departing International Airport: Johannesburg O.R. Tambo Intl Airport (JNB)

Please check this document just before departing in case of last minute changes to your tour.

Tour Documents

PDF Document Web Page

- Botswana Dossier
- Lesotho Dossier
- Namibia Dossier
- South Africa Dossier
- Zambia Dossier

What's Included

- Sunset game cruise down the Chobe River in Chobe NP
- Spend the night in the Okavango Delta with walking safaris and a mokoro ride included
- Game Drive through Etosha National Park in the Tucan Travel truck
- Game drive in Addo Elephant National Park in a Tucan Travel truck
- Entrance to Otjitotongwe Cheetah Park
- Visit a Himba Tribe
- Cape Cross seal colony
- Sesriem Canyon
- Dune 45
- Fish River Canyon National Park
- Cango Caves
- Tsitsikamma National Park

- 21 nights camping, 2 nights assisted camping, 6 nights in hotels, hostels & guesthouses
- 26 breakfasts, 23 lunches, 22 dinners
- Travel by **Tucan Travel Expedition Vehicle**, boat, taxi,

on foot, 4WD
- Tucan Travel tour leader, Tucan Travel driver, English-speaking local guide(s) on included excursions

What's not Included

- Sleeping bag & sleeping mat
- International flights and departure taxes
- Domestic flight taxes if applicable
- Tips on included excursions, visas, travel insurance, personal items and single rooms.
- Airport transfers and pre and post tour accommodation
- Spending money – budget for meals, snacks, drinks, limited souvenirs, laundry, tips and any extras
- Optional excursions - Please see our optional excursions guide on the dossier page for a comprehensive list of optional activities and excursions available on this tour.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 to 1 - Arrive Livingstone

The first day of your tour is simply an arrival day with no pre-organised activities. In order to allow time to relax and see some of the sights you may wish to add pre tour accommodation. On arrival please ask at the reception for information on when the pre departure meeting will be held.

Your joining location is inside the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park. When you arrive at the gate of the park, please inform them you are travelling with Tucan Travel and that your entrance fee to the park has been prepaid. As well as a gateway to the majestic Victoria Falls, Livingstone, named after the great 19th century Scottish explorer David Livingstone, is also a haven for adrenalin-pumping, heart-stopping adventure activities.

There is plenty to do in Livingstone and if you can, we recommend booking an extra couple of days before your tour starts to experience some of them. Please be aware as this is an arrival day, Victoria Falls is not included in your tour. If you wish to visit the falls you should ensure you arrive with enough time to do so by arriving on an early flight or booking an extra time before your tour. Taxis to the falls can easily be arranged through hotel reception.

Optional Excursions: Victoria Falls • Half/full day white water rafting – US$160-185 (Zambezi rafting is generally possible between June and January and is closed throughout the rest of the year) • Half/full day river boarding – US$165-175 • Chobe National Park day trip – US$190 (excluding visas) Bungee jumping – US$157 • Abseiling – US$162 • Gorge swing – US$95 • Livingstone Island – US£150 • Microlight ride - 15 mins – US$174 • Helicopter ride

Day 2 to 3 - Chobe National Park

Chobe National Park is home to the most diverse wildlife in Botswana. 11,000 square kilometres of wilderness, flood plains, forests and swamps supports all manner of animal and birdlife. To gain a different perspective on the park and to see the diversity of this incredible place, in the afternoon we board a boat for a cruise up the Chobe River to see the wildlife from a different viewpoint as the sun goes down. Game is common along the water's edge; as we glide by you may see elephants, buffalos, kudu, bushback, hippo, giraffe and sable.

Located in north west Botswana, Chobe is a diverse area spanning from the border at the Chobe River, to the now dry Savute Channel and beyond to the borders of the Moremi Game Reserve and Okavango Delta. The park is divided into four distinctly different eco systems: Serondela with its lush plains and dense forests in the Chobe River area, the Savuti Marsh, the Linyanti Swamps and the dry hinterland and it is famous for having one of the largest game concentrations in the African continent.

The next day you will have the option to get up early to go out on a morning game drive. The park has a huge amount of game and our guides will ensure we track them so we can get up close and personal!

Included Excursions: Sunset game cruise down the Chobe River
Approximate Travel Time: Five hours depending on border
Optional Excursions: Additional three hour game drive - US$23 or BWP 155

Day 4 to 4 - Maun

Driving across the top edge of the Kalahari Desert we reach the town of Maun, where we will prepare for our safari into the Okavango Delta, Africa's largest freshwater wetland.

Approximate Travel Time: A full day drive

Day 5 to 5 - Okavango Delta

The Okavango Delta is a huge area of very slow flowing water fed by the Kavango River. The water fans out from the river into a labyrinth of channels, lagoons and palm-covered islands before evaporating over the sands of the Kalahari Desert.

We travel by hand-crafted mokoros (small boats with shallow drafts similar to canoes) through the delta. The canoes glide silently along the reed-fringed waterways, steered by stealthy polers who earn their living transporting travellers along the delta.

We spend the night camping on small islands in the bush, with our exact camp spot determined by the water level and local conditions at the time. This campsite has no facilities and the polers will dig a communal toilet a safe distance from the camp. You will have a chance to swim in the delta, paddle the mokoros yourself and take walking safaris through the bush and you will share a delicious meal under the stars and around the campfire. The following morning, after another walking safari you will return to the mokoro station and from here you will have the opportunity to fly over the Delta if you choose to do so.

Included Excursions: Bush camp in the Okavango Delta, Mokoro ride & walking safaris
Optional Excursions: Scenic flight – US$75 based on 5 passengers flying together • Helicopter flight – US$115 for 25 minutes (based on 3 people flying)

Day 6 to 6 - Maun

Returning to dry land we return to Maun where we are reunited with showers, toilets and clean clothes.

Day 7 to 7 - Divundu

After lunch we depart Maun, driving through Botswana towards Namibia and crossing the border through a narrow strip of land known as the Caprivi Strip. We drive through Mahongo Game Reserve where you might be able to spot elephant, lion and giraffe among other wildlife. Tonight we will camp on the banks of the Kavango River near Divindu.

Approximate Travel Time: Six hours depending on the border
Optional Excursions: Mokoro ride – US$15

Day 8 to 9 - Etosha National Park

We will spend two nights camping in Etosha National Park. All three of Etosha's campsites have floodlit water holes, meaning that when park law restrictions limit us to our campsite in the evenings, it is still possible to view game at all hours -you can stay up all night if you wish, glimpsing wild animals coming down for a drink at the water's edge. We stay at two campsites overnight, stopping at a third for lunch. All the campsites are very well equipped with great facilities and the game drives along with the waterholes make Etosha National Park one of the most memorable places you will visit on this trip.

Etosha National Park is one of the best places in Africa to spot cheetah and the endangered black rhino. Keep your camera lens ready for rare antelope species, the Burchell's zebra and black-faced impalas which roam the wild savannah. You may spot the odd giraffe or two chewing through thorny acacia trees in the woodland areas. Etosha National Park is a bird watcher's paradise with some 340 species inhabiting the park at different times of the year. For a short period after seasonal rains Etosha's vast salt pan is covered by a layer of water which attracts massive flocks of pelicans, flamingoes and other wading birds. While the pan is dry it is notable for the way it dramatically changes colour during the early morning and late afternoon sun.

Included Excursions: Game drives in the overland truck
Approximate Travel Time: Full day in the truck including Game Drive

Day 10 to 10 - Kamanjab

We visit a local Himba Tribe where orphaned children are looked after by the village. Himba children are the only children in Namibia culturally excused from attending school and they are raised traditionally by the elders of the village. Donations to the community are accepted and must be given to your guide.

Travelling south to Kamanjab, we will arrive at the famous Otjitotongwe Cheetah Park where we spend the night. You'll have the chance to get up close to these beautiful animals. You can watch the park owners hand-feed the older cheetahs. The tame cheetahs were abandoned or orphaned when they were young and consequently can't be released in the wild as they wouldn't survive. You can watch the cheetahs being fed from a truck and there are tame kudu and meerkats wandering about the place.

Included Excursions: Otjitotongwe Cheetah Park and Himba Tribe
Approximate Travel Time: Seven hours stopping along the way

Day 11 to 13 - Swakopmund

We will then head to Swakopmund, a historic German colonial town surrounded by desert situated on the Atlantic Ocean coast. It is Namibia's most

popular holiday destination. On our way we may stop in Cape Cross (weather permitting), to see (and smell) the large colony of around 100,000 Cape Cross fur seals that inhabit the area. Once in Swakopmund, we have two full days to fuel your thirst for an adrenaline rush with a range of optional excursions available. The town has a selection of good bars and restaurants, and you can spend the evening watching extreme videos of activities you did during the day over a cold locally brewed beer or two. It's a great place for a few nights and a lot of fun.

Included Excursions: Cape Cross Seal Colony
Approximate Travel Time: Full day stopping along the way
Optional Excursions: Sand boarding – US$50 • Quad biking – US$70. A half day excursion in to the sand dunes.
• Tandem sky diving – US$260 • Horse riding – US$40 • Living Desert Tour – US$50 • Township tour – US$55 • Dolphin Cruise – US$63

Day 14 to 14 - Sesriem

Today we have a scenic drive through some beautiful mountainous areas and through the Namib-Naukluft National Park, famous for its giant sand dunes, on our way to Sesriem. We cross the Tropic of Capricorn where we will stop for photos. Once we've at Sesriem arrived, you can go on a walk through the Sesriem Canyon in the late afternoon. An amazing variety of wildlife has adapted to the harsh conditions here and you may see rock pigeon, crow, starling and owl, along with various species of lizard.

Included Excursions: Sesriem Canyon
Approximate Travel Time: Eight Hours
Optional Excursions: Hot air ballooning – US$495 (includes champagne breakfast after the flight) • Dune walk – US$30 (based on minimum 7 passenge
Sossusvlei Dunes and Dead Vlei – N$110 (US$16)

Day 15 to 15 - Fish River Canyon

This morning we wake up early in Sesriem to reach Dune 45 before sunrise and hike to the top of the dune to watch the sun rise over them. The copper in the sand dunes creates a beautiful red glow unlike any sunrise seen before. After breakfast we depart Sesriem for Fish River Canyon. Fish River Canyon is one of the world's largest canyons and it is quite breathtaking in its immensity and is rivaled only by the Grand Canyon in North America for sheer grandeur. We will park at the viewpoint overlooking the canyon and from there you can take several short easy walks around the top, stopping along the way for photos.

The Fish River running through the bottom of the canyon is one of Namibia's few permanent rivers and while the flow is seasonal, beautiful turquoise pools can be seen in the distance during the dry season. As you walk and enjoy the colours of the strata and rugged scenery, you may be lucky enough to spot hardy mountain animals in the distance, as well as numerous bird species. Weather depending we will have lunch at the viewpoint.

Included Excursions: Dune 45 • Fish River Canyon National Park
Approximate Travel Time: Eight hours

Day 16 to 16 - Orange River

We continue south to Orange River, known locally as Gariep, which runs along the border of Namibia and South Africa.

Approximate Travel Time: Eight hours

Day 17 to 17 - Cederberg

On our way to Cape Town we will travel via the Cederberg Wilderness Area with its rugged landscape crisscrossed by streams, waterfalls, cool pools and amazing natural rock sculptures. Here you have the option to do a wine tasting tour as we spend a night on a local vineyard.

Approximate Travel Time: Six hours depending on the border
Optional Excursions: Wine tasting

Day 18 to 20 - Cape Town

Situated on the south western tip of Africa and set between the Atlantic Ocean and the iconic Table Mountain, Cape Town is recognised as one of the most beautiful cities on Earth.

There are dozens of amazing sightseeing opportunities to enjoy in Cape Town and in the surrounding area. You can tackle a trek up Table Mountain or take the cable car to the top for spectacular views of the city. If you have a good head for heights you can enjoy the scenery looking over Camps Bay then rather than taking the cable car, abseil 112 metres down again, but obviously this option is not one for the faint hearted!

The V&A Waterfront is the very epitome of African chic and offers a unique shopping and entertainment environment where you can soak up the

cosmopolitan vibe of the city. Be sure to sample some of South Africa's famous wines with dinner and sit back with a hot cup of rooibos herbal tea afterwards.

From Cape Town, you can visit Robben Island where former South African President and Nobel Laureate Nelson Mandela was incarcerated among other political prisoners. Once a blight on the nation's history, the island is now seen as a national symbol of triumph over adversity and has been recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. If you want to arrange this activity, it is advised that you book in advance to avoid disappointment.

Just 60 kilometres away from the centre of Cape Town you can visit Cape Point, which is part of the Table Mountain National Park. The peninsula is a largely unspoilt wilderness and home to several species of antelope, including the eland, as well as many beautiful plants species. There are two lighthouses on Cape Point which can be reached by a funicular known affectionately as the Flying Dutchman.

Approximate Travel Time: Three hours
Optional Excursions: Table Mountain cable car – US$15 • Wine tasting – US$30 • Robben Island – US$30 (weather dependent and must be booked in advance through accommodation) • Shark cage dive – US$200

Day 21 to 21 - Oudtshoorn

Enjoy the views as we hit the road and head out along the Garden Route to Oudtshoorn, known as the ostrich capital of South Africa, where you will have the opportunity to visit one of the area's many ostrich farms. We will also have time to discover the spectacular limestone formations of the famous Cango Caves. Also known as Klein Karoo, the caves are a network of tunnels and chambers under a limestone ridge in the foothills of the Swartberg Mountains. Inside the Cango Caves you will find the finest dripstone caverns, with vast halls decorated by magnificent stalactites hanging from the ceiling and columns of stalagmites growing from the floor. In the evening you can try the local ostrich cooked on the 'braai', otherwise known as a barbeque.

Included Excursions: Cango Caves
Approximate Travel Time: Seven hours
Optional Excursions: Cango ostrich farm – US$8 • Cango wildlife ranch with crocs, cheetahs & Bengal tigers – US$14

Day 22 to 22 - Tsitsikamma

Tsitsikamma National Park, located on the garden route, is situated on the hilltop overlooking the point where the Storms River and Indian Ocean meet in a turbulent crashing of surf. The park encompasses a marine reserve made up of coastline, including scenic walks, a small beach and the famous Storms River suspension bridge which spans the river mouth. The park is known for its abundance of indigenous plants as well as prolific birdlife. Keep an eye out for dolphins in the surf and the southern right whale. You can stretch your legs on a short hike to a viewpoint or a nearby waterfall, so remember to take your swimming suit on a hot day. On the way to the park you will have the chance to have a go at the highest bridge bungy jump in the world – if you dare!

Included Excursion: Tsitsikamma National Park
Approximate Travel Time: Seven hours
Optional Excursion: Bungee jump (the world's highest at 216m) - US$89

Day 23 to 23 - Addo Elephant National Park

Addo Elephant National Park is an elephant reserve situated close to Port Elizabeth in South Africa and features some of the most beautiful dunes on the country's coastline. The original elephant section of the park was designated in 1931, when only eleven elephants remained in the area. Today this finely tuned ecosystem is sanctuary to over 450 elephants, Cape buffalo, endangered black rhino, a variety of antelope species, Burchell's zebra and warthog. Depending on our travel times we should get the chance to do an afternoon and an early morning game drive before heading on.

Included Excursions: Addo Elephant National Park & Game drive
Approximate Travel Time: Five hours

Day 24 to 24 - Hogsback

Located in the Eastern Cape, Hogsback is often, and mistakenly, said to be the inspiration for JRR Tolkein's Mirkwood Forest in The Lord of the Rings. The village of Hogsback sits on the slopes of the Amatole Mountains above the Tyume Valley in a region dominated by three peaks, one of which is suggested to resemble a hog's back from a certain angle. We have some time to explore the surrounding forest where there is a rich variety of birdlife to see. You may also hear the chattering of samango monkeys in the canopy overhead. Several rivers flow out of the mountains and create small but spectacular waterfalls such as Madonna and Child, Swallowtail and Kettlespout.

Approximate Travel Time: Seven hours
Optional Excursions: Hobbiton, an outdoor centre for local disadvantaged children (money spent here is put back into the community) – US$8 (trapeze), US$34 (abseiling)

Day 25 to 26 - Lesotho

Entering the kingdom of Lesotho, we make our way through this mountainous country to Malealea, breathtaking in its beauty. This is a chance to experience the traditional Basotho way of life in the 'Kingdom in the Sky', the only country in the world to be entirely 1,000 metres above sea level. No visit to Lesotho would be complete without a pony trek and from our base at the lodge in Malealea there are ample opportunities to explore the landscape on the back of a sturdy pony. There is also the option to walk to get to know the rolling valleys and mountain trails on foot. During your stay you'll no doubt come to understand the resilience and friendliness of the Basotho people and enjoy the tranquillity of their lands.

Although rare, it can snow in these parts and during the winter months it is always cold so please remember to pack your winter best if you're travelling during this season.

Approximate Travel Time: Eight hours depending on the border
Optional Excursions: Pony treks – US$18-36 (prices based on minimum 2 people, this is a community-run activity and money goes back into the community)

Day 27 to 28 - Drakensberg

Today we will pass through some spectacular mountain scenery. Leaving the lodge we drive through small farm holdings and towns with dramatic peaks in the background. Making our way back into South Africa and into the province of Freestate we drive through the stunning Golden Gate National Park, with its orange and yellow sandstone cliffs and grasses, and the chance to spot eland, zebra and wildebeest. The Drakensberg Park of South Africa, or uKhahlamba (the Barrier of Spears), is a mountainous wonderland and World Heritage site. The mountains also form a barrier separating KwaZulu-Natal province and Lesotho. We will have two nights camping in this picturesque landscape with the famous Amphitheatre in the distance on our way to Johannesburg. During a free day in Drakensburg you can explore the area on foot or on rented mountain bikes from the campsite. The campsite also organises an excursion up to the Amphitheatre, which is a long and tough but rewarding hike.

Approximate Travel Time: Six hours depending on the border
Optional Excursions: Tugela Falls Hike – ZAR 500 • Lesotho Hike – ZAR 500 (these hikes are done on alternate days, so only one will be available, those travelling back to Lesotho will require an additional entry visa)

Day 29 to 29 - Pretoria

We stay in Pretoria where you can see the Voortrekker Monument and Fort Scanskop. From our accommodation you can take day trips into Johannesburg and the surrounding areas.

In your free time you can explore diverse and fascinating museums devoted to subjects as diverse as apartheid, Nelson Mandela, gold, beer and traditional African medicine. There are also plenty of other options, including the Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens, or you could meet the healers at the Mai Mai market, or even have a drink in the world's deepest pub located in a mine shaft. You may also choose to visit the Soweto Township on a professional guided tour.

Approximate Travel Time: Six hours
Optional Excursions: Apartheid Museum – ZAR 70 • Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens – free • Cradle of humankind and Maropeng – ZAR 650 • Pretoria city tour – ZAR 450 • Lesedi Cultural Village – ZAR 650 • Cullinan Diamond mine – US$50-82 • Johannesburg, Apartheid Musem and Soweto (full day) – ZAR 600

Day 30 to 30 - Depart Pretoria

Your adventure of a lifetime comes to an end today. If you have a late flight or have lengthened your stay by adding post tour accommodation you will have more time to explore the sights.

Day by Day Itinerary

Day	Activity	Country	Meals
Day 1	Livingstone	Zambia	
Day 2	Chobe National Park	Botswana	BLD
Day 3	Chobe National Park		BLD
Day 4	Maun		BLD
Day 5	Okavango Delta		BLD

Day 6	Maun		BLD
Day 7	Divundu	Namibia	BLD
Day 8	Etosha National Park		BLD
Day 9	Etosha National Park		BLD
Day 10	Kamanjab		BLD
Day 11	Swakopmund		BL
Day 12	Swakopmund		B
Day 13	Swakopmund		B
Day 14	Sesriem		BLD
Day 15	Fish River Canyon		BLD
Day 16	Orange River		BLD
Day 17	Cederberg	South Africa	BLD
Day 18	Cape Town		B
Day 19	Cape Town		
Day 20	Cape Town		
Day 21	Oudtshoorn		LD
Day 22	Tsitsikamma		BLD
Day 23	Addo Elephant National Park		BLD
Day 24	Hogsback		BLD
Day 25	Lesotho	Lesotho	BLD
Day 26	Lesotho		BLD
Day 27	Drakensberg	South Africa	BLD
Day 28	Drakensberg		BLD
Day 29	Pretoria		BLD
Day 30	Pretoria		B

(B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner included)

For tours that include the option of a single supplement, a ? will indicate in which destinations single rooms are available. The detailed and day by day itineraries above are provided in good faith and it is our intention to adhere to the published route. Changes may be made before or during your tour for operational or safety reasons or to incorporate improvements. Impromptu changes may also occur whilst you are travelling as a result of one-off circumstances such as an excursion being closed on a particular day, weather conditions or transport. Delays are rare but occur occasionally and for this reason and the reasons above this itinerary should be considered as a guide only. Published transport times are approximations and may vary depending on local conditions.

Travel Style

This is an Overland Tour, travelling by custom built vehicle and camping along the route. There is a maximum of 34 travellers with an average group size of 15-24. Please read the Overland Tour travel style dossier to ensure you understand the style of travel you are undertaking:
http://www.tucantravel.com/travel-styles/dossier/overland-tours

Local Payment

The tour price is divided into a set amount paid in advance and a compulsory local payment which is due to your tour leader in US$ cash at the group meeting on the first day of your tour. The local payment amount is found on the tour price page and will be printed on your invoice and tour voucher. Our brochures are updated in September/October each year and the local payment you will pay will be the cost published at the time of your departure. It can be very difficult to obtain US$ in some South American countries and virtually impossible in others, so we recommend organising your local payment before you arrive for your tour.

In general your local payment will cover:

- Meals while camping and some lunches on travel days on the expedition vehicle
- Campsite fees and cooking gas
- Hotels and hostels when staying in towns/cities (and possibly lodges if bad weather on camping days)
- National park entrance fees when visited in the expedition vehicle

Joining your tour

Your joining location is:

The Waterfront,
1909 Sichango Road
Livingstone
Zambia

Tel: (+260) 21 3 320606
waterfront@safpar.com

If you book pre-tour accommodation, you will be staying in permanent tents. From day one of your tour you will be staying in tented accommodation.

The camp also offers a safety deposit box facilities which we would advise you to take advantage of. Please leave all of your important documents, money and travellers cheques here when you go out especially in the evening. It is advisable not to wear chains or expensive looking watches or jewellery while in major African cities. You should also keep your camera concealed when not in use and carry daypacks on your front for extra safety.

The Waterfront is located inside the Mosa-oa-Tunya National Park in a optimum location on the banks of the Zambezi River. To reach the camp you will have to pass through the park gates where a $10 per night national park fee will be charged. If you have pre-tour accommodation booked you will need to pay the correct entry fee for the number of nights you will be staying in Livingstone (including the first night of your tour)

Arriving in Livingstone

When arriving at Livingstone International Airport it’s a good idea to obtain some local currency, the Zambian kwacha. There are a number of ATMs and several banks inside the new arrival terminal. If the ATMs are down and the banks are closed then we would recommend that you pay for your taxi with US dollars cash and obtain some Kwacha from the travel centre at the joining hotel or from one of the bureaus in town if you are not staying at the joining hotel. Mo Money or next door at the FX on the main road in town normally give the better rates and please remember do not change money on the street. ATMs are also found in town at the Standard Charter and Barclays banks. There is now also a FX Bureau in the Spar shopping centre which is about half way between The Waterfront and town and there is a free shuttle that runs to the Spar from outside the post office in town.

Airport Transfers

Airport transfers are not included in the tour price and must be booked separately in advance through Tucan Travel. If you have booked an airport/hotel transfer with us, please look out for someone with a sign which has your name, Tucan Travel, or both after exiting the customs hall.

If you have booked an arrival transfer with us and you are going to be delayed by more than two hours, you must advise us of the delay at least six hours before arrival. If we are advised in time, we will make every effort to reschedule your transfer and your driver will be asked to wait for two hours after your new expected arrival time. However, if we are not made aware of any change, the driver will only wait for two hours after the original scheduled arrival time and after this point it will be up to you to arrange transport to your hotel at your own expense. Please contact us on the emergency contact details below if you are likely to be delayed.

Contact your arrival transfer:
Phone: 00260 213 320 606 or 00260 213 320 607 or 00260 213 320 608 or Mobile 00260 968 320 606

E-mail:**waterfront@safpar.com** or**zaminfo@safpar.com**
Contact: Auggs

Making your own way

If you would prefer to make your own way to and from your hotel, an official taxi from the airport to the joining hotel will cost approximately US$20 to US$25 per taxi, carrying a maximum of four people.

Pre-Departure Meeting

When you arrive on day one of your trip, you should find some local information at the hotel lobby. Your tour leader will be staying in the hotel and should have put up a welcome note to let you know what room they are in. A pre-departure meeting is usually held in the afternoon or early evening of day one. You will need to bring the following important items to the meeting with your tour leader:

- Your passport, including any necessary visas and at least one photocopy to give to your tour leader
- Vaccination certificates if relevant to any destinations on your tour
- Travel insurance policy and a photocopy to give to your tour leader
- Your travel voucher
- Your local payment in US$ cash (Budget Expeditions only)

Missing the tour departure

If you miss the start of your tour, please ask at the reception of the hotel for a message from your tour leader which will give you instructions on how to catch up with the group. Any associated costs will be at your own expense (although, depending on the reason, you may be able to claim these from your travel insurance so ensure you keep all receipts).

If you know in advance that you are unlikely to arrive on time, please contact Tucan Travel immediately so we can inform the tour leader. Tucan Travel cannot be held responsible should your airline/boat/coach be delayed and we are unable to refund any unused portion of your tour.

Time Keeping

Punctuality is very important and throughout the tour your tour leader will give you the time to meet in reception. Tour leaders will often post notes at reception with meeting times, so remember to always look out for these.

Although rare, delays can occur and we therefore advise you not to arrange your onward travel too close to the end of the tour. We take no responsibility for any missed flights or additional expenses If the group arrives late into the departure city at the end of the tour.

Emergency Contact Details

In the unlikely event of an emergency you can contact the number below. Please bear in mind that your tour leader or other crew members should be your first port of call.

Africa Destination Manager: +44 (0)7775 532808

Keeping in Touch

Wifi may be available at some hotels, but the quality of internet in Africa is of varying quality and is often unreliable. If someone needs to contact you urgently during your tour, the best method is to contact our office who can pass a message on to the tour leader.

Optional Accommodation Upgrades

Optional cabin upgrades at campsites and room upgrades at hostels are often available during your tour, subject to availability. Upgrade prices vary usually between - US$5-$35 per person and can only be booked locally with the assistance of your tour leader. Upgrades are optional so please consider them in advance as part of your budget.

Money

Your spending money should cover some meals, optional excursions, souvenirs, drinks, laundry, border and airport taxes and any visas obtained locally. We provide guideline prices for optional excursions in the itinerary to help you budget, but ultimately the amount you will need to budget for your trip very much depends on your individual requirements. We recommend bringing extra money to cover emergencies or unexpected situations.

It can be difficult to obtain US dollars in Africa, so please ensure you obtain enough cash to cover your visas and optional excursions before you travel. Local operators do not accept any notes that are marked, torn or older than the year 2002 and you may have difficulty exchanging these notes elsewhere in Africa, so please check your cash carefully at the point of purchase. While bank cards provide a very good way to access funds overall, it is not

recommended to rely on them as your sole source of funds as cash machines do not always work and may not be available in remote locations. Carry a mix of cards and cash with you, including notes in small denominations.

Tipping

While tipping is part of the culture in Africa, you should not feel obliged or pressured to tip. A gratuity of 10% of the total bill is recommended in restaurants. Gratuities are usually expected for local guides on included and optional excursions. Tips are also appreciated by Tucan Travel tour leaders at the end of your tour and we recommend an average of $2-$4 per person per day for the duration of your tour. This is only if you feel that their service was up to standard and is completely at your own discretion.

Packing List

The best advice when packing is to travel light and leave space for souvenirs in your bag.

Luggage

We recommend a frameless backpack or a sports type shoulder bag as they are less bulky and easier to handle than rigid suitcases or framed backpacks. Suitcases are not suitable for our tours and are not recommended. Generally you luggage is kept in the overland truck or your tent, but in some major cities and towns you will be staying in hotels and hostels and you will need to be able to carry your bag some distance. Tucan Travel takes no responsibility for damage to your luggage while on tour.

In addition to your main bag, you will need a small daypack for your everyday excursions. Try to keep this bag as light as possible and make sure that all main sections of your bags can be padlocked. This daypack should have enough room to carry food and snacks for long hikes and treks and space to carry belongings for overnight excursions.

Sleeping Bags and Mats

Sleeping bags and sleeping mats are essential on all Africa Overland Tours. A sleeping bag liner is also a good idea to keep your sleeping bag clean and use as a sheet when the weather is hot. The weather in Africa can be varied and is not always as warm as you may think, especially in areas that are at higher altitude, so a warm sleeping bag (3-4 season) is recommended.

Therm-a-rest self inflating mattresses are comfortable and provide protection against the cold ground, while foam roll mats are compact, inexpensive and have similar features. Avoid air mattresses as these can be bulky and puncture easily.

Clothes and Footwear

We recommend packing lightweight and durable clothes. Nights can be cold at higher altitude (Serengeti National Park, parts of Kenya and the Drakensberg region) and in southern Africa in winter, so it is a good idea to bring at least one pair of warm trousers plus several thinner sweaters / fleeces which you can layer. Please avoid military or camouflage-patterned clothing as it can cause problems and in some countries may be illegal.

Good, comfortable walking shoes are essential. These do not need to be expensive boots, but they should have good ankle support and grip, be worn in and ideally waterproof.

When on safari, wear neutral colours to increase your chances of watching animals in their natural environment. Avoid blue or black clothing - these colours attract tsetse flies which deliver a painful sting. White clothes often do not stay that way for long and clothing will likely get dirty, so it is best to bring clothes that are easy to wash and that you won’t mind getting ruined.

Essential items:

- [ ] A lightweight water/windproof jacket with hood
- [ ] East to pack wide-brimmed hat of cap
- [ ] Towel - you will need a towel for most overnight excursions and while camping
- [ ] Swimwear
- [ ] Sandals or thongs/jandals/flip flops

Suggested items:

- [ ] Money belt
- [ ] Sunglasses
- [ ] Small calculator
- [ ] Small collapsible umbrella
- [ ] Universal washbasin plug
- [ ] Head torch or flashlight
- [ ] Travel alarm clock
- [ ] Lip balm, sun block with high UV factor
- [ ] Wet wipes
- [ ] Cheap plastic watch
- [ ] Plenty of spare memory cards for your camera
- [ ] Spare rechargeable batteries for camera
- [ ] Writing materials, address book and diary
- [ ] Travel games, cards and a couple of paperbacks
- [ ] Toilet paper (best to carry a roll with you at all times and/or tissues)
- [ ] Small medical kit with diarrhoea remedy, rehydration salts, antiseptic cream, sterile dressings, plasters, bandages, pain-killers, safety pins etc.
- [ ] Plastic bags for waterproofing
- [ ] Inflatable pillow
- [ ] Swiss army type penknife
- [ ] Binoculars
- [ ] Travel plug adaptor with a USB port
- [ ] Small sewing kit
- [ ] Insect repellent (DEET 35% min) and bite cream
- [ ] Antibactarial hand clensing gel
- [ ] Ear plugs and sleep mask
- [ ] Travel sickness tablets
- [ ] Spare pair of spectacles or contact lenses and solution
- [ ] Hard drive or USB stick to back up your photos
- [ ] Pocket size phrasebook
- [ ] Pegless washing line & travel laundry detergent (bio-degradable preferable)
- [ ] As gifts for local children - pens, coloured pencils, small notepads. To discourage a begging mentality we recommend that you try to give these gifts at schools or childcare centres rather than on the street.

Laundry

Most campsites and towns have laundry and drying facilities, but these are often basic with laundry done by hand and hung outside on a line. For this reason drying clothes can be tricky in the wet season. Many hotels have laundry service but they are generally expensive, so it is best to do most of your laundry whilst at campsites. Hotels generally do not allow guests to wash and dry clothing in their rooms.

Electricity supply

The power supply in Africa is approx. 240 volts; electricity is often provided by a generator and can be erratic. In Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Malawi electricity is 240 volts and the sockets are the three pin rectangular British-style. In Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, sockets are either two or three pin, and round or flat. We recommend bringing a universal plug adaptor with you. You can also charge your iPods, MP3 players, laptops, cameras, etc using power boards aboard the overland truck, while travelling.

Health, Fitness & Safety

Vaccinations

It is important to consult your doctor or travel clinic in good time before your tour departs to determine what vaccinations you require. You may need several vaccinations and/or malaria tablets and you should be aware that some inoculations require more than one visit and can take several weeks to administer. Always carry your International Certificate of Vaccination with your passport.

For areas with malaria, make sure you pack sufficient prophylactics for the duration of your tour and the incubation period after. Some countries prevent entry for travellers without a valid Yellow Fever certificate. This must be acquired before departure and takes ten days for your body to build up a resistance. This certificate must be taken with you on your tour with a photocopy stored somewhere safe.

Pack a Medical Kit

A medical kit is handy for minor wounds and ailments. In areas with limited or dubious medical facilities, an emergency medical kit containing sterile syringes is also advisable. By law our staff are not allowed to administer first aid or give drugs to travellers, so please be prepared with your own supplies.

If you are taking medication, please ensure you bring an adequate supply and a letter from your doctor to avoid potential issues at border crossings.

Fitness & Suitability

This is a participatory tour involving camping and with basic facilities at times. Disruptions are likely, and while your tour leader will make every effort to ensure your trip runs smoothly, patience, a sense of humour and willingness to get involved are essential ingredients for a successful and happy overland group.

If you have any pre-existing medical conditions please let us know at the time you book or as early before departure as possible. Depending on the

severity of the condition, you may be asked to produce a medical certificate from your doctor approving your participation in this tour. While this would only happen in very exceptional circumstances, if we consider you incapable completing this tour or you have concealed an existing medical condition which is affecting your ability to participate in the tour of Tucan Travel reserve the right to turn you away without reimbursement.

Safety & Security

Africa is generally very safe, even more so in a group. Reasonable precaution is advised; do not bring valuable jewellery or watches (even fakes can catch the eye of a thief), do not walk by yourself at night, heed your tour leader's advice and always keep an eye and a hand on your camera and bags in public places. Tucan Travel cannot accept responsibility for any valuables left in safe deposits in hotels or in our vehicles.

Bathrooms

In some countries it is customary to leave a gratuity of 20-50 cents when using public conveniences. An attendant may collect this or a dish/box will be left out. Our vehicles do not have toilets on board for hygiene and logistical reasons. This may mean roadside toilet stops on travel days and our crew always try and stop in isolated areas with as much privacy as possible if this is necessary.

Travel Guides

If you would like to discover more about your destination, including history, geography, climate and language, please have a read of our country travel guides available here: **http://www.tucantravel.com/destination-travel-guides/africa-travel-guides**

Documents

Passport

Your passport should be valid for at least 6 months after you have finished your tour with sufficient blank pages for visas and immigration stamps. Photocopy your passport, leaving one copy at home and taking one with you on tour. If you lose your passport while on tour, you will be responsible for any expenses incurred such as extra accommodation and transport while replacing your passport and will not be entitled to a refund of any unused portion of your tour.

Tour Documents

Before you depart you will be issued with a voucher for your tour and separate vouchers for any extra services such as airport transfers and pre/post tour accommodation. Please print these out and bring them with you. This dossier is updated regularly, so we recommend checking our website for the latest version just prior to the start of your tour.

Final Balance

The balance for your tour is due no later than 60 days prior to the start of your tour and no tour vouchers will be issued until this is received. In addition please send the following details at least 60 days before you depart:

- Passport number, date of issue, date of expiry, nationality and place of issue
- Your full name and date of birth
- Flight arrival details in your starting city
- Special requirements, e.g. special dietary requirements or allergies

Please let us know if you are travelling with another person on the tour but have made separate bookings and we will endeavour to make suitable rooming arrangements.

Visas

All countries have visa requirements that are subject to change at short notice. A general guideline for visa requirements is available here: **http://www.tucantravel.com/before-you-go/visa-guide**, but you must check with your local embassy or consulate for the very latest visa requirement information based on your nationality. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have all necessary visas for your tour. If you would like help applying for visas, we have recommended visa agencies on our visa page that we work with regularly.

Important things to check when applying for visas:

- Does the validity of the visa cover the duration of your time spent in the country?
- Do you require a single or multiple entry visa(s) for your tour?
- Are you required to show additional documentation when you arrive in a country? (Examples include proof of onward travel and travel itinerary)

Some visas are only valid for entry within three months of the date of issue which means on some of our longer tours the visa would expire before you are scheduled to enter the country. In these cases you must obtain the relevant visa during your tour. If it is necessary for you to obtain any visas en-route,

please contact Tucan Travel or your travel consultant and inform your tour leader at the start of the tour. If you do not have the appropriate visas, Tucan Travel will not reimburse any expenses incurred in acquiring visas or any unused portion of the tour.

It is best to apply for visas in your home country if possible. If applying for visas by post, please allow plenty of time before departure and send your application by registered mail. Postal applications tend to be given a lower priority than in person applications and can take longer to process.

Special Note: If you have dual nationality it is advised not to obtain different visas in different passports. Although this may sometimes be cheaper, you may encounter problems at border crossings if your exit stamps from one country are not the same as your visa for the next.

Travel Insurance Policy

Travel insurance is compulsory for all tours. You must be adequately insured for medical, hospital, baggage and personal expenses, any necessary extra travel (rejoining tour or repatriation) as well as curtailment and cancellation.

We strongly recommend that all clients carry a copy of their full policy document with them at all times, together with any certificate showing the policy number and emergency contact details. Your tour leader will also ask for a photocopy of your insurance document, so please take this to the pre-departure meeting at the start of your tour. You will not be able to commence your tour unless you can provide proof of insurance to your tour leader.

Document Checklist

- [ ] Tour Voucher & Vouchers for extra services
- [ ] Passport (with photocopies of information pages and visas)
- [ ] Tour Dossier
- [ ] Cash & credit/debit cards (best to take a mixture and more than one card in case one does not work)
- [ ] Travel Insurance Certificate and photocopy for tour leader
- [ ] Travel consultant's phone number and email address
- [ ] Proof of onward travel, ie airline ticket

Optional Excursions

Optional excursions are not operated by Tucan Travel and while every effort is made prices may not be up-to-date and are intended as a general guide to help you budget for your trip. Prices for vehicle-based excursions such as game drives are approximate based on the optimum number of participants and the actual price may vary depending on group size.

Sufficient safety equipment such as helmets and life jackets are sometimes not available and Tucan Travel is unable to provide this equipment. If you intend to participate in an optional excursion you may like to consider bringing your own safety gear.

Excursions are run by a local operator or third party with both Tucan Travel and the Tour Leader acting as a booking agent only. Optional activities are not part of the tour and Tucan Travel's booking conditions do not apply to them. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the correct travel insurance for the excursions you intend to take part in and Tucan Travel is not liable for any injuries incurred.

Responsible Travel

We work hard to ensure our tours are sustainably and ethically run. You can read our responsible travel policy and advice on how you can travel responsibly here:**http://www.tucantravel.com/about-us/responsible-travel**.

Meet Up

Our free Meet Up app, available on Facebook, on iTunes and Google Play is an opportunity to chat with others passengers before you depart or keep in touch when you arrive back from tour. Information on the app is available here: **http://www.tucantravel.com/before-you-go/meet-up**

Add-ons & Extras

On many of our Group Tours, we spend one night in our arrival and departure cities. If you want to explore these cities more we can book pre and post tour accommodation, city tours and airport transfers for you. Price information can be found on the price page of each tour. We also have **Add-ons** - short packages that can be booked alongside a tour or on their own and have been carefully designed to ensure you don't miss out on popular highlights.

Illegal Drugs

The possession or use of illegal drugs will not be tolerated on our tours. When overseas you are subject to local laws and the penalties for breaking these

laws can be harsh. In order to safeguard the interests of the group as a whole, our tour leaders have been instructed to insist that any person found with illegal drugs leave the tour immediately – without refund. The tour leader's decision on this matter is final. If you need to carry certain drugs with you for purposes of medication, please inform your tour leader and ensure that you carry a copy of your prescription or letter from your doctor.