Botswana Wildside Lodge Safari

Trip Code: OCV

Version:

WILDLIFE	GUIDED GROUP	MODERATE
		4



HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the Okavango Delta by traditional mokoro canoe and boat cruises in Chobe
- Game drives in the sublime Moremi Game Reserve to see lion, buffalo, elephant and much more
- Drive across the infinity of Makgadikgadi Salt Pans and see rhino at the Khama Sanctuary
- Experience endless and stunning African night skies in wilderness tented lodges

AT A GLANCE

- 14 days sightseeing with safari game drives and short walks
- Join at Johannesburg, Ends in Vic Falls (Zimbabwe)

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

This overland safari adventure encompasses some of Africa's most unique and diverse game reserves and national parks over more than 2700km. Departing Johannesburg for Botswana our first stop is the Khama Rhino Sanctuary, which provides prime habitat for the dwindling rhino population. We then head to the vast wetlands of the Okavango Delta and leave behind our vehicles to be gently poled along the water ways in a traditional Mokoro (a dug-out canoe). We can get up close and personal with the flora and fauna here before returning to our island wilderness camp for a sundowner. Moving on from the delta we head to the Moremi Game Reserve, with its abundance of wildlife, we'll spend each day here searching for the big five under the expert eye of our guides. Upon leaving Moremi the landscape changes again as we follow Baobab trees, dotted across the glimmering saltpans of the Makgadikgadi. Heading on to Chobe National Park, we will hope to encounter large matriarchal herds of African elephants for which this park is famous. At dusk we may find them snorkelling through the broad shallow waters of the Chobe river, heading back to the river banks after grazing the lush green grasses of the islands within this riverine system. Our final stop takes us across the border into Zimbabwe to marvel at the thundering rush and rainbow clouds of Victoria Falls, completing this great and varied African overland lodge adventure.

Lodge safari not your thing? How about a camping trip instead? Check out our Best of Botswana Camping Safari for an alternative perspective on this sister trip. The majority of both trips cover the same ground, except for the final few days prior to Victoria Falls where our lodge safari visits the vast expanse of the Makgadikgadi Pans whilst the camping itinerary goes to the fantastic Savuti Game Reserve.

If you would like further information on when to go to Southern Africa on safari and which trip suits you the best, please refer to our detailed guide: Which safari is right for you?

Is this holiday for you?

These trips cover thousands of kilometres on bumpy and sometimes unmade roads, in functional vehicles making them a physically demanding but rewarding experience. They start very early, often at or before dawn, and finish late, and require all members of the party to assist in food preparation and loading vehicles. Helping each other with these straightforward tasks is a great part of the adventure, whilst also helping to break ice and galvanise the group.

There are several walks in this itinerary. These may be on paved surfaces, uneven sandy dunes or rocky

terrain and are always accompanied by your experienced guide. Each walk is paced with time for your guide to interpret the environment around you. On walks within game reserves it is vital to keep up with the group line and move together in case of any animal encounters.

For further information on our participation safaris and what they entail, **click here.**

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- Two professional and qualified guides
- Airport transfer Day 1 the Land Only itinerary
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Local payment paid on arrival by most other (non KE) clients
- National Park entrance fees
- All activities/excursions mentioned except where specified as 'optional'

What's not Included

- Travel Insurance
- Visas (if applicable)
- Airport transfers on Day 15
- Some meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional
- Tips for local staff
- Miscellaneous personal expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will meet at the group hotel near Johannesburg Airport.

On arrival airport transfers are provided to the group hotel.

On the last day of the Land Only itinerary, single timed airport transfers are provided to Victoria Falls Airport or Livingstone Airport. Please ensure return flights depart after 1300.

We can provide private transfers at an additional cost. Taxis are also available and are often cheaper.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

13 breakfasts, 11 lunches and 6 dinners are included. Non-included meals are in the towns of Johannesburg, Maun, Nata, Kasane and Victoria Falls where we try out local restaurants. We recommend you budget £10 - 15 for each non-included meals.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. You should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a Water-To-Go bottle) to treat your water. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

The majority of the meals are provided. Breakfast will be cereals and yoghurt, with coffee, tea, toast and the occasional cooked breakfast. Lunch will typically be picnic style - cold meats, cheese, salads, bread, rolls and fruit. Dinner will be potjies (traditional stews), braais (barbecue), stir fries, pasta dishes, curries etc. Very often cooking will be on an open fire. Fresh produce will be used wherever possible and fruit squash, tea and coffee will be served with breakfast and dinner. Many of the meals are prepared by the guides and it is good group etiquette to help with preparation and washing up on these days and this is usually done on rotation. Some meals are taken at the accommodation or in local restaurants. Special dietary requirements (vegetarian or allergies) can usually be catered for, but it is essential that this information is received on booking. There is one cool box available for the group to put your own drinks in. Stops at supermarkets are regular to pick up supplies such as alcohol and soft drinks.

Accommodation

This holiday has 12 nights staying at variety of different guesthouses, lodges, chalets, tented lodges, and hotels. Often they have an African style to them with colourful traditional blankets, ornaments and smiling friendly staff. The rooms are twin/double and mainly have en suite facilities. Some of the accommodations have a bar and a swimming pool.

When at a tented lodge you will stay in a classic canvas safari tent with twin beds, en suite facilities. It is built on a permanent base (concrete or wood platform) and might have a thatch roof. There is usually a main lodge area with a bar, and possibly a swimming pool and small shop. There is a shared kitchen and dining area which will be used by the group and the guides during meal times.

We have 2 nights at a wild bush camp in Okavango. The tents are comfortable (2.2 x 2.2 x 1.8 meters) and they are set up with camp beds and linen and en-suite chemical toilets. There is also a bucket shower tent with warm water from the fire.

If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. A limited number of single rooms are available for a supplementary cost. If you are planning on extending your holiday additional nights at the group hotel are available on request.

All accommodation is subject to change without prior warning.

SAFARI TRUCKS
Years of safari experience into the design of the trucks. The trucks are built to comply with the latest South African transport and safety regulations. Your comfort is catered for with individual seats (with safety belts), ample legroom and large vertical sliding windows for unobstructed viewing and photography.

There are roof hatches for excellent "open" views and an integral cab and passenger compartment so contact with the driver is easy. Each truck also has large packing compartments, a built in kitchen, freezer, drinking water tank, interior lights and a gas stove (to minimise use of wood and destruction of forest areas). There is also a pullout set of steps into the passenger compartment, making access for clients easier. There is usually a bank of plug sockets in the vehicles. These plugs are the South African 3 round pin or 2 round pin with a hexagonal base. We also use minibuses for some small group safaris. All of our vehicles are bought new and serviced by Mercedes and Toyota agents, thus ensuring trouble free touring with backup support in practically every town in Southern Africa.

Where road conditions allow, such as South Africa and parts of Botswana we may also use minibuses. On 5% of tours we may use minibuses with 12 seats and air conditioning (with trailer for equipment and baggage). The safaris often have several long days of travel providing for a beautiful journey on the way to exciting and varied destinations.

LAND CRUISERS (Okavango and Moremi)
The 4 wheel drive vehicles are based in Maun. For the national parks of Botswana we use these custom built 4WDs, with individual "bucket" seats, with trailers for the equipment. (We also use supply vehicles for Botswana camping groups of more than 9 clients.). These land cruisers also have a bank of plug sockets or USB ports for charging. Game viewing from an "open" vehicle is the best way to go for Botswana - small groups in Land Rovers and Land Cruisers have the best wildlife sightings!

These custom built game viewing vehicles are the first of their kind in Botswana. Each new vehicle has a

built in "roll cage" that conforms to the latest safety standards of South Africa, and each individual bucket seat has a lap belt. The vehicles are constructed by a registered coach builder and ensure structural integrity of the passenger cabin in the unlikely event of a roll.

Group Leader & Support Staff

Group leaders are the key to any successful safari. On this adventure safari, you will travel with two qualified and experienced, registered field guides (FGASA). Two guides as crew, not a guide and a driver, adds up to an informative and interesting small group holiday. Our guides have a passion for Africa, her people and wildlife, and they love nothing more than sharing their knowledge with you.

Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

Spending Money

We estimate that a total of around £300-375 per person (or equivalent in euros/dollars) should be allowed for personal spending. This amount should be sufficient to cover non-included meals and miscellaneous expenses, including tips to local staff. If you are intending to buy expensive souvenirs, considerable quantities of soft drinks / beer or undertake additional activities or excursions, you should budget accordingly (credit cards can be useful in this respect). You can choose to take your money in pounds sterling, dollars or euros. There will be the opportunity to change money into local currency on arrival at the airport (which we advise you to do) and your local leader will advise further places to change money en-route and at borders. Additionally, you will be able to get currency from bank ATMs in many of the towns that we will visit.

Many small traders will accept US$, Euro or GBP. Your notes should be clean and undamaged. And please avoid USD$100 and old issue ‘small head’ US$ notes as they might not be accepted.

There are many optional activities which you can take part in on this holiday. Some of these are: Half-day rafting $170 or half-day canoeing the Zambezi $115. All optional activities should be booked on arrival with your leader and paid for locally. All prices are approximate in USD$ and are subject to change without notice. All optional activities taken outside the KE holiday are at your own risk.

On day 1 ,on arrival at the hotel in Johannesburg you can book a half-day SOWETO tour for $75 per person, or an afternoon tour to Maropeng Cradle of Humankind and Sterkfontien Caves is also bookable for $100 per person (min 2 people). Please check that Sterkfontien Caves are open, as they can close due to high water levels. Both of these tours should be booked on arrival (before 12midday) with our local agent and are payable locally in cash.

Guidance on Tipping

Your tour leader also works extremely hard to ensure that your holiday runs smoothly and that you are happy. We suggest that a tip of £2-5 per client per day for your tour leader is reasonable. When it comes to tipping the guides that we sometimes use for various activities (e.g. game walks, polers in the Okavango Delta etc) we suggest that a tip of £1-3 per client per ½ day activity, or the local currency equivalent, is acceptable. As in all cases with tipping, the final decision of the amount tipped is up to the individual. It is up to you to decide if you thought the service was poor, or exceptional, and the amount tipped should reflect that. The amounts quoted above are guidelines for you to get an idea of what to tip.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Your baggage will travel in the gear compartment of the truck with the group, and there is a finite amount of space. Please keep the weight of your main luggage to 12kg. You should bring a soft bag as these are more suitable to pack in the vehicle. For the 2 nights wild camping in the Okavango Delta you will take only what you need and the remainder of your luggage will be transferred separately to Moremi.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

Group Members

We sell this holiday in conjunction with our local operator in Southern Africa. This enables us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get the holiday up and running quickly. For this holiday the minimum age is 12 yrs, however it is unusual to have people under 16yrs.

South Africa Indemnity Form

As a member of the South African Tourism Service Association, our ground agent in South Africa may require you to complete an indemnity form at the start of your holiday, which you will need your insurance details for. As a client of KE Adventure Travel, your rights under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangement Regulations (2018) are unaffected and KE Adventure Travel will remain liable for the actions of our suppliers.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Visa Zambia

British passport holders do not need a visa in advance and can obtain a visa on arrival. The Government of Zambia recently announced the removal of all visa fees for British passport holders. However implementation of the policy has not yet been confirmed and British nationals may still be charged $25 on arrival.

Other nationals should check details online to see if they need an e-visa.

Important Note for Victoria Falls: Please check your itinerary and your arrival/departure flights. If your accommodation and flights are from a different side of the falls you may need both a Zambian and a Zimbabwe visa. The town of Victoria Falls is in Zimbabwe, and the town of Livingstone is in Zambia.

Additionally If you visit the falls (on the border) and wish to cross the bridge to the other side you will require a visa for both countries.

A KAZA UNIVISA for Zimbabwe and Zambia is cheaper than purchasing the two visas for Zambia and Zimbabwe separately. The visa is valid for 30 days as long as you remain within Zimbabwe and Zambia. It is also valid for day trips to Botswana crossing over the Kazangula borders. It will not be valid if you overnight in Botswana.

It's available at the international airports in Lusaka and Livingstone and at the land borders at Livingstone (Zimbabwe border) and Kazungula (Botswana border). You can also apply online. It costs US$50 for single entry, or US$75 for double entry. Both are valid for 30 days from date of purchase.

Please note: The Government of Zambia recently announced the removal of all visa fees for British passport holders. However implementation of the policy has not yet been confirmed and British nationals may still be charged $25 on arrival. This may affect your decision to purchase a Kaza Univisa.

Visa Botswana

UK nationals do not normally need a visa to enter Botswana for stays of up to 90 days.

Travelling with children under 18yrs - Botswana

Parents travelling with children under 18 years will be asked to show the child's full unabridged birth certificate. If the child is travelling with one parent, with another adult or unaccompanied, the parent or parents who aren't present will need to provide an affidavit giving their consent for the child to travel. Please note that they are very strict and they do not accept photocopies of birth certificates or short versions. This is also applicable if you are transiting through Botswana. For further details please see FCO

website https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/botswana/entry-requirements

Visa South Africa

UK and USA passport holders do not require a visa for short stays. You must have 2 blank pages in your passport.

Rules on **travelling with children under 18 years** have been relaxed. Visa exempt children entering South Africa only need passports, and not birth certificates as previously required. This applies if the child is travelling with both parents, one parent or an adult who is not a biological parent, and school groups. There are some different requirements for unaccompanied children, and children who do not have UK passports or visa exempt passports. For full details please see the FCDO website.

Visa Zimbabwe

A visa is required. This is obtained on arrival and is $55 single entry and $70 for double. Payment must be in cash and you should take small denomination notes for this.

Important Note: Please check your itinerary and your arrival/departure flights. If your accommodation and flights are from a different side of the falls you may need both a Zambian and a Zimbabwe visa. The town of Victoria Falls is in Zimbabwe, and the town of Livingstone is in Zambia.

Additionally If you visit the falls (on the border) and wish to cross the bridge to the other side you will require a visa for both countries.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The unit of currency in South Africa is the South African Rand.

The unit of currency in Botswana is the Pula.

The unit of currency in Zambia is the Zambian Kwacha.

The unit of currency in Zimbabwe is the Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG). There is currently a shortage of available cash at the banks and ATM's in Zimbabwe. US Dollars are still widely used, so exchange your currency in advance, or use credit cards where possible, as these are widely accepted also.

Climate

South Africa: May to August can be cool to very cold (in mountains) and days are pleasant and sunny in the north. September to April is pleasant, warm to hot with thunder showers in the north. January to early March light showers to heavy rains may occur throughout the country.

Botswana: This Central region of Southern Africa is subtropical being generally warm and mild to humid. October and November are hot, day and night. November to April is the hottest time of the year with chances of showers to heavy rains later in the season. May to September is cool and dry.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Private Groups Information

Make this KE Adventure holiday your own!

- Do our normal group departure dates not fit?
- Would you prefer to travel with just friends and/or family?
- Are you looking to organise a trip for your local walking, biking or mountaineering club?

It's really easy to make a trip your own. Simply select from our full range of adventure holidays and choose the dates that work for you and your group.

We are experts in creating holidays for groups of friends, families, charities and clubs. Our personal service means you'll be fully involved as we make the arrangements for your perfect adventure holiday.

Independence with Security

Travelling as a KE Private Group allows you more flexibility and choice, but still with the peace of mind that everything is pre-planned and arranged for your group by a reputable adventure travel company.

To take your first step to an amazing adventure with your friends and family complete the private group enquiry form, or call our **Sales Experts on: 017687 73966**

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Explore International

This holiday is part of our Explore International range. Participants on these trips can book through KE or through our international partner. This helps us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get your holiday up and running quickly. Led by an English-speaking guide, the cosmopolitan nature of these groups can be an important part of the experience!

Equipment Information

Equipment List

Please try to keep the weight of your baggage to a minimum. See the 'baggage allowance' section for further details.

You should bring the following items:

- Lightweight walking shoes or trainers
- Sandals
- Socks and underwear
- Long lightweight trousers
- Shorts
- Lightweight waterproof jacket & trousers
- T-shirts
- Casual shirts with sleeves
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Sunhat with wide brim
- Sunglasses
- Buff/scarf for dusty days
- Small towel/Travel towel
- Daypack 20-25 litres
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 1 litre (x2) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Washbag and toiletries (biodegradable soap is preferred)
- Antibacterial handwash
- Insect repellent
  Basic First Aid Kit including: antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium),
- painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, re-hydration salts (Dioralite), anti-nausea tablets and antihistamine cream/tablets.

The following items are optional:

- Light cotton dress or sarong
- Swimwear
- Pen-knife (remember to pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- A selection of dry bags for daypack/kit bag
- Camera
- Binoculars (highly recommended)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Notes:

Please be aware than in the Southern African the winter months, June-September, the nights can be cold with an average of between 0-5 degrees Celsius in some places, and the days can be warm between 20-30 degrees Celsius

Bright bold colours and white are not suitable for game viewing or bush wear as they attract insects and the attention of animals. Please do not bring camouflage or military style clothes as they can cause problems with local authorities

Please dress appropriately for border crossings, village and market visits - ie: no bare feet, no bare chests, no bikinis and no hats. A few restaurants are also not keen on T-shirts and jeans either.

For the 2 nights wild camping in the Okavango Delta, all linen and bedding is provided. On these nights you will take only essential items while your main luggage travels separately. Tents have mosquito netting on the windows and doors.

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining in Johannesburg and ending in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Airport transfers are provided on arrival to the group hotel.

Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Johannesburg and return flights from Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Outbound flights will depart from the UK in the evening, arriving the morning of the following day (day 1 of the Land Only itinerary). Return flights will depart Victoria Falls in the afternoon of the last day of the Land Only itinerary, arriving in the UK the following morning.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

Safari...So Good! Comfortable accommodation throughout with 2 nights camping in the Okavango Delta. To be able to experience the Okavango Delta fully overnighting here is the best...and there are no fixed establishments in this area, just wild camping in this stunning environment away from other tourists.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change