

Botswana, Zambezi & Cape Town



TRIP OVERVIEW

Journey deep into the heart of Southern Africa and discover its array of natural treasures. Spot elephants and big cats on the floodplains of Chobe National Park, observe wildlife from the water on a Zambezi River cruise and gaze in awe at the thundering Victoria Falls, before exploring Cape Town's dramatic coastline and sampling world-renowned wines in the Winelands region.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Southern Africa. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as visa requirements.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Day 1: UK to Victoria Falls

Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Victoria Falls Airport, via Johannesburg.

Day 2: Victoria Falls D

On arrival, you will be met by a local guide and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 3: Victoria Falls B/D

Today is your chance to experience one of Earth's greatest spectacles in all its wonder. At 1.7km, wide Victoria Falls empties 550 million litres a minute in an immense curtain of water to the chasm below, the spray from which can be seen for miles around, prompting the local Kololo tribe to name it 'Mosi-oa-Tunya' or 'The Smoke that Thunders'. Enjoy a cruise on the mighty Zambezi River to watch the sunset over the stunning landscape. Later, enjoy a delicious dinner at the hotel.

Day 4: Victoria Falls to Chobe National Park B/D

After breakfast, transfer to your hotel in the Chobe National Park. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure before this evenings dinner.

Day 5: Chobe National Park B/D

Enjoy a morning game drive in Chobe National Park. Famous for a staggeringly large elephant population, your chances of experiencing these majestic giants up close are extremely high. Large herds of buffalo can also be seen, as well as giraffes, zebra and a variety of antelope, making this a prime hunting spot for big cats which stalk their prey across the Botswana plains. In the afternoon, embark on a boat cruise along the Chobe River where you'll observe the national park and its fauna from a different vantage point. In the evening, enjoy a dinner at the hotel.

Day 6: Chobe National Park B/D

After breakfast, embark on your second game drive in Chobe National Park. Later in the day, embark on a boat cruise along the Chobe River. Witness hippos and crocodiles and admire the herds and predators on the shores that have travelled miles to drink from its waters.

Day 7: Chobe National Park to Cape Town B

After breakfast, transfer to Victoria Falls Airport for your flight to Cape Town, via Johannesburg. On arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel.

Day 8: Cape Town B/L

Explore the Cape Peninsula today as you journey along the breath-taking Chapman's Peak Drive, before stopping off at the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Travel onwards to Cape Point where you can witness the confluence of the Indian and Atlantic Ocean currents. Pay a visit to nearby Boulders Beach, home to a large colony of African penguins. Lastly, wander through the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, set dramatically on the eastern slopes of Table Mountain, before returning to Cape Town.

Day 9: Cape Town B

Enjoy the day at leisure to explore at your own pace.

Day 10: Cape Town B/L

Set out this morning on a scenic drive towards the stunning Winelands region. Stop at elegant Stellenbosch to enjoy a wine tasting session. Continue to Franschhoek, which enjoys a magnificent setting at the head of a narrow valley.

Day 11/12: Cape Town to UK B

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight back to the UK, or continue on to your chosen extension.



ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Accommodation guide

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to leisure hotels. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Botswana, Zambezi and Cape Town. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed.

If you are staying in a lodge during your tour, plumbing and electricity supplies can vary and, in some cases, infrequent, with electricity only being accessible during certain times of the day.

Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

Final confirmation of your hotels will be sent in a document approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Dinner (when included) will be taken in local restaurants or at the hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Victoria Falls you will be met by a representative from our local agent, African Eagle, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/African Eagle representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your national guide will be on hand 24 hours a day should you have any queries, however if you need to contact your representative during your stay the details are:



African Eagle

72 Bevan Road, Rivonia Johannesburg, South Africa

Telephone Number 0027 82 325 0201

E-mail duty@ae.co.za

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for **African Eagle**:
24 hour: 0027 82 325 0201

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

There is no visa required for entry into Botswana or South Africa. A Visa will be required for entry into Zimbabwe & Zambia. A single or double-entry visa for each country can be purchased either prior to departure or upon arrival*. Customers are advised to purchase a double entry visa into Victoria Falls. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding passport validity. *If purchasing your single or double-entry visa to Zimbabwe or Zambia upon arrival please ensure you have the correct amount of cash as change isn't always available. Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/zimbabwe/entry-requirements>. Costs for the visas are as follows: Single entry to Zambia: USD50, double entry to Zambia: USD80, single entry to Zimbabwe: USD55, double entry to Zimbabwe: USD70.

Tour Guides - national guide

This is a fully escorted tour, meaning that you will be met on arrival by your national guide who will remain with you for the duration of your trip. You will also be joined by a local guide in each of the cities which you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Private Tour

If you have booked a private tour then you will be accompanied by a Driver Guide or a Driver and Local Guides. These will be available to you during all scheduled sightseeing. Private Tours can depart on any day of the week depending on flight and train schedules and the opening days of the attractions. They will follow the itinerary as described in the brochure unless you have been advised otherwise and you will still have all of the same meals, sightseeing and local excursions included.

Tipping

It is at your discretion to tip both your driver and guide. We would recommend to tip approximately £6 per person (100/120 ZAR) per day. This is a total of £60 per person to budget for tips on your trip. As tipping is at your discretion, please tip as and when you think is necessary. Tips are accepted in the local currency, however it is asked that if you do not tip in the local currency that you only pay with notes, as coins cannot be exchanged.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general

information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties. All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. The tour pace for Botswana, Zambezi and Cape Town is intermediate. A good level of fitness is required as you may be on your feet for approximately four hours in a day, though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and will vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, and may be getting on and off coaches, trains and boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. You will stay in variety of hotels throughout the tour. Our guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call **0800 781 4237** and quote **'WK830'** for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 35. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If

we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction &/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

Currency Exchange

The currency in South Africa is the South African Rand (ZAR). The currency in Botswana is the Botswana Pula (BWP). The currency in Zambia is the Zambian Kwacha (ZMK). In Zimbabwe, the Zimbabwean dollar is no longer a valid currency, multiple currencies are no longer accepted and cash is not available at banks. Therefore we recommend that you take cash in US dollars (\$) as this is accepted in hotels and restaurants. Visas and national park fees are payable in US Dollars. Visa and Mastercard use should be restricted to hotels, restaurants and supermarkets. Our local

agent discourages the purchase of local currency due to the difficulties with foreign exchange generally, but the local guides will be able to advise you if you do require it. US Dollars are widely accepted in Botswana. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £200- £400 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you may be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card, you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

WHAT TO PACK

- Insect repellent
- High factor sun cream and a hat with a big brim for sunny days
- Comfortable walking shoes such as trainers
- Sunglasses
- Towel, swimsuit and plastic bags
- Ruck sack or light bag per person
- Personal toiletries and first aid kit
- Light rain coat
- Binoculars
- Personal drinks bottle
- A plug adaptor - the voltage in South Africa is 220 Volts. You will need a three pin TYPE C plug adapter in South Africa and Botswana.
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details, including terminal, airline and baggage allowance, will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your passport to the staff at the desk and your boarding pass will be given to you.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

FOR CLIENTS TRAVELLING TO SOUTH AFRICA WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18

Children travelling with both biological parents must travel with:

- Valid passport of travelling parent and child
- Visa, if required
- Birth certificate listing both parents (note: these must be the original documents or certified copies of the originals)

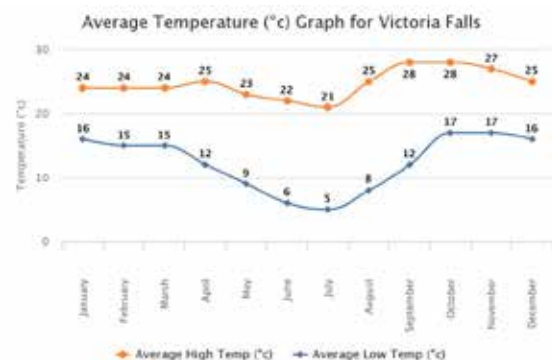
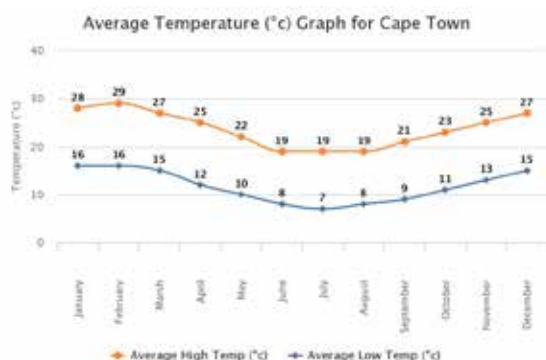
A child travelling with just one of the parents listed on his or her birth certificate must also present:

- Parental consent affidavit not older than 4 months or:
- Letter of special circumstances issued by director-general of home affairs in the event that a parent or parents are incapacitated or deceased and no legal guardian has been appointed as yet.

For full details of requirements for travel to South Africa, please visit dha.gov.za

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



Cape Town City Stay

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



Make the most of your stay in Southern Africa's most beautiful city with a 3-night extension to fully explore what makes this destination so popular. Take a cable car or hike to the top of Table Mountain for panoramic views over two oceans, explore the brightly coloured terraces of Bo-Kaap, one of Cape Town's oldest residential areas, take a catamaran to Robben Island, the site of Nelson Mandela's notorious incarceration or explore the spectacular beaches of the Atlantic seaboard, backed by the towering rocks of the Twelve Apostles.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your Cape Town extension.

Hotel Information (3 nights)

Your stay in Cape Town will take place at the **4★ Protea Hotel Fire and Ice**.

Protea Hotel Fire and Ice boasts a lovely location with nearby activities including shopping, golf, sight seeing and more. All rooms feature traditional South Africa-inspired decor, Wi-Fi, plush bedding, TVs and 24-hour room service. The hotel features an on-site spa and fitness centre, also a restaurant and bar.

Address: 64 New Church St, Tamboerskloof, Cape Town, 8018, South Africa.

Telephone: 0027 21 423 2050

Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover drinks and personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, and any extra snacks.

Tour Guides

Your stay in Cape Town is not escorted by a tour guide. All transfers are included.



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**