



# Deluxe African Wildlife Safari

Namibia, Zimbabwe & Botswana, Africa

~ Victoria Falls ~ Wildlife Viewing ~  
~ National Parks ~ Sunset Cruise ~ Exotic Cuisine ~



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# Trip Summary

## Itinerary Snapshot

### ***Day 1***

Arrive at Kasane International Airport (BBK), Botswana. Airport transfer to Chobe Savanna Lodge. Group briefing and 4PM Sunset Cruise. Welcome! Overnight at Chobe Savanna Lodge. (D)

### ***Day 2-3***

Guests can choose morning, afternoon or evening game drives to get their first look at the abundance of African wildlife. Overnight at Chobe Savanna Lodge. (B,L,D)

### ***Day 4***

Game activity at Chobe Savanna Lodge, followed by breakfast/brunch. Transfer to the Old Drift Lodge, a luxury lodge 7k above Victoria Falls. Overnight at Old Drift Lodge (B,L,D)

### ***Day 5***

Optional Activities include 4 x 4 land safari, canoe safari or walking safari. Or Enjoy the vistas and luxury of the Old Drift Lodge. One of Zimbabwe's newest and more luxury lodges. (B,L,D)

### ***Day 6***

Land Transfer to Hwange National Park. Overnight Verney's Camp. (B,L,D)

### ***Day 7***

Verney's Camp (B,L,D)

### ***Day 8***

Verney's Camp (B,L,D)

### ***Day 9***

After morning game drive and breakfast, transfer to Elephant Camp in time for afternoon activities. Overnight at Elephant Camp. (B,L,D)

### ***Day 10***

Enjoy a motorboat and short hike to Livingstone Island. Jump into the Devil's Pool! Afternoon activities at Elephant Camp or take a trip back to Victoria Falls for some adventure activities and/or souvenir shopping. Overnight at Elephant Camp. (B,L,D)

### ***Day 11***

Transfer to Victoria Falls Airport for travel home, or to another destination in Africa! (B)

(Meals included: B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)

## Accommodations

### **Chobe Savanna Lodge**

Website: <https://chobesavannalodge.com/>

Set on the banks of the Chobe River overlooking Botswana's famed Chobe National Park, Chobe Savanna Lodge is the perfect destination from which to experience the thrill of a river based safari in the home of Africa's highest elephant population. Chobe Savanna Lodge is a small and intimate luxury camp offering homely safaris. The lodge's unique location offers remarkable views over the Chobe National Park from several vantage points.

Located in the Eastern Zambezi Region of Namibia, a narrow strip on the northern bank of the Chobe River, Chobe Savanna Lodge overlooks the vast floodplains of the Chobe National Park's Puku Flats. The Chobe River provides a permanent water source to large herds of Elephant, Buffalo and Hippo, as well as dense concentrations of other wildlife – including Lion, Leopard and Wild Dog. The river offers exceptional birding opportunities where large flocks of carmine bee-eaters are spotted in season. When in flood spoonbills, ibis, various species of storks, ducks and other waterfowl flock to the area. The best way to experience the Chobe River is from the water and their experienced guides are on hand to introduce you to the true wonders of this magnificent ecosystem.

### **Old Drift Lodge**

Website: <http://www.olddriftlodge.com>

Upstream of the iconic Victoria Falls, on the banks of the Zambezi River, lies Old Drift Lodge. The lodge boasts luxury accommodation overlooking the pristine Zambezi National Park, a mere 7 kilometers from the mighty Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Old Drift Lodge is nestled within a wild paradise frequented by elephant, buffalo, herds of sable, eland, zebra, giraffe, kudu, waterbuck and impala. The main lodge area will have 360 degree views, North facing onto the Zambezi & South facing onto a water hole. A 7 kilometer stretch of river flows between the camp and the town of Victoria Falls, making Old Drift Lodge the closest lodge within the National Park to Victoria Falls.

The symphony of birdsong and calls of wildlife create a choir that enraptures all listeners and accompanies guests on this idyllic African experience. The spacious canvas en-suite rooms exhibit an air of elegance that blends in seamlessly with the natural environment. The suites are resplendent with stylish furnishings and fittings, accentuated by an indoor and outdoor shower, private plunge pool and bath with a view.

### **Verney's Camp**

Website: <https://machabasafaris.com/verneys-camp/>

Verney's is a private concession area in a typically un-used part of Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe. It is a beautiful amphitheater fringed by teak forest that opens up onto an impressive waterhole that is a playground to the famous elephant herds of Hwange.

Ten tents are tucked perfectly under the shady arms of the teak trees bordering the open waterhole in front of camp. Each tent has been carefully positioned to ensure the best serenity and privacy so that guests can enjoy the natural beauty of the area.

### **Elephant Camp**

Website: [www.theelephantcamp.com](http://www.theelephantcamp.com)

Situated on a private concession within and bounded by the Masuwe River and the Zambezi gorges, The Elephant Camp has breathtaking views of the Victoria Falls' spray, and the spectacular gorges which separate Zimbabwe and Zambia. The Elephant Camp is a luxury and intimate lodge under canvas within easy reach of Victoria Falls and all its attractions and activities.

## **Itinerary in Detail**

### **Day 1 – Arrival**

Arrive in Kasane Airport, Botswana early afternoon. Chobe Savanna Lodge is located in the Eastern Zambezi Region of Namibia. It is perfectly set on the banks of the Chobe River with spectacular views of Botswana's Chobe National Park. The lodge is accessed by boat via the town of Kasane (Botswana). Our guides will meet you at the Kasane border and assist you with the simple border procedures before transporting you away from the bustling town of Kasane to remote location for which Chobe Savanna Lodge is renowned.

You will have a chance to rest and freshen up before we rendezvous at the bar for a welcome drink and briefing. Our trip leader will give us an overview of what excitement lies ahead!

At 4 pm, we will board our vessel for a relaxing sunset cruise to enjoy a few drinks while looking for game and will enjoy the beautiful and abundant bird life. Our first African sunset to be enjoyed with our fellow Zambezi explorers while we gently drift amongst the Hippo pods will be unforgettable! (D)

### ***The Lodge***

Chobe Savanna Lodge is set in a classic African Savanna environment of sweeping vistas. The focal point of the lodge is a thatched, open-sided main building that features a 270 degree view over the Chobe River and beyond to the Chobe National Park.

Attractive gardens featuring a secluded swimming pool further enhance the lodge's enviable location. In addition to the scheduled game-viewing activities, Chobe Savanna Lodge is also a perfect venue for guests to simply take time out to watch the natural world go by in one of the most spectacular settings imaginable.

### ***Accommodations***

A private and secluded safari experience is guaranteed as Chobe Savanna Lodge accommodates only twenty six guests in beautifully furnished thatched chalets, each with a private deck, an integrated bedroom and lounge area and en-suite facilities. Every chalet is air-conditioned and has its own complimentary mini bar.

### **Day 2-3: Game drives and walks**

Guests can choose morning, afternoon or night drives to get their fill of the wonderful game viewing that is available here. This is a fantastic way to get your first glimpse of African wildlife while recovering from your long journey.

### ***Activities & Wildlife Sightings***

As this is a water-based lodge, guests have a choice of aquatic activities. River excursions in small, easily maneuverable boats are ideal for close encounters with the wild visitors to the river's edge. Fishing is also a popular pastime; our catch-and-release fishing trips for Bream or Tiger Fish are a firm favorite with guests of all ages. Those wishing to experience some of the local Namibian traditions will enjoy a cultural village visit to one of the surrounding communities, where one can observe the ancient heritage of the local people. (B,L,D)

### **Day 4 – Transfer to Old Drift Lodge**

Morning Game activity at Chobe Savanna Lodge followed by breakfast / brunch. Then, we will transfer to the Old Drift Lodge. (B,L,D)

### **Day 5 – Day at Old Drift Lodge**

Optional activities include Canoeing, walking safaris and driving safaris. Many will opt to stay and enjoy the luxury and comforts of this iconic lodge (B,L,D)

### **Day 6 – Transfer to Hwange National Park**

3 hour transfer to our hotel for the next 3 nights: Verney's Camp in Hwange National Park. There we will enjoy an afternoon game drive, relax with some sundowners and potentially go on a night drive. Over night Verney's Camp. (B,L,D)

### **Day 7 – Hwange National Park**

Just before the sun rises your day on safari begins. After a wakeup call, everyone gathers at the camp fire to have a light breakfast before setting out on the morning's activities. We usually leave by Land Rover for a game drive to a designated area chosen earlier, where you will be briefed by your guide and then all set off on a safari walk.

On completion of your walk, you will return to camp in the late morning, for a brunch, and a time of relaxation, where you can return to your rooms for a siesta, or sit and watch the activities at the waterhole. We do have a unique log pile hide in the shade near the waterhole which your guide will be happy to take you – so that you may have a close up view of all the visitors needing to drink and carry out their ablutions.

Mid-afternoon we will gather at the main area again to discuss the afternoon's activity. Please note that there are no time restrictions to our activities, the walks/drives will be governed by what you see and not meal times. Hampers of delicious foodstuffs and refreshments will accompany every adventure into the bush, be it on foot or vehicle. (B,L,D)

### **Day 8 – More Hwange National Park**

Again we will wake early, enjoy a very light breakfast and enjoy the coolness of the morning while observing the animals of Africa. Walking and Driving Safaris available. (B,L,D)

### **Day 9 – Transfer to Elephant Camp**

A 3 hour transfer back to Victoria Falls and relax into our lodge Elephant camp for the next two nights. Once at Elephant Camp, you have a range of afternoon activities to choose from, including introducing yourself to Sylvester, the ambassador cheetah. After your afternoon activity, relax with a sundowner, the breathtaking views of the Victoria Falls' spray, and the spectacular gorges which separate Zimbabwe and Zambia. (B,L,D)

### **Day 10 – Devils Pool**

After breakfast we will head out by vehicle, cross into Zambia to the boat jetty on the Zambezi where a small motor boat will ferry us out to the middle of the Victoria Falls and take us to Livingstone Island. From here we hike a short distance to the upstream edge of the Victoria Falls and from there will traverse a pool of calm water by swimming and then we climb onto a rock outcropping that allows us to jump into the famous Devil's pool! This natural "tea cup" allows you to literally sit on the edge of the falls as water spills over the edge of the cup where you jumped in! It is a truly amazing and unforgettable experience that will set the tone for the exciting fun held in store for you! After the refreshing "dip" we swim, hike back to the tented "tea room" for a light, late morning snack of crumpets and tea. We return to the lodge for lunch and rest.

In the afternoon, we can enjoy more of what the Elephant Camp has to offer and meet some of the rescued wildlife up close and personal, or take a trip back to Vic Falls for some adventure activities, souvenir shopping ...the choice is yours, but we're betting you are not going to want to leave. Tonight will be our farewell dinner as we share great stories and make plans for our next Adventure. (B,L,D)

### **Day 11 – Depart**

By now, your new home in the bush will feel so comfortable that you will begin to ponder ditching the real job back home and opening your own lodge in Africa. But while you are fantasizing we will transfer you to the Victoria Falls Airport for a mid-day flight out. You will connect with your international flight home,

and you will still be dreaming and reflecting on one of the best experiences in your life and the new friends made. You might already be scheming a timely return to the African wilderness and its supreme river – the inimitable Zambezi...(B)

## Visas and Passports

Visa costs can often change at the last minute. It's best to have adequate US cash on you in small denominations. You should also check the country's embassy / consular website before leaving your country.

### Namibia

A passport with at least six months of validity remaining is required.  
[na.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/passports/travel-to-namibia/](http://na.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/passports/travel-to-namibia/)

### Zimbabwe

Entry requirements: A passport, return ticket, and adequate funds. Americans are required to pay visa fees at point of entry. A multi-day entry visa is US\$60.  
[zimbabwe-embassy.us/index.html](http://zimbabwe-embassy.us/index.html)

### Botswana

A passport with at least six months of validity remaining is required.  
[botswana.usembassy.gov/](http://botswana.usembassy.gov/)

*Please note: it is your responsibility to check with embassies to verify any passport and visa requirements for entry and exit requirements for the countries you will be visiting.*

## Flying In and Out

You will be flying into Kasane International Airport (BKK), Botswana out of Victoria Falls Airport (VFA), Zimbabwe. The first day of the trip is an arrival day. The last day of the trip is your departure day. Be sure to email Bio Bio your entire flight itinerary and we will arrange an airport pick-up.

For tickets, you can call Karell air travel agent or use your own: [www.karellair.com](http://www.karellair.com)

\*There is an airport departure tax, payable in US dollars.

## Packing List

It is going to be hot and dry! For the most part you will live in shorts and a t-shirt. For sun protection, we recommend a long sleeve button down shirt made of a light colored, light and quick-drying fabric. You will be traveling in the dry months, so there should be very few mosquitoes to worry about! There are certain dining rooms in Victoria Falls that require “smarter” attire - for men, long pants and a button down shirt, and a dress for women.

### General

**Passport** - and copies and visas

- Airplane Tickets** - and copies
- Important **phone numbers**, addresses
- Money**, cash, credit card
- Sunscreen**: High SPF that is sweat resistant
- Sunglasses**
- Bug repellent**: Deet, garlic, Vitamin-B
- Toiletry kit** (Medications) and lotion
- Wide brimmed **hat**, strap
- Safari clothing**: cotton button down shirt, khaki trousers & shorts - the best colors are those that blend in with the Bush, don't scare away the animals! Also, avoid blues and dark colors to avoid the tsetse flies and heat.
- T-shirts**, white or earth colors
- Comfortable **walking shoes** (boots)
- Socks**
- "Smart Casual"** attire for Hotels
- Sweater** or fleece for cool mornings

#### Additional

- Book, magazine, journal**
- Camera**, extra storage, batteries
- Binoculars**, Bird book
- H2O bottle**
- Toiletry kit**, medications, lotion, band aids
- Bandana**
- Fanny or **back pack**
- Power Bars or similar snacks
- Gatorade powder packets**

Additional things you might consider bringing: Gatorade powder flavor packs will help keep you hydrated. Power Bars are always handy to have. Bring clothes that you are planning to discard and trade in for curios in Vic Falls. For example, trade old T-shirts for fine woodcarvings.

## Money Matters

### Tipping

While tipping is optional, most people will tip the various guides on your trip: River guides, Safari guides, porters, hotel staff. Bring about 10-15% of your trip cost to cover these tips along the way.



## Cash

There is an ATM machine Victoria Falls, however it is not reliable. You should therefore be prepared for this. You should bring plenty of US dollars. Crisp, clean, new bills are best. Small bills come in handy for tipping hotel staff, taxis and buying small things off the street. Some things you'll need cash for:

- Tips
- Crafts you want to buy
- Extra activities in Victoria Falls – bungee jumping, gorge swing, entrance to the Falls, etc. *(Please call us so we can update you on these costs.)*

Travelers Checks are not recommended as they are hard to cash.

## Money Belts

You should have a money belt that is worn under your clothes.

## Immunizations

Bio Bio Expeditions suggests you check with your family doctor to find out the latest requirements for shots when traveling to Africa. See your doctor at least 4–6 weeks before your trip to allow time for shots to take effect. Recent information on required vaccinations can be obtained by calling the Centers for Disease Control international travelers' hotline at 877.394.8747. You can access their website by directing your browser to <http://www.cdc.gov/>.

Here is a list of CDC suggestions:

- Hepatitis A or immune globulin (IG).
- Hepatitis B - if you might be exposed to blood (for example, health-care workers), have sexual contact with the local population, stay longer than 6 months, or be exposed through medical treatment.
- Rabies - if you might be exposed to wild or domestic animals through your work or recreation.
- Typhoid, particularly if you are visiting developing countries in this region.
- **Yellow fever** - mandatory when traveling to Zimbabwe & Botswana if traveling from or through countries where yellow fever is a risk.
- Malaria
- As needed, booster doses for tetanus-diphtheria, measles, and a one-time dose of polio vaccine for adults. Hepatitis B vaccine is now recommended for all infants and for children ages 11–12 years who did not receive the series as infants.

## Malaria

Transmission and Symptoms:

Malaria is a serious disease that is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected female Anopheles mosquito. Symptoms may include fever and flu-like illness, including: chills, headache, muscle aches, and fatigue. Malaria may cause anemia and jaundice. Malaria, if not promptly treated, may cause kidney failure, coma, and death. Malaria can often be prevented by using anti-malarial drugs and by using personal protection measures to prevent mosquito bites. However, in spite of all protective measures, travelers may still develop malaria. Travelers who become ill with a fever or flu-like illness while traveling in a malaria risk

area and up to one year after returning home should seek prompt medical attention and should tell the physician their travel history.

#### Prevention:

- Malone is the drug of choice for Malaria prevention as it has fewer reported side effects than other drugs and, according to various studies, is more effective.

#### Preventing Insect Bites:

In addition to using drugs to prevent malaria, travelers should protect themselves from mosquito bites by wearing clothing that covers most of the body, using bed nets, and applying insect repellent to exposed skin, particularly between dusk and dawn. The most effective repellents contain the active ingredient DEET (N, N-diethyl meta-toluamide). When using DEET, follow these precautions:

- Always use according to label directions.
- Use repellent only when outdoors and wash skin after coming indoors.
- Do not breathe or swallow repellent or get it in the eyes.
- Do not put repellent on wounds or broken skin.
- Adults should use DEET at a concentration of 30% to 35%.
- DEET should not come in contact with rubber elements for they will melt.

For greater protection, clothing can be soaked in or sprayed with permethrin. Permethrin will repel insects for several months. Repellents containing DEET, and Permethrin can be purchased in hardware, camping, and military surplus stores.

## Water

Although it takes a little extra caution when drinking fluids in Africa, it is essential to stay well hydrated. We advise that you not drink any of the tap water in most of Africa. Bottled water is fine to drink and can be ordered at most restaurants. When ordering sodas, it is best to request them without ice as the ice can be made from tap water.

## Food

Avoid rich food until you acclimatize. If you are wary of getting sick, then play it safe and eat only cooked foods or fresh fruit that you have peeled yourself. The best hotels and restaurants have high standards for hygiene and food preparation. In general, stay cautious, eat what appeals to you and trust your senses.

## Digestive Worries

Traveling to Africa is going to be a big change on your body. Despite the many precautions we all take to stay healthy, occasionally one may experience diarrhea. The major problem associated with diarrhea is fluid loss leading to severe dehydration, so it is important to maintain plentiful fluid intake. Avoid caffeine and alcohol because they further dehydrate you. The best drinks are weak tea, mineral water, and caffeine-free soft drinks. Although ideally it is best to let diarrhea run its course, on a trekking trip this is uncomfortable. You may want to bring an over-the-counter diarrhea cure to minimize your discomfort or talk to your doctor about prescribing an antibiotic for traveler's diarrhea such as Cipro. We also advise that you carry your own supply of toilet paper, as some of the restrooms in Africa may not have TP.

## Prescriptions

If you take prescription medications that you need to bring, be sure to have a plentiful supply and the doctor's prescription in case something happens to them. Along those lines, it is best to carry medications in your carry-on bag in case of lost luggage. If you wear prescription glasses or contacts, we advise that you bring a spare set.

## Voltage

Electrical current in Africa is 220 volts AC. Weights and measures are Metric.

## Safety

Although the locals are a warm, friendly, fun-loving people, poverty and therefore thievery, is a problem. Always keep your wits about you and be aware of your surroundings. When with other people, watch out for each other. Large crowds are prime locations for pick-pocketing to occur. Keep your money in a money belt or hidden pouch that you wear around your neck and under your shirt. When purchasing items, do not pull out lots of money. We advise that you leave all valuable jewelry, including fancy watches, at home. Thieves often work in pairs or groups - one tries to distract you (eg: by squirting food or paint on your clothing) and in your ensuing confusion, another one makes off with your belongings.

## Fitness Levels

Your upcoming expedition is not overly strenuous. Although there will be lots of time to relax, read, and rest, we will be doing some very physical activities as well. In terms of the safari, the hardest part is dealing with the hot days. Keeping yourself protected from the sun and hydrated will help keep you healthy!

## Country Facts

### The Zambezi River

The Zambezi is Africa's fourth largest River system, after the Nile, Zaire and Niger Rivers. It runs through six countries on its journey from central Africa to the Indian Ocean. Its unique value is that it is less developed than others in terms of human settlement and many areas along its banks enjoy protected status.

The Zambezi's power has carved the spectacular Victoria Falls and the zigzagging Batoka Gorge. The Zambezi has been harnessed at various points along the way including the massive Kariba Dam between Zambia and Zimbabwe and Cabora Bassa Dam in Mozambique. Plans for another dam at the Batoka Gorge have fortunately been shelved. The river's beauty has attracted tourists from all over the world providing opportunities for a myriad of water sports and game viewing.

Running for a length of 2700km, the river's journey begins as an insignificant little spring in the corner of Northwest Zambia in the Mwinilunga District. It bubbles up between the roots of a tree, very close to the border where Zambia, Angola and Zaire meet. It enters Angola for about 230kms, where it accumulates the bulk of its headwater drainage, and re-enters Zambia again at Cholwezi rapids flowing due south but substantially enlarged by the entry of various tributaries.

It passes through the flat sandy country of the Western Province, then traverses the broad, annually flooding Barotse Plains, where much of the water is lost to evaporation, then over more rocky country where it's tranquil course is interrupted by the Ngonye Falls and Rapids. Pastoralists, farmers and fishermen thinly populate this upper part of the river. Wildlife is sparse it is remarkably free of pollution. This is also the scene of the remarkable Ku-

omboka Ceremony where thousands of inhabitants move annually to higher ground as the Zambezi floods into the low lying plains.

As it turns in an easterly direction it forms the border between Zambia and Namibia and eventually joins up with the Chobe River in the Caprivi Swamps, briefly forming a border with Botswana. For the next 500km it serves as the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe thundering over the Victoria Falls and through the narrow, steadily deepening Batoka Gorge, which flattens out at the broad Gwembe Valley. From here it flows into the Kariba Dam for 281km - it's width at one point being 40km. From the dam wall the river travels due north, heading east again at Chirundu. Here it is flanked by the Lower Zambezi National Park on the Zambian side and Mana Pools National Park on the Zimbabwean side. This middle zone supports one of Africa's most important wilderness areas. After the Luangwa Confluence, it's a much larger Zambezi that flows into Mozambique and out towards the Indian Ocean, having provided power, food, pleasure and transport for many and a home for untold numbers of wildlife along it's journey.

The Bundu people of Zambia believe the Zambezi River has a spirit called Nyami Nyami. This spirit brings them water to grow crops and fish to eat so they call the river "the river of life". Perhaps the most spectacular spot along the river is in Zimbabwe at Victoria Falls. These falls are two times the size of Niagara Falls at 355 feet high and 5500 feet wide!

The Zambezi River is widely used by wildlife and humans alike. Hippos, crocodiles, baboons, elephants, hyenas and lions are some examples of wildlife you might find along the Zambezi. Humans use the river for transportation, irrigation, tourism and hydropower. The people who live along the river differ from country to country. English is the official language of the area though the different tribes along the banks of the Zambezi speak more than 70 other languages. Currently the countries along the river are at odds as to how to manage the river. In the future these countries must agree to manage "the river of life" so that its people can survive and its spirit can thrive.

## **Zimbabwe**

Zimbabwe is a landlocked country in south-central Africa. It lies between the Zambezi River in the north and the Limpopo River to the south. The country has land borders with Mozambique to the north and east, South Africa to the South, Botswana to the southwest and Zambia to the northwest and north.

Most of Zimbabwe is rolling plateau, with over 75% of it lying between 610m (2000 ft) and 1,525m (5,000 ft) above sea level, and almost all of it over 305m (1,000 ft).

The area of high plateau, know as the High Veld, is some 400 miles long by 50 miles wide, and stretches northeast to southwest at 1,220m (4,000 ft) to 1,676m (5,500ft). This culminates in the northeast in the Udizi and Inyanga mountains, reaching the country's highest point at Mt. Inyangani at 2,596m (8,517 ft). The middle veld is a plateau ranging from 610m (2,000 ft) to 1,220m (4,000 ft) high. Below 610m (2,000ft) are areas making up the Low Veld, wide and sandy plains in the basins of the Zambezi and the Limpopo.

The steep mountain ranges cut Zimbabwe off from the eastern plains that border the Indian Ocean. The High Veld is a central ridge forming the country's watershed, with stream flowing southeast to the Limpopo and Sabi rivers and northwest into the Zambezi. Deep river valleys cut the Middle Veld. Only the larger of the many rivers have an all-year-round flow of water. Most of rivers have falls and rapids.

## **General Description of Zimbabwe's Climate**

Zimbabwe is a land locked country, which lies wholly within the tropics, extending from about (151°2S to 22 1/2S), and from (251/2°E to 33°E). The main physical characteristics of the country are the high watershed areas, mostly between 1200m and 1500m, which roughly divide the country into two halves the southeast and northwest. In general, the altitude falls from the central watershed and escarpments towards the main river valleys, interrupted by secondary plateau, ranges and valleys which may be localized but do have a noteworthy effect on the local climate. Lake Kariba, covering over 5000km along the northwestern border has created significant climatic changes in its vicinity. The low lying main river valleys, Zambezi, Limpopo and Sabi are below 500m and some areas in these

valleys may fall below 300m. Rainfall generally increases from south to north, since winds of a northerly origin are much moister than winds of a southerly origin. However, the gradient may be distorted by elevation.

## Recommended Reading / Viewing

- Out of Africa, I. Dineson (or rent the video)
- River Gods, R. Bangs
- The Power of One, B. Courtenay

## Helpful Phrases

- Just now = Pretty soon, or later.
- Now now = Immediately, on the double!
- Make a Plan = I don't quite know yet.
- Kun-Jhani = Good morning!
- Siya Bonga = Thank you.

## Online Information

Below we have compiled a list of web sites that will help you find answers to all of those uncommon questions!

### Money

[www.xe.net/ucc/](http://www.xe.net/ucc/) - This is a universal currency converter site  
[www.oanda.com/](http://www.oanda.com/) - Exchange rates and currency forecasts  
[www.visa.com/atmlocator/index.jsp](http://www.visa.com/atmlocator/index.jsp) - A list of ATM machines world wide

### Clothing / Gear

[www.patagonia.com](http://www.patagonia.com) - Expedition clothing.  
[www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com) - Expedition gear and clothing.  
[www.mountainhardwear.com](http://www.mountainhardwear.com) - Tents, sleeping bags, expeditions wear.  
[www.exofficio.com](http://www.exofficio.com) - Lightweight travel clothes - Great for Safaris!  
[www.eaglecreek.com](http://www.eaglecreek.com) - Excellent travel gear and packing tips from the experts  
[www.cameraworld.com](http://www.cameraworld.com) - The best prices on camera and video gear!  
[www.nrsweb.com](http://www.nrsweb.com) - Anything you could ever want for the river.  
[www.llbean.com](http://www.llbean.com) - Gear and clothing for any adventure.

### Health

[wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel) - All the latest recommendations on vaccination and important information on health concerns worldwide.

### Passport and Embassy Information

<http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/english.html> - How to get a passport fast! - List of Embassies worldwide.

### Weather

[www.accuweather.com](http://www.accuweather.com) - Find out the weather anywhere in the world!

## Travel Warnings

[travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html) - State department warnings for overseas travelers.

## Conservation

[www.friendsoftheriver.org](http://www.friendsoftheriver.org) - Help save rivers worldwide

[www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org) - Protecting the environment for our families and our futures

[www.edf.org](http://www.edf.org) - Stay current on all environmental issues - Environmental Defense Fund

[www.tnc.org](http://www.tnc.org) - The Nature Conservancy - Saving the last great rivers

[www.irn.org](http://www.irn.org) - International Rivers Network - Supports local communities working to protect their rivers and watersheds. They work to halt destructive river development projects, and to encourage equitable and sustainable methods of meeting needs for water and flood management.

## Pre-Departure Checklist

Please keep this sheet handy and check off each item when completed.

- Passport and valuable documents.*** Money and credit cards (Keep these close to your body in a well concealed place)
- Make photocopies of plane tickets, credit cards, travelers cheque receipts, and passport.
- Make sure you carry-on essentials that you cannot live without. Don't check them through!
- Medications and prescriptions (Keep in your carry-on)
- Eyeglasses or contacts and prescriptions (Keep in your carry-on)
- Reading material for plane and relaxing in Africa.
- Reconfirm flights (72 hours in advance)
- Make sure you have a ride to the airport.
- Leave Bio Bio Expeditions contact phone numbers with a responsible person.
- Find someone to water your plants, feed your dog, and pet your cat.
- Do not forget to tell work you will be gone a few days!
- Travelex travel insurance \* forms filled out and sent in.
- Spending money for trip to cover meals, taxis, tips, gifts, and any incidentals not covered by Bio Bio. Please check itinerary to see where meals are not covered.

***(Please get to the airport at least 3 hours before any International flight!)***

**We look forward to seeing you in Africa!**

# Map of Caprivi Strip, Zambia, Zimbabwe & other countries



