

## AFRICA – SAFARI & CRUISING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA **NEW FOR 2019**

9-day / 8-night safari & PREMIUM PLUS cruising holiday South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe



This holiday, new for 2019, combines land and water safaris, cruising on a luxury hotel boat, and guided visits to Johannesburg and **Victoria Falls** for a unique and unforgettable in-depth exploration of Southern Africa.

From **Johannesburg**, we travel to the **Chobe National Park** in Botswana, staying in a luxurious safari lodge on an island in the **Zambezi River**. We explore Chobe by land and water to see elephant, hippo, crocodile or some of the park's many bird species. We visit islands on the Zambezi to learn more of the local customs and culture. We spend three nights aboard a PREMIUM PLUS hotel boat on **Lake Kariba**, discovering the lake's tributaries, gorges and landscapes. We visit **Matusadona National Park**, a sanctuary for the endangered black rhino and other wildlife. We visit Victoria Falls, one of the world's largest and most spectacular waterfalls.

On this all-inclusive luxury holiday, travel at a relaxed pace on a beautifully appointed hotel boat with just eight cabins, two with private balcony. The exclusive safari lodge too has just eight bungalows, each with its own terrace and private pool. On-board the boat there is one crew member for each passenger, and the staff multi-lingual with English as the main language. All meals are included, with a focus on refined local cuisine.

**Cost from:** **Low season: \$8560** per person twin-share (in March, November & early December)

**High season: \$9780** per person twin-share (in April to October)

Christmas/New Year departures from **\$8845** per person twin-share

Balcony cabin supplement from **\$410** per person twin-share

Single supplement on request, limited availability

**Departs:** 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> April;  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> May;  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> June;  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> July;  
1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> August;  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> September;  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> October  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> November; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2019

Christmas/New Year departures: 17<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>\*, 26<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2019

\*special Christmas itinerary – ask for itinerary details and costs

**Includes:** 2 nights in 4-star hotels; 3 nights in twin-share bungalow at a private 5-star safari lodge; 3 nights onboard the hotel boat in twin-share cabin; excursions, transfers and flights as per itinerary; all meals; a beverage with meals; services of a local guide; tips and gratuities.

**Not included:** Optional excursions; personal expenses; visa or passport charges (Zimbabwe visa from USD30 paid locally); Botswana tourism levy (from USD30 paid locally); tips or gratuities for hotel boat crew or lodge staff; additional drinks with meals. Transfer Johannesburg airport to hotel or Victoria Falls hotel to airport not included but can be booked at additional cost, ask for details.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**

## **Suggested itinerary:**

### **Day 1: Arrive Johannesburg (South Africa)**

Arrive Johannesburg by 11.00am to meet your guide and other passengers. After lunch we have a guided coach tour of the city including a visit to the Apartheid Museum focused on South Africa's turbulent 20<sup>th</sup> Century history. Johannesburg is a city of contrasts. It is South Africa's financial capital, the richest town in Africa, and the divide between rich and poor is vast, but the city has a vibrant, lively atmosphere with much evidence of the urban revival. We arrive at our 4-star hotel with time to settle into our rooms before dinner.

### **Day 2: Johannesburg – Kasane (Botswana)**

We take a scheduled flight from Johannesburg to Kasane, Botswana. We use small private boats to reach our exclusive 5-star safari lodge. Watch for the numerous bird species living among the flooded flatlands – with luck we may even catch a glimpse of hippos or crocodiles basking in the sun. Our private safari lodge is on an island created by a tributary of the Zambezi River, in an atmosphere of absolute tranquillity in the heart of wilderness. Settle in to your beautifully appointed bungalow, then dine at the lodge.

### **Day 3: Chobe National Park**

A full-day safari by Jeep to explore Chobe National Park today. The park is home to more than one quarter of Africa's total elephant population. We have lunch in a "floating restaurant" in the middle of the river where the views of the surrounding nature are unparalleled. Afterwards, we sail up the Chobe River aboard small private boats, to Sedudu Island (once the subject of a border dispute between Botswana and Namibia) and its marshes. Return to the lodge for dinner and overnight.

### **Day 4: Impalila Island (Namibia)**

We head to Impalila Island, at the easternmost tip of Namibia, to visit traditional Namibian villages and learn about the culture, customs and history of the local people. We return to our lodge for lunch. This afternoon, there is free time to relax at the lodge, or join an optional cruise on the Zambezi River on small private boats. We dine at the lodge, then after dinner hear from a local about the traditions of this particular island.

### **Day 5: Kasane – Lake Kariba**

Transfer from the lodge to Kasane airport where we board small private planes for the flight to Kariba. This is a truly scenic flight, with wide-ranging views over Lake Kariba and the changing landscapes of the wilderness. From Kariba airport we are transferred to our luxury hotel barge. After lunch aboard the barge we begin our journey across the lake. Lake Kariba was created by damming the Zambezi River at Kariba Gorge in the 1950s, flooding flatlands, hills and forests alike, creating unique and iconic landscapes. Its shorelines are home to large populations of wildlife and its waters teem with fish. There is much to explore, as the lake is over 200km long and about 40km across at its widest point. Dinner and overnight aboard our barge.

### **Day 6: Lake Kariba, the Gache-Gache River and Sanyati Gorge**

At sunrise, we sail through the dreamlike, mysterious landscapes of Lake Kariba where drowned trees reach skywards from the depths of the reflective water. On small private boats we meander along the Gache Gache River to discover its tiny, unspoiled inlets, unique wildlife and magical atmosphere. Return to the barge for lunch. In the afternoon, until sunset we sail through the Sanyati Gorge, one of the most impressive gorges at Lake Kariba. Dinner and overnight aboard our barge.

### **Day 7: Lake Kariba and Matusadona National Park**

We plan a safari in and around Matusadona National Park this morning. Bordered by the Sanyati and Ume Rivers, the park is home to elephant, hippo, crocodile, buffalo and abundant birdlife, including the African sea eagle, the yellow-billed stork, and the black heron. We may spot lion, leopard or the rare black rhino.

We return to the ship for lunch and sail further on the lake. This afternoon there will be a discussion session to learn more about the lake's creation, its inhabitants and its ecosystem. Dinner and overnight aboard our boat.

### **Day 8: Lake Kariba – Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)**

At sunrise, we set sail towards Kariba. We see the gigantic Kariba Dam, built in 1955-58 to form the lake which today provides 70% of Zimbabwe's power. We can learn the legends around the creation of the lake, including the tale of NyamiNyami, the river god. We fly from Kariba to Victoria Falls and join a lunch cruise upstream on the Zambezi River. In the afternoon we set off on foot for a vantage point with exceptional views; we see where the Zambezi River plunges over the cliff to become the largest waterfall in the world, creating the *smoke that thunders* (from the indigenous Lozi name for the falls, *Mosi-oa-Tunya*). Our farewell dinner is a traditional outdoor *boma* dinner, with traditional dance and music. Overnight at a four-star hotel in Victoria Falls township.

### **Day 9: Departure day**

Tour arrangements end after breakfast at your hotel. There is an optional early morning excursion of a helicopter flight over Victoria Falls (must be reserved when booking your holiday).



## OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR CAPE TOWN EXTENSION

**5-day / 4-night pre-tour - Cape Town, Robben Island, Groot Constantia vineyard & Cape of Good Hope.**

**Includes:** 4 nights' accommodation in 4-star hotels; all meals except dinner on the first night; a beverage with meals; transfer to Cape Town airport and flight from Cape Town to Johannesburg, excursions as per itinerary, tips & gratuities, services of a guide.

**Cost from:** \$2950 to \$4560 per person, depending on numbers. Single room supplement from \$870.

### **Day 1: Arrive Cape Town**

Arrive Cape Town and check into your 4-star hotel from 3pm. Dinner is at own arrangements this evening.

### **Day 2: Cape Town city tour & Table Mountain**

After breakfast we tour the city. Cape Town is one of the world's most beautiful cities with modern towers in the city centre, cobblestone roads and many historical monuments overlooked by Table Mountain. We take the Table Mountain cableway to view Table Bay and surrounding mountains. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

### **Day 3: Robben Island & Groot Constantia Wine Estate**

In the morning, we have a guided tour of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Robben Island, the former prison where Nelson Mandela was an inmate for 18 years. We return to Cape Town for lunch on the Victoria & Albert waterfront then visit the Groot Constantia wine estate, the oldest in South Africa, dating back to 1685. Wine tasting including South Africa's flagship wine, Pinotage. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

### **Day 4: Cape of Good Hope**

We set out for the legendary Cape of Good Hope along Chapman's Peak Drive and the Atlantic and southwestern tip of South Africa. There are beautiful valleys, bays and beaches with diverse and unique fauna and flora. At Cape Point we take the Flying Dutchman funicular up to the lighthouse for views of the cape and Atlantic Ocean. After lunch we visit the penguin colony at Boulders Beach near Simon's Town, home to around 2500 African penguins, the only penguin to nest on the African continent. Return to Cape Town for dinner.

### **Day 5: Cape Town – Johannesburg**

Early transfer to Cape Town airport and board a scheduled flight to Johannesburg where you make your own way to our joining point hotel to meet up with your guide and group by 11am as per Day 1 of the main itinerary.

Pre-tour or post-tour extensions in Victoria Falls or Johannesburg are available – ask for details.

**Outdoor Travel** offer safari and walking holidays in Kenya or Uganda or inn-to-inn cycling in the Kruger / Blyde River Canyon area of South Africa. Other hotel barge cruises from are available in **Ireland** on the River Shannon, Windsor on the **River Thames** near London, **Burgundy**, the **Loire Valley**, the **Bordeaux** region, **Provence** or on the **Canal du Midi** in the south of France and **Venice** in Italy.

**Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:**

- Call Toll free 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or fax (03) 57501020
- Email: [info@outdoortravel.com.au](mailto:info@outdoortravel.com.au)
- Web: [www.outdoortravel.com.au](http://www.outdoortravel.com.au)
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright 3741, Australia



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