

# 22 Day Southern Escape

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This trip begins in Johannesburg, South Africa and travels north through South Africa and Zimbabwe then south through Botswana before ending in Johannesburg, South Africa.

This trip departs from Johannesburg early on Wednesday morning. Should you wish to explore Johannesburg, ATC or your travel agent can assist you, in booking your activities as well as accommodation. However, costs due to earlier arrival, will be for your own account.

<b>Trip code:</b>	JJ22
<b>Accommodation style:</b>	Camping
<b>Length of trip:</b>	22 Days
<b>Starts in:</b>	Johannesburg, South Africa
<b>Finishes in:</b>	Johannesburg, South Africa
<b>Pre-departure Meeting:</b>	Held at the Departure Point at 17h00, the day before your departure.
<b>Departure point:</b>	Mufasa Backpackers, 21 Fourth Road, Cloverdene, Benoni
<b>Check-In Time:</b>	07h00
<b>Departure Time:</b>	07h30
<b>Breakfasts included:</b>	21
<b>Lunches included:</b>	19
<b>Dinners included:</b>	19
<b>Brunches included:</b>	0
<b>Countries visited:</b>	South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe
<b>Local Payment:</b>	US\$ 805

## PLEASE NOTE:

This itinerary should be used as a guide only and may vary from day to day depending on road & weather conditions, political situations and group decisions.

All prices & Local Payments are subject to change.

Due to Tourism Laws in some of the countries we visit, there may be a truck and crew change during the trip. Your arrival transfer and pre-trip accommodation in a dorm bed is included in your trip price. Should you choose not to make use of these, or in the event that Africa Travel Co was not updated with your arrival details, no refund will be paid for services not used.

Please ensure you've received a copy of our pre departure information document with information on what to expect on this overland safari.

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This comprehensive twenty two day trip takes in the highlights of southern Africa where we experience our first introduction to Africa's wildlife in the Kruger National Park. We head to Zimbabwe to visit the Great Zimbabwe Ruins, Matobo National Park, famous for its populations of black rhino & Hwange National Park. Then we take in the majesty of the Victoria Falls before crossing to Botswana, where we explore the magnificent Chobe National Park and the watery channels of the Okavango Delta. We go on a final safari back in Kruger before finishing the trip in Johannesburg.

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## INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS

Kruger National Park, Night Game drives, Blyde River Canyon, Great Zimbabwe Ruins, Matobo National Park, Hwange National Park, and Entrance to Victoria Falls, Chobe National Park & Chobe Boat Cruise.

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## **SOUTH AFRICA**

With nine different provinces, 11 official languages and 3 capital cities, South Africa will most definitely make you stop in your tracks and go – WOW.

### **DAY 1: Johannesburg to Nkambeni Camp** (Lunch / Dinner)

Leaving Johannesburg we head towards the Lowveld and our camp is situated in the famous Kruger National Park. On our way we pass through the southern section of the picturesque Panorama Route – famous for its breathtaking vistas.

#### **Included Activity: Night Game Drive**

### **DAY 2: Nkambeni Camp** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Today we explore the amazing Kruger National Park. Covering 19 485 km<sup>2</sup> - 60 km wide and over 350 km long, this conservation area has more than 146 mammals, 500 bird, 114 reptile, 33 amphibian & 49 fish species. 23 000 different types of plants have been recorded. We spend the day driving around the park keeping an eye out for these. There is the option of doing a night drive looking for a few of the nocturnal inhabitants or upgrading to a small vehicle for the game drive at an additional cost.

#### **Included Activity: Game drives through Kruger National Park in the ATC vehicle.**

### **DAY 3: Nkambeni Camp to Polokwane** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Today we leave the Lowveld and head on the long, scenic drive to Polokwane. Along the way we stop off at some of the best scenery in South Africa, including the ever striking Blyde River Canyon and God's Window. The many viewpoints of the Canyon, afford us excellent photo opportunities. Polokwane, capital of Limpopo, is the largest metropolitan complex in the north and a major economic centre. Its proximity to the neighbouring countries of Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Swaziland, as well as its convenient distance from the Kruger National Park and Magoebaskloof, makes it a perfect gateway and good destination in itself. We set up our tents on the lush green grass of our campsite located outside of the city before enjoying a dip in the lovely swimming pool.

#### **Included: Blyde River Canyon**

### **DAY 4: Polokwane to Musina** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

After a quick replenishing of our stocks we begin our journey north toward Zimbabwe. We have a long, relaxing drive where we get to sit back and enjoy the ever changing scenery. Tonight we'll camp near to one of the hottest towns in South Africa, Musina, at the hot water spring resort – Tshipise. Situated between the rolling hills, the resort is well known for its natural hot water springs. Once we've set up camp, you're free to enjoy the pools, walking trails or various other activities on offer here.

## **ZIMBABWE**

This landlocked country is situated in the southern part of Africa, between the mighty Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers. The word Zimbabwe is believed to have two meanings, 1) it is believed the word Zimbabwe is derived from dzimba-dza-mabwe, which means "large house of stone" in the Shona (Karanga Dialect) language. 2) It is also believed to be derived from the word dzimba-hwe which means venerated houses in the Zezuru dialect of Shona.

#### **DAY 5: Musina to Masvingo (Zimbabwe)** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Today we enter Zimbabwe - a beautiful country rich in soul, culture and tradition. We make our way to the town of Masvingo - on the outskirts of the Great Zimbabwe Ruins. This was the greatest medieval city in sub-Saharan Africa, built by an ancient highly skilled civilization. The name Zimbabwe is derived from this ancient city and means "great stone houses" in Shona. The most notable artefacts found at the ruins were the 8 Statues of stone birds carved out of soapstone. Wander around these amazing ruins, before setting up camp at the foot of the hills.

**Included Activity: Visit to the Great Zimbabwe Ruins**

#### **DAY 6: Masvingo to Bulawayo** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Leaving Msavingo, we head to Bulawayo - Zimbabwe's second largest city. Bulawayo is noted for its exceptionally wide streets, which were originally designed to accommodate a full span ox wagon. The city also still retains much of its British Colonial character, evident by the many buildings maintained as heritage sites by the Bulawayo City Council. Interesting places to visit are the Natural History Museum, the National Arts Gallery and the Mzilikazi Arts and Crafts Centre, which employs over 70 people.

#### **DAY 7: Bulawayo** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Today we visit Matobo National Park, one of the last strongholds of both the black and the white rhino. This park is also well known for its high concentration of the elusive leopard and majestic black eagle. Rock paintings are to be found too, providing evidence of the ancient San inhabitants of this area. Cecil John Rhodes (after whom Rhodesia was named) asked to be buried at the top of one of the sacred hills, (although there is some controversy over whether he will stay!) We spend the day exploring this unique geological, ecological and historic area.

**Included: Visit to Matobo National Park**

#### **Day 8: Bulawayo to Hwange National Park** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

We continue north-west to Zimbabwe's oldest and largest reserve – the Hwange National Park. Hwange is well known for its abundance and variety of wildlife species including thousands of elephant, and rare antelope species such as the Sable and Roan Antelope. We enjoy a game drive (either late afternoon or early morning) to explore the wilderness in search of these, and the other resident wildlife species.

#### **Day 9: Hwange National Park**

Today we have a full day in the Hwange area, and here we partake in a game drive through Hwange National Park, in the hope that we spot as many wild animals as possible.

**Included: Game drive in Hwange National Park**

#### **DAY 10: Hwange to Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)** (Breakfast / Lunch)

Leaving Bulawayo, we head to Victoria Falls. Named after the famous World Heritage site and Water Falls, the town of Victoria Falls is situated on the Zambezi River and surrounded by the Victoria Falls National Park. Our campsite is conveniently situated in the centre of town, and within walking distance of the adventure booking agents, restaurants and shops. A 20 minute walk down the main road takes you to the entry point to view the falls, which are situated between Zimbabwe and Zambia. Victoria Falls, or Mosi-oa-Tunya (the Smoke that Thunders), was named by David Livingstone on his explorations, and is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. At 1700 m wide and around 100 m high, this is the world's largest sheet of falling water and a memorable sight on any African Safari! After our adventure activities briefing (see price guide at the end of this document for options), the afternoon is spent relaxing at the campsite's swimming pool, viewing the Victoria Falls, or exploring the many sights and delights of this town!

## Included: Entrance to Victoria Falls

### **DAYS 11 & 12: Victoria Falls** (Breakfast on both days)

The next 2 days are spent relaxing or participating in a myriad of Optional Excursions. Some of our fellow passengers will leave us in Vic Falls, to be replaced by new passengers joining us for the next leg of our trek.

**Optional Activities:** Elephant back safaris, horseback safaris, walking with lions, a visit to the crocodile ranch, boat cruises and golf at The Elephant Hills Resort. Adrenalin junkies can bungee from the Victoria Falls Bridge connecting Zimbabwe and Zambia or abseil down the Batoka Gorge - neither activity is for the faint hearted! All year round, flights in fixed wing, micro light and ultra light aircraft or helicopters provide an aerial perspective over this magnificent World Heritage Site. White water rafting on the Zambezi is world class. Beside the excitement of the Grade 5 rapids, there are the "floats," where there is time to admire the scenic cliffs and the occasional wildlife on the riverbanks.

## **BOTSWANA**

The size of this successful country can be compared to countries such as Kenya or France, and fairly smaller than Texas. Botswana is a landlocked country with borders such as South Africa, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe which can all be crossed overland. For such a small country it boasts an array of spectacular game viewing opportunities such as, hundreds of elephants splashing in the Chobe River and the Okavango Delta and its maze of lagoons.

### **DAY 13: Victoria Falls to Chobe National Park (Botswana)** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

After breakfast we cross the border into Botswana and head to Kasane where we set up camp on the banks of the Chobe River. The Chobe River forms a border between Botswana and Namibia and Zambia. Chobe is one of Botswana's premier game parks, renowned its large elephant herds. Elephant, hippo and many bird species can be viewed from the campsite while we watch another glorious African sunset.

#### **Included Activity: Boat cruise on the Chobe River**

### **DAY 14: Chobe National Park to Maun** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Heading out early, we cross the western end of the Chobe National Park area along the main route in a south-westerly direction to the southern reaches of the Okavango Delta and our destination, Maun. On our route, we have routine stops to at Botswana's 'meat' borders – check points that were set up to protect its thriving beef export industry from the spread of disease. Maun is the starting point for travel into the Delta and it is from here that we set off to explore the Okavango Delta. Tonight we prepare our provisions and packs for our 2 night excursion. We suggest bringing along a smaller daypack on your trip which can be used to pack the supplies needed for this short excursion. Your trip leader will brief you fully on what is needed, and what to expect prior to your trip into the Delta.

### **DAY 15: Maun to Okavango Delta (OPTIONAL)** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

The Delta is a huge expanse of water, which has travelled from the Angolan highlands, spreading out to form the largest inland delta in the world. Studded with exotic islands, The Delta is renowned for its incredible variety of bird life and animals and is unique to Southern Africa.

#### **Optional Activity: 3 Day / 2 Night Drive in Mokoro Excursion**

Here we have the opportunity to take the optional 3 Day / 2 Night Drive in Mokoro Excursion into the Delta. After an early rise, we pack our expedition vehicle and from Maun we drive north for a couple of hours to reach the mokoro poler's station. The Delta region is studded with many local villages

where many families live in a traditional way. Some of the villages are very remote and can only be reached by the traditional mode of transport – the Mokoro. Mokoros are dugout canoes manoeuvred through the waterways by local guides who “pole” them through the reeds. At the Mokoro station, we meet our ‘polers’ and pack our supplies before heading out into the waterways. After a couple of hours along the waterways, our guides find us a place to camp, and later in the afternoon we set off on an afternoon game walk, allowing us to experience The Delta wilderness. The camp is situated in an open wilderness area with no ablution facilities.

For those who’d prefer not to explore The Delta, spend the next 2 days at the lovely campsite relaxing by the swimming pool or challenging each other to a game of volleyball. There is also a crocodile farm nearby that has it’s feeding times open to campsite visitors. The driver and cook remain behind in Maun during the excursion.

**DAY 16: Okavango Delta** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

A day of rest, relaxation and Delta experiences await. Today we have the opportunity to partake in a number of activities including swimming, game walks, mokoro cruises and even a chance to try our hands at poling our own mokoro! There is also ample time to relax and rest during the hotter hours of the day, so challenge your new friends to a game of cards, or chat with your guides about their culture and lifestyle, or simply lie back and enjoy the sounds of the surrounding wilderness...

**DAY 17: Okavango Delta to Maun** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This morning affords us a final opportunity for a game walk before packing up and setting off back to Maun. After our Mokoro ride and vehicle transfer, we arrive back in the afternoon and have the chance to complete our picture of the Okavango Delta by taking an optional scenic flight over The Delta (dependent on weather conditions & availability).

**DAY 18: Maun to Palapye** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Heading out early, we have a fairly long (450kms) drive today to the small town of Palapye, situated about halfway between Francistown and Gaborone (Botswana’s Capitol). This popular ‘stopover’ town for those en route to South Africa, is well known for the Morupule Colliery coal mines which supplies Morupule Power Station, Botswana’s principal domestic source of electricity.

**DAY 19: Palapye to Blydepoort (South Africa)** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

This morning we cross into South Africa, and continue across to our camp overlooking the impressive Blyde River Canyon. Named for the Blyde River that runs through it, the canyon is 26km long, and averages 800m deep and forms the northern edge of the impressive Drakensberg Mountain Range. It is classified as a ‘green canyon’ due to the uncommon occurrence of vegetation that lines it (uncommon as most canyons are in desert areas and are fairly barren). The main viewpoints along the canyon are the 3 Rondavels, named for the shape of the traditional huts or houses the indigenous people of the area used to live in; and Gods Window that affords a breathtaking view across the canyon and surrounding area.

**DAY 20: Blydepoort to Nkambeni Camp** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Heading through the breathtaking Panorama Route, we stop off at various viewpoints today including scenic God’s Window. We pass through the small town of Graskop, and head toward the Kruger National Park and our campsite in the park.

**Included Activity: Game Night Drive**

**DAY 21: Nkambeni Camp** (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Today we visit the amazing Kruger National Park in search of some of the 146 mammals, 500 bird, 114 reptile, 33 amphibian & 49 fish species that make this park their home. We travel in our truck along the main game viewing routes within the park and stop off at some of the camps along the way.

For those who wish to upgrade to an open vehicle game drive, this can be arranged with the trip leader at an additional cost.

**Included Activity: Game drives through Kruger National Park in the ATC vehicle.**

## **DAY 22: Nkambeni Camp to Johannesburg (Breakfast)**

After breakfast, we begin our journey to our final destination; Egoli the place of gold (Johannesburg), Johannesburg is the capital of Gauteng, which is a province in South Africa. On arrival in Johannesburg we unload the truck for the final time, exchange addresses and part ways, having just experienced a trip of a lifetime!

We suggest you extend your stay by a few days to participate in some of the exciting activities available here (see below price guide for details). Post tour accommodation can be booked through your agent or the Africa Travel Co office.

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## **WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?**

International flights, Airport departure taxes, Departure transfer, Visas, Meals unless otherwise stated, Travel Insurance, Laundry, personal Items, sleeping bag, pillow and Tips.

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## **Meals on tour**

Meals and menu's vary as food is purchased en-route, and is subject to produce that is available seasonally in the areas we travel through. As we support the local communities along the way, fresh produce is mostly purchased direct from the producer or local grower and therefore has an organic appearance. Our safari cooks are able to offer a wide variety of menu's with the ingredients available, even if the produce on offer is not of the same selection as what you may be used to back home.

The breakfast spread consists of bread (toast when time allows), spreads and cereals with a hot breakfast every few days. Lunches are mostly prepared en-route with a supply of 'build your own' sandwich ingredients available. Dinners are cooked in the evenings on arrival at the campsite. A wide array of dinner menus are on offer during your safari, consisting of curries, stews, pastas, BBQ's and even roasts!

## **Transport on tour**

Our overland vehicles are custom built converted Mercedes Benz or MAN trucks that have seating space for our passengers and a storage areas for luggage and all trip equipment. The trucks seat between 27-30 passengers on our camping trips. Most seats are forward facing, though some models have a combination of forward, backward and some inward facing seats with tables. Vehicles have sliding glass windows, and the seating area is raised providing a great advantage for game viewing and photography. Seats are cushioned and there is storage space for personal items like cameras, snacks and day packs in the seating area.

## **Participation on tour**

All of the tours operated by ATC are participation trips meaning that all passengers are expected to help out around camp. The crew members running the trip will set up a rota system that will be followed. One day you may be on cleaning duty, the next day you may be on cooking duty and so forth. This is not only to make the trip easier for all involved but also for you as the passengers to get to know one another while on trip.

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## **OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES**

<b>SOUTH AFRICA:</b>	
Johannesburg City Tour (pre-trip)	80 US\$
Soweto Tour - Joburg/ Pretoria (pre-trip) from	80 US\$
<b>ZIMBABWE:</b>	
<b>Please ensure that you pay for activities in Victoria Falls with US\$ CASH</b>	
Trip T-Shirt	30 US\$
<b>VICTORIA FALLS:</b>	
White Water Rafting-Full Day	140 US\$
River Boarding combo Raft & Board	180 US\$
Canoeing on the Zambezi	140 US\$
Half Day Adrenaline - George Swing, ZipLine & Flying Fox	150 US\$
Bungee Jump (111m)	150 US\$
Tandem Bungee Jump	180 US\$
Micro Light over the Falls-15mins	170 US\$
Micro Light over the Falls-25mins	300 US\$
Helicopter Flight over the Falls 12 mins	155 US\$
<b>BOTSWANA:</b>	
Okavango Delta 3 Day/2 Night Excursion	170 US\$
Okavango Delta Scenic Flight	100 US\$
Chobe National Park Game Drive	70 US\$

**PLEASE NOTE:** That this is not a full list of available activities. There are many more to choose from. Prices are approximate and can change at any given time. Only to be used as a guideline.

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The staff and management look forward to welcoming you aboard and trust that you will enjoy your trip with us!

**“Safari Njema”**

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