



SOUTHERN EXPLORER 2025

Zambia | Namibia | Botswana

24 nights

Day 1 **Victoria Falls, Zambia**

Upon arrival at Livingstone Airport, you will be greeted by The Safari Co team and transferred to your accommodation. The afternoon is free for you to relax after a long flight. In the evening, we'll gather for sundowners and dinner (own cost). Our accommodation is ideally located right on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River, offering stunning views of this iconic waterway.

Accommodation: The Waterfront Lodge 2 nights

Day 2 **Victoria Falls** (B,D)

Today, we'll explore the breathtaking Victoria Falls, taking in the views from various lookout points within the park. While it may not be the tallest or widest waterfall in the world, Victoria Falls holds the title of the largest, with a combined width of 1,708 meters and a height of 108 meters, creating the world's largest sheet of falling water. Yes, you'll get wet! In the afternoon, you'll have time to enjoy optional activities, such as a scenic flight over the Falls, a jet boat ride on the Zambezi to the Elephant Cafe, or a trip to The David Livingstone Museum.

Day 3 **Katima Mulilo, Namibia** (B,L,D)

This morning, we board our safari vehicle and head across the border into Namibia. By mid-afternoon, we arrive in the busy town of Katima Mulilo. Here, you'll have some free time to shop and withdraw local currency from the ATM. Our accommodation for the night is just outside town, situated right on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River, offering a peaceful setting to relax after the drive.

Accommodation: Zambezi Lodge 1 night

Day 4 **Caprivi Strip** (B,L,D)

Today we drive through the Caprivi Strip, a narrow protrusion of Namibia bordered by Botswana, Angola and Zambia. The area is rich in wildlife and mineral resources and has been the subject of many a dispute over ownership. You will be able to look across the river to Angola from the grounds of the lodge this afternoon.

Accommodation: Kaisosi River Lodge 1 night

Day 5 **Etosha National Park** (B,L,D)

We stop at Grootfontein in the morning for supplies before heading to Etosha National Park. Our camp is within the grounds of an old fort originally built by the Germans in 1902. A floodlit waterhole next to the fort provides game viewing opportunities at all hours, there is also a swimming pool, bar/restaurant and gift shop (good place to buy map of Etosha).

Accommodation: Namutoni Rest Camp 2 nights

Day 6 **Etosha National Park** (B,L,D)

Etosha is a vast reserve of over 20,000 km² with abundant wildlife. It is one of the largest parks in Africa and has been a game reserve since 1907. The dominant Etosha pan covers over 20% of the park and is seasonally flooded creating many drinking holes for animals. Vast arid plains, pockets of woodland and thick scrub are home to hundreds of species of mammals, birds, and reptiles. We have a leisurely day to spend game driving.

Day 7 **Etosha National Park** (B,L,D)

We'll depart this morning, spotting game as we drive through to Okaukuejo Rest Camp where we will be staying for the next two nights. Okaukuejo has a popular floodlit water hole where you can observe the game coming to drink 24/7.

Accommodation: Okaukuejo Rest Camp 2 nights

Day 8 **Etosha National Park** (B,L,D)

Up early this morning for a game-drive before returning to Okaukuejo for lunch. You can spend the rest of the day relaxing by the swimming pool and watching wildlife at the water hole.

Day 9 **Twyfelfontein** (B,L,D)

This morning, we head to Outjo to purchase supplies before continuing our journey through the stunning landscapes of Damaraland. We'll stop for lunch at the Petrified Forest, where we'll take a guided walk through the site with a local tribesperson. Though it's not a forest, the site features massive tree trunks that have fossilized over 280 million years, offering a glimpse into the distant past. You'll also learn about Namibia's remarkable desert plant, the Welwitschia, which has survived for centuries in these harsh conditions.

Continue on to Twyfelfontein, where we'll spend time at this UNESCO World Heritage site. Inhabited for over 6,000 years, Twyfelfontein has a rich history, first as a site for hunter-gatherers, later for Khoikhoi herders, and eventually for white farmers. Both ethnic groups used it for worship and to perform shamanist rituals, which led to the creation of thousands of rock carvings and paintings. It's a truly fascinating place to explore and learn about the ancient cultures that once called this place home.

Our accommodation is nestled along the mountainside and blends in beautifully with its unique landscape, utilizing natural stone and thatched roofs. Enjoy the gorgeous views of the Huab Valley and desert plains from the deck as you relax with a sundowner.

Accommodation: Twyfelfontein Country Lodge 1 night

Day 10 **Cape Cross** (B,L,D)

Today, you'll be treated to an incredibly scenic drive, as we leave the desert behind and make our way to the coast. Our first stop is Cape Cross Seal Reserve, home to more than 80,000 playful, noisy, and smelly seals. After taking in the lively atmosphere, we'll head to our accommodation, located just meters from the crashing waves of the Atlantic Ocean.

Accommodation: Cape Cross Lodge 1 night

Days 11 **Swakopmund** (B)

An easy day as we make our way down the Skeleton Coast stopping to view some of the ship wrecks. We'll arrive into Swakopmund in the afternoon and settle into our accommodation. Tonight, we'll dine out in a restaurant renowned for its fresh seafood (own cost).

Accommodation: Alte Brücke Resort 2 nights

Days 12 **Swakopmund** (B)

Swakopmund is a small seaside city with a German village vibe. Surrounded by the vast Namib Desert, it's a hub for adventure, offering a wide range of thrilling activities such as sandboarding, quad biking, desert cycling, and scenic flights. For those looking for something more relaxed, the town has plenty to offer too, including art galleries, museums, a snake park, an aquarium, and

tours that delve into the culture of the Herero people. The choice is yours today – whether you seek adventure or a more leisurely exploration, there's something for everyone (own cost).

Day 13

Solitaire

(B,D)

This morning we'll depart early for The Namib Desert Park. Spread over 50,000km² and one of the largest conservation areas in the world - in the local language, 'namib' means vast and that's exactly what you will experience today. Huge vistas, picturesque rock formations, sand dunes, flat plains, and with a sharp eye you will also spot wildlife. We're aiming to be at Solitaire for lunch where you'll find a delicious bakery to purchase your own lunch.

Set against the stunning backdrop of the Naukluft Mountains, Moon Mountain Lodge delivers an unmatched luxury experience amidst the untamed beauty of the Namibian wilderness. Relax in your spacious room surrounded by tranquil desert views. Your room even has its own private plunge pool!

Accommodation: Moon Mountain 1 night

Day 14

Sesriem

(B,L,D)

This morning, we set off towards the awe-inspiring giant sand dunes at Sesriem. For the adventurous, there's the option to climb Dune 45, a towering 80-meter-high dune, named for its location at the 45-kilometer mark on the road connecting the Sesriem gate to Sossusvlei. Made up of 5-million-year-old sand, it's the result of detritus carried by the Orange River from the Kalahari Desert and carried here by the wind—truly more breathtaking than words can capture. We then embark on a 4WD journey deeper into the park, followed by a walk into Sossusvlei.

Accommodation: Sossusvlei Lodge 1 night

Day 15

Windhoek

(B,L)

An easy drive to Windhoek, the capital of Namibia. This small city is in a basin between the Khomas Highland, Auas and the Eros Mountains - 1,680m above sea level. With German-influenced architecture and a European café culture, it is a pleasant place to enjoy a stroll around.

Accommodation: Safari Court Hotel 1 night

Day 16

Kalahari, Botswana

(B,L,D)

Enjoy the ever-changing landscapes as we continue our journey across the border into Botswana.

Accommodation: Buitepos Motorcamp 1 night

Day 17

Maun

(B,L,D)

We arrive in Maun early afternoon and prepare for our trip into The Okavango Delta. Maun is the hub of the Delta safari industry - a bustling town with basic shopping centres and plenty of accommodation. There will be time for shopping for personal items, changing money etc before checking in to our hotel and relaxing by the pool.

Accommodation: Sedia Hotel 1 night

Day 18

Okavango Delta

(B,L,D)

Early morning transfer by 4WD to the Poling Station. The Okavango Delta is a natural wetland where the Okavango River fans out into the largest inland delta in the world. We will load our gear into the mokoros (dugout canoe) and be poled by local guides into the Delta – an absolutely surreal experience. We set up camp on an island under shady trees. From here we can explore the myriad of waterways and stunning scenery on foot or mokoro. Hippo, crocodile, buffalo, giraffe and elephant are at home here, as are numerous species of bird. Enjoy the serenity amongst the swamps, lily pads and swaying delta grasses. Guided bush walks, great game viewing, stunning sunsets, and entertainment around the bush fire this evening – just awesome!

Accommodation: Bush Camp 1 night

Day 19 **Maun** (B,L,D)

After a morning nature walk, we have lunch back at camp before packing up and boarding mokoros for the journey out of the Delta. Eyes peeled for wildlife and birds along the way. This afternoon, you have the opportunity to do a scenic flight over the Okavango Delta (own cost), or relax by the hotel pool.

Accommodation: Sedia Hotel 1 night

Day 20 **Nata** (B,L,D)

We'll board the truck for a morning drive to Nata. Our lodge, sits among Mokolwane palms at the edge of the vast Makgadikgadi Salt Pans – the largest salt pans in the world and the remnants of Africa's largest inland sea. The Nata River creates a delta that feeds into the Sua Pan, providing a vital breeding ground for a spectacular array of water birds.

Accommodation: Nata Lodge 1 night

Day 21 **Elephant Sands** (B,L,D)

This afternoon, we'll arrive at Elephant Sands Lodge, proudly known by its slogan, "Where Elephants Rule." You'll be mesmerized as these magnificent creatures amble past your raised luxury tent to a waterhole right in front of the lodge bar & swimming pool. It's "Bush TV" at its best!

Accommodation: Elephant Sands Lodge 1 night

Day 22 **Chobe National Park** (B,L,D)

This afternoon, we'll check into an impressive lodge boasting the best riverfront position in Kasane. We'll come together for sundowners on the banks of the Chobe River, soaking in the beauty of yet another mesmerizing African sunset.

Accommodation: Chobe Safari Lodge 2 nights

Day 23 **Chobe National Park** (B,L,D)

Chobe National Park, the second largest in Botswana, spans an impressive 10,566 km² and is home to one of the highest concentrations of elephants on the African continent. Its remarkable wildlife and the untamed beauty of the region make it an ideal destination for an early morning game drive by 4WD. Later in the afternoon, we'll board a boat for a 3-hour wildlife cruise on the Chobe River. This offers an incredible opportunity to get up close to elephants, hippos, crocodiles, and a variety of birds and other animals. As the sun sets over the river, we'll cruise back to the lodge, cool drink in hand, savouring the peaceful end to a perfect day.

Day 24 **Victoria Falls** (B,L,D)

We leave Botswana behind and cross back into Zambia. We'll end the safari with a sunset cruise on the Upper Zambezi River, sipping drinks as we glide along spotting wild herds drinking at the river's edge and flocks of birds soaring just above the water as the sun sets over the African horizon. A magical end to an unforgettable safari.

Accommodation: Waterfront Hotel 1 night

Day 25 **End** (B)

Safari ends today. You will be transferred to Livingstone airport for your onward flight.

DATE

03 May – 27 May 2026

COST

NZ\$12,900 per person twin share

NZ\$1,700 single supplement

subject to change until confirmed and paid in full

INCLUDES

- 24 nights' safari accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner)
- Sightseeing as indicated
- Services of experienced driver/guide plus camp/cook assistant
- Fully equipped safari vehicle, with camping / cooking equipment
- All road tolls, vehicle taxes, National Park entry fees
- Airport transfers (Day 1 and Day 25)

EXCLUDES

- International airfare
- Travel Insurance (MANDATORY)
- Visas
- Items of a personal nature (eg. drinks, souvenirs), optional activities you choose to take yourself
- Sleeping bag
- Tipping

Accommodation options may change due to availability.