



SOUTHERN EXPLORER 2025

Zambia | Namibia | Botswana

24 nights

Day 1 | 04 May

Victoria Falls, Zambia

On arrival in Livingstone, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Afternoon at leisure before a meet & greet dinner this evening.

Accommodation: Waterfront Hotel 2 nights

Day 2 | 05 May

Victoria Falls

(B,D)

Today we will visit the spectacular Victoria Falls, viewing them from the various lookout points in the park. While it is neither the highest nor the widest waterfall in the world, Victoria Falls is classified as the largest, based on its combined width of 1,708 metres and height of 108 metres, resulting in the world's largest sheet of falling water. Yes you will get wet! In the afternoon you will have time to do optional activities such as a scenic flight above the Falls, Jet boat ride up the Zambezi to visit the Elephant Cafe, or a visit to The David Livingstone Museum.

Day 3 | 06 May

Katima Mulilo, Namibia

(B,L,D)

Boarding our safari truck this morning, we set off across the border into Namibia. This is a reasonably long day on the road. Late afternoon we arrive into the lively town of Katima Mulilo where there is the opportunity to do shopping and get local currency from ATM. Our accommodation is on the outskirts of town right on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River.

Accommodation: Zambezi Lodge 1 night

Day 4 | 07 May

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: Sarasungu River Lodge 1 night

Day 5 | 08 May

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). After a tent erecting demo we set up camp and unpack before taking a late afternoon game-drive in the National Park.

Accommodation: Namutoni Rest Camp 2 nights

Day 6 | 09 May

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 | 10 May **Okaukuejo** (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 | 11 May **Okaukuejo** (B,L,D)

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

Day 9 | 12 May **Twyfelfontein** (B,L,D)

This morning we'll drive to Outjo for supplies before continuing through scenic Damaraland. We stop for lunch at a Petrified Forest and take a guided walk through the site with a local tribesperson. It's not actually a forest but huge tree trunks dating back 280 million years which have fossilized. You will also learn about Namibia's fascinating centuries old desert plant – the Welwitschia. Continuing to Twyfelfontein, we spend some time at the World Heritage site. The site has been inhabited for 6,000 years, first by hunter-gatherers and later by Khoikhoi herders then white farmers. Both ethnic groups used it as a place of worship and a site to conduct shamanist rituals. In the process of these rituals thousands of rock carvings and rock paintings were created.

Accommodation: Twyfelfontein Country Lodge 1 night

Day 10 | 13 May **Cape Cross** (B,L,D)

Today you are rewarded with an incredibly scenic drive with vast vistas. We stop at Cape Cross Seal Reserve, home to over 80,000 noisy, smelly, animated seals, before checking in to our accommodation just metres from the Atlantic ocean.

Accommodation: Cape Cross Lodge 1 night

Days 11 | 13 May **Swakopmund** (B)

Any easy day as we make our way down the Skeleton Coast stopping to view some of the ship wrecks. We'll arrive in to 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 Brucke Resort 2 nights

Days 12 | 14 May **Swakopmund** (B)

Swakopmund is a seaside resort town with a German village feel to it. The Namib Desert around the town is the number one draw card offering countless exhilarating activities such as sand boarding, quad biking, cycling in the desert and scenic flights. If you're not a thrill seeker there are more sedentary activities such as art galleries, museums, a snake park, aquarium and tours that will take you to a local town to learn about the Herero people. The choice is yours today (own cost).

Day 13 | 15 May **Namib Desert Park** (B,L,D)

We'll spot flamingos and pelicans in Walvis Bay over lunch before heading into the desert. The Namib Desert Park spreads over 50,000km² and is 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. Enjoy sundowners in the desert and an unpolluted sky full of sparkling stars.

Accommodation: Solitaire Campsite 1 night

Day 14 | 17 May **Sesriem** (B,L,D)

This morning we journey through to the giant sand dunes at Sesriem. You can take an energetic walk/scramble up Dune 45 (over 80 metres in height) named from the fact that it is at the 45th

kilometre of the road that connects the Sesriem gate and Sossusvlei. It is composed of 5-million-year-old sand that is detritus accumulated by the Orange River from the Kalahari Desert and then blown here – truly more stunning than you can imagine. We then take a 4WD trip further into the park and enjoy a walk in to Deadvlei and have a photo stop at Sossusvlei and Big Daddy.

Accommodation: Sossusvlei Lodge 1 night

Day 15 | 18 May **Windhoek** (B,L)

An easy drive to Windhoek, the capital of Namibia. This small city is located 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 | 19 May **Kalahari, Botswana** (B,L,D)

Sit back and relax on a reasonably long day driving across the northern fringes of The Kalahari.

Accommodation: Buitepos Motorcamp 1 night

Day 17 | 20 May **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 | 21 May **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 all our gear in to 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 Camping 1 night

Day 19 | 22 May **Maun** (B,L,D)

After a morning nature walk, we have lunch back at camp before being poled out of the Delta. Look out for wildlife and birds along the way.

Accommodation: Sedia Hotel 2 nights

Day 20 | 23 May **Maun** (B,L,D)

Day at leisure. You might choose to do a scenic flight over the Okavango Delta this morning (at own cost), relax by the hotel pool or go shopping for curios in Maun.

Day 21 | 24 May **Nata** (B,L,D)

Back onboard our truck we journey through to Elephant Sands Lodge, located near Nata. This is a fabulous place to enjoy viewing elephants at a natural waterhole right in front of the lodge's bar and swimming pool. You will be wide-eyed watching these impressive creatures whilst they hang out at the waterhole just a couple of meters away from you. This is bush TV at its best!

Accommodation: Elephant Sands Lodge 1 night

Day 22 | 25 May **Chobe National Park** (B,L,D)

Continue to Chobe Safari Lodge in Kasane. This upmarket lodge sits on the banks of the Chobe River and borders the world-famous Chobe National Park.

Accommodation: Chobe Safari Lodge 2 nights

Day 23 | 26 May

Chobe National Park

(B,L,D)

Chobe National Park is the second largest national park in Botswana and covering 10,566 km². It also has one of the greatest concentrations of elephant found on the African continent. Its uniqueness in the abundance of wildlife and the true African nature of the region, offers an excellent safari experience – perfect for an early morning game drive by 4WD. Later this afternoon we board a boat for a 3-hour wildlife cruise on the Chobe River – an excellent chance to get up close to elephant, hippo, crocodile and other animals and birds. As the sunsets over the river, we cruise back to the Lodge with a cool drink hand.

Day 24 | 27 May

Victoria Falls

(B,L,D)

We leave Botswana and cross back to Zambia on the Kazungula ferry. It is only a short drive back to Livingstone for our last night of a memorable safari. We end the day by cruising on the Upper Zambezi River for sunset drinks – along the way perhaps seeing wild herds having their own drinks at the river's edge and flocks of birds skimming over the waterline as the sun sets on the African skyline. Truly magical and loads of fun.

Accommodation: Waterfront Hotel 1 night

Day 25 | 28 May

End

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

DATE

Start: Livingstone – 04 May 2025

End: Livingstone - 28 May 2025

COST

NZ\$12,500 per person twin share

NZ\$1,600 single supplement

subject to change until confirmed and paid in full

INCLUDES

- 24 nights' safari accommodation (1 night camping)
- 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.