

THE HEART OF AFRICA!

A PRIVATE WILDLIFE VIEWING SAFARI

FEATURING

**SABI SABI PRIVATE GAME RESERVE, VICTORIA FALLS,
NAMIBIA'S CAPRIVI STRIP, BOTSWANA'S OKAVANGO DELTA,
CAPE TOWN & THE CAPE WINELANDS, SOUTH AFRICA**

WITH AN OPTIONAL TRAIN JOURNEY ON ROVOS RAIL – THE PRIDE OF AFRICA



THE HEART OF AFRICA ITINERARY:

July 1 - Depart USA

International flights to and from Africa are not included in order to provide flexibility in making your flight arrangements. We have an air travel professional available to assist you with your flight arrangements.

July 2 – Arrival at OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, South Africa

Your adventure starts with your arrival at Johannesburg’s OR Tambo International Airport. As you leave the aircraft, you are met by a member of the World Safaris team, who will guide you through immigration, retrieve your luggage and escort you through customs. He or she will then escort you on the short walk of approximately 300 feet to your overnight accommodations at the 5-star Airport Sun InterContinental Hotel. As a group, you will enjoy a welcome dinner at The Quills Restaurant. (D)



July 3-5 – Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve, Sabi Sand, South Africa

After breakfast, we will be transferred to the Federal Air terminal for our flight to perhaps the most famous private wildlife reserve in southern Africa - Sabi Sand. Located just west of the renowned Kruger National Park, Sabi Sand has earned its reputation based on its extraordinary wildlife viewing, as well as the freedom to explore that only private lands can give us. The wildlife diversity and density is among the best in South Africa, with the great predators – leopards and lions - headlining as the wildlife “stars” of the region.



Deep within Sabi Sand lies the exclusive reserve known as Sabi Sabi. This award winning reserve offers world-class standards in luxury accommodation, exceptionally close wildlife encounters, the highest level of personal service and delicious cuisine. In addition to the traditional Land Rover-based game drives, we will have the opportunity to explore the South African bush on foot, accompanied by our ranger and our tracker – a team of professionals who will share their knowledge of and passion for the reserve’s wildlife.

With over 100 years of safari experience Sabi Sabi’s rich history is woven into each of its four uniquely individual lodges especially in our home for the next three nights - Earth Lodge - a sanctuary that symbolizes a new era in luxury South African safari lodges. Sculpted into a slope of the earth, almost invisible in the landscape, the lodge uses texture, light and space to present a lodge like no other. Taking its cue from the surrounding environment, it has been described as the most environmentally sensitive lodge in Africa. On arrival, a hidden corridor leads you to a unique and unforgettable experience, with an unexpected entrance opening to a panorama of uninterrupted bushveld. Each of its 13 suites features individually designed furniture, private plunge pool, en-suite glass fronted bathroom and indoor and outdoor showers. (BLD)

Jul 6



Livingstone, Zambia & Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

On November 16, 1855, Dr. David Livingstone traveled down the Zambezi River in a canoe, guided by his Kololo hosts. He was in search of the place called “Mosi-oa-Tunya” - “the smoke that thunders.” Gently gliding down the river, he saw and heard “the columns of vapor appropriately called 'smoke,' rising at a distance of five or six miles, exactly as when large tracts of grass are burned in Africa.” Naming the falls after his queen, Livingstone became the first European to observe the Zambezi River tumbling down into the gorge below – Victoria Falls.

Following a short light aircraft flight to Mpumalanga Kruger International Airport, we board our scheduled South African Airways flight to experience one of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World, Victoria Falls. A quick hint – sitting on the left side of the aircraft will usually provide the best view of the falls as we approach. Landing at Livingstone Airport on the Zambian side of the falls, we will be assisted by our VIP team members and driven to the famous Victoria Falls Bridge, where we will cross into the town of Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.



Our destination today is the classic Victoria Falls Hotel. The “Grand Old Lady of the Falls” has been watching over the cascading waters since its opening in 1904. Located within Victoria Falls National Park, the rising clouds of mist of the falls are easily seen from the hotel’s veranda. Our accommodations are located in the private portion of the hotel known as The Stables Wing. We will be escorted into a private reception area by our concierge, provided with refreshments and, after a briefing, escorted to our rooms. The colonial elegance of a bygone era has been preserved through careful renovations that allow us to enjoy the modern conveniences we are accustomed to.



Later in the afternoon, we will venture out on to the upper Zambezi River for a cruise and raise a glass in celebration of the beautiful African sunset. Upon returning, we will dine in The Livingstone Room – long recognized as one of the finest restaurants in southern Africa. The former dress code that required men to wear jacket and tie has been relaxed. The new guidelines describe the dress code as “smart casual.” (BD)



July 7 – Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe – Botswana – Caprivi Strip, Namibia

Our busy day begins with our private tour of Victoria Falls National Park, where we will visit the famous memorial to Dr. David Livingstone before moving on to view the “Devil’s Cataract.” Trekking through the rain forest we end up at “Danger Point,” the furthest we can go on this side of the falls. From here we will look down to see a deep pool known as the “Boiling Pot.”



Returning to our vehicle, our driver turns west and, after a 30-minute drive through the countryside, we enter Botswana. Continuing on, we head north until we reach the Chobe River. Boarding a motorized river boat, we leave Botswana on a two-hour voyage that will deliver us to the Caprivi Strip – a narrow piece of land that provides Namibia with important access to the Chobe-Zambezi River system. The wildlife that thrives along the river is the focus of our riverine activities this afternoon. Large herds of elephant, giraffe and African buffalo are often found here, as are large pods of hippos. With a bit of luck, we may spot the rare puku antelope, which feeds in marshy areas in the early morning and late afternoon.



The Chobe Savanna Lodge will provide our accommodations for our brief visit to Namibia. The 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. Our accommodations are in comfortably furnished thatched chalets – each with its own private deck, a combined bedroom and lounge area and full en-suite bath. Air-conditioning and a complimentary mini-bar complete the amenities of our chalet. (BD)





July 8-9 – Kanana Camp, Okavango Delta, Botswana

We will venture back out onto the Chobe River and return to the dock that serves as the border crossing into Botswana. Our driver will then drive us to the Kasane Airport, where we will board our light aircraft for our flight south (flight included).

The Victorian explorer, Charles John Andersson, wrote the following description of the Okavango Delta in 1859: “On every side as far as the eye could see, lay stretched a sea of fresh water, in many places concealed from sight by a covering of reeds and rushes of every shade and hue; whilst numerous islands, spread over its whole surface, and adorned with rich vegetation, gave to the whole an indescribably beautiful appearance.”

His description could be written today, for the same sight greets those of us lucky enough to visit this enchanting water wonderland. From its origins in the highlands of Angola, the Okavango River delivers an unimaginable volume of water to the massive floodplains we know collectively as the Okavango Delta. Due to the flatness of the land, it can take up to six months for the water to make its journey to the Delta.



At this time of year, the Delta generally spreads out over 1500 square miles, offering a wide variety of different habitats for its resident wildlife. Red lechwe, impala, kudu, reedbuck and tsessebe are the most numerous of the antelope species. Wildebeest, zebra, giraffe, bushbuck, warthog, steenbok and elephants are most often seen on game drives. All of the large predators are here – lions, cheetahs and leopards – and wild dogs are frequently found. The predominance of water also makes this one of the best places in Africa to watch hippos.





We will visit two distinctly different regions with the Okavango's territories, starting with Kanana Camp, a hidden jewel on the Xudum River – located in the southwest of the Delta. The area encompasses a necklace of islands dotted with palms, figs, ebony and knobthorn, and is home to a myriad of birds, plants and animals. The nature of the habitat means it is the perfect place to experience the diversity of species found within the Okavango Delta. Here, we will search for wildlife in two ways – on land, in safari vehicles and on the water.

The activity that stands out as the most unique experience the Okavango Delta has to offer is a ride in a traditional mokoro – a type of local canoe that is propelled through the shallow waters by a boatman standing in the stern and pushing with a pole. Traditionally carved from local trees, many of today's mokoros are made of fiberglass, while they retain the shape that has proven to work so well over hundreds of years. Sitting just inches from the waterline, our guide steers us through the reeds and papyrus beds as we float through this peaceful aquatic world, the quiet broken only by the calls of countless birds, the rustling of wildlife on the shores and the boatman's pole as it enters and leaves the water. Approaching the various islands, we search the drier landscapes, paying special attention to the trees in the hopes of finding a sleeping leopard.



The small size of Kanana Camp allows us to be the only travelers staying here during our visit. A true tented camp, Kanana's accommodations are reminiscent of the classic safaris of a hundred years ago – but with all the amenities that provide us with an exceptional level of comfort that the explorers of a century ago would never have dreamed of. These large safari tents are well-spaced to afford privacy, while remaining within comfortable distance from the main camp area. Each en-suite bathroom has hot and cold running water, a shower and flush toilet. There is even a sleep-out deck at each of our tents – the perfect place to spend a night under the splendid African star-filled sky. (BLD)





July 10-11 – Shinde Camp, Okavango Delta, Botswana

Although our next destination is only about 35 miles away, “as the crow flies,” there is no easy way to get there without a second light aircraft flight (flight included). Our short flight will take us to the northern reaches of the Okavango Delta, where the slowly flowing water meets broad expanses of grassland. While we will again travel along the streams and channels by motor boat, the fertile savannas provide us with more opportunities to explore further afield in search of the wildlife typically found on the plains: African buffalo, elephant, zebra, giraffe and several varieties of antelope, including impala, tsessebe, kudu and the gorgeous sable antelope. During our game drives we will also be on the lookout for their accompanying predators: lion, leopard, hyena and packs of African wild dogs. In addition, the extensive plains provide the perfect setting for a unique wildlife adventure – a night game drive in search of those creatures who are most active during the hours of darkness.





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Shinde Camp will serve as our temporary home for the next three nights and we will, again, have the exclusive use of the entire camp. Like Kanana, it has been awarded the coveted five-star rating by the Botswana Tourism Board and it is consistently rated among the top safari destinations in the Okavango Delta on Trip Advisor. Nestled on a lush palm island, Shinde is an intimate, classic camp located on the edge of Shinde Lagoon, which simply teems with animal and birdlife. The camp's unique main area comprises a multi-tiered dining room and lounge, which is set under canvas under the shade of ebony and mangosteen trees.

Fully refurbished in 2015, each tent is strategically positioned to offer splendid views, whether across the Okavango Delta's mysterious waterways or its neighboring open grasslands. The elegance and historical charm of the iconic Shinde camp has been enhanced by enlarging the eight classic safari guest tents to incorporate a spacious bathroom with a large walk in shower and luxurious fittings. The larger bedroom with new linen and furniture in tasteful colors provide the perfect retreat. Wide sliding doors leading onto the extended front decks afford breath-taking views over the open floodplains or the mysterious waterways of the Delta. (BLD)





July 12-13 – Maun, Botswana – Johannesburg, South Africa – Depart for USA

This morning's light aircraft flight brings us to Maun – a small city that serves as the southern gateway to and from Botswana's most popular safari destinations – where we will board our scheduled direct flight to Johannesburg (flights included). Upon arrival at Cape Town International Airport, we will again be greeted by members of the World Safaris team as we step off our aircraft. They will assist us with checking in for our flight and take us to the departure gate. (B).

