

12 Days of Safari in South Africa & Victoria Falls

Accommodation in any of the below listed options

Safari Prices are Valid from January to Dec 2019

Safari Overview: *On this trip, you will be taken on exciting safaris in Kruger National Park, where you have every chance to experience 'The Big 5' right up close. In addition, you can learn how to decode the signs and signals of nature on a fascinating bush walk with a skilled ranger. You will also visit the Drakensberg Mountains – the highest and longest mountain range in South Africa – where one of the highlights is Blyde River Canyon. This is the third-largest canyon in the world and provides a truly breath-taking view of The Three Rondavels. The trip will also take you to the God's Window and vantage points, as well as the Bourke's Luck Potholes, where the Blyde and Treur rivers have eroded deep, cylindrical formations in the cliffs. The tour concludes with a visit to one of the world's biggest waterfalls; the impressive Victoria Falls. Here, at the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe, you spend 3 nights at a beautiful hotel. It is possible to purchase a range of different excursions, all depending on whether you are looking for adrenaline or more relaxing experiences on the Zambezi River.*

Day 1: Departure from UK

On this day, you will fly to Johannesburg with connecting flights along the way.

Day 2: Arrival at Bongani Mountain Lodge

Having landed in Johannesburg, you can look forward to a drive through the magnificent landscape to the 4-star Bongani Mountain Lodge, which is located on the border with the southern part of the Kruger National Park and near the magnificent Malelane mountains. You can then spend your afternoon admiring the magnificent view from the veranda or relaxing by the pool.

Overnight stay Bongani Mountain Lodge

Day 3: Bush Walk & Sunset Game Drive in Mthetomusha Game Reserve

Early in the morning, you will be picked up from the lodge and you will head off on a 3-hour bush walk with an experienced ranger to guide you through the bush. Your guide has been specially trained in bush walks and will teach you how to decode Mother Nature's signals, by smelling the air, listening intently, looking and observing like a real tracker. He will also talk to you about the various animals' behaviour, and explain how to identify them by their tracks. As you walk, you will hear and learn about many of the small plants and animals you often do not notice when driving through the area in safari vehicles. Not permitted for children under the age of 12.

Sunset Game Drive:

When the sun starts to go down, it is time to set off on an atmospheric, 3-hour safari. You will be treated to what is known as a 'Sundowner' – a drink served outdoors in the light of the setting sun. As dusk falls, you make a start on a fascinating evening safari tour where you are sure to see a variety of animals in the spotlights of the safari vehicle. This gives you the chance to experience the nocturnal animals that rest and hide during daylight hours. You will also encounter many of the animals you saw earlier in the day. If the skies are clear, you can ask the guide about some of the impressive constellations of the southern hemisphere. For example, ask him to point out the Southern Cross or Orion's belt. Not permitted for children under the age of 6.

Overnight stay Bongani Mountain Lodge

Day 4: Full-day tour in Kruger National Park

Full-day safari in open-topped vehicles, experience the delights of Kruger National Park – one of the most important national parks in the world. Kruger National Park was established as a game reserve back in 1898, and was elevated to national park status in 1926. The park is around 350 km long from north to south, and around 65 km wide from east to

west. Covering a total of approx. 20,000 km², it is the largest national park in South Africa. The park is home to 146 different species of mammal, around 520 species of bird and 120 species of reptile. Not only are many species represented, but they are also strongly represented. For example, it is estimated that there are 11,000 elephants, 2,000 lions, 1,000 leopards and 35,000 buffalo in the park, as well as 35,000 zebras and more than 150,000 antelopes. As regards plants, the park boasts 2,000 different species of flora, including everything from mosses to grasses, trees, creepers and cacti.

The wild animals are generally most active early in the morning, and then again towards the end of the afternoon. You will therefore be leaving the lodge early so as to experience as many animals as possible before they seek out shelter and shade to rest during the middle of the day. On account of the early start, the lodge will provide you with a packed breakfast to enjoy at a suitable time and in a suitable place. For lunch, you will stop at one of the authorised areas where you will find both a café and a minimarket. You will return to the lodge at the end of the day – almost certainly with a camera packed with wonderful photos!

Overnight stay Bongani Mountain Lodge

Day 5: Full-day excursion to the Drakensberg Mountains and Bourke's Luck Potholes

Today is given over to a beautifully scenic full-day trip along the Panorama Route through the dramatic Drakensberg Mountains. The mountains themselves are red, and form a magnificent contrast to the green trees and plants. On the trip, you will experience the breath-taking Blyde River Canyon. Measuring 700 m deep and 60 km long, it is the third-largest canyon in the world. You will stop at the three best vantage points along the canyon: God's Window, Bourke's Luck Potholes and The Three Rondavels – three beautiful and remarkable rock formations whose shape calls to mind the round huts previously to be found in local villages in many parts of southern Africa. The Panorama Route will also take you past a number of waterfalls, and you will have the chance to stop to admire one of them. This could, for example, be the Berlin Falls, where the water cascades down into a lake from a height of 150 metres. Or you may stop at the Lisbon Falls, located where the Blyde river splits in two and then drops 92 metres down an almost vertical cliff, before coming together to form a single river once more. There are many other waterfalls, however, and your guide will decide where you stop. One of the most spectacular sights you will see during the day is sure to be the Bourke's Luck Potholes – cylindrical holes carved into the rocks by the action of water and sand over thousands of years. You can see this amazing natural phenomenon right up close from bridges built over the peculiar holes.

Overnight stay Bongani Mountain Lodge

Day 6: Free day

The day is yours to do with as you wish. You may wish simply to relax by the pool, but you can also choose to go on one of the extra excursions organised by Africa Safari. Below is a selection of supplementary tour options that you can book and pay for at the lodge via our tour coordinator. The prices are stated in South African rand.

Bush Walk: Enjoy a nature walk which lasts for around 1 hour. During this walk, guests will experience and view the small parts of the nature that can not be seen from the confines of the vehicle. An experienced ranger will take guests on the walk, showing them tracks and signs of animal activity, different insects, birds and plant species. You may also get close to some of the larger wild animals (not dangerous). These too will be viewed on foot in their natural habitats. The cost of this activity is **ZAR 550 per person**

Rock Art Excursions: Mthethomusha Game Reserve has the highest concentration of Rock Art per square metre than anywhere else on the continent. Some date back as much as 1500 years ago. During this excursion guests will be escorted by a knowledgeable ranger to showcase a select number of sites. The activity does involve some amount of walking.

The cost of this activity is **ZAR 350 per person.**

Overnight stay Bongani Mountain Lodge

Day 7: Game Drive in Mthethomusha Game Reserve

This day consists of a two exciting game drives in Mthethomusha Game Reserve. We start with a morning game drive. Then we drive back to the lodge for lunch, before heading out again on our afternoon game drive. Mthethomusha

Game Reserve consists of 8000 acres of pristine countryside and is situated on the south-western border of Kruger National Park. Here there are excellent opportunities to experience the "The Big Five" along with some unique birdlife.

Overnight stay Bongani Mountain Lodge

Day 8: Full-day tour in the Kruger National Park

Today you can enjoy a full-day tour in Kruger National Park in four-wheel-drive safari vehicles. The park features extensive grassy plains, as well as areas of rocky land, lakes and watercourses. Late in the afternoon, all kinds of animals flock to the lakes and watercourses to drink, and you may even be lucky enough to witness elephants bathing in the cool water. On the tour, your guide will attempt to spot as many animals as possible, and will almost certainly try to find antelopes – because where there are antelopes, there are sure to be predators. If you are really lucky, you may even see a shy leopard or two.

Overnight stay Bongani Mountain Lodge

Upgrades to The Royal Livingstone Hotel

Day 9: Onward to Victoria Falls

You fly from Nelspruit to Livingstone, where you have three nights by the Victoria Falls.

Overnight stay David Livingstone Safari Lodge and Spa

Days 10-11: Experiences at Victoria Falls

The first glimpse you have of the mighty Victoria Falls is often from the air. The water spray rises hundreds of feet into the air above the falls, and you see immediately why the locals call the falls "Mosi-oa-Tunya" – the smoke that thunders. It looks like actual smoke, but the rainbows dancing in the rays of the sun tell you that it's water. Up close, the falls are almost unreal. More than 1000 cubic metres of water per second cascade some 100 metres down the basalt ravine of Batoka Gorge. The falls are 1.7 km wide and form the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. It is both intoxicating and impressive to stand in the spray of the violent, never-ending force of nature. You spend the days at Victoria Falls at your leisure. However, we strongly recommend that you book a couple of excursions from home. The area is brimming with sights, history, culture, good food, exciting activities and adrenaline kicks. But places are often limited, so we recommend that you secure your place in advance.

In our opinion, a helicopter tour over the falls is one of the best experiences. Only from the air can you see the falls in their entirety. We also highly recommend a visit to Elephant Café – it's an experience of a lifetime and the food is quite simply enchanting! A sunset trip on the Zambezi River will remain etched in your memory forever, and a train ride on board The Royal Livingstone Express will take you back to the colonial era. The choice is yours – but you will find our excursion recommendations below.

Below you can see the range of available activities.

- ✓ Helicopter ride over Victoria Falls
- ✓ Elephant Café
- ✓ Train ride with colonial style and dinner
- ✓ Livingstone Island
- ✓ River safari on the Zambezi River
- ✓ The ultimate cruise on the Zambezi River
- ✓ Canoe safari on the Zambezi
- ✓ White Water Rafting

Overnight stay David Livingstone Safari Lodge and Spa

Day 12: Start of the trip home

The time has now come to leave Victoria Falls and head for home. You will be picked up from your hotel and driven to the airport to catch your flight to the UK, which will include connecting flights along the way.

Combine Your Safari With Chobe National Park 4 Days / 3 Nights

For an elephant guarantee, head to Chobe National Park in Botswana. Here you will find the largest concentration of elephants on the entire African continent. At least 50,000 elephants live here – some say there are as many as 120,000. You can also see large flocks of buffalo, gnus, zebras, antelopes, lions, hippos, crocodiles and rich bird life including storks, bee-eaters and vultures. You can often see hyenas, leopards or rare wild dogs too. It is not without reason that Botswana was named the best safari country in all of Africa!

Chobe National Park offers unique and varied safari experiences with both traditional game drives and countless activities on the life-giving Chobe river.

This 4-day safari extension to Chobe offers the best of both worlds on land and on water, and we have even added a spare day to the program for which you can purchase tours such as a trip to the mighty Victoria Falls, an extra river boat trip, or several game drives. A unique opportunity to experience Botswana, now that you've come all the way to Africa!

- ✓ Visit Victoria Falls (Zimbabwean side) from Chobe National Park
- ✓ Visit Victoria Falls (Zambian side) from Chobe National Park
- ✓ Game drive in Chobe National Park
- ✓ Overnight stay Chobe Safari Lodge

Upgrade to Chobe Game Lodge

*****end of our services, wishing you an excellent safari*****

Request for costs for the above safari.

For price inquiry in USD-\$, GBP-£ or Euros-€ and bookings, contact our Sales Team sales@trailsofafrica.co.ke

Contact sales@trailsofafrica.co.ke for other itineraries in Eastern and Southern Africa Destinations.

Thank you for choosing us

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***Terms and Conditions Apply**