

African Air Safari 2011

Namibia, Botswana & Zambia

Day One: Johannesburg, South Africa.

After making your own way to Johannesburg, your tour begins at your hotel (to be advised) at 7pm where you will meet your Tour Leader and your group for dinner. Overnight **Johannesburg**.

Day Two: Johannesburg - Keetmanshoop - Kulala Desert Lodge

Transfer to OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg. With your Tour Leader and your pilot, fly to Keetmanshoop, Namibia. After customs and immigration checks, continue to Kulala Desert Lodge. On arrival you will be met by a Lodge guide and transferred the short distance to the Lodge. In the afternoon enjoy a nature drive in the private reserve. Kulala Desert Lodge is situated within the arid Namib Desert on the private 37 000ha Kulala Wilderness Reserve, closest to the iconic Sossusvlei. The lodge comprises 15 thatched and canvas "kulalas" ("to sleep" in Oshiwambo) with en-suite bathrooms and verandas. Overnight **Kulala Desert Lodge**.

Day Three: Kulala Wilderness Reserve

Early morning enjoy a guided excursion to the spectacular dunes of Sossusvlei through a private gate on the Tsauchab River. World-famous Sossusvlei is an enormous clay pan, flanked by the famous red sand dunes that stand out starkly against the blue sky. The 'vlei' itself only fills after rare heavy rainfall when, in a complete turn-around, it becomes a spectacular turquoise lake. Overnight **Kulala Desert Lodge**.

Day Four: Kulala Desert Lodge - Swakopmund - Walvis Bay Damaraland

After breakfast, transfer to the airstrip for your flight over the Namib Desert and along the coast to Swakopmund Airport. Drive to Walvis bay for a 3 hour harbour dolphin cruise, from Walvis Bay Yacht Club and through the harbour to Bird Island. Across the lagoon, visit the moored Russian trawlers where inquisitive seals will swim up to the boats. On to Pelican Point where entertainment is provided by a large seal colony and pods of Heavyside and Bottlenose Dolphins swimming alongside the boats. For the bird lover, apart from seeing flamingoes, cormorants and pelicans, there are common sightings of the White Chinned Petrel, Wilson's Storm Petrel, black Oystercatcher and even the Jackass Penguin. To round off the trip you will be spoilt with fresh Walvis Bay oysters, snacks and cold sparkling wine served on board the boat.

After lunch fly north along the coast to Damaraland, one of Namibia's most scenic landscapes and home to Africa's last remaining free-roaming black rhinos and elusive desert elephants. Transfer to Desert Rhino Camp. Situated in the 1-million-acre private Palmwag Concession in northwest Namibia, between Etosha and the Skeleton Coast, few places on the planet can offer this level of privacy and wilderness experience. Desert Rhino Camp has eight comfortable canvas walled tents elevated on wooden decking, each with en-suite bathroom. Overnight **Desert Rhino Camp**.

Day Five: Damaraland

Spend the day game viewing in the area tracking black rhino and desert elephant. This desert reserve has a number of fresh water springs that support healthy populations of animals including desert-adapted back rhino and elephants as well as large populations of the endemic Hartmann's mountain zebra, giraffe, oryx, springbok and greater kudu. The predator population is the largest outside of the Etosha National Park with over 100 lions, cheetah, leopard, Brown and Spotted Hyena. Bird life is diverse with several southern African endemics present: Benguela Long-billed Lark, Burchell's Courser, Bokmakierie and Ruppell's Korhaan to mention a few. Overnight **Desert Rhino Camp**.

Day Six: Damaraland - Tsumkwe

After breakfast and your morning game viewing activity, transfer to the airstrip for your flight to Tsumkwe where you will be met by your Camp guide and transferred by vehicle to Nhoma Safari Camp. This is a small, activity-oriented, luxury tented camp situated in the north east of Namibia, on a dune vegetated with Zambesi teak trees with a 180 degree view over the Nhoma omuramba (fossil river bed). It is adjacent to the Ju/'hoan Bushman/San village. Afternoon activities of the villagers may include cooking, making crafts, preparing hides, making hunting equipment such as quivers or arrows, preparing medicine. Experience a healing dance in the evening, tonight or tomorrow. Overnight **Nhoma Safari Camp**.

Day Seven: Tsumkwe

After breakfast guests are taken on a hunting/gathering excursion with four hunters. Skills such as fire making, rope making and setting of traps for birds and antelope are demonstrated, as well as lesser known hunting skills with, for example, the springhare probe. Because the Ju/'hoansi are still active hunters, the hunters will follow promising tracks and the walk can turn into an actual hunt. The duration and intensity of the walk depends on the fitness of the guests and is adaptable. No set route or program is followed. Honey and veld food is also actively sought. In the afternoon, the community awaits the return of the hunters to see what they brought back. The whole community will then participate in traditional games. This is followed by the giraffe or elephant healing dances in the evening after dinner, through which the healers reach an altered state of consciousness whereby they can cure illness. Overnight **Nhoma Safari Camp**.

Day Eight: Tsumkwe - Grootfontein - Okavango Delta

After an early start, transfer to the airstrip to continue your air safari to Grootfontein and Tsumed, then to Maun Airport, Botswana, and on to the Okavango Delta. Your guide from Little Vumbura will transfer you the short distance to Little Vumbura Camp, situated on an island in a private concession in the northern reaches of the Okavango Delta. It is a beautiful six-roomed tented camp shaded by the canopy of an ancient Okavango Delta forest. Each tent is large and roomy and has en-suite facilities. A plunge pool and reading area overlook the floodplains and a star deck leads off the dining area. Surrounded as it is by water and lying close to large rivers, water-based activities are a focus at Little Vumbura Camp with mokoros traversing the floodplains under the guidance of experienced polers. Overnight **Little Vumbura Camp**.

Day Nine & Ten: Okavango Delta

Spend the next couple of days game viewing in the Okavango Delta. Game drives in open Land Rovers allow guests to get close to animals in the savannah areas. Walks (on request) around the islands are an opportunity to enjoy Africa from a different perspective. Game viewing is consistently good all year round at Little Vumbura Camp with lion, leopard, elephant, sable and buffalo along with extensive plains game providing an excellent all-round wildlife experience in this remote corner of the Okavango Delta. Overnights **Little Vumbura Camp**.

Day Eleven: Okavango Delta - Linyanti Wetlands

After your morning game viewing activity and breakfast, transfer to the airstrip for your flight on to the Linyanti Wetlands where your guide awaits to take you to Duma Tau Camp, built on raised boardwalks under a shady grove of mangosteen trees, overlooking a large hippo-filled lagoon on the Linyanti waterways. There are ten tented, spacious rooms under thatch with canvas walls; bathroom facilities are en suite and each room has an additional outside shower. The camp is close to the source of the Savute Channel as well as the Linyanti waterways. Predator sightings of lion, cheetah and wild dogs are good. Elephant viewing is amongst the best anywhere, especially in winter. Plains game viewing should reward you with zebra, giraffe and hippo. Night drives on the Channel are superb, and bird watching opportunities abound. Overnight **Duma Tau Camp**.

Day Twelve: Linyanti Wetlands

Spend the day game viewing in the surrounding area. Overnight **Duma Tau**.

Day Thirteen: Linyanti Wetlands - Livingstone - Toka Leya

After your morning game viewing activity and breakfast, transfer to the airstrip for the flight to Livingstone, Zambia via Maun. You will be met by your guide and transferred by road the short distance to Toka Leya Camp located on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River. Spacious en-suite safari-style tents are linked by wooden walkways which snake between the units and main area. The islands in front of camp are intriguing and form part of the braided channel of the Zambezi River with several rapids, a main channel and dense vegetation. Lodge activities include a tour of the magnificent Victoria Falls on the Zambian side, game drives in the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, river cruises, tour of Livingstone town and the David Livingstone museum with the local curio shops and village school included. Overnight **Toka Leya Camp**.

Day Fourteen: Toka Leya

Spend the day enjoying the many activities on offer. Visits to Mkuni Market and Simonga Village are all outstanding ways of learning about the people and culture of this part of Zambia. A private group sunset cruise on the Zambezi River will be arranged to say farewell to Africa. Overnight **Toka Leya Camp**.

Day Fifteen: Toka Leya - Livingstone - Johannesburg

After breakfast you will be transferred by road back to Livingstone Airport to enjoy your last air safari flight, back to Johannesburg Airport. On arrival at OR Tambo International Airport, continue with your own arrangements for your international flights home to Australia.