



36 day African Encounter CAM0922

CAPE TOWN TO DAR ES SALAAM

This trip starts in Cape Town and travels north through South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania and finishes in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

Please note that this trip departs Cape Town on a Sunday, early morning. Should you wish to spend extra time there an earlier arrival should be planned and additional accommodation booked.

Pre Departure Meeting: Held at departure point at 5:00pm the day before your departure.

Departure Point: Ashanti Lodge & Travel Centre - 11 Hof Street, Gardens, Cape Town.

Check In Time: 8:45am

Departure Time: 9:30am

DAY 1: Cape Town to Cederberg Area

Leaving Cape Town, we head north through the wine growing regions and cross the Piketberg pass into the rich fruit growing area of Citrusdal. Our first night is spent at a picturesque campsite in close proximity to one of the local wine farms. The afternoon can be spent sampling their wares, or exploring the pathways and views of the surrounding Cederberg Mountain range. (L,D)

DAY 2: Cederberg Area to Orange River

From the Cederberg region we travel north through the region known as Namaqualand. This region is well known for its prolific display of Namaqua wildflowers that occur each spring. After stopping for supplies in Springbok we will continue onto the Orange River, the natural land border between South Africa and Namibia. Tonight we will camp at a beautiful campsite on the South African bank of the river. (B, L, D)



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DAY 3: Orange River to Fish River Canyon

This morning you have the **option** of a half-day canoe trip on the beautiful Orange River. The canoe trip provides the opportunity for some bird watching as well as a scenic and relaxing ride. After lunch we cross into Namibia and travel through the Richtersveld region on our way to the Fish River Canyon, the second largest in the world. 161km long, up to 27 kms wide and about 550m deep, the outer canyon was formed by tectonic activity whilst the erosion of the Fish River formed the inner canyon. A road running near the eastern rim gives access to several viewing points with spectacular views across the rift. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: Fish River Canyon to Helmringshausen Area

This morning our journey takes us from the desolate Fish River Canyon area, to the southern 'farming' areas of Namibia. We will stop for supplies in the small, former missionary town of Bethanie. Tonight we camp with spectacular views of the Milky-way overhead. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: Helmringshausen Area to Sesriem

Heading north we enter the Namib - Naukluft Park, considered to be one of the oldest deserts in the world, and a major tourist destination. Sesriem is a good place to experience the Namib and its many moods. A short distance away is Sossusvlei, surrounded by a dramatic sea of sand dunes reputed to be the highest in the world. Magnificent views of the desert can be seen from the top of the dunes, some over 300m high. The afternoon will be spent exploring this amazing area. An **optional** and must do excursion is to walk in this area with the highly specialised local guides of Sossus on Foot. The guide will bring the amazing history, geology, flora, fauna and cultural legacy of the Bushman to you. Tonight we will view the sunset from the top of Dune 45 – a truly memorable experience. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: Sesriem to Swakopmund

After watching the sunrise across this beautiful area we leave the serenity of the dunes and head in a north, easterly direction to meet the Atlantic Ocean at Walvis Bay. Following the coast for some 35kms, we arrive at Namibia's prime holiday resort - Swakopmund where we will enjoy 3 nights of rest and relaxation. (Brunch) Accommodation will be in dormitories. Upgrades are obtainable but depend on availability.

DAYS 7 & 8: Swakopmund

Founded in 1892 during the German colonial rule, the distinct colonial character has been well preserved. Swakopmund has several excellent restaurants, bars, coffee shops as well as many arts and crafts shops selling Namibian rural art. There are fine beaches to walk along as well as a great museum, aquarium and galleries to visit.





Optional excursions include fishing trips, quad biking, sand boarding, skydiving, desert flights, water-sports, golf and 4WD hire. (B included both days)

DAY 9: Swakopmund to Spitzkoppe

Our departure from Swakopmund will take us to the 'Matterhorn of Namibia' – Spitzkoppe. The 1728m high rock formation, one of Namibia's most recognised landmarks is well known as an ancient San sacred site. There is opportunity to explore the bushman paintings and surrounding area. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: Spitzkoppe to Cheetah Park

Today is a day's drive from the rock paintings to the Cheetah Park, a private farm where you will learn about the conservation of the cheetah population in Namibia and have a chance to meet the resident cheetah's up at the house. A photo opportunity not to be missed! (B,L,D)

DAY 11: Cheetah Park to the Etosha National Park

After stopping briefly in Outjo to get supplies, we head on to Etosha. The rest of the day is spent game driving through the southern section of this picturesque National Park. Etosha is the major nature reserve of Namibia, covering over 20 000 square kilometres with a large variety of animal and bird species. The park is situated around the Etosha Pan, and has an extensive network of gravel roads that enable us to get to remote areas of the park (B,L,D)

DAY 12: Etosha National Park

Today we spend a full day of game driving as we make our way the 150kms across the park. Etosha is well known for its large herds of desert antelope such as Springbuck and the famed Oryx. After a full day of game driving you we spend the evening relaxing at our camp. (B,L,D)

DAY 13: Etosha National Park to Rundu

Departing the Etosha NP area, we head in a north easterly direction towards the lush Kavango region of northern Namibia. We will stop at Rundu for supplies before reaching our nearby campsite. This campsite is spectacular and located right on the banks of the Kavango River complete with "open air" facilities and the occasional hippo grazing on the lawn. (B,L,D)



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DAY 14: Rundu to Maun (Botswana)

Continuing along the Kavango River, we enter Botswana and travel east along the course of the Okavango River to the southern reaches of the Okavango Delta and our destination of Maun. It is from here that we set off to explore the Okavango Delta. (B,L,D)

DAY 15: Maun to Okavango Delta (Optional)

The Delta is a huge expanse of water, which has travelled from the Angolan highlands, spreading out to form the largest inland Delta in the World.

Studded with exotic islands, the Delta is renowned for its incredible variety of bird life as well as many other animals unique to Southern Africa.

Here you have the opportunity to take the **optional** 3 day / 2 night excursions into the Delta. This is the drive in Mokoro excursion. (B,L,D)

This drive in trip to the Okavango Delta takes us approximately 1-2 hours north to the Mokoro polers station. From there we hire mokoros, the local dug out canoes, which are poled by local guides through the winding waterways. Your guides will select a place to set up camp. An afternoon game walk will allow you to experience the Delta wilderness.

DAY 16: Okavango Delta

A day of rest, relaxation and Delta experiences await. Today you will have the opportunity to partake in a number of activities including game walks, mokoro cruises, swimming and even a chance to try your hand at poling your own mokoro! (B,L,D)

DAY 17: Okavango Delta to Maun

A final opportunity for a morning game walk before packing up camp and setting off back to Maun. After arriving back in the early afternoon you have the opportunity to complete your picture of the Okavango Delta by taking an **optional** sunset scenic flight over the Delta region. (B,L,D)

DAY 18: Maun to Chobe National Park



We travel east and then north through Botswana to the town of Kasane where we set up camp on the banks of the Chobe River. The Chobe River forms a border between Botswana and Namibia as well as Botswana and Zambia. Listen out for the resident hippos! (B,L,D)

DAY 19: Chobe National Park

This morning you have the option to do an early-morning game drive into Chobe National Park. Chobe is one of Botswana's premier game parks, renowned for the large herds of elephant around the Chobe River. After our game drive we return to camp for lunch. Late afternoon we take a boat cruise along the Chobe River. Elephant, hippo and many bird species can be viewed from the boat while we watch the renowned Chobe sunset. (B, L, D)

DAY 20: Vic Falls

We pack up camp and depart for our final destination, Victoria Falls. Leaving Botswana we enter Zimbabwe and drive to the nearby Victoria Falls where we set up camp in the municipal town campsite. Afternoon at leisure to explore the many sights and delights of this town! (Brunch)

The Victoria Falls constitute one of the most spectacular natural wonders of the world. 1700 metres wide and around 100 metres high, this is the world's largest sheet of falling water and a memorable sight of any African Safari. All year round, flights can be taken in fixed wing aircraft, micro lights, ultra lights or helicopters. On the ground, the Falls can be seen from the Victoria Falls National Park with its many viewing points, or from the Zambian side. Each offers fantastic photographic opportunities.

White water rafting on the Zambezi is considered to be world class. Besides the excitement of the Grade 5 rapids, there are the "floats" where there is time to admire the scenic cliffs and the occasional wildlife on the riverbanks.

Bungi jumping enthusiasts can take the plunge from the Zambezi Bridge, which connects Zimbabwe and Zambia. There is also the option abseil in the Batoka Gorge; neither activity is for the feint hearted!

Other optional activities in the area include trips into the Zambezi or Hwange National Parks, walking with lions, elephant rides, horse riding, visit to the crocodile ranch, golf at Elephant Hills Hotel, parachuting, elephant safaris and the Falls craft village.

DAY 21 & 22: Victoria Falls



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The next 2 days are at your own leisure to partake in activities or relax at the campsite swimming pool. We will also have some new clients joining us for the second part of the tour. (B on both days)

DAY 23: Victoria Falls to Livingstone

This morning we will pack up camp and depart Victoria Falls. Exiting Zimbabwe we cross the historic Victoria Falls Bridge and the Zambezi River to enter into Zambia at the town of Livingstone. Here we have the opportunity to dine in style on the Zambezi sunset cruise.

DAY 24: Livingstone to Lusaka

We set off early and head north through Southern Zambia to a camp just before the capital city of Lusaka. The campsite is home to some local wildlife including giraffe, eland and zebra, and has beautiful facilities. (B,L,D)

DAY 25: Lusaka to Chipata

From Lusaka we cross the north eastern side of Zambia, heading to a beautiful little campsite just 10kms before the Zambia/Malawi border. Here we spend the night under the stars before heading into Malawi the following day. (B,L,D)

DAYS 26 to 30: Chipata to Lake Malawi

Leaving Zambia we cross the border into Malawi, the 'Warm Heart of Africa'. We visit the capital Lilongwe, a small city distinctively divided into the old town and the new administrative centre. The newly democratic Malawi is a landlocked country with 20% of its total area being the beautiful Lake Malawi. The country's temperate climate allows for swimming in these clear blue fresh-waters all the year round.

We travel the full length of western side of lake, stopping off at various bays and inlets for the next 4 days. This is the time for rest and relaxation. Lake Malawi offers a variety of water sports from various beachside campsites. Alternatively, you can go wandering along quieter shorelines where you can see the fishermen sorting their daily catch. Traditional methods are still used in their fishing techniques and you can appreciate their boating skills by trying to paddle in a dugout canoe yourself.



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Visit the nearby villages and schools as well as dine in the local village, haggle for a bargain at the local markets, learn the game of bao with some locals ... or simply relax on the pristine white beaches. (B,L,D)

DAY 31: Lake Malawi to Iringa, Tanzania

We depart Malawi via Karonga and enter Tanzania through the border post of Songwe. We continue our journey through the Tanzanian countryside and take in the beauty of the Tikuyu tea plantations and banana plantations. We spend the night at the rustic 'Old Farmhouse', a campsite situated a few kilometres before the farming town of Iringa. Try one of the signature Amarula Hot chocolates! (B,L,D)

DAY 32: Iringa to Dar es Salaam

The next morning we proceed to Dar es Salaam, passing through Mikumi National Park where it is possible to view a range of wildlife from the roadside, totally impervious to humans and their vehicles. On arrival in Dar es Salaam, we spend the night at a beach hotel/campsite that is situated to the north of the city, and prepare for our departure to Zanzibar the next morning. (B,L,D)

DAY 33: Dar es Salaam to Zanzibar

A ferry from Dar es Salaam takes us to the "Spice Island", where we will spend three nights on this legendary island. Zanzibar is steeped in history and was one of the major starting points for most East African explorers in their quest for new lands. (B)

Please note: Our crew can organise accommodation for you whilst on Zanzibar, although from our experience our clients have felt the need to explore the island on their own. Therefore accommodation and food is for client's own account whilst on Zanzibar.

DAY 34 & 35: Zanzibar

History aside, Zanzibar offers a wealth of experiences for the visitor. Today the quiet streets of the old Stone Town still retain their Arabic influence, from the Medina-like shops to the palaces of the Sultans, who founded their vast empires on the spoils of the slave and ivory trade. The island is still famous for its spices, and tours around a spice plantation can be organised. Other options include a trip to the nearby Prison Island with its giant tortoises, and beautiful beaches to enjoy. Or perhaps you would enjoy the opportunity to hire a motorbike and explore the more remote areas of the island.



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Zanzibar is a seafood lover's paradise. Numerous restaurants offer a great variety of the freshest catch from the ocean - giant lobsters being a popular speciality. Alternatively, joining the locals for dinner in the waterfront market is an experience not to be missed. The market stalls offer an unusual selection of fast food African style at a very reasonable cost.

DAY 36: Zanzibar to Dar es Salaam

Leaving Zanzibar we take the ferry back to mainland of Dar es Salaam to finish this safari.

Optional Excursions:

Canoeing on Orange River ½ day	US\$25
Sossusvlei Desert Walk	US\$35
Okavango Delta with Mokoro's (3 days)	US\$150
Scenic Flight over Okavango Delta	US\$70
Chobe National Park Game Drive	US\$35
Victoria Falls National Park	US\$20
Sunset Dinner Cruise (Livingstone)	US\$40
Zanzibar Accommodation	US\$20p/p/n

(Prices subject to change)

Please note: This itinerary should be used as a guide only and may vary from day to day depending on road conditions, weather, political situations, and group decisions. Due to new tourism laws in some of the countries we operate in there may be a truck and crew change during the trip. All prices & Local Payments are subject to change with prior notice.