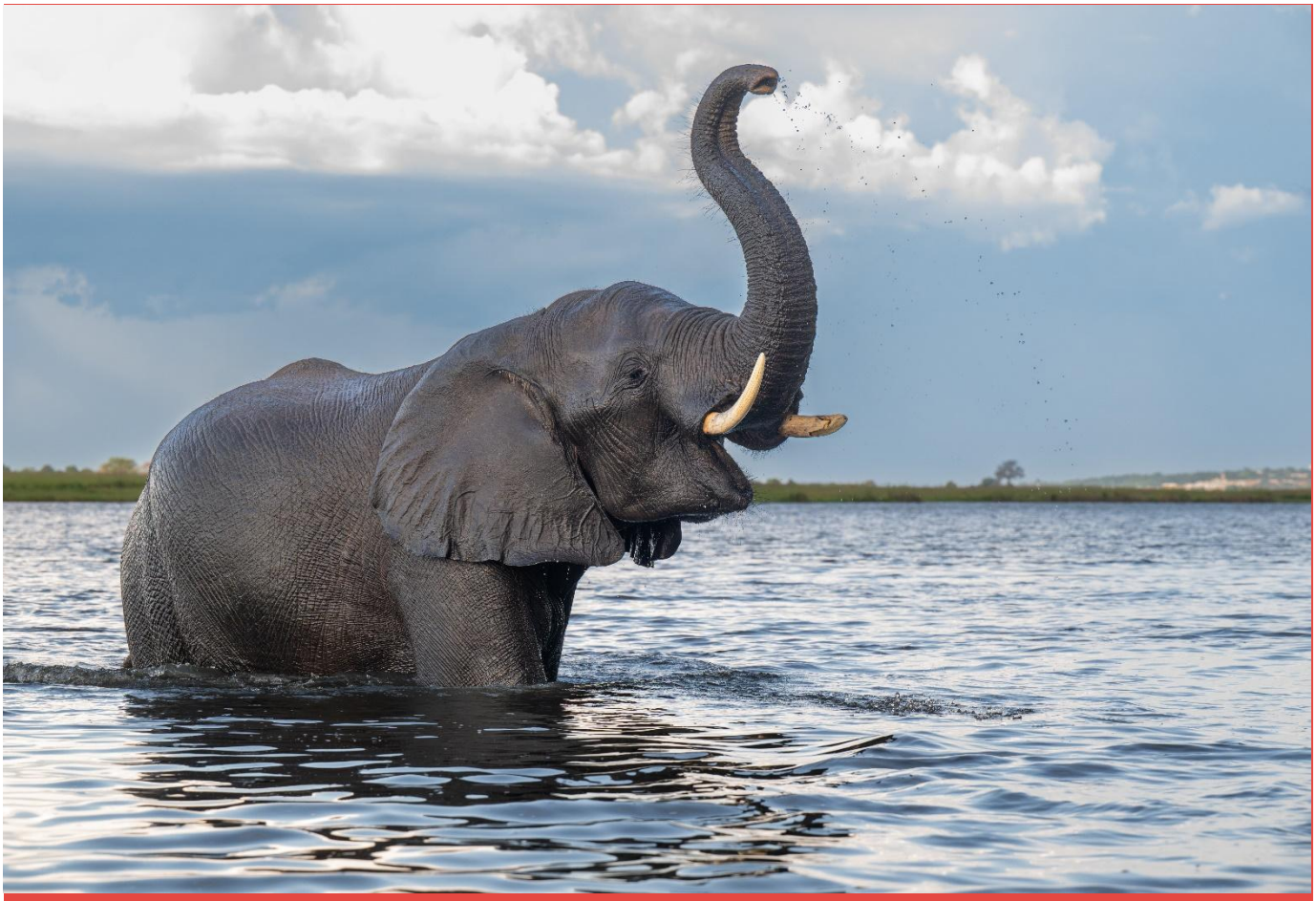


WONDERS OF BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE

Classic Tour | 12 Days | Physical Level 1

Victoria Falls - Chobe National Park - Hwange National Park - Victoria Falls

Southern Africa's perfect pairing, embark on a journey through the very best bits of Zimbabwe and Botswana. From the thundering mists of Victoria Falls, where plenty of unforgettable experiences await, into the untamed wilderness of Chobe and Hwange National Parks, on this tour you'll need your camera constantly at the ready to capture one astounding sight after another.

- Feel the mist of Victoria Falls
- Experience authentic African dining
- Cruise on the Zambezi
- Enjoy dinner aboard a steam train
- Explore the wilds of Chobe
- Safari through Hwange

TOUR MAP



WONDERS OF BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- Specified experiences on a shared basis
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with IATA

Additional costs Include your visa on arrival in Zimbabwe, and personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

CLASSIC TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Zimbabwe and Botswana on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis so you'll travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Wonders of Botswana & Zimbabwe' is rated as a physical level 1 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches, 4x4's, boats, and walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time.

Of course, our local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 12 days in duration including international flights or 10 days in duration based on 'Land Only'.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre/post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Victoria Falls and end the tour on Day 11 in Victoria Falls. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure. An informal Welcome Dinner will be held on Day 2 of the itinerary. If you miss this due to your arrival time, all information will be provided to you at breakfast the following morning.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1-2: Arrive Victoria Falls Meals: D

Fly overnight to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. On arrival at the airport, you will be met and transferred 30 minutes to your lodge for a three-night stay. Depending on your arrival time, the rest of the day is yours to relax and settle into your surroundings.



Destination Information

Victoria Falls – The Zimbabwean town is a gateway to the falls and the Zambezi River, with woodland, riverside scenery and opportunities to discover the region's wildlife.

Day 3: Visit Victoria Falls Meals: B,L,D

After breakfast enjoy a tour of the iconic Victoria Falls from the Zimbabwean side. Admire this spectacular 1,708-metre of tumbling water as you are guided through the rainforest, pausing at viewpoints to admire this wonder.



Later, board a shared sunset dinner cruise on the Zambezi River. Watch for hippos, crocodiles and birdlife as you dine, with the chance to spot elephants along the riverbanks.

Your sightseeing today will last approximately 5 hours.

Please note: The falls visit involves walking between viewpoints, with some steps and potentially slippery surfaces. Spray varies with water levels; waterproof protection for you and your camera is recommended. Please wear comfortable shoes with good grip.

Day 4: Historic Train Dinner Meals: B,L,D

Today you will visit the Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust, where you will tour the facilities and learn about the Trust's work protecting wildlife through rescue, rehabilitation and scientific research. Tour the high-care wildlife rehabilitation centre and laboratory facilities, gaining an insight into the challenges facing conservation teams. Enjoy some leisure time before a five-course dinner (selected beverages included) aboard a beautifully restored historic train, dining in an elegant vintage carriage as you journey towards the Victoria Falls Bridge.



Please note: The dress code for dinner tonight is smart.

Day 5: Travel Victoria Falls to Chobe National Park Meals: B,L,D

Depart Victoria Falls and travel into neighbouring Botswana, travelling approximately 3 hours to your accommodation in the Kasane, Chobe region for a three-night stay. This afternoon, board a shared boat to cruise the Chobe River. Watch for elephants and buffalo along the banks, hippos and crocodiles in the water, and birds around the floodplains.



Destination Information

Kasane - Nestled in the heart of the Chobe region, thrives as a vibrant gateway to nature's wonders. Resting at the confluence of four countries, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, Kasane pulses with life, where the Chobe River flows steadily, attracting a diverse array of wildlife.

Day 6: Chobe National Park Meals: B,L,D

Early this morning, embark on a safari when many animals are at their most active. Look out for herds of elephants, hippos, and crocodiles as they begin their day. With time to relax between the safaris, you can enjoy the facilities at your hotel. Your afternoon safari offers another thrilling opportunity to witness the animals in their natural habitat.



Destination Information

Chobe National Park – Located in northern Botswana and renowned for its diverse wildlife and stunning landscapes. Covering over 11,000 square kilometres, the park is famous for its large elephant population and offers rich ecosystems ranging from lush floodplains to dense woodlands. A haven for safari enthusiasts, featuring a variety of animals, including lions, leopards, buffalo, and a wide array of bird species, with the Chobe River serving as a vital water source that attracts wildlife year-round.

Day 7: Local village visit Meals: B,L,D

Head out early for another game drive in Chobe National Park, making the most of your final morning safari here. Return for breakfast and time to unwind. Later, visit a local village where you will learn about the community's traditions and daily life.



Day 8: Travel to Hwange National Park Meals: B, L, D



This morning is an early start as you set off for a day of travelling from Botswana back to Zimbabwe, heading to Hwange National Park. This journey will take approximately five hours depending on road conditions in certain areas. Enjoy lunch and some time to settle into your surroundings before embarking on an afternoon game drive. Hwange is also renowned for its predator populations, and with a bit of luck, you may encounter lions, leopards, cheetahs, African wild dogs, or spotted hyenas as they move through the bush. The park's network of waterholes attracts wildlife throughout the day, creating excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing and photography.

Destination Information

Hwange National Park - Zimbabwe's largest national park is known for its elephants, varied wildlife and network of waterholes. Habitats range from woodland to open grassland, offering different settings for safari exploration.

Day 9: Painted Dog Conservation Meals: B, L, D



Start with an early morning game drive in Hwange, seeking elephants, buffalo, giraffes, zebras and antelope, alongside the chance to spot predators. Return for breakfast and time to relax. Later, visit Painted Dog Conservation to learn about the endangered African wild dog and the work protecting it. Discover how monitoring, anti-poaching activities and community education support conservation before returning to your lodge for dinner.

Destination Information

Painted Dog Conservation – Based in the Hwange area, this organisation works to protect African wild dogs through research, monitoring, anti-poaching work and community programmes. Its visitor centre introduces the species and the wider ecosystem.

Painted dogs – Also known as African wild dogs, these endangered canids have distinctive patterned coats and live in social packs.

Day 10: Travel to Victoria Falls Meals: B,L,D



Enjoy your final safari this morning, hopefully ticking off those last few incredible birds and animals from Hwange's diverse range of habitats. After breakfast travel approximately four hours, dependent on road conditions, to Victoria Falls. You have the rest of the afternoon at leisure before dinner at Dusty Road, ending your trip with a taste of local hospitality and authentic food.

Destination Information

Dusty Road - Discover Zimbabwean flavours amongst a colourful setting filled with imaginative artwork and repurposed everyday objects. Savour traditional dishes prepared over open fires and in cast-iron pots. The restaurant's community focus supports local livelihoods and opportunities for women.

Day 11 – 12: Depart Victoria Falls

Meals: B

After breakfast, transfer to Victoria Falls Airport for your overnight flight to New Zealand, arriving the following day.



WONDERS OF BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

Entry requirements – Zimbabwe
New Zealand passport holders require a visa to enter Zimbabwe, which is not included in the cost of your tour and is purchased upon arrival. Details will be provided in your final documentation, sent approximately two weeks prior to departure. As this tour enters Zimbabwe twice, you will require a multiple entry visa.

Entry requirements – Botswana
New Zealand passport holders are currently permitted entry to Botswana without a visa.

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back in New Zealand. Your passport must also have at least 3 blank pages for stamps.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a National Escort. On this Classic Tour, there will be no more than 18 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu Tours groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 10 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides only.

EATING IN BOTSWANA AND ZIMBABWE:

Eating in Botswana and Zimbabwe offers a rich cultural experience, deeply rooted in local traditions and ingredients. In **Botswana**, meals revolve around staples like maize, sorghum, and beans, with **seswaa** (slow-cooked, pounded beef or goat) and **pap** (maize porridge) taking centre stage. Dishes are hearty and often accompanied by vegetables, stews, or wild game meat like impala or kudu.

In **Zimbabwe**, meals focus on **sadza**, a thick maize meal porridge, typically paired with relishes such as stewed meat, vegetables, or **nyama** (grilled meat). Popular dishes include **nyama choma** (roast meat) and **muriwo** (leafy greens). Both countries celebrate communal eating, with food embodying the warmth and hospitality of Southern African culture.

DEVELOPMENT IN BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE:

Botswana:

Botswana is often regarded as a development success story in Africa. Since gaining independence in 1966, the country has experienced significant economic growth, primarily driven by its diamond industry. Botswana's stable political environment, sound governance, and prudent fiscal management have helped it build a relatively robust economy. Investments in education, healthcare, and infrastructure have improved living standards, and the country ranks high on the Human Development Index (HDI) in Africa. Tourism, particularly around wildlife and national parks like Chobe, is another growing sector, contributing to diversification efforts beyond mining.

Zimbabwe:

Zimbabwe's development, on the other hand, has been more complex. Once considered one of Africa's most prosperous nations, Zimbabwe has faced economic challenges, including hyperinflation, political instability, and international sanctions, particularly from the early 2000s. These factors have significantly hindered development, causing a decline in key sectors like agriculture and manufacturing. However, the country continues to show resilience, with efforts underway to stabilize the economy and rebuild infrastructure. Agriculture remains a key focus, particularly with initiatives to revive commercial farming. Tourism, especially around Victoria Falls, plays a crucial role in its economic recovery efforts.

Both nations are committed to diversifying their economies, fostering sustainable development, and improving the quality of life for their citizens, though they face distinct challenges and opportunities.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town or a heritage-type hotel. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between New Zealand and Africa. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met.

All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities and air conditioning. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone so we aim to take you to places that hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Africa is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your national escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed amongst your main service providers (for example local guides and drivers) throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the national escort. Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants or hotel porters that are taking luggage to your room, is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Please note it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. Roads have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximates.

Botswana:

Road Network: Botswana has a well-maintained road network, with major highways connecting key cities and towns. The roads are generally in good condition, particularly those leading to tourist destinations like Chobe National Park.

Road Safety: Traffic rules are enforced, but road safety can vary. Wildlife crossings are common in national parks, so drivers should remain vigilant. In urban areas, traffic congestion is generally minimal.

Zimbabwe:

Road Network: Zimbabwe's road network varies in quality. Major roads connecting cities like Harare and Bulawayo are generally in fair condition, but secondary and rural roads can be less well-maintained and may become challenging, especially during the rainy season.

Road Safety: While traffic laws exist, enforcement can be inconsistent. Road safety issues can include potholes, poorly lit roads, and occasional wildlife crossings, particularly in rural areas.

APPROPRIATE DRESS:

When travelling to Botswana and Zimbabwe, dressing appropriately can enhance comfort and respect for local customs. Here's a guide for each country:

Botswana:

Casual Wear: Light, breathable clothing is ideal due to the warm climate. Lightweight shirts, trousers, and dresses in natural fabrics like cotton are recommended.

Safari Clothing: If you're going on safari, wear neutral-coloured clothing (like khaki, olive, or brown) to blend in with the environment and avoid attracting insects. Quick-dry and moisture-wicking fabrics are beneficial.

Cultural Sensitivity: While Botswana is relatively relaxed, it's respectful to dress modestly in rural areas and when visiting local communities.

Zimbabwe:

Casual Wear: Light and breathable clothing is suitable for the generally warm climate. Opt for casual wear like T-shirts, shorts, and skirts.

Safari Clothing: Neutral-coloured, lightweight clothing is best for safari activities. Avoid bright colours and stick to colours that blend with the natural surroundings.

Cultural Sensitivity: In Zimbabwe, modest dress is appreciated, particularly in rural areas and when interacting with local communities.

In both countries, it's wise to include layers for cooler evenings and early mornings, especially in winter months. Also, packing a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen will help protect you from the strong sun.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

Wendy Wu does not give specific health advice, but we do recommend you see your doctor at least six weeks prior to travel for advice and to allow time for any necessary vaccinations. Please remember to take your itinerary with you. Safe travel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements. You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice. If a visa is required, our Visa Department will be in touch with the paperwork and next steps. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: October 2026