

WONDERS OF BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE

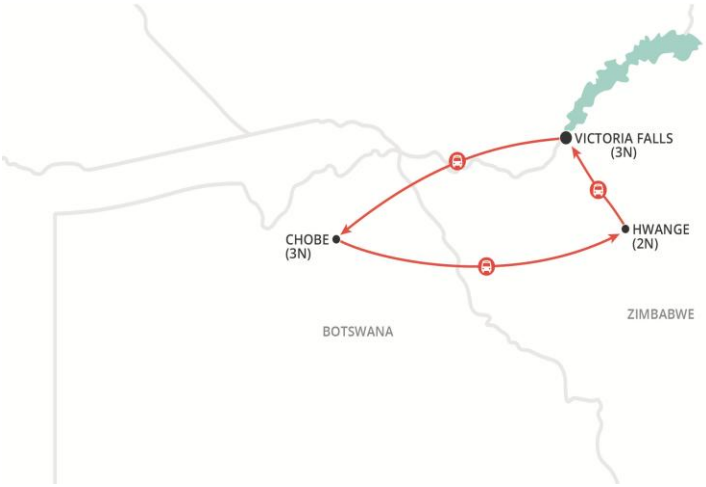
Extension | 9 Days | Physical Level 1

LAND ONLY TOUR

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. On top of the huge landscapes, incredible wildlife and glorious sunsets, you'll also get to experience rural life in Botswana and traditional Zimbabwean food on an adventure that will fill you with wonder.

- Feel the mist of Victoria Falls
- Experience authentic African dining
- Cruise on the Zambezi
- Explore the wilds of Chobe
- Enjoy a theatrical music & dance show
- Safari through Hwange

TOUR MAP



WONDERS OF BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- All accommodation
- Meals as stated
- All sightseeing and entrance fees on a shared basis
- All transportation and transfers on a shared basis
- English speaking local guides
- Shared services while staying at lodges (transfers, safaris and excursions)
- Safe and secure with IATA

The extra expenses which would be for your own account are eg: flights, 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.

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.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Travel Victoria Falls to Chobe Meals: D

On arrival at Victoria Falls airport, Zimbabwe, you will be met and transferred in a shared vehicle, for approximately two hours, crossing the border, before arriving at your hotel in Kasane, Botswana. This afternoon enjoy a river safari, gliding through the waters as you look out for herds of elephants, hippos, and crocodiles.



The activities mentioned are simply suggestions. During your stay in Chobe, you'll have the flexibility to choose two activities per day. You can opt for an exciting game drive through the park or a relaxing river cruise along the Chobe River, tailoring your experience to your preference.

Please note: All transfers and activities while staying at the lodge will be on a shared basis.

Destination Information

Kasane - 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 2: Chobe National Park Meals: B, L, D

Today you will embark on a three-hour river safari, gliding through the waters as you look out for herds of elephants, hippos, and crocodiles. Set out early, with the golden light of dawn and as the park slowly comes alive with activity, searching for predators like lions, leopards or herds of elephants and buffalo as they begin their day. With time to relax between the safaris, you can either enjoy the facilities on offer or enquire about optional activities to explore. Your afternoon land 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 3: Chobe National Park

Meals: B, L, D

Your day begins at dawn with the cool morning air perfect for a game drive. You'll spot elephants, buffalo, and antelope moving across the plains, and perhaps catch a pride of lions finishing an early hunt. Return to the lodge to relax before your next thrilling afternoon game drive, where your expert guide will continue to share their knowledge with you.



Day 4: 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, covering 294 kilometres, will take approximately six hours depending on road conditions in certain areas. Enjoy a packed lunch enroute before arriving at the lodge late this afternoon, with the rest of the day at leisure.



The activities mentioned during your stay at Hwange National Park are just suggestions. You can enjoy two activities per day, selecting from a range of options such as game walks, game drives, full-day excursions, hide sits, night drives, or a visit to the Ngamo community for a cultural experience. Activities are subject to availability, allowing you to tailor each day to suit your interests.

Please note: All transfers and activities while staying at the lodge will be on a shared basis.

Destination Information

Hwange National Park – One of the 10 largest parks in Africa, and home to over 400 bird species and 107 species of animal, prepare for one of the continent's best safari experiences.

Day 5: Hwange National Park Meals: B, L, D



Today will be spent either amongst the vast wilds of Hwange National Park on an epic game drive spotting creatures that include lions, giraffes, leopards, cheetahs, hyenas, and wild dogs, or relaxing at your lodge. The park's numerous waterholes attract animals throughout the day, making it ideal for observing large herds of zebra, giraffe, and antelope. Hwange's remote, unspoiled wilderness offers a quieter, more intimate safari experience, where you can connect with nature in an authentic and thrilling way. Activities you can choose from will include walks, hide sits, night drives or a community experience.

Day 6: Travel to Victoria Falls Meals: B



Savour your final safari of the trip, ticking off those last few incredible birds and animals from Hwange's diverse range of habitats. After breakfast travel approximately three and a half hours, dependent on road conditions, to Victoria Falls where you have the rest of the day to explore your surroundings.

Please note: All transfers and activities will be on a shared basis.

Destination Information

Victoria Falls – Victoria Falls thunders with breathtaking power, as the Zambezi River plunges dramatically into the gorge below. Known as "The Smoke That Thunders," the falls create a towering mist visible for miles, while rainbows dance in the spray.

Day 7: Tour of Victoria Falls Meals: B, L



With your guide, wander pathways through lush rainforest, the roar of the water getting ever louder, to reach a lookout point. Before you will be one of the world's most awe-inspiring sights - Mosi-oa-Tunya, 'the Smoke that Thunders', Victoria Falls. A whopping 1,708 metres across with a 100 metre drop into the Zambezi Gorge, the falls have been mesmerising travellers with its sheer power and beauty for centuries. Enjoy lunch at the iconic Lookout Café, which boasts glorious views of the Batoka Gorge. This evening enjoy the one hour Simunye Spirit of Africa show, offering a mesmerising blend of puppetry, dance, music and visuals. This show starts at 20h00 so be sure to make dinner arrangements prior.

Day 8: Exploring the town Meals: B, L, D



Start your day with a visit to the lively township of Chinotimba, a community rich in culture and history. Here, you'll have the chance to connect with a local woman who will warmly welcome you into her home as she introduces you to the flavours of Zimbabwe by preparing traditional dishes like *sadza*, a maize-based staple, and *nyama*, a savoury meat stew. Enjoy a peaceful afternoon cruise along the majestic Zambezi River, hoping to spot hippos and crocodiles lounging on the riverbanks, with elephants often appearing to drink at the water's edge. Your evening continues with a lively Boma dinner experience around the fire, feasting on a wide array of traditional African dishes, from barbecued meats to local delicacies. The evening comes alive with drumming performances, storytelling, and traditional dances.

Day 9: Depart Victoria Falls Meals: B



After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight.

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. As this tour enters Zimbabwe twice, a multiple-entry visa is required. Details will be provided in your final documentation, sent approximately two weeks prior to departure.

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

Your passport must have an 'expiry date' at least 6 months after the date you arrive and at least 3 blank pages.

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back in New Zealand.

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.

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, air conditioning, TV and a telephone. 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 Botswana & Zimbabwe are no exception. Tipping practices in **Botswana** and **Zimbabwe** are generally similar and reflect the customary norms of Southern Africa. Here's a quick guide to tipping in these countries:

Botswana:

Restaurants: It's customary to leave a tip of around 10-15% of the bill if service is not included. Some upscale restaurants may already include a service charge.

Hotels: For hotel staff, such as bellhops and housekeeping, a tip of around USD$1 - 2 per service is appreciated.

Taxi Drivers: While not mandatory, rounding up the fare or leaving a small tip (around 5-10%) is a nice gesture.

Guides: For tour guides and safari guides, tipping around USD$10 – USD$15 per person / per day is customary, depending on the level of service and the length of the tour.

Zimbabwe:

Restaurants: A tip of around 10-15% of the bill is standard, though some restaurants may include a service charge.

Hotels: It is common to tip hotel staff about USD$ 1-5 per service, such as bellhops and housekeeping.

Taxi Drivers: Similar to Botswana, rounding up the fare or leaving a tip of about 5-10% is appreciated but not expected.

Guides: For guides and drivers, tipping around USD$10-20 per day is typical, reflecting the quality of service and the duration of the tour.

In both countries, tipping is a way to show appreciation for good service and is often an important supplement to the income of service workers. Always check if a service charge has already been added to the bill before deciding on an additional tip.

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 traveling 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

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention is 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.

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.

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