# Elephant Trail Luxury Lodge Safari

Trip Code: BZA

Version:

| WILDLIFE | GUIDED GROUP | MODERATE |
|---|---|---|
| | | 4 |



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Witness the might and majesty of the Mosi-oa-Tunya (Victoria Falls)
- Meeting the rescued dogs of the Painted Dog Conservation Centre in Hwange NP
- Game walk in Matobos National Park with the chance to see rhinos and some otherworldly San cave paintings
- Mekoro cruise in the incredible waterworld wildlife oasis, the Okavango Delta

- Relax with sundowners at our collection of beautiful lodges in or near some of the wildest parks on planet earth

### AT A GLANCE

- 15 days overland safari
- Serviced lodge accommodation
- Game drives
- Mokoro cruise
- Game walk
- Sunset cruise
- Join at Victoria Falls

### ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

# Introduction

This classic journey takes you overland on a journey of over 2,500km through some of Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe's wildest landscapes. We'll head right through the heart of the Kavango Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area – a remarkable multi-country effort to weave together a network of connected reserves allowing free movement along natural migration routes, particularly for elephants. Along the way, you will stay in lodges that are not just comfortable, but truly beautiful, providing the perfect base for an unforgettable safari adventure.

From the wild dogs and rhinos, great dusty savannahs and rocky outcrops of Hwange and Matopos in Zimbabwe, to the water borne oases of the Okavango, Caprivi, and Chobe, this trip is as magnificent as it is varied. You'll stay in luxury lodges and the occasional, exceptionally placed safari tent, surrounded by nature but with the added creature comforts of our finest non-participation safari, leaving more time for relaxing, enjoying the lodge facilities and perhaps a sundowner at the end of a day of game drives.

If you would like further information on when to go to Southern Africa on safari and which trip suits you the best, please refer to our detailed guide: Which safari is right for you?

## Is this holiday for you?

Everything in Africa is on a big scale, and to cover the ground necessary, your journey across Southern Africa includes several long drives accompanied by Africa's spectacular scenery. Such drives, including your game drives, can often be on dirt tracks, graded roads and also tar highways. The driving times are indicated on each day. These times do not include stops along the way. We ensure that regular comfort breaks are taken, and stops try to be scheduled to visit interesting towns or sights.

The accommodation will range from permanent tented camps, to beautiful lodges, all with en-suite facilities. There may be a bar/restaurant available and some lodges may have a swimming pool. Included meals are all lodge provided. When in a lodge with a restaurant, or in a town with restaurant options, on some occasions we will have own expense evening meals.

Unlike our other safaris, this trip is a non participation safari, and as such you will not be required to erect tents, prepare food or clean dishes. This is still an adventure tour though, so please expect to get involved. Where there are porters, they'll help you, otherwise you'll need to carry your own bag. If you have a particular interest, please let your safari leader know, and he/she will endeavour to make your journey more rewarding.

This journey is suitable for the adventurous traveller looking to experience some of Africa's most incredible safari experiences with a hint of serviced luxury.

# Itinerary

Version:

# Holiday Information

## What's Included

- Two professional and qualified guides
- Airport transfers on Day 1 and Day 15 of the Land Only itinerary
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- National Park entrance fees
- All activities/excursions mentioned except where specified as 'optional'

## What's not Included

- Travel Insurance
- Visas (if applicable)
- Some meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional
- Tips for local staff
- Miscellaneous personal expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc

## Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will meet at the group hotel in Victoria Falls.

On arrival, transfers are provided from Victoria Falls Airport to the group hotel. At 14:00 on Day 1 you will meet your guide for an introduction and briefing.

The holiday ends in Botswana but includes a transfer to the airport at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe (please purchase a double entry visa to Zimbabwe at the start of your trip) or Kasane in Botswana.

## Meal Plan

14 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 8 dinners are included.

## Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

## Food & Water

Water from the taps may not be drinkable in all locations on this trip - please check with your guide. We recommend taking water purification tablets and a reusable bottle with a filter such as **Water-to-Go**, which can both be used to help make safe other water sources. Please note that we do not encourage the purchase of single use plastic bottles.

All included meals are provided by the lodges at which we are staying. Due to travel arrangements or game viewing activities, three of the lunches will be packed picnic lunches. Where meals are not included there will be an opportunity to buy a meal on route, but these are mostly travel days so a quick stop is required.

## Accommodation

The accommodation throughout this classic journey is of 3+ star style and are chosen not only for their service and comfort level but also for their wonderful locations and local wildlife viewing opportunities. All rooms have private en-suite facilities.

The Moremi tented bush camp on a private concession bordering Moremi GR is a particular highlight, placed on a bend of the river on a high bank, affording great views of this key source of water for many animals at the edge of the reserve. The tents themselves are luxurious, each including twin beds and an attached en-suite.

## Group Leader & Support Staff

Group leaders are the key to any successful safari. On this adventure safari, you will travel with two qualified and experienced, registered field guides (FGASA). Two guides as crew, not a guide and a driver, adds up to an informative and interesting small group holiday. Our guides have a passion for Africa, her people and wildlife, and they love nothing more than sharing their knowledge with you.

## Spending Money

We estimate that a total of around £300-375 per person (or equivalent in euros/dollars) should be allowed for personal spending. This amount should be sufficient to cover non-included meals and miscellaneous expenses, including tips to local staff. If you are intending to buy expensive souvenirs, considerable quantities of soft drinks / beer or undertake additional activities or excursions, you should budget accordingly (credit cards can be useful in this respect). You can choose to take your money in pounds sterling, dollars or euros. There will be the opportunity to change money into local currency on arrival at the airport (which we advise you to do) and your local leader will advise further places to change money into local currencies en-route and at borders. Additionally, you will be able to obtain local currency from bank ATMs in many of the towns that we will visit.

Many small traders will accept US$, Euro or GBP, but usually prefer local currency. Your notes should be clean and undamaged. And please avoid USD$100 and old issue ‘small head’ US$ notes as they might not be accepted.

## Guidance on Tipping

Your tour leader also works extremely hard to ensure that your holiday runs smoothly and that you are happy. We suggest that a tip of £2-5 per client per day for your tour leader is reasonable. When it comes to tipping the guides that we sometimes use for various activities (e.g. game walks, polers in the Okavango Delta etc) we suggest that a tip of £1-3 per client per ½ day activity, or the local currency equivalent, is acceptable. As in all cases with tipping, the final decision of the amount tipped is up to the individual. It is up to you to decide if you thought the service was poor, or exceptional, and the amount tipped should reflect that. The amounts quoted above are guidelines for you to get an idea of what to tip.

## Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Your baggage will travel in the gear compartment of the truck with the group, and there is a finite amount of space. Please keep the weight of your main luggage to 12kg. You should bring a soft bag as these are more suitable to pack in the vehicle.

# General Information

## Passport & Visas

**The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.**

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

**It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates** *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

**Visa Botswana**

UK nationals do not normally need a visa to enter Botswana for stays of up to 90 days.

**Travelling with children under 18yrs - Botswana**

Parents travelling with children under 18 years will be asked to show the child's full unabridged birth certificate. If the child is travelling with one parent, with another adult or unaccompanied, the parent or parents who aren't present will need to provide an affidavit giving their consent for the child to travel. Please note that they are very strict and they do not accept photocopies of birth certificates or short versions. This is also applicable if you are transiting through Botswana. For further details please see FCO website https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/botswana/entry-requirements

**Visa Zimbabwe**

A visa is required. This is obtained on arrival and is $55 single entry and $70 for double. Payment must be in cash and you should take small denomination notes for this.

**Important Note:** Please check your itinerary and your arrival/departure flights. If your accommodation and flights are from a different side of the falls you may need both a Zambian and a Zimbabwe visa. The town of Victoria Falls is in Zimbabwe, and the town of Livingstone is in Zambia.

Additionally If you visit the falls (on the border) and wish to cross the bridge to the other side you will require a visa for both countries.

**Visa Namibia**

There is a 1,600N$ charge (approx. 80 EUR, or 90 USD) in place as of the 1st April 2025 for 31 countries including the UK and USA which can either be purchased in advance as an e-Visa by following this link: https://eservices.mhaiss.gov.na/holidayvisa-services, or can be purchased on the day. Namibian immigration has stated that credit card facilities will be available at border posts. However, just in case, we recommend carrying NAD 1,600 or ZAR 1,600 in cash for visa fees, when applying at the border. For further information on how to apply, please click here.

**Travelling with children under 18yrs - Namibia**

Parents travelling with children under 18 years will be asked to show the child's full unabridged birth certificate. If the child is travelling with one parent, with another adult or unaccompanied, the parent or parents who aren't present will need to provide an affidavit giving their consent for the child to travel. Please note that they are very strict and they do not accept photocopies of birth certificates or short

versions. This is also applicable if you are transiting through Namibia. For further details please see FCDO website.

## Health & Vaccinations

**Vaccinations:**

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

**It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.**

**Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.**

**Severe Allergies:**

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

## Currency

The unit of currency in Botswana is the Pula.

The unit of currency in Zimbabwe is the Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG). There is currently a shortage of available cash at the banks and ATM's in Zimbabwe. US Dollars are still widely used, so exchange your currency in advance, or use credit cards where possible, as these are widely accepted also.

The unit of currency in Namibia is the Namibian Dollar. The Namibian and the the Southern African Rand have the same value, and the Rand  is accepted everywhere in Namibia.

## Climate

Botswana & Zimbabwe: This Central region of Southern Africa is subtropical being generally warm and mild to humid. October and November are hot, day and night. November to April is the hottest time of the year with chances of showers to heavy rains later in the season. May to September is cool and dry.

## Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

## Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

## Books

- Okavango: Jewel of the Kalahari by Karen Ross (A comprehensive description of the Delta ecology)
- Don't run whatever You Do by Peter Allison (A guide's perspective of Botswana lodge life)
- Okavango: Africa's Last Eden by Frans Lanting (A coffee table book of photography)
- Wankie by Davidson Ted (a story about Hwange National Park)
- How I Found Livingstone by Henry M. Stanley (a factual account of Stanley's travels in Africa)
- Newman's Birds of Southern Africa by Kenneth Newman
- Sasol Birds of Southern Africa by Ian Sinclair, Phil Hockey, and W.R. Tarboton
- The Safari Companion: A Guide to Watching African Mammals Including Hoofed Mammals, Carnivores, and Primates by Richard D. Estes and Daniel Otte

### Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation.  When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct.  Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

### Explore International

This holiday is part of our Explore International range. Participants on these trips can book through KE or through our international partner. This helps us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get your holiday up and running quickly. Led by an English-speaking guide, the cosmopolitan nature of these groups can be an important part of the experience!

# Equipment Information

### Equipment List

Please try to keep the weight of your baggage to a minimum. See the ‘baggage allowance’ section for further details.

### You should bring the following items:

- Lightweight walking boots/shoes
- Sandals
- Socks and underwear
- Long lightweight trousers
- Shorts
- Lightweight waterproof jacket & trousers
- T-shirts
- Casual shirts with sleeves

- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Sunhat with wide brim
- Sunglasses
- Buff/scarf for dusty days
- Small towel/Travel towel
- Daypack 20-25 litres
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 1 litre (x2) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Washbag and toiletries (biodegradable soap is preferred)
- Antibacterial handwash
- Insect repellent
- Basic First Aid Kit including: antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, re-hydration salts (Dioralite), anti-nausea tablets and antihistamine cream/tablets.

## The following items are optional:

- Light cotton dress or sarong
- Swimwear
- Pen-knife (remember to pack sharp objects in hold baggage)

- Repair kit (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- A selection of dry bags for daypack/kitbage
- Camera
- Binoculars (highly recommended)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

### Notes:

Please be aware than in the Southern African the winter months, June-September, the nights can be cold with an average of between 0-5 degrees Celsius in some places, and the days can be warm between 20-30 degrees Celsius

Bright bold colours and white are not suitable for game viewing or bush wear as they attract insects and the attention of animals. Please do not bring camouflage or military style clothes as they can cause problems with local authorities.

Please dress appropriately for border crossings, village and market visits - ie: no bare feet, no bare chests, no bikinis and no hats. A few restaurants are also not keen on T-shirts and jeans either.

### Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe and vice versa.

Outbound flights will depart from the UK in the evening, arriving the morning of the following day (day 1 of the Land Only itinerary). Return flights will depart Victoria Falls in the afternoon of the last day of the Land Only itinerary, arriving in the UK the following morning.

# Why Choose KE

### Why KE?

A departure from our participation safaris, this trip comes with that much valued commodity, spare time. We still travel to and through some of the wildest places on the continent, but with the added comfort of knowing that our food will be prepared for us when we arrive, our tented camps assembled, and our lodge beds primed for us to curl up in to after a day game driving and travelling through reserves and open plains. Our luxury lodge safari is a cut above the rest.

**Please Note** This document was downloaded on 13/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change