



Kruger & Victoria Falls (19KVF9A) – Tour Dossier

Included Highlights

Blyde River Canyon
Kruger NP, Game Drives
Bakone Open Air Cultural Museum
Motobo NP, Game Drive

Victoria Falls Visit
Vic Falls Zambezi Sunset Dinner Cruise

Intended Itinerary

It is our intention to adhere to the route described below but a certain amount of flexibility is built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary. Please therefore treat the following as a guide only.

Your tour starts in **Pretoria**, South Africa's administrative capital. Close enough to Johannesburg to almost be considered a suburb, Pretoria is known as the Jacaranda City, with purple blossoms covering the streets in October each year. Pretoria boasts many sights of interest – such as the 10m bronze statue of Nelson Mandela standing beside the historic Union Buildings. Various cultural sites, shops, bars and restaurants are within an easy walk of our recommended hotel (and tour start point).

How do I get to Pretoria? Simple. Book a transfer before you leave home to meet you at Johannesburg's OR Tambo International and take you direct to the hotel in Pretoria. Journey time is about 45 minutes depending on traffic. We particularly recommend a pre-booked transfer if you are arriving late. Alternatively, there is a regular low-cost train service called the Gautrain which runs from OR Tambo International to both Johannesburg and Pretoria. If the train interests you, email or ask Acacia for more information.

The description below follows the itinerary with the mandatory Safari Pass for the tour.

Duration: 9 Days
Countries visited: South Africa and Zimbabwe

Please note that whilst every effort has been made to select accommodation of a consistent standard throughout the tour there are areas where this is difficult to achieve. We have not designed the tour with international standard hotels in mind but instead have sourced privately owned properties more suited to the environment and to Acacia's philosophy of helping local benefit from tourism. For that reason, accommodation, hotel facilities and service levels may vary from area to area between and within countries. To a degree this reflects local infrastructure, tourism development, and of the communities whose areas we are visiting. At times you may find lapses in service frustrating, but we ask your patience and that you consider it part of the African experience. Naturally your tour leader will do all he can to rectify any problems that may arise as the tour proceeds and although we ask that you accept that not everything on tour is under his or Acacia's control.

To allow for the highlights and experiences packed into this tour, some long distances need to be covered. To minimise the impact travelling inevitably will have on a tour of this nature, we have allocated some days as longer driving days than others. Our intention is to cover the necessary ground as quickly and safely as possible with minimal delays. Border crossings, in particular at Beitbridge (day 3) can be tedious, as are the number of police road checks currently in place in Zimbabwe. We ask that you remain patient throughout. Africa is a wonderful continent to explore but there are occasions when it helps to remember that we are guests here and that when travelling everywhere sometimes things will take longer than we would like or expect at home.

Day 1:

Pretoria – Hoedspruit

Distance travelled: +/- 460 Km
Approx driving time: 10-11 Hours

Departing from South Africa's administrative city, Pretoria, we drive across the scenic Mpumalanga province and enjoy the spectacular mountain vistas. We stop at the Blyde River Canyon to view the odd looking Three Rondavels rock formations perched at the edge of the Blyde River Canyon and enjoy the crisp air and picturesque views. The Blyde River Canyon is revered as an unusual sight owing to the

fact that it is a 'wet' canyon, making it different from the wind-carved dry canyons found in desert regions elsewhere. After lunch we continue our journey making our way to accommodations, set in attractive gardens situated an hour or so drive from Kruger National Park. After dinner relax and enjoy the first night on tour.

Accommodation: Nsele Lodge or similar - Twin share room with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Nil



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Day 2:

Hoedspruit – Kruger National Park

Approx driving time: Full day with game drives

Waking early, we board 4x4 game viewing vehicles for an intense but rewarding day in Kruger National Park. Your professional guide will point out items of interest as we go, and we hope will help the day to be a wonderful opportunity to learn something of the varied and world-renowned Kruger. The park is home to over 505 species of birds and 148 species of mammals as well as good numbers of reptiles and abundant flora. The park has a good network of roads allowing relatively easy access – essential given its size – but has clear rules about encroaching on the animals' space ensuring conservation is given a high priority, which perhaps helps explain why Kruger is held in such high regard amongst travellers worldwide. We game drive morning and afternoon with a break during the middle of the day to enjoy the peace of the rest camp and wait out the hottest part of the day (when wildlife is usually less active). If you have questions about the wildlife you see, or about the park itself, please ask your resident guide who will be happy to explain the ins and outs of animal behaviour and other interesting sights in Kruger. Eventually we leave the park to return to our accommodation for dinner and overnight.

Accommodation: Nsele Lodge - Twin share room with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 3:

Hoedspruit – Polokwane

Distance travelled: +/- 320 Km

Approx driving time: 7-8 Hours

After breakfast we leave the Kruger area and travel across undulating country-side to the northern town of Polokwane. The journey takes us over some beautiful scenic mountain passes and through flourishing citrus plantations of nestled along the valleys of the Limpopo Province. Previously known as the Northern Province, this is a land of myths and legends and is also highly rated as a southern Africa Eco-tourism destination. Arriving in Polokwane, we head off to learn more about the local Bakone culture.

This interesting open-air museum allows us to learn about traditional methods of the Bakone tribe who were settled in this area from historic times to the present day. Learn how they made fire, harvested and prepared the staple mielie meal, and about the interesting decorations that

adorn their dwellings. We later make our way to our accommodations nearby.

Accommodation: Boma in the bush or similar - Twin share cabins with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 4:

Polokwane – Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Distance travelled: +/- 600 Km

Approx driving time: 10 Hours

This morning we make our way north crossing out of South Africa and into Zimbabwe. Immigration formalities at the busy Beitbridge border may be lengthy as this is South Africa's busiest land border, but once completed we continue to Bulawayo, a pleasant city with broad tree lined avenues and wide-open spaces. The area around the city offers much in the way of historical, geological and natural interest. Several national parks are nearby including the well-known Matobo (sometimes written Matopos) which we shall visit. Our accommodation for the evening is in a quiet garden setting on the outskirts of town.

Accommodation: Travellers Guest House or similar - Twin share room with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Day 5:

Bulawayo – Matobo National Park

Approx driving time: Game Drives & Wilderness Walk - half day

We rise early to meet our guides for our visit and game drive into the Matobo National Park. Situated a short distance outside of Bulawayo, the wind-sculptured Matopos Hills are the site of numerous Bushman paintings and the area holds a special cultural and spiritual significance to the indigenous people here. The reserve has the largest concentration of Black and White Rhino in Africa and if conditions are suitable, guides will lead us on foot to some of the more concealed places for a close view of these magnificent animals.

The park also has dense populations of the elusive leopard and black eagle and we shall hope to glimpse either (or both) at some point during the day. The Matobo hills are also the location of the grave of Cecil John Rhodes, the 19th century colonialist. The grave is not visited as part of the half day park visit but can be seen on the full day upgrade (arranged locally).



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Accommodation: Travellers Guest House or similar - Twin share room with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Upgrade to full day tour including historical tour and village tour for US\$45

Day 6:

Bulawayo – Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Distance travelled: +/- 450 Km

Approx driving time: 8 Hours

Departing Bulawayo, we continue north to Victoria Falls. We usually arrive to Victoria Falls by early afternoon. This is a relatively small town built along the southern banks of the Zambezi River and is Zimbabwe's primary tourist centre. The Victoria Falls themselves are only a short walk and the town has a variety of markets, shops, cafes within easy distance. Your tour leader will arrange a briefing to explain the numerous optional excursions typically available here.

We end our day joining a peaceful sunset dinner cruise on the Zambezi River. Soak up the African ambience with drink in hand as you cruise slowly up and down and look out for elephant, buffalo, buck, hippo and birdlife along the shallow muddy banks of one of Africa's great rivers. We return to our accommodation for overnight or to try some of the local nightlife.

Accommodation: Sprayview Hotel or similar - Twin share room with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities (prices are guide only): Bungee Jumping US\$160, Gorge Swing US\$95, Helicopter Flights from US\$150 White water rafting US\$120, Full day canoe US\$145, Jet boating US\$120, Birding ½ day US\$75, Bike tour – 3 hours US\$65

Day 7:

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Tour Information

TOUR STYLE: Small Group – Twin Share budget accommodation tour. Minimum age on this tour is 8 years old.

WHAT'S INCLUDED: Tour highlights, transport, accommodation, meals as indicated, services of an English-speaking driver /tour leader.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED: Visas, travel insurance, flights, airport transfers, optional activities, laundry, gratuities, passport & visa fees, items of a personal nature. Meals not included are purchased 'en-route' for lunches, and in restaurants for dinner when in towns. Please ensure you budget for these

SAFARI PASS: The mandatory Safari Pass is paid to your tour leader at the beginning of the tour in USD cash, US dollars in clean, un-torn post 2008 edition notes (or pre-paid by arrangement at the time of booking).

Rising early, we visit the Victoria Falls National Park itself to witness one of Africa's most enduring sights. Please take care when wandering along the pathways inside the reserve - the Falls are almost 100 metres deep and the drops are sheer!

The rest of the day is at leisure giving you the opportunity to explore and Victoria Falls. The Zambezi boasts one of the world's highest rated rivers for pure white river rafting through its many challenging rapids. Enjoy game walks, Micro-light flights or guided hikes to name a few, Victoria Falls will capture and fulfil your imagination, validating the myths of the African spirit.

Accommodation: Sprayview Hotel or similar - Twin share room with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast

Optional Activities: See list on day 6

Day 8:

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

There are many optional activities to do and you will have the opportunity to enjoy these at leisure. Explore the colonial town on foot and visit the local trading markets. Some choose to cross the border for a day to visit into the neighbouring Zambia town, Livingstone and to visit the falls and the David Livingstone museum which provides an in-depth historical insight, including information on the discovery of the falls.

Accommodation: Sprayview Hotel or similar - Twin share room with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast

Optional Activities: See list on day 6

Day 9:

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Your tour ends after breakfast today.

Accommodation: Not included

Meals included: Breakfast



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It is separate and in addition to the Tour Price and covers the cost of selected park entries, activities and excursions as well as some accommodation along the way. The purpose of the separate payment is to ensure local suppliers benefit directly from your visit at the time of travel.

ACCOMMODATION: Selected budget lodges with en-suite facilities. Most lodges are situated in comfortable and picturesque locations with a pool, restaurant and bar. Standard of accommodation varies from South Africa and Zimbabwe.

TRANSPORT: Minibus, overland vehicle, 4x4 open safari vehicle, river cruise boat. Maximum group size: 12 passengers (please note vehicles are not air conditioned).

BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent pre-departure information and related documents. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving full details of your joining point. Johannesburg (JNB) nearby Pretoria is well served by a variety of airlines. Your travel agent can advise on flights to and from the start and finish of your tour.

JOINING INFORMATION

This tour starts in Pretoria. **The pre-departure meeting is held at 18:00 on the evening prior to departure. The tour departs at 07:00 on Day 1 and ends in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe on Day 9**

Meeting point in **Pretoria:**

Address: Court Classique Suite Hotel
743 Francis Baard Street
Pretoria, 0007

Contact details: Tel. +27 (0) 12 344 4420
E-mail: reservations@courtclassique.co.za

Pre-dep. Meeting: 18:00 prior to departure day

Tour start time: 07:00 on Day 1

Tour end point in **Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (VFA):**
Sprayview Hotel (VFA)

Address: Corner Reynard Rd & Livingstone Way
Victoria Falls

Contact details: Tel. +263 13 44344
E-mail: reservations@sprayview.cresta.co.zw

Tour end time: After breakfast on Day 9.

PRE TOUR ACCOMMODATION

This tour departs Pretoria early on Day 1; we strongly recommend therefore that you plan to arrive the day before departure to overcome any jet-lag and acclimatise to Africa. We would be happy to book pre-tour accommodation for you – please call or email us (or speak to your agent) with your arrival details and accommodation requirements.

However please book early to avoid disappointment and the risk of having to find more expensive (or less convenient) lodgings. If time allows, we also suggest planning a night or two extra (after your tour) to make the most of Victoria Falls and the surrounding area. See below for a guide to extra accommodation costs. **These prices are a guideline only and are subject to change so please check with Acacia or your agent for current prices when making your booking.**

| Description | Price (US\$) | Description | Price (US\$) |
|---|--------------|--|--------------|
| Pretoria – Court Classique Suite Hotel | | Victoria Falls - Sprayview Hotel | |
| Pre tour accommodation – twin pp/pn | \$ 50 | Post tour accommodation – (Standard Room) twin/double per person/night | \$115 |
| Pre tour accommodation – single pp/pn | \$ 85 | Post tour accommodation – (Standard Room) single per person/night | \$170 |
| PPPN = Per person, per night | | | |

SAFARI PASS

Paid in the currency listed on the website (usually US dollars in clean, un-torn post 2008 edition notes) directly to your Tour Leader in Africa at the beginning of the tour, or pre-paid by arrangement, the Safari Pass of this tour covers the following tour highlights.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Kruger National Park Game Drive | √ |
| Bakone Museum Entrance | √ |



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| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Matobo NP Entrance & Game Drive | √ |
| Victoria Falls NP Entrance | √ |
| Zambezi River Sunset Dinner Cruise | √ |

WHAT TO BRING

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum, bearing in mind that most airlines impose a 20kg luggage limit. A large soft holdall or backpack and a smaller day pack is ideal. On this tour you will need a mixture of lightweight cool clothing for the day and warm clothing (i.e. fleece, long trousers, scarf and hat) for mornings and evenings as it can be cool on game drives and cold in winter (May-Aug). Pack a light rain jacket. It is advisable to bring mosquito spray throughout the year. A money belt/pouch that can be worn comfortably beneath your clothing is recommended. Please avoid bringing unnecessary valuables. A power bank is recommended to charge electronic devices.

VACCINATIONS / HEALTH

The table below indicates the vaccinations suggested for travel on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. You should seek professional medical advice from your GP or clinic at least six weeks prior to departure. Please note some places visited on this tour fall in a malaria area. We recommend you speak to your doctor or travel clinic about appropriate malaria prophylactic tablets.

| Country | Tetanus | Diphtheria | Polio | Hepatitis A | Hepatitis B | Typhoid | Meningitis | Rabies | Yellow Fever | Malaria |
|--------------|---------|------------|-------|-------------|-------------|---------|------------|--------|--------------|---------|
| South Africa | R | R | R | R | - | R | - | - | * | R |
| Zimbabwe | R | R | R | R | R | R | - | R | * | R |

C = Compulsory, R = Recommended, * = If travelling from infected countries a certificate of proof may be required.

NB: To be used as a guide only. Please see your GP or travel clinic for up-to-date medical advice. Alternatively, contact Acacia for any queries or advice regarding vaccination requirements.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

The table below indicates the visas required for travel to the countries on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. At least one month prior to travel seek confirmation from embassies or a visa specialist, that these requirements are still current. For UK citizens the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers free up-to-date travel info: www.fco.gov.uk. For other nationalities a number of travel advice websites are listed on the Acacia website.

| Nationality | UK | AUS | NZ | USA | CAN | BEL | IRE | NED | DEN | ITA | GER | AUT | SWE | FIN | NOR | MEX | KOR |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| South Africa | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| Zimbabwe | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |

NB The above is a guide only. Please check all visa requirements at least one month in advance of travel. Most nationalities do not need to obtain any of the above visas in advance. They are available at the border entry points and payable in US\$ cash.

Travelling with Children: Please note that South Africa Immigration requires for all children under the age of 18 to travel with an unabridged birth certificate to gain entry into this country. Specific requirements apply if the minor is not travelling with both parents listed on the certificate. Please contact Acacia for further information.

Money Matters

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for lunches, snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and items of a personal nature. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US\$15-20 per day. Most spending will be in South Africa Rand, and US Dollars for Zimbabwe (for incidental expenses along the way, optional activities, most additional accommodation before/after the trip) but it's a good idea to bring along some US\$ cash for any international airport taxes or visas.

Spending money is best carried as cash in either South Africa Rand cash or US dollars (US Dollars in clean un-torn post 2008 edition notes), Sterling or Euro which can be exchanged into Rand on arrival and as you travel. Your guide will give general guidance about spending during the tour.



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Currencies are as follows: South Africa – Rand, Zimbabwe - United States Dollars.

ATM machines are found in are found throughout South Africa although may be unreliable (so we ask that you please do not rely on them). In Zimbabwe cash is most often not available.

Credit cards can be used to pay for larger optional activities although there may be an additional fee for their use.

TIPPING

As in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy it has become customary to offer a small gratuity to local staff at the end of the tour if service has been of a high standard. Naturally this always remains at your discretion.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

To give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer a number of optional activities on the tour. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (in US\$ unless otherwise stated. All prices subject to change.

| Activity | Price (US\$) | Activity | Price (US\$) |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Zimbabwe | | Helicopter 12 Min | \$150 |
| Matobo NP full day tour upgrade | \$45 | Jet Boating | \$120 |
| Vic Falls Bungee (single/tandem) | \$160 | Full Day Canoe | \$145 |
| White-water Rafting | \$120 | Birding ½ day | \$75 |
| Gorge Swing | \$95 | Bike Tour – 3 hours | \$65 |

INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Acacia that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. We can recommend a respected, specialist travel insurance provider for this tour. Please refer to: <http://acacia-africa.com/travel-info> for more details.

In the UK the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (www.fco.gov.uk) issues free up to date travel advice for all countries visited on tour. Most other governments offer a similar service to citizens. We recommend you review this information before you book your tour. Naturally we welcome any questions you may have about security and safety on tour.

Responsible Travel

We strongly believe that you get the most out of a journey by respecting the culture and people of the places you visit. On our tours we try to travel in a way that benefits the communities we pass through and minimises negative impact on the environment. This can be from ensuring the lodges we use are clean when we leave and dressing respectfully in conservative areas to getting involved with local charity projects. We ask that you are open to this when you travel with us. Being proactive in responsible travel helps develop cross-cultural understanding and friendships with the local people and will greatly enhance your experience in Africa.

Contact Us

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Get Connected

WIFI on tour:

While WIFI is becoming more common in some areas of Africa we cannot guarantee the speed, cost or reliability during your tour.



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Join our Facebook group www.facebook.com/AcaciaAfrica and get connected with other Acacia travellers, check out the pictures, videos and feedback from their tours and meet up with other people booked on your tour

Upload your travel stories to Acacia Live: www.acacialive.com

Find us on Instagram #acaciaafrica and tag us in your amazing travel photographs!

Follow us on twitter @AcaciaAfrica and get the latest buzz. Got a question? Ask us on twitter! Or tag us at #AcaciasAfrica

Follow our blog at <http://acacia-africa.com/blog> and get regular updates from our crew on the road as well as other Acacia Travellers

Don't forget to sign up to our newsletter to get regular updates and special offers www.acacia-africa.com

For information on our Camping & Accommodated Overland Tours, Small Group Safaris, Short Safaris & Treks, Short Breaks & City Stays, please visit www.acacia-africa.com