



Okavango Wilderness Trail (20OWT7A) – Tour Dossier

Included Highlights

Chobe NP, Sunset Cruise
Chobe NP, Game Drive
Gweta Village Walk

Okavango Delta Excursion, Mokoro/Walking Safari
Khama Rhino Sanctuary

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 ends 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 end point).

How do I get to the airport from Pretoria? Simple. Book a transfer with Acacia to take you directly to Johannesburg's OR Tambo International. Journey time is about 45 minutes depending on traffic. We particularly recommend a pre-booked transfer if you are departing late. Alternatively, there is a regular low-cost train service called the Gautrain which runs from Pretoria to OR Tambo International and Johannesburg. 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: 7 Days
Countries visited: Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa

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 is a reflection of 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. In order 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. 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:
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe – Chobe National Park, Botswana
Distance travelled: +/- 90 Km
Approx driving time: 2 Hours

From Victoria Falls we travel the short distance to the Botswana border and cross into the small town of Kasane, and on to our lodge. This afternoon we head out onto a game drive and boat cruise in the Chobe National Park. Chobe is widely known for its populations of elephant, but the park also contains lion, leopard, hyena, giraffe and a host of antelope and birdlife. The Chobe floodplains and Chobe River provide a sensitive eco system which attracts much of the wildlife of the region especially in the dry season when it is not uncommon to see between 500 and 2000 elephants on the floodplains at one time. One highlight of Chobe is the

combination of wildlife, birdlife and reptiles seen along the banks of the Chobe River. We take the afternoon cruise for a unique perspective of river-side wildlife. This evening we relax and overnight at the lodge.

Accommodation: *Thebe Safari Lodge or similar - Twin share room with en-suite facilities*
Meals included: *Dinner*
WIFI: *Yes*
Optional Activities: *Nil*

**we recommend you arrive to Victoria Falls a few days early, so you can visit the Victoria Falls National Park and Zambezi River.*



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Day 2:

Chobe National Park – Gweta

Distance travelled: +/- 450 Km

Approx driving time: 6.5 Hours

Following breakfast, we depart for Gweta. Driving south we may be lucky to encounter elephant or buffalo alongside (or on) the road, often strays to the migratory herds which roam freely throughout the area in search of pasture and water. We stop in the small settlement of Nata for lunch or snack before continuing to Gweta. Try the optional Baobab Forest tour to see these great natural giants. The night is spent at the lodge.

Accommodation: Gweta Lodge or similar - Twin share chalet with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Baobab Forest Sundowners US\$40

Day 3:

Gweta - Maun

Distance travelled: +/- 250 Km

Approx driving time: 4 Hours

After an early breakfast we join a guided walk through a local Tswana village to learn something of the life of the community, from schools and doctors to trading and traditions. We then depart and head west to Maun, the gateway to the Okavango Delta. Maun has experienced rapid growth in recent years and is a bustling provincial centre. Options here include scenic flights, but our first priority is to prepare for our excursion into the Okavango Delta. Our accommodation in Maun is simple guesthouse/ lodge/hotel. The afternoon is at leisure to relax with a cool beverage and pack for the Delta excursion for the following day.

Accommodation: Delta Rain's Sitatunga Camp or similar - Twin share chalet with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

WIFI: Yes (Bar area only)

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 4:

Maun – Okavango Delta

Distance travelled: +/- 60 Km

Approximate driving time: 2 Hours

Heading out early after breakfast we begin our excursion into the Okavango Delta. The first part of the journey is by 4x4 over rough sandy paths to the 'mokoro' station, where the river level reaches. Here we are introduced to the local Tswana 'polers', our guides for the excursion and transfer our luggage and equipment to the mokoros (dug-out canoes). We travel by these shallow canoes amongst giant lily pads, tall grasses and labyrinthine channels to our camp on the edge of the Okavango. From our camp we venture out

on guided walk in search of some of the prolific birdlife and larger mammals that inhabit the reserve. The whole area is a natural wetland spreading over some 1,600,000ha of northern Botswana offering a perfect habitat for the wildlife that roams here freely. The Okavango River rises in Angola (far to the north) and flows south dividing repeatedly to form an intricate floodplain of channels and swamps which then spreads out into a broad flat inland delta – the only one of its kind in the world. We enjoy the afternoon wilderness experience and for many people the feeling of being at camp overnight is an unforgettable experience.

Accommodation: Elephant Camp – Twin share pre-erected tents with en-suite facilities (basic-style bucket shower & toilet)

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 5:

Okavango Delta – Maun

Distance Travelled +/- 60 Km

Approximate driving time: 2 Hours

This morning we explore the surrounds on a nature walk where you have the thrilling experience of being out in the natural wilderness. This is a great way to enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the wilderness and enjoy nature as it wakes for the day. After the bush we enjoy breakfast and then pack up again onto our mokoros, leaving nothing behind but footprints. Returning to our 4x4 and bidding our polers farewell, we return to Maun. The afternoon offers the opportunity to join the guide for a trip into town for a little shopping. Another popular activity here is an optional scenic flight over the 'Delta' for a bird's eye view of the wilderness you have just explored by makoro and on foot. Prices depend on number of people interested but seeing the vastness of the Okavango from the air gives a further appreciation of the beauty of this part of Africa. We return to our lodge for dinner and overnight.

Accommodation: Delta Rain's Sitatunga Camp or similar - Twin share chalet with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes (Bar area only)

Optional Activities: Okavango Delta Scenic Flight per 5-seater plane – 45 min flight time from US\$650, Maun Horse Riding (2 Hours) US\$65, Helicopter Scenic Flight per 3-seater chopper – 22 min flight time from \$450,

Day 6:

Maun – Khama Rhino Sanctuary

Distance travelled: +/- 700 Km

Approx driving time: 11-12 Hours



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Another early rise for our long journey skirting the greater Kalahari, where we may glimpse in the distance the vast salt pans of central Botswana to the Khama Rhino Sanctuary which we normally reach by late afternoon. In 1989 a group of local people wished to convert the Serowe Pan, previously a hunting area, into a conservation region for the rhino that inhabited the area. The 'Pan' was chosen because of its rhino-friendly habitat (and for its proximity to the Botswana Defence Force base for 24-hour protection against poachers). Khama is a prime habitat for white rhino, zebra, wildebeest and giraffe and with its community-based wildlife project, allows the local people to benefit from tourism. We take a game drive to catch sight of some of the rhino with guides often pointing up interesting facts about the local fauna and flora. Our last night on safari is spent at the Stevensford private nature conservancy situated on the Limpopo River in Botswana's Tuli Block. At 3500 ha, this reserve is home to many species of antelope, crocodile, hippo, zebra, giraffe and a plethora of bird species.

Accommodation: Stevensford Game Reserve or similar - Twin share room with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 7:

Martins Drift – Pretoria, South Africa

Distance travelled: +/- 400 Km

Approx driving time: 6 Hours

Our last morning sees us joining the main route along Martin's Drift border post. Crossing the mighty Limpopo River into South Africa, we take in the scenic views and notice changes to vegetation, infrastructure and populated areas. We arrive in Pretoria where our tour ends normally by mid to late afternoon.

Accommodation: Not Included

Meals included: Breakfast

Wifi: Nil

Optional Activities: Nil

Tour Information

TOUR STYLE:

Small Group Safaris – 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). 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 and one night at a tented camp with basic en-suite facilities in the Okavango Delta. Most lodges are situated in comfortable and picturesque locations with a pool, restaurant and bar.

TRANSPORT:

Minibus, custom-built vehicle, 4x4 open safari vehicle, river cruise boat, Mokoro. 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. Victoria Falls (VFA) and 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 Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (VFA). **The pre-departure meeting is held at 18:00 on the evening prior to departure. The tour departs at 08:00 on Day 1 and ends in Pretoria on Day 7**



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Meeting Point in **Victoria Falls:**

Shearwater Explorers Village

Adam Stander Drive
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Tel: +263 (213) 2844471

Contact Details:

E-mail: reservations@shearwatervf.com

Tour start time: 08:00 on Day 1

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

Tour end point in **Pretoria:**

Court Classique Suite Hotel

943 Francis Baard Street
Arcadia,
Pretoria, 0007

Address:

Contact details:

Tel. +27 12 344 4420

E-mail: reservatoins@courtclassique.co.za

Tour end time: Late afternoon/early evening on Day 7.

PRE TOUR ACCOMMODATION

This tour departs Victoria Falls 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 Pretoria 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\$)
Victoria Falls Zimbabwe – Shearwater Explorers Village		Pretoria – Court Classique Suite Hotel	
Pre tour accommodation – single pppn	\$ 145	Post tour accommodation – Twin/ double pp/pn	\$ 60
Pre tour accommodation – twin pppn –	\$ 100	Post tour accommodation – Single pp/pn	\$ 90
PPPN = Per Person Per Night		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.

Chobe NP Fish Eagle Cruise	√
Chobe NP Game Drive	√
Okavango Delta Excursion	√
Khama Rhino Sanctuary Entrance & Game Drive	√

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
Botswana	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	R	*	R



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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	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Zimbabwe	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Botswana	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	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 Botswana and 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\$15-30 per day. Most spending will be in South Africa Rand, Botswana Pula 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.

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

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

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

In order 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\$)
Botswana		White-water Rafting	\$130
Okavango Delta Flight (5-7 Seated plane and 45 minute flight time) – price per plane	From \$650	Gorge Swing	\$100
Okavango Scenic Helicopter Flight per 3 seater chopper – 22 min flight time	From \$450	Full Day Canoe	\$150
Baobab Forest Sundowners	\$40	Helicopter 12 Min	\$150



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Zimbabwe (available if arriving prior to tour)		Jet Boating	\$100
Vic Falls Bungee (single/tandem)	\$170	Bike Tour – 3 hours	\$65
Birding ½ day	\$160		

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.

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 #AcaciaAfrica

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 Adventure Camping and Accommodated Tours, Small Group Safaris, Signature Tours & Safaris (South Africa), Short Safaris & Treks, Short Breaks & City Stays and our Tailor-Made Travel, please visit www.acacia-africa.com