

Journey Idea

Zimbabwe (Victoria Falls & Hwange National Park)

Specially prepared for
Steppes Discovery



Quick reference itinerary

- Day 1** Meet and greet on arrival in Victoria Falls
Road transfer Victoria Falls Airport / Victoria Falls town
Sunset Cruise
Victoria Falls Hotel
- Day 2** *Anti-Poaching Programme excursion in Zambezi National Park*
Tour of the Victoria Falls
Victoria Falls Hotel
- Day 3** Road transfer Victoria Falls Town / Hwange National Park
Somalisa Bush Camp
- Day 4** Somalisa Bush Camp
- Day 5** Somalisa Bush Camp
- Day 6** Road transfer Hwange National Park / Victoria Falls Airport
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Detailed Itinerary

Day 1

Victoria Falls Airport / Victoria Falls



Following your arrival in Victoria Falls, you will be met and welcomed by our ground agent representative, who will transfer you by road to Victoria Falls town, where you will stay at The Victoria Falls Hotel for two nights.

The Victoria Falls Hotel

Known as “the Grand Old Lady of the Falls”, this Edwardian-style hotel is situated in the Victoria Falls National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was built in 1904 and, combines the charm of the old with the convenience of the new. The hotel’s swimming pool is set amongst beautiful landscaped gardens, overlooking the famous Victoria Falls and, using the hotel’s private pathway, the Falls are just a ten-minute walk away.



Later this afternoon, you will be collected from your hotel for a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River. The Zambezi River is the fourth largest river in Africa after the Nile, Zaire and Niger respectively. The sunset cruises (which last for approximately two hours) follow a journey upstream, past riverine vegetation, including the Mulala Palm - a tall, attractive palm tree that produces a vegetable ivory fruit that grows to the size of a cricket ball. You will also pass fantastic bird life, as well as the occasional hippopotamus and crocodile. In the drier months, wildlife such as elephants and antelopes can be seen grazing on the riverbanks or swimming across to the smaller islands.

Overnight at Victoria Falls Hotel on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 2

Victoria Falls



This morning you will be collected from your hotel at around 06.30 for an Anti-Poaching excursion in the Zambezi National Park, returning to your hotel at around 12:00. After a short presentation, you will be taken on a field trip, where you will be given the opportunity to record game sightings, identify spoor, patrol and sweep for wire snares. By participating in this excursion, you will be helping the Anti-Poaching Programme team to patrol areas that are not often visited. The excursion will also provide you with an invaluable insight into the Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit.



Later this afternoon, you will be collected from your hotel to be taken on a guided tour of the Victoria Falls. The Victoria Falls is one of the seven natural wonders of the world and is arguably the greatest waterfall in the world. The tour will last approximately one and a half hours and will include a short introduction of the Falls, followed by a walk along the paths, stopping at the numerous viewpoints.



Overnight at Victoria Falls Hotel on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 3

Victoria Falls / Hwange National Park

After breakfast you will depart for Hwange National Park, which is approximately three hours drive, on paved roads from Victoria Falls town. En-route, you will pass rural



Zimbabwe with many villages and schools seen alongside the road.

On arrival at the entrance to Hwange National Park you will be transferred to Somalisa Camp. Somalisa is situated in the heart of Hwange, approximately 50kms from the entrance gate. The game drive to the camp will take approximately two to six hours, depending on the wildlife to be seen en-route.

On arrival at Somalisa and after checking in, you will enjoy lunch, followed by an afternoon game activity.



Somalisa Bush Camp

Somalisa Bush Camp is an authentic bush camp, offering a blend of old African charm and elegance, as well as an exclusive safari experience. The camp is made up of six elegantly furnished, canvas tents with en suite bathrooms, flush toilet and romantic alfresco bush shower. Its stunning location, tucked away on an acacia island along the edge of an ancient seasonal flood plain, provides breathtaking views of the savannah plains of the famous Kennedy Vlei line. At Somalisa Bush Camp, you will experience the heightened romance of the African Bush in one of the most natural environments in Africa. This is the way Africa is meant to be explored!



Overnight at Somalisa Bush Camp on an all inclusive basis.

Day 4

Hwange National Park



Activities during your stay at Somalisa Bush Camp include morning and afternoon game drives, evening night drives and guided walking safaris. The park contains large numbers of elephant, kudu, giraffe and Sable and Roan antelope. So you will need your binoculars and cameras at the ready!



Wildlife tends to congregate around the many shallow pans which are found throughout the park, making for great wildlife viewing. During the summer, the plains game migrate onto the plains, closely followed by their predators. Elephant, Cape buffalo, Sable and Roan antelope, Southern giraffe, Blue wildebeest, impala and sometimes oryx can be seen here. Hwange National Park is also one of the best parks for predators, with lion, leopard, wild dog and cheetah as well as African wildcat, serval, honey badger, civet and Spotted hyena being seen on a regular basis. Bird life is also prolific here, with more than 400 species found throughout the park.

Overnight at Somalisa Bush Camp on an all inclusive basis.

Day 5

Hwange National Park

Overnight at Somalisa Bush Camp on an all inclusive basis.

Day 6

Hwange National Park / Victoria Falls Airport

Today you will bid farewell to Hwange National Park and transfer back to Victoria Falls Airport for your onward travel.

Price

Estimated Cost: From £1,849.00 per person sharing

Based on travel period 1 June 2011 – 30 November 2011

Includes: All road transfers in an air-conditioned mini-bus
Guided tour of the Victoria Falls, including park entrance fee
Sunset cruise (all transfers, snacks and drinks), including river usage fee
Half day Anti-Poaching Programme (a light breakfast, tea/coffee and mineral water)
Two night's accommodation at Victoria Falls Hotel on a bed & breakfast basis
Three night's accommodation at Somalisa Bush Camp on a fully inclusive basis (all meals, drinks, activities), including national park fees

Excludes: All flights, visas and visa fees.
Meals and drinks other than those stated in the itinerary
All items of a personal nature
Travel insurance
Gratuities
Zimbabwe departure tax
National park fee for Anti-Poaching Programme (\$15)

Important information

- This is a quotation only. No reservations have been made. The rates quoted are subject to the availability of all services, currency fluctuations, unexpected increases, written confirmation and Steppes Discovery Terms and conditions.
- Here are some suggestions of ways to enhance your trip before you arrive; upgrade your flight from economy to premium economy or business class, upgrade your hotel room, prebook valet or airport parking, airport hotels and airport lounges. If you wish to take advantage of the reduced tour operator rates we are able to offer, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Why travel with us?

OUR LOCAL REPRESENTATION & IN COUNTRY SUPPORT

Our travel partners, accommodation, service providers and our ground agents are all carefully chosen for their quality of service, their expert guides and their commitment to the environment. They are mostly small, very personal, privately-owned businesses with whom we have built up long-term relationships and whose personalities reflect the unique character of the host countries, the abiding hospitality of its people and the remarkable spirit of the wilderness.

OUR REPUTATION FOR QUALITY

Well over 70% of our clients have either travelled with us before or have been recommended by other satisfied travellers. Every one our clients will deal with their own exclusive Country Director who will take care of the booking, before during and after a trip to ensure a personal service from start to finish. We also pride ourselves on delivering privileged insight into the natural world and taking you beyond the conventional tours. This is why our staff regularly travel to their specialist area to explore new areas and find new experiences, ensuring their knowledge is constantly up-to-date. It is because we are so proud of our reputation, that we are very happy to put you in contact with our past clients, who have already travelled to the same parts of the world that await you. Just ask us.

OUR EXPERT GUIDES & NATURALISTS

We never compromise on the quality of the guides and expert naturalists we use in wilderness areas. We know they will be a key part of your adventure and they have been specifically chosen because of their knowledge, enthusiasm and experience, allowing you to get the most out of your trip.

Our commitment



In 2007 we celebrated 10 years of spectacular achievement as pioneers in the field of nature travel.

We have raised significant funds in support of the world's leading wildlife and conservation agencies, researchers and experts, and increased awareness of travel and conservation through newsletters, lectures and consistent media coverage. Furthermore we have voluntarily spearheaded collective action campaigns such as Travel Operators for Tigers in South Asia.



To mitigate the carbon dioxide released into the high atmosphere through your air travel we are giving £10 per client to Rainforest Concern. Rainforests have a central role to play in the slowing of climate change and yet we are removing forests from the planet at a faster rate than they can grow back. It is thus axiomatic to try and preserve the forests that we have rather than replanting.

Rainforest Concern was established in 1993 to protect threatened natural habitats, the biodiversity they contain and the indigenous people who still depend on them for their survival.

Want to discuss this trip?



Please call **Mandy Mountjoy** on **01285 643333** for more details or to make a booking

Born and raised in South Africa, Mandy's passion for the African bush and its people began over fifteen years ago at a private game reserve adjacent to the Kruger National Park. This led to far dustier and wilder experiences further afield in Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia. Mandy considers herself privileged to have witnessed raw Africa at its finest - from nesting leatherback turtles and endangered mountain gorillas to the simple beauty of everyday life in the bush. Mandy is passionate about the conservation of Africa and its wildlife.

