

Southern Africa Discovery

escorted tour 31 March-6 May 2011



A four-countries spectacular with Tour Escorts Alan and Pat Gadd, taking in Namibia, Botswana, Zambia and South Africa.



Namibia's awesome Sossusvlei dunes, reputed to be the highest in the world



Day 1
PM depart London Heathrow, flying with South African Airways.
Flight time 11 hours.

Day 2
AM Arrive Johannesburg. You are met on arrival and transferred to the motorhome depot, where a representative will demonstrate your vehicle and complete the paperwork with you.

A food shopping trip will be arranged and you can leave your shopping, including refrigerated items, plus any of your personal baggage you do not wish to take to the hotel with you, in your motorhome in the secure depot overnight. Transfer to hotel.
Evening Welcome meal at your hotel.
Overnight Birchwood Hotel, Johannesburg.



Day 3
Travel to Bela Bela, where there are more shops for you to stock up on stores if you wish (93 miles).
Overnight Forever Resorts Bela Bela.



Day 4
Travel north to the border crossing into Botswana. A scenic drive takes us to Palapye in the south of Botswana (185 miles).
Overnight Itumela Camp.



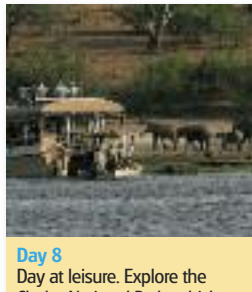
Day 5
Continue into the heart of Botswana, passing through Francistown where provisions can be bought, en route to Nata Lodge (210 miles) which is famous for its bird life and scenery. There are other interesting historic places en route including an Iron Age village site and ancient ruins in Serule.
Overnight at Nata Lodge.



Day 6
Day at leisure. Explore Nata Bird Sanctuary and the many activities on offer from the lodge, including game drives and quad biking.
Overnight Nata Lodge.



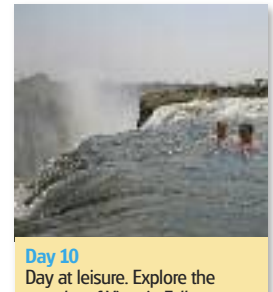
Day 7
Head into northern Botswana and Chobe National Park (186 miles), famous for its elephant population and excellent game viewing.
Overnight Chobe Safari Lodge.



Day 8
Day at leisure. Explore the Chobe National Park, which claims to have the largest concentration of elephants in the world.
Evening Enjoy a sunset cruise with the tour group on the Chobe River.
Overnight Chobe Safari Lodge.



Day 9
A short drive takes us into Zambia and to the town of Livingstone (43 miles), situated at the famous Victoria Falls.
Overnight At Zambezi Waterfront Lodge.



Day 10
Day at leisure. Explore the wonder of Victoria Falls, or try the numerous activities around this great natural wonder of the world, from helicopter flights and rhino walks to jet boating and elephant rides.
Overnight At Zambezi Waterfront Lodge.



Day 11
Enter Namibia and drive to the town of Katima Mulilo (167 miles). There are many arts and crafts markets to enjoy and the lodge is located on the banks of the Zambezi River.
Overnight At Zambezi River Lodge.



Day 12
Travel along the Caprivi strip, notable for its prolific birdlife and for its rivers, fishing and game viewing, to the Mahangu National Park (197 miles). Visit the Popa Falls and enjoy the national park.
Overnight At Mahangu Lodge.



Day 13
Day at leisure. Enjoy the excellent game and bird viewing in the national park, or even the fishing.
Overnight Mahangu Lodge.



Day 14
Today's drive to Grootfontein is the longest drive of the tour (274 miles), but also an easy one, with lots of scenic rest stops and curio shops en route.
Overnight Roys Rest Camp.



Day 15
Head into Etosha National Park, one of the oldest conservation areas in Africa and noted for elephant, zebra, lion and springbok. The town of Namutoni is built around the now pedestrianised old German fort, with its elevated walkway overlooking a wildlife waterhole (97 miles).
Overnight At Namutoni.



Tour highlights

- **Easy travelling** with very few long distances
- Many two night stops to allow for lots of time to **explore and discover**
- **Botswana's** bird and big game reserves, plus a sunset cruise on the Chobe River
- **Zambia's** phenomenal Victoria Falls
- **Namibia** from north to south, with its national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, the Popa Falls, Sesriem Canyon, the Fish River Canyon – claimed as the world's second largest canyon – and the world famous sand dunes
- South Africa's **West Coast** region and wineries
- **Welcome meal** at your arrival hotel and farewell dinner in a South African vineyard

Driving in Southern Africa - General Rules of the Road

Taking a little extra care is always advised when driving on country road surfaces. On road signs, distances are given in kilometres and standard international symbols are used. Seat belts should be worn at all times, and it is illegal to use mobile phones whilst driving. Bush tracks in wild areas, that are off the main route of this itinerary, are simple tracks through the bush made by whatever vehicles have passed that way, are almost never maintained and become impassable in wet weather. You should stick to the main roads, where there is more than enough to see.

Namibia

It is generally easy to travel around Namibia. Gravel or dirt roads often stretch over long distances and there is limited mobile phone coverage outside the larger towns, while petrol stations tend to be infrequent and usually only take cash, all of which means that some thought should always be given to planning ahead. Namibians drive on the left, and all signposts are written in English.

Botswana

Driving in Botswana is on the left. Most roads in the towns, and the major arteries connecting these, are sealed and are usually in very good condition, however after heavy rains the roads are prone to potholes so caution is advised. There are some gravel roads. Be very conscious of speed signs, as enforcement of speed limits is strict and Botswana police often have speed traps immediately after speed limit signs.

Zambia

Zambians drive on the left hand side of the road and observe standard British driving rules.

South Africa

South Africa's roads are generally very pleasant to drive on compared to the UK. Vehicles drive on the left as in the UK.



Day 16
Continue travelling through Etosha National Park, with the opportunity of viewing over 110 species of animals and 230 species of birds. Halali is centered around a floodlit watering hole, its elevated view point being one of the park's highlights (50 miles).
Overnight At Halali.



Day 17
Heading out of the national park we stay in Etosha Safari Lodge (40 miles), just outside one of the Etosha National Park's main entrance gates.
Overnight Etosha Safari Lodge.



Day 18
Day at leisure. Backtrack for a final look at Etosha National Park, or stay at the lodge to relax under the mopane trees and enjoy the excellent facilities.
Overnight Etosha Safari Lodge.



Southern Africa Discovery



Day 19

The Namibian scenery changes dramatically today, from the white mineral pan of Etosha to the plains, valleys and peaks of Damaraland (137 miles). Your camp site tonight has a magnificent setting.

Overnight At iGowati Lodge.



Day 20

Explore Damaraland, including the petrified forests, Twyfelfontein with its ancient rock art and the famous Vingerklip (finger rock) (103 miles). Your camp site is in the town of Uis.

Overnight White Lady Lodge.



Day 21

Head to the little town of Henties Bay (71 miles), a charming seaside resort whose peaceful atmosphere comes from a lack of heavy traffic, a mild climate and long stretches of unspoilt beaches.

Overnight Bucks Camping.



Day 22

Continue along the coast to the seaside town of Swakopmund (47 miles). Originally intended to be the main harbour of German South-West Africa, it is now the second largest town in Namibia and noted for its German colonial architecture.

Overnight Alte Bruecke.



Day 23

Day at leisure. Swakopmund offers dolphin cruises, aquariums, diving, deep sea fishing, art galleries, museums and a rich cultural history. There are also various day trips on offer, including visits to the sand dunes, quad biking and hot air ballooning.

Overnight Alte Bruecke.



Day 24

We continue our journey into the Namib Naukluft Park, one of the largest national parks in Africa. The tiny village of Solitaire, with its general store and bakery, makes a unique stopover (142 miles).

Overnight At Solitaire Country Lodge.



Day 25

A short drive (50 miles) takes us to the town of Sesriem, only 24 miles from the main entry into the area of the world-famous Sossusvlei dunes and Sesriem Canyon.

Overnight At Betesda.



Day 26

Day at leisure. Spend the day in the Namib Naukluft Park, enjoying the dunes and exploring the Sesriem Canyon. The dunes are hotly contested to be the world's greatest, while the kilometre-long canyon is 30 metres deep but sometimes only two metres wide. The dunes are at their best at sunrise and sunset.

Overnight At Betesda.



Day 27

Continue through the national park to the town of Aus (198 miles), an excellent and centrally located base from which to explore the area.

Overnight Klein Aus Vista.



Day 28

Day at leisure. Try a trip to the coast to visit the fishing town of Luderitz, with its fine old German buildings and Portuguese waterfront. En route is the former diamond rush town of Kolmanskop, now a ghost town that you can visit. At Garub watering hole is a viewing platform where you may be able to see the wild horses of the desert.

Overnight Klein Aus Vista.



Day 29

Head to the magnificent Fish River canyon (236 miles). 100 miles long and up to 550 metres deep, it is variously claimed as the world's second or third largest canyon, while the Fish is Namibia's longest river.

Overnight Cañon Roadhouse.



Day 30

Day at leisure. Spend the day exploring the natural beauty and wonder of the Fish River Canyon area.

Overnight Cañon Roadhouse.



Day 31

Depart Namibia and enter South Africa's West Coast region. Overnight in the mining town of Springbok (140 miles).

Overnight At Springbok Caravan Park.



Day 32

Continue southwards through the heart of Namaqualand, which is famous for its springtime flowers, to Van Rhynsdorp (162 miles). This small, quiet town, in the folds of the towering Gifberg and Matsikamma mountains, is also the hub of all the flower routes.

Overnight Van Rhynsdorp Caravan Park.



Day 33

Head into South Africa's citrus area, with lots of possibilities for stops along the way at fruit stalls and curio shops (83 miles).

Overnight Citrus Creek.





Day 34
 Depart for South Africa's premier wine area, Stellenbosch. Explore the numerous wineries in the area, then round of the day enjoying the peaceful pine forest location of your camp site (106 miles).
Overnight Mountain Breeze.



Day 35
 Day at leisure to explore the region.
Evening Farewell dinner at Moyo restaurant on the Spier Wine Estate.
Overnight Mountain Breeze.



Day 36
AM Morning at leisure.
PM Return motorhomes to the motorhome depot in Cape Town. Transfer to Cape Town airport.
Evening Return flight with South African Airways to London Heathrow.
Flight time 12 hours.
Day 37
AM Arrive at London Heathrow.



SDT01 37-day escorted tour Southern Africa Discovery Tour

- From £5,420 per adult for two adults sharing a Discoverer 4 motorhome. Please ask us for single person and extra person supplements if required.
- Departs 31 March 2011, returns 6 May 2011
- Return Economy Class flights with South African Airways from London Heathrow to Johannesburg, returning Cape Town to London Heathrow (including airport taxes).
- 35 days fully equipped Discoverer 4 motorhome hire (including unlimited mileage); preparation and living kits; 35 days vehicle insurance (with nil excess and Collision Damage Waiver); 33 nights site fees, including electrical hook-up where available.
- Services of tour escorts; services of mechanic throughout tour; one night bed and breakfast in Johannesburg hotel on a shared room basis; coach transfers as stated; Chobe River cruise; welcome and farewell dinners with wine; tour daybook.

Tour Daybook



Gives you a full tour itinerary, including suggested excursions en route. A useful guidebook but also a lasting memento!

What's not included

Personal insurance – please ask for a quote for Worldwide insurance at the time of booking; motorhome fuel or refills of propane gas, cross border visas where applicable; meals, drinks with meals, excursions or entrance fees, other than those listed; road tolls (approx. £70); national parks entry fees (approx. £80); expenditure of a personal nature, tips etc; refundable motorhome security/cleaning deposit.

Upgrades and extras

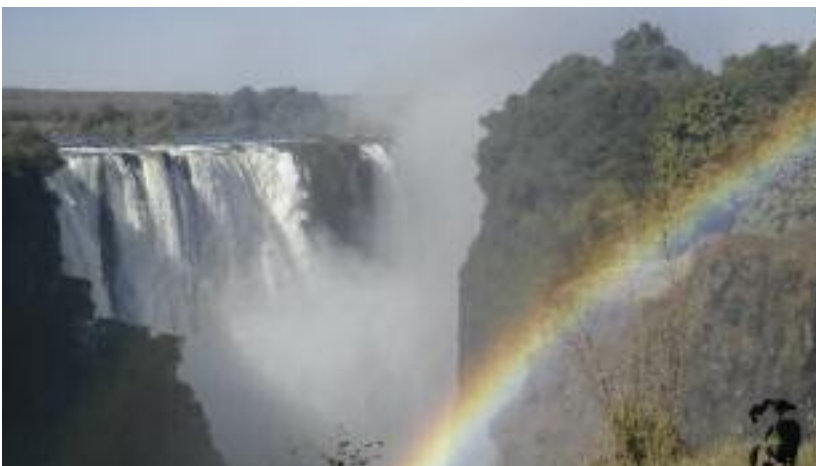
You may wish to upgrade your flights – please contact Carefree for a quote.

If you are three people or more, or simply require a little more space, please ask us about a 6-berth motorhome – we can then check availability and prices for you.

We can tailor-make pre-tour or post-tour stays in South Africa and elsewhere – just ask. Longer motorhome rental, hotel stays and excursions can all be arranged.

All prices correct at time of going to print – subject to change and availability.

Tour is subject to a minimum of 6 units and a maximum of 15 units taking part.



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