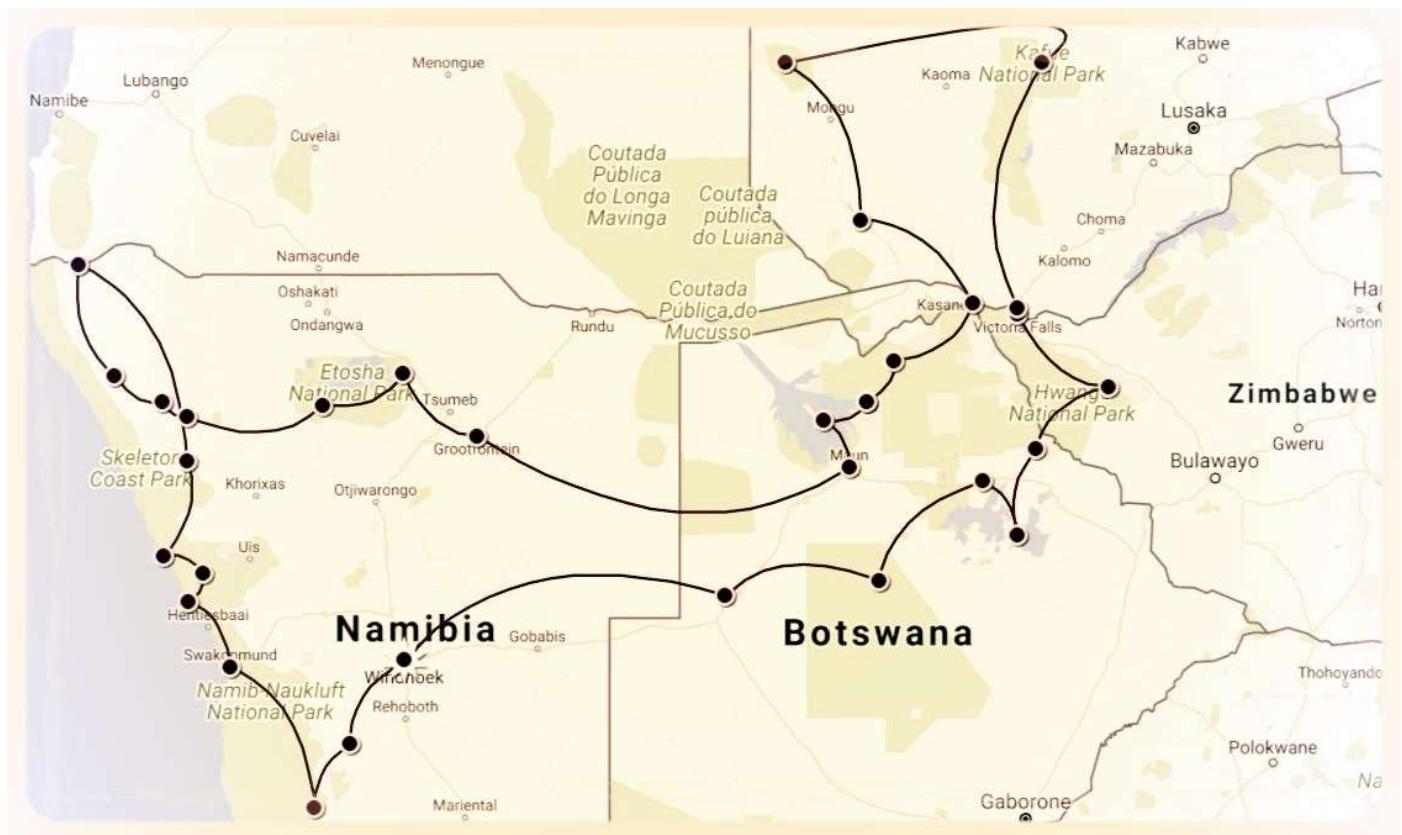


NAMIBIA-BOTSWANA-ZIMBABWE-ZAMBIA SELF DRIVE ADVENTURE | 55 Days



An Epic journey through Southern Africa...starting and finishing in Windhoek, Namibia's Capital....

BOTSWANA: Unforgettable wildlife experiences in Botswana's Okavango Delta (Moremi & Chobe National Parks & Khwai Conservancy) and Central Kalahari Game Reserve, with a highly-experienced wildlife guide; the Makgadikgadi Pans (the largest salt flats in the world); sleep under the stars on the pans and visit the resident Meerkat troop; visit the granite island called "Kubu"; and an optional sunset game viewing cruise on the Chobe River.

ZIMBABWE: Game viewing in Hwange National Park – Zimbabwe's largest; and marvel at the Victoria Falls.

ZAMBIA: Game viewing in Kafue (including a visit to an elephant orphanage) and Liuwa Plain National Parks. Zambia offers impressive wildlife diversity as well as some of the wildest and most remote game areas on the continent.

NAMIBIA: Visit the San Bushmen of the Kalahari; Etosha National Park with its massive salt pan lined with waterholes attracting the game; remote river beds through canyons and where game roams without fences; visits to a small village pre-school and school that we support; spending time with the dramatic Himba tribe of Koakoland (the least sparsely populated region of Namibia); through Hartman's Valley all the way to the Kunene River—the border with Angola; vast open plains; incredible geological landscapes; painted deserts; the Skeleton coast and the highest free standing dunes in the world.

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Week 1: Two days in Windhoek for a group briefing, pick up 4x4's, buy provisions and pack our vehicles. The rest of our first week is in Botswana. Our expert wildlife guide joins us for the next few days as we head into the Central Kalahari Game Reserve—the largest, most remotely situated reserve in Southern Africa and the second largest wildlife reserve in the world. Then we enter into the area known as the Makgadikgadi Pans—the largest salt flats in the world (actually a series of pans surrounded by Kalahari Desert).

Week 2: We spend a night out on the pans and visiting a troop of well-known Meerkats then a visit to the granite island called "Kubu". We exit Botswana via the small border post of Pandamatenga back to the wilderness in Zimbabwe spending 3 days and nights in Hwange National Park—Zimbabwe's largest. Here you may see wild dog, spotted hyena, elephant, lion, leopard—there are over 100 mammal species in the park.

Week 3: Victoria Falls "the smoke that thunders". Enjoy lunch, high tea or a drink at the famous colonial style Victoria Falls Hotel, take a sunset cruise on the Zambezi or a flight over the falls—you'll love your two night stay here. You may like to upgrade from camping to a hotel—there are options that include luxury at the Victoria Falls Hotel. If ever there was a place to "splurge" this is it! A dramatic exit from Zimbabwe to Zambia via the bridge over the Zambezi River and then onto Livingstone. We head north west to Kafue National Park, Zambia's largest national park and the second largest park in Africa. It is home to over 55 different species of animals. Think cheetah and lion roaming in the golden grass, herds of red lechwe, puku and wildebeest and hunting packs of wild dog. The park is named for the Kafue River and it stretches over three provinces. We have six days to explore Kafue staying in different campsites.

Week 4: After our time in Kafue, next on our adventure is Liuwa Plain – this could be Africa's 'best kept secret'. Located in the far west of the country, it was once a royal hunting ground for the Barotse King and home of the Lozi people and is one of the most remote parks in Zambia. Game is spread out across the vast plains and to come upon a vast herd of blue wildebeest, a prowling wild dog, or a pride of dozing lions in this forgotten piece of Africa is a true reward for the ardent bush-lover. The birdlife is abundant. We have three days to lose ourselves in this remote part of Africa. Our last stop in Zambia is the spectacular Ngonye Falls (often referred to as the Sioma Falls) and the Sioma Ngwezi National Park then we cross back into Botswana to Kasane on the Chobe River and adjacent to Chobe National Park.

Week 5: Our game viewing intensifies as we spend 5 days and nights in the Chobe and Moremi National Parks and the Khwai Conservancy. Expect to see elephant, giraffe, zebra, baboon, hippos, kudu, birdlife & more. There are excellent chances to see lion, leopard, cheetah and wild dog in this area too. There is the opportunity to take an optional scenic flight over the delta that you have just driven through whilst in Maun before we head into Namibia and visit with the San Bushman in the Kalahari Desert.

Week 6: Now onto a very different game viewing environment—Etosha National Park where you'll enjoy two nights inside the park at Okaukuejo with its famous waterhole. The remote 4x4 part of our adventure really starts now. For the next week we travel quiet riverbeds and visit a pre-school that we support and head into the Kaokoland Region of Namibia. It is here the desert adapted elephant roam as well as the very rare desert adapted lion. We will visit a Himba Village near Puros—these may be the most interesting tribe you'll ever encounter with red ochre "sunscreen" covering their bodies, clothing and their dreadlock-like hair. We then head further north, all the way to the Angolan border at the Kunene River.

Week 7: The next week takes us through Damaraland with spectacular painted valleys, more remote riverbeds and gorges. These lead to the Skeleton Coast along the west coast of Namibia.

Week 8: A couple of rest days in the quaint German town of Swakopmund by the sea. Optional quad biking tour with nature historian in the dunes nearby. The grand finale of the adventure takes in the largest free standing dunes in the world—commonly known as Sossusvlei. We finish where we started in Windhoek with a farewell dinner.

Itinerary subject to change. The final route might change due to weather, road conditions, decisions by authorities or the local guides. Please Read the "In the Know" section at the end of this itinerary for important information about this adventure.

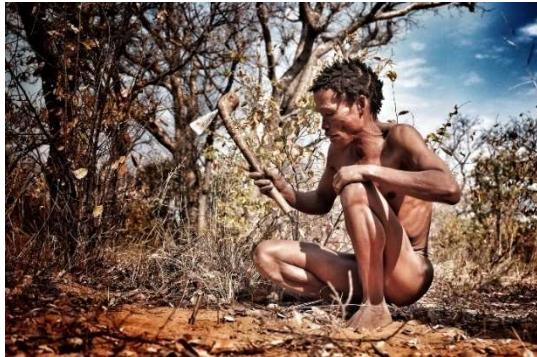
Prices & Dates

Flights and Travel Insurance:

Please do not book flights or purchase travel insurance until you have been advised that we have received deposits from the minimum number of participants for this adventure.

Flights need to be arranged to arrive in Windhoek, Namibia on day 1 in time for the 5pm group briefing. You can fly out anytime on day 55 from Windhoek. We can assist with booking additional nights of pre and post tour accommodation.

<p>Dates: 20 Jun - 13 Aug, 2021 We do not run this trip every year. If you are interested in 2022 please let us know.</p> <p>Tailor-made Have your own group? We can tailor your trip.</p>	<p>Inclusions: Arrival and departure transfers, vehicle hire (Dual Cab Manual Toyota HiLux Standard), driver fees for 2 people, paper maps, wildlife guide for 9 days in Botswana, village visits as per itinerary, overnight trip on the Makgadikgadi pans with Meerkat visit, roof top tent, bedding, linen, towels, fridge, water tank, cooking and camping equipment, spare tools and tyres, standard vehicle insurance, cross border permits for vehicle, two way radio in vehicle, Botswana National Park entry fees, Zimbabwe National Park Fees (except at Vic Falls), National Park entry fees at Sossusvlei, firewood, 5 nights in guest houses, 1 night lodge in Kafue on ½ board basis and campsite fees for rest of trip, support vehicle and meals as per the itinerary.</p>
<p>Prices: 2 people per 4x4: AUD16,975* per person 3rd or 4th person in the 4x4: AUD13,880* per person 1 person in 4x4: AUD25,740* per person Solo passenger in guide vehicle if available: AUD15,555* (this also includes camp groceries) <i>*Prices assume a minimum of 5 vehicles maximum of 7 vehicles (plus support vehicles). 2022 pricing can only be confirmed in early 2021. Prices are subject to exchange rate fluctuations – please see terms and conditions for all booking conditions.</i></p>	<p>Exclusions: Airfares return to Windhoek, Namibia, fuel (budget approx. AUD2,020 per vehicle), food other than listed in itinerary (approx. AUD1,300 per person) cross border fees/taxes approx. USD250 per person, Zimbabwe/Zambia Uni-visa approx. USD50, Victoria Falls park entry approx. USD35 per person, entry to Etosha Park approx. AUD40 per person, any accommodation upgrades chosen, any vehicle upgrades chosen, optional activities, vehicle excess, local tips, travel insurance (medical evacuation insurance highly recommended), visas (if required), vaccinations (if required), any other items of a personal nature and local tips. Tipping of the wildlife guide is completely optional. If you would like to tip you could use USD25-40 per person as a guide for the trip.</p>





In the Know: 55 Day Adventure

This “In the Know” fact sheet provides you important information about traveling in Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia prior to booking this adventure. As always, if you have any other questions about joining this tour, please don’t hesitate to contact our knowledgeable team. If you’d like to speak with someone who has travelled with us before we can put you in touch.

Galleries:

Namibia: <https://www.selfdriveadventures.com/gallery-nam>

Botswana: <https://www.selfdriveadventures.com/gallery-bots>

Zambia: <https://www.selfdriveadventures.com/gallery-zambia>

Zimbabwe: <https://www.selfdriveadventures.com/gallery-zim>

Mindset: The mindset required on this adventure is one of patience and flexibility and don’t expect a luxury holiday. You need to understand that travelling in a developing countries does not always go smoothly, no matter how well planned. There is definitely a culture of things happening in “African time” so things may not happen as quickly as you’d like. You should also expect that levels of service, safety, maintenance and hygiene may not be what you’d expect at home. You must be willing to “go with the flow” as track conditions, vehicle breakdowns or other issues may change from day to day affecting the route. That is all part of the adventure and your Self Drive Adventures escort and local support team will do their utmost to smooth out any hiccups during the journey.

Driving Conditions: You drive on the left-hand side of the road (right hand drive 4x4). The route is planned largely avoiding main roads with extensive travel off road and on rarely used tracks, trails and in riverbeds with sand, bull dust, water crossings and some slow and very rocky conditions. The support vehicle will have recovery equipment if required.

“For the last 15 years we’d been dreaming of travelling Africa, but we could not imagine ourselves being in a bus chasing wildlife in private reserves – that would be only slightly better than going to a zoo. When we came across the Self Drive Adventures advertisement we knew straight away that it was the best way to experience African country, people, landscapes and wildlife. We were right! One month trip was our unforgettable adventure thanks to Mike’s vast knowledge of the country, customs and wildlife behaviour. Every day was special, either seeing the wildlife, the scenery or pristine bush camps. The number of elephants, giraffes, zebras, springbok, hippos and more exceeded our expectation. There had been quite a few unforgettable events like a Rhino mother feeding her baby at the waterhole, two elephant mothers taking their families across the Chobe River, an amorous lion and visiting the Himba people. Thank you Mike for your leadership and friendly atmosphere on the trip.”

Dusan Bakija, TLCCNSW club

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Driving Ability: The skills required are a driver's license and a good dollop of common sense. Some 4x4 or dirt/gravel road experience would be recommended.

Vehicle: We have endeavoured to give options that allow ***you to choose*** what is most important for you. Some guests would rather spend their money on accommodation upgrades or extra activities, rather than paying for an upgraded 4x4. For this reason, we include a "standard" or "base model" 4x4 in the price of our African adventures.

The base model used on this adventure is a manual Toyota Hilux with rooftop tent. This 4x4 will not have had suspension modifications made to it, it is a "bog standard" Hilux 4x4 and could be 3-5 years old. We have used the standard Hilux vehicles and camping equipment for more than 10 years and they will perform adequately without the "bells and whistles". The equipment with this car is also basic, such as cooking gear, it is not as well equipped as some of the upgraded cars, as it is the "base model". Some people when they start the adventure feel that this car does not meet expectations or compare well to the upgraded vehicles, however, we have included this car as a starting point to keep costs down to allow people with a limited budget to participate and it is up to you if you want an upgrade. Below are some examples of upgrades available. Upgrade prices will be provided separately.

Standard car: for 2 – 4 people (included)

With 1 or 2 roof top tents or ground tents



HiLux Camper Upgrade: for 2 people (couple)



Land Cruiser Upgrade: for 2 – 4 people

With 1 or 2 roof top tents/ground tents



Land Cruiser Camper Upgrade: for 2 people (couple)

Has shower geyser and 270 degree awning



Convoy Size: The minimum number of 4x4s in our convoy is five and the maximum is seven. This excludes support vehicles. We have two-way radios between the cars. Most vehicles tend to have just two guests, however, up to four can be accommodated in some models. The convoy does travel together for the vast majority of the journey, so you need to be willing to be flexible to fit in with the determined start time each day, stops for breaks etc. We try to allow breaks for photos, toilet stops, sightseeing, lunch, morning and afternoon tea but road conditions and travel time for the day may affect how long or how many of these we may have.

Wildlife: The game is in pockets. In the National Parks it is plentiful and even outside the National Parks you will have wonderful game viewing experiences in the wild.

Accommodation and Campsites: Mostly camping, but there are accommodation upgrades available. You must have camping experience to join the trip. Some in organised camp sites with facilities, some bush camping. In campsites with organised facilities these may be quite basic e.g. bush showers which have hot water after the fire gets the water warm, but they usually have flushing toilets. When we bush camp we have a couple of toilet tents that can be set up. Each vehicle gets a "magic toilet" a small pop up loo that can be used in the tent if needed.

Guiding: On this adventure you will be joined by a Self Drive Adventures English speaking guide and a specialist safari guide for 9 days in the National Parks in Botswana. The decision of the Self Drive Adventures guide is final on all matters likely to affect the safety or well-being of any person participating in the trip.

Food: Excellent variety! This is a self catering trip with very few meals included. Plan your own meals and do your own shopping to stock your vehicle. You will have all your own cooking equipment, fridge etc. in your vehicle so you can be self-sufficient. There will also be quite a few opportunities to eat out in restaurants during the adventure if you'd like a night off from cooking.

Children: Are accepted. Please speak to us about their ages/camping experience.

Amenities and Toilet Breaks: As we are off the beaten track for much of this adventure, you must be prepared for "bush toilet" stops where there is cover of trees, bushes or your vehicle for privacy.

Activity Level: There are some opportunities for hikes, however, the activity level on this adventure is quite low. However, the days of driving in rough conditions and the fact that you have to set up your own camp means that a reasonable level of fitness is recommended for this adventure.

Weather/Season: This is Winter in Africa—it will range from cool to cold at night, 7-10°C and from 20—35°C during the day depending on the location.

Prices: Please review the inclusions and exclusions section of the itinerary. Here we have provided our best estimates for additional known costs over and above the inclusions of the adventure.

Flights & Travel Insurance: Before booking flights, travel insurance and other arrangements it is your responsibility to confirm with us that we have the minimum number of cars required for this adventure to depart.



Risks & Health: These are “developing countries,” but are quite safe receiving the lowest travel warning that the Australian Government gives, “Exercise normal safety precautions”. Developing countries can experience problems which may include but are not limited to, political upheaval, lack of supplies (including fuel and spare parts), poor medical services, poor road conditions, poor police services, as well as drought, floods and unusual weather conditions. We cannot be held responsible if the internal infrastructure of the country being visited causes adverse effects. By participating you acknowledge that the nature of the trip is adventurous, and participation involves a degree of personal risk. We will be very remote and at least a day's drive from the closest town on many occasions. You should discuss the risks with your doctor before agreeing to join this trip.

The **Smartraveller** website provides more information:

<https://smartraveller.gov.au/Countries/africa/southern/Pages/namibia.aspx>
<https://smartraveller.gov.au/Countries/africa/southern/Pages/botswana.aspx>
<https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations/africa/zimbabwe>
<https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations/africa/zambia>

The following **Travel Doctor** links have useful health information:

<https://www.traveldoctor.com.au/destinations/namibia>
<https://www.traveldoctor.com.au/destinations/botswana>
<https://www.traveldoctor.com.au/destinations/zambia>
<https://www.traveldoctor.com.au/destinations/zimbabwe>



What a beautiful trip Linda and the entire crew of Self Drive Adventures have put together. Our itinerary for Botswana/Namibia was so well thought out...the guides, camping locations, 4x4 rental, lodges, meals, and game viewing were all first rate. Dave, our guide for the entire 31 days, is an amazing fellow. His calm leadership, inexhaustible knowledge of all things African, and constant good cheer made the trip a joy. After a day of 4 wheeling through some of the most dramatic scenery imaginable we would always end the night with a communal campfire. This was a wonderful time to share experiences and stories under the starry African night. Mike was our expert wildlife guide in Botswana. His insight into animal behaviour can only be gained through many, many years in the bush. Thanks to Mike's supreme skills we saw lions, leopards, the rarely seen wild painted dogs, elephants, giraffes, all variety of birdlife, and much more. Our group was a mix of like-minded Australians and Americans who by the end of our trip had formed friendships that only a trip like this can spark. As an American (and now honorary Australian) I can honestly say you won't find a better company to take you on an adventure of a lifetime. Thank you SDA, Mike, and to our exceptional guide Dave.

Steve & Margo Skinner. Los Angeles.

July 2019

TripAdvisor Post