



BushBaby Safaris

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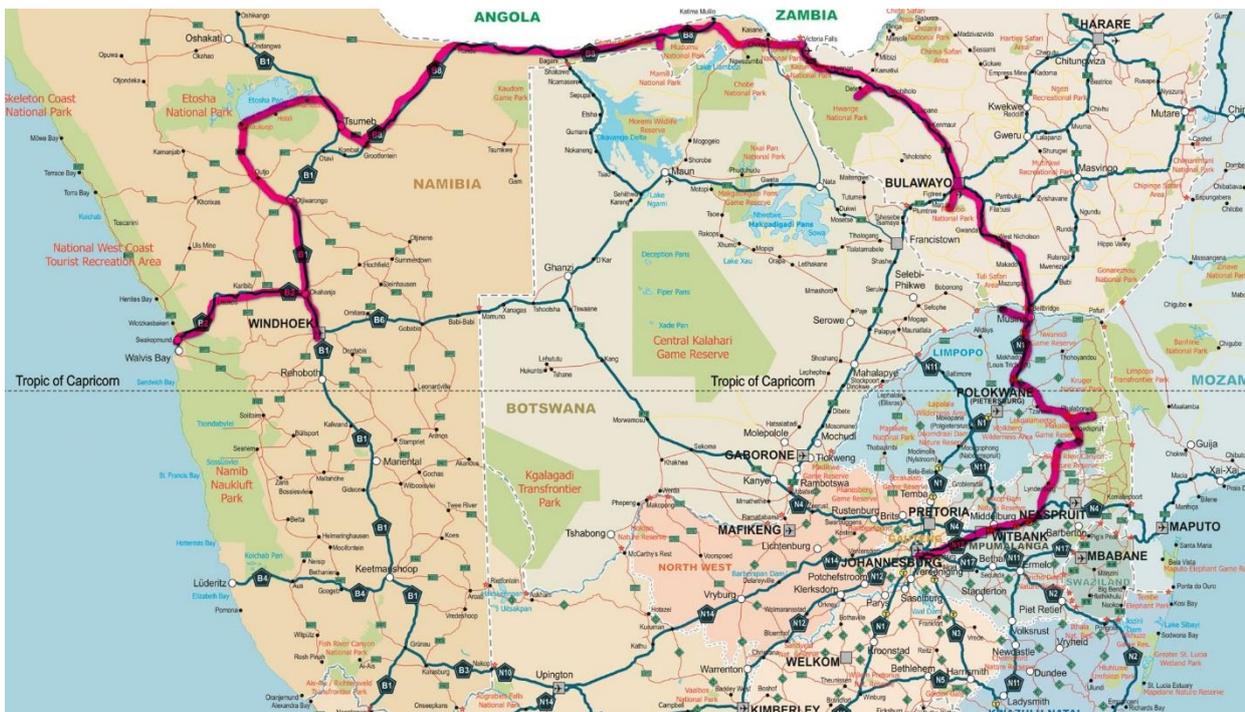


NORTHERN EXPLORER IN 22 DAYS

Really wild Africa? This is the ultimate African lodge safari and wilderness experience. Spend 22 days exploring four amazing African countries known for their iconic wildlife, unique scenery and vibrant different cultures.

Your safari starts in Johannesburg, South Africa, known as the 'Goli' or 'the city of gold' which is built on the deepest gold mines in the world. We travel east, taking in South Africa's lovely northern province and best game parks, then move into north into Zimbabwe, west through Botswana and across into Namibia

This tour will give you a true southern Africa experience: the full range of wildlife, culture and incredible vistas that only Africa can deliver.





NORTHERN EXPLORER ITINERARY

DAY 1: JOHANNESBURG

You will be met at the airport in Johannesburg and transferred to Africa Sky Guest House. Should your flight arrive early morning, you will have the day at leisure in Johannesburg. Choose from the following options:

Option 1: Spend the day resting and relaxing at Africa Sky Guest House.

Option 2: *LESEDI CULTURAL VILLAGE:* Experience African culture. Visit an Ndebele village for a presentation on the history of today's rainbow nation, followed by a tour of Pedi, Sotho, Xhosa, Zulu and Ndebele homesteads. Move to the village boma for traditional singing and dancing - a very participative affair!
Cost: R1 400 pp (lunch incl., drinks excl.)

Option 3: *SOWETO HALF DAY TOUR:* One of the most famous settlements in Africa, Soweto today is a monument to the history of political struggle. Travel past "Barra" hospital and Walter Sisulu Square (Freedom Square), visit Kliptown and discuss an informal settlement. Visit the Mandela house museum and the Hector Peterson Memorial. Pass the Regina Mundi Church and informal settlements. Stop at Wandie's Shebeen for an optional drink or lunch – try local cuisine and immerse in Soweto culture.
Cost: R860 pp (all entrance fees incl., optional drink/lunch excl.)

Option 4: *RIETVLEI NATURE RESERVE:* Get straight into a mini safari, with an informative drive through the small Rietvlei Nature Reserve. Game is readily seen along the roads ranging from cheetah to rhino. Bird viewing is also excellent, with a number of different habitats ranging from grassland to open water and wetland.
R950 pp (entrance fees incl.)

A table has been booked at Africa Sky's Restaurant for 19h00, where you will join your guide and fellow travellers.

OVERNIGHT: Africa Sky Guest House

MEALS: Dinner

EXCLUDED: Flight to Johannesburg, Optional Day Tours

DAY 2: TIMBAVATI

An early morning departure as we head for the Timbavati Private Reserve, comprising of private land adjoining the Kruger National Park. The Timbavati uses open safari vehicles and allows you to go off road to game view - ensuring the best possible opportunities for sightings of the Big 5.

OVERNIGHT: Gomo Gomo Game Lodge

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

INCLUDED: Entry into the Timbavati, Scheduled game activities

DAY 3: TIMBAVATI

Spend time game viewing; sightings are close, as 4x4 game viewers go off road. Join rangers on a bush walk. A highlight is Timbavati's sunset drive where you'll get the chance to see if you can spot Timbavati's more nocturnal animals.

OVERNIGHT: Gomo Gomo Game Lodge

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

INCLUDED: Scheduled game activities

DAY 4: MAPUNGUBWE

Cross the Tropic of Capricorn and arrive at Mopane Bush Lodge (approx. 6 hrs drive).

Mopane is in Mapesu Private Game Reserve, offers a safe environment for walking in the bush and is considered one of the best birding areas in South Africa. It is also home to huge baobab trees, Africa's famous upside-down trees.

OVERNIGHT: Mopane Bush Lodge

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner



DAY 5: MAPUNGUBWE

Visit Mapungubwe National Park and UNESCO Heritage Site. The park protects historically significant African Iron Age archaeological and San rock art sites as well as dinosaur fossils and footprints. This is also the site of the first African Kingdom - predating the Zimbabwe Ruins!

OVERNIGHT: Mopane Bush Lodge
MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
INCLUDED: Mapungubwe NP and UNESCO site entry

DAY 6: MATOBO NATIONAL PARK

Enter Zimbabwe at Beit Bridge and travel north to Matobo National Park & World Heritage Site. Matobo Hills are a chaotic creation of rocks - the most spectacular granite landscape in the world.

OVERNIGHT: Camp Amalinda
MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner
EXCLUDED: Visa if required (Zimbabwe)

DAY 7: MATOBO NATIONAL PARK

Visit World's View, where the grave of Cecil John Rhodes lies. Rhodes visited various sites in the Matabo Hills and came across this Ndebele sacred place known as 'place of benevolent spirits'. He called it 'View of the World' and decided that this was to be his burial place.

Enjoy time at leisure before an afternoon game drive. View black and white rhino, amongst a variety of plains game. Matobo boasts one of the highest concentrations of birds of prey in the world.

OVERNIGHT: Camp Amalinda
MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner
INCLUDED: Visit to World's View, Afternoon game drive & Rhino Tracking, All NP fees

DAY 8: HWANGE NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, continue on to Hwange National Park and book into Ivory Lodge.

Hwange is protected by Matabele royal decree. Over 100 species of mammal and more than 400 birds can be seen here – including the Presidential elephants which often drink at Ivory Lodge's exclusive watering hole. The park is a mixture of semi-desert, forest and open savannah and the game viewing is superb, giving a hint of the richness of southern Africa's wildlife in bygone days.

Depart on an afternoon game drive in open safari vehicles.

OVERNIGHT: Ivory Lodge
MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
INCLUDED: Afternoon game drive, All NP fees

DAY 9: HWANGE NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy an early morning game drive OR guided safari walk.

The day is spent at leisure relaxing around the camp – either at the hide overlooking a waterhole, or spend some time in the private library.

In the afternoon, enjoy the beauty of this park on another open safari vehicle game drive.

OVERNIGHT: Ivory Lodge
MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
INCLUDED: Morning game drive OR guided safari walk, Afternoon game drive, All NP fees



DAY 10: VICTORIA FALLS

After a last morning game drive and breakfast head for Victoria Falls. Book into Victoria Falls Hotel, known as "the grand old lady of the falls" - a luxurious 5-star hotel on a World Heritage site overlooking the Falls. Established in 1904 it epitomizes the romance of grand travel and is an experience in itself!

In the afternoon, go for a walk to view the Victoria Falls - *the smoke that thunders*. Although the Falls are neither the highest nor widest, they are the largest sheet of falling water in the world. Experience the rainforests close to the Falls.

In the evening you will be collected from aZambezi and hosted for a sunset cruise on the great Zambezi River. This 2-hour cruise includes complimentary drinks (including local beers and spirits) and snacks and is truly memorable as you watch the African skies light up and then fade as the day ends.

Note: Insect repellent and long-sleeved clothing is recommended during the rainy season and warm clothing is advisable during the winter months.

OVERNIGHT: Victoria Falls Hotel
MEALS: Breakfast
INCLUDED: Walking tour of the Falls, Sunset cruise on the Zambezi
EXCLUDED: US \$10 River Usage Fee payable in cash at time of cruise

DAY 11: VICTORIA FALLS

Today, choose any TWO of the following included activities:

OPTION 1: *FLIGHT OF ANGELS:* David Livingstone famously wrote on seeing the Victoria Falls for the first time in 1855 that "Scenes so lovely must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight". Little did he know that 150 years later he could have exactly that opportunity. Indisputably the best way to appreciate the splendour of the Victoria Falls is to view them from the air. Customized helicopters have specially designed 'bubble shaped' windows perfect for wonderful views and visibility from all seats... the ultimate photographic opportunity. Flight is approx. 13 mins.
Excludes government fees of US\$12pp

OPTION 2: *ELEPHANT-BACK SAFARI:* Shearwater's herd of twelve elephants resides on the Stanley and Livingstone Private Game Reserve, a few kilometres outside Victoria Falls. Each mild-mannered giant has formed a close bond with their patient Induna (elephant handler) who has learnt to understand each elephant's unique character and traits. Enjoy a chance to ride and interact with these magnificent animals in their natural habitat. Learn about their life stories, behaviour patterns and anatomy. After the ride, which lasts about 45 minutes, you can get to know Africa's most loved mammal through up-close and personal interaction. Total activity time is approx. 3 ½ hrs.

OPTION 3: *WALK WITH LIONS:* "Walking with Lions" offers an up-close and personal experience with the "Kings of the Jungle". Interact and walk with lions, learn about their habitat and behaviour and the conservation challenges they face in the wild. Total activity time is approx. 3 hours.
Minimum Age: 15 yrs old
Minimum Height: 1,5 m

You will also have a chance to visit the vibrant markets at Victoria Falls, where a huge selection of crafts and carvings are on offer.

In the evening, visit the Boma Restaurant. Blended into the surrounding gusu forest, the Boma is a unique cultural experience that bombards your senses with the tastes, sights, sounds and smells of Africa. On arrival, guests partake in a hand-washing ceremony before sampling traditional beer and snacks. The four-course meal combines a la carte starters with a barbecue buffet that specializes in a superb selection of Zimbabwean dishes and a variety of game meat. Local delicacies such as mopani worms and vegetarian meals are also available. The evening is accentuated by traditional dancers who captivate guests with their energetic songs and dance. Steeped in mystery, the restaurant's traditional storyteller explains the country's folklore, culture and heritage.

OVERNIGHT: Victoria Falls Hotel
MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner
INCLUDED: 2 Activities



DAY 12: CHOBE

The Chobe National Park is only an hour's drive from Victoria Falls and is home to one of the largest game concentrations in Africa. Bordered by the banks of the breath-taking Chobe River, it is famous for its rich elephant and lion population.

You will be collected from Victoria Falls Hotel at 07h30 and transferred by road for 70km to the border with Botswana where your Botswana guide will meet you after immigration procedures.

Enjoy a cruise on the Chobe River followed by a Game Drive in the National Park with a break in-between to enjoy a gourmet lunch at a stylish restaurant overlooking the river. Refreshments will be provided throughout the tour.

Return to Victoria Falls at 17h30.

OVERNIGHT: Victoria Falls Hotel
MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch
INCLUDED: Day trip to Chobe National Park with morning cruise and afternoon game drive
EXCLUDED: Visa if required (Botswana)

DAY 13: CAPRIVI

After breakfast enter Namibia and the Caprivi, a narrow strip of verdant land in the northeast of Namibia which is a significant habitat for the critically endangered Wild African Dog. There are no fences so animals roam across the borders of neighbouring Botswana and Zambia; elephant and buffalo also use this as a transit corridor moving from Botswana and Namibia into Angola, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

OVERNIGHT: Camp Kwando
MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner
EXCLUDED: Visa if required (Namibia)

DAY 14: CAPRIVI

Set off on a morning game in open safari vehicle into one of the Caprivi Game Parks and experience the Caprivi floodplains where various trees are found on small islands consisting of old termite mounds (ant hills) known as termitaria. In the afternoon, enjoy a scenic boat cruise and spot hippo, crocodiles, rare antelope species, some of the Big 5, many reptiles, over 450 bird species and perhaps even an otter.

OVERNIGHT: Camp Kwando
MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner
INCLUDED: Morning game drive in open safari vehicle, Afternoon boat cruise

DAY 15: RUNDU

After breakfast we continue west towards Rundu and book into the Kaisosi River Lodge on the banks of the Okavango River, the fourth longest river system in southern Africa, running southeast for 1600km until it empties into a swamp in the Kalahari Desert known as the Okavango Delta, famous for great concentrations of wildlife in flood season.

Note: Unfortunately the Okavango Delta is in Botswana, so should you wish to experience the Delta please let us know and we can include it.

OVERNIGHT: Kaisosi River Lodge
MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner
EXCLUDED: Okavango Delta

DAY 16: ETOSHA

Visit the Hoba Meteorite. Estimated at over 60 tons, this is the largest known meteorite and the most massive naturally-occurring piece of iron known on Earth's surface.

Continue on to Etosha National Park and spend the night on Etosha's eastern boundary.

OVERNIGHT: Etosha Aoba Lodge
MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner
INCLUDED: Visit to Hoba Meteorite



DAY 17: ETOSHA

A visit to Etosha Park is one of the highlights of Namibia. Etosha, which was declared a game reserve in 1907, covers an area of more than 22 000 square kilometres. About 2 million years ago this area was an enormous lake fed by the Kunene river. The lake slowly dried up when the river changed its course. Etosha's white salt pans are mostly dry and the largest covers about 5000 square kilometres. They fill with water briefly in the summer when they attract flamingos and pelicans. Mopane trees and savanna woodlands make up the rest of the park.

Discover the sheer vastness of Etosha as we make our way to Halali Camp for lunch. Halali is surrounded by some of the most popular waterholes in the park. We then continue on to the southern boundaries of the park and book into Taleni Etosha.

OVERNIGHT: Taleni Etosha
MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner
INCLUDED: Etosha NP daily conservation fee

DAY 18: ETOSHA

Spend the day exploring Etosha National Park. Be it lion or elephant, giraffe or zebra; almost all of Africa's animal species are represented in this huge nature reserve.

OVERNIGHT: Taleni Etosha
MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner
INCLUDED: Etosha NP daily conservation fee

DAY 19: OKONJIMA

Travel south to Okonjima, home of the Africat Foundation which works to conserve and protect carnivores in Namibia.

Set off on an afternoon drive to 'radio-track' leopards. The leopards roam freely and catch their own prey within the 4 500 hectare private Rehabilitation Area.

After dinner visit the nocturnal hide where you may view nightlife such as porcupine, honey-badgers and caracal, amongst others.

OVERNIGHT: Okonjima Camp
MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner
INCLUDED: Afternoon radio-tracking leopard

DAY 20: SWAKOPMUND

Visit AfriCat's 'Information & Carnivore Care Centre', which offers you valuable insight into the work of the AfriCat Foundation.

Take a leisurely day drive to Swakopmund – a melting pot of Bohemian and Bavarian culture. The drive is wonderfully scenic as the terrain levels out to sand and dunes, with excellent photo and curio stops en route.

OVERNIGHT: Sam's Giardino
MEALS: Breakfast
INCLUDED: Visit to Africat Centre

DAY 21: SWAKOPMUND

In the morning choose from ONE of the following options:

OPTION 1: *LIVING DESERT" TOUR.* Explore the Namib Desert and discover its many wonders. Namib means "vast and empty". This is true to a certain degree, but the life giving fog supports a wealth of fauna and flora.



OPTION 2: *SEAL AND DOLPHIN CRUISE.* A large variety of seabirds such as pelicans, flamingos and cormorants can be seen. Friendly seals join us on board for a bite to eat and frolicking dolphins join in the fun. Fresh oysters, champagne and snacks served. There are also occasional sightings of whales and Mola-Mola sunfish.

In the afternoon choose from ONE of the following options:

OPTION 1: *EXPLORE SWAKOPMUND.* Get a feel for this historical Namibian coastal town which is still very colonial.

OPTION 2: *SOSSUSFLY.* Go “flightseeing” over the famous dunes of Sossusvlei. This is a great way to see the famous dunes without actually taking the long drive there! The “Sossusfly” fixed wing flight takes you over Kuiseb Canyon, Sossusvlei, the dunes of the Namib Desert and back along the coastline and gives you a bird’s eye view of one of the most amazing sights in Namibia.

OVERNIGHT: Sam’s Giardino

MEALS: Breakfast

INCLUDED: Living Desert Tour OR Seal and Dolphin Cruise

OPTIONAL: “Sossusfly” rates are approx. per person and depend how many people are booked on the flight (max of 5) – from N\$ 4500 pp

DAY 22: END

Head inland to the capital of Namibia, Windhoek, which is where your guide bids you farewell as you depart on a late afternoon flight to home or your next destination.

MEALS: Breakfast

NORTHERN EXPLORER TOUR INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

PRICE:

Based on 2 people US\$ 12 700 pp

Based on 4 people US\$ 10 200 pp

Based on 6 people US\$ 9 200 pp

Based on 8 people US\$ 8 700 pp

Based on 10 people US\$ 8 300pp

INCLUDED: The price will include all transport, accommodation, meals, entrance fees, activities and guides during the safaris, as indicated in the itinerary. Unless indicated otherwise, the tour will be done in an air-conditioned vehicle to ensure your every comfort.

EXCLUDED: Accommodation, flights and meals not specified in the itinerary. Drinks, curios, laundry, gratuities and other items of a personal nature. Travel insurance, required inoculations and malaria medications, visas (if required).

PHOTOS: Visit our website at www.bushbaby.co.za/gallery to see recent photos of our tours or visit our Facebook page at @BushBabySafaris.