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TRIP DOSSIER

ZAMBIA AND BOTSWANA: Continent of Africa (ZB) (15 DAYS LAND ONLY)

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"Zambia: The real Africa", beckons to the intrepid and to the adventurous. On this ulendo (trip) we will explore the adrenaline raising Victoria Falls, follow in the footsteps of the most famous of explorers, David Livingstone, whose exploration heralded the establishment of missions promoting the spread of Christianity. We will stand in awe at one of man's greatest feats; Lake Kariba. Then, crossing the mighty Zambezi River, we continue to follow Livingstone's route as we embark on a journey through a land of mighty contrast, unsurpassed hospitality and unique wildlife, taking in the astounding wildlife and birdlife we will cross into Botswana. Despite its natural bounty with magnificent landscapes trampled by some of Africa's finest wild herds, Botswana remains all but unvisited by independent travellers. The endless miles of untouched wilderness invite unparalleled and safe adventure.

So, Dumela Rra, Dumela Mma.

Grading: *Anyone in good health with a sense of adventure should be able to take part. There is no real physical difficulty involved, but as in much of Africa, rough roads, limited facilities and basic accommodation may require you to adjust your levels of expectations.*

NB: *Although it is our intention to operate this itinerary as printed in the brochure and detailed below, it may be necessary to make some changes as a result of alterations to flight/boat/train schedules, climatic conditions, or other operational factors. As a consequence, the order or location of overnight stops may vary from those outlined.*

Included meals are indicated in the daily itinerary (i.e. BLD - Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner).

Day 1: Lusaka to Lake Kariba

You are collected from Lusaka Airport and after shopping in Lusaka driven to our lodge at Kariba. We head south, passing the Kafue flats en-route to Siavonga, Lake Kariba. This is also an excellent place to pick up beautiful Tonga baskets and carvings. We visit a local village and a fossil forest en-route. This national monument dates back 150 million years. The afternoon is spent exploring the lakeshore. There is time for option such as canoeing or try your hand at tiger fishing. Tour briefing by safari guide – plus payment of tour cost balance.

Lodge, 2 nights (L).

Day 2: Lake Kariba

Work on the biggest man-made lake of its time started in the 1950's. It was considered a triumph of mankind and came into existence following the damming of the Zambezi River to provide hydroelectric power to the industries of Zambia and Zimbabwe. The creation of Lake Kariba was not without controversy: the Tonga tribe was uprooted

to make way for the dam, not only did they oppose the building, but according to the Tongas, Nyaminyami, the snakelike River God was opposed to the construction. The Batonga believe the wrathful River God sent the biggest storm in 10,000 years that destroyed the cofferdams in 1957. We visit the dam wall, which remains a major attraction. There will be an optional excursion to take a cruise at sundown or cross to the town of Kariba in Zimbabwe.

B

Day 3: Victoria Falls

Today is a short but interesting ulendo to one of the seven natural wonders of the world; the Victoria Falls. These are the greatest curtain of falling water on earth. The clouds of spray and tremendous roar produced by this immense amount of water crashing down into a narrow chasm, gave rise to its more evocative African Name, Mosi-O-Tunya, "Smoke that Thunders". About 1,708 metres wide and 103 metres deep at the highest point; the Victoria Falls is in fact divided into six waterfalls: Devils Cataract, Main Falls, Horseshoe Falls, Rainbow Falls, Armchair Falls and Eastern Cataract.

For centuries, these dazzling waterfalls were considered to be sacred and local people came here to pray and make their offerings. Only following the visit of David Livingstone on 16th November 1855 did they come to the attention of the western world. Soon they became an integral part of the grand African tour for the adventurous and wealthy. However, only with the explosion of air travel have more people been able to view them. After settling into our lodge we head for a visit to the falls. There can be few experiences on earth as gratifying as watching the gushing white waters of the magnificent Victoria Falls. The experience is enhanced by the fact that it is possible to walk in front of them, unlike many other

waterfalls, which are seen from the side. Well-kept paths lead to different points for the views of the falls. But the most astonishing view is from the Knife Edge Bridge. This is as close as you will ever get to the falls.

Lodge, 2 nights (B).

Day 4: Victoria Falls

Today is set aside to explore this area. The following optional excursions are available.

Canoeing: The natural beauty of the Zambezi is unsurpassed and a canoe trip is the best way to enjoy the upper parts of this lovely river. This is a part of the Zambezi so different from the one that challenges white water rafters.

Jet Boating: For stomach-churning thrills, spin on the Zambezi in a sleek and powerful jet boat.

River Surfing: If you ever wanted to pit yourself against the Zambezi, river surfing is the way to do it. After learning the basic skills of catching waves in calm water, armed only with a helmet, flippers, wetsuit and body board take on progressively larger rapids with names like Terminator, Gnashing Jaws of Death and Stairway to Heaven

Flight of Angels: For an unsurpassed view of the famous water falls and the Zambezi River rapids, just above and below the falls take to the air in a helicopter or light wing aircraft. Or even more exiting take a micro light flight.

White-water rafting: White-water rafting is the most famous activity in the area and how it began is a piece of local history. In 1981, amid gales of publicity, Sobek, an American rafting company made the first attempt to raft the Zambezi. This attempt was successful and within a week of this first exploratory expedition, Sobek was offering commercial trips down the Zambezi. Today there are numerous reputable and licensed companies



willing to take you down the Zambezi. Kitted out in helmets and life jackets, you will listen closely to a final briefing from your guides. Then you are off to a gentle start down river, but soon you find yourself hollering with fear or joy as you experience the most exciting white water in the world.

Bungee jumping: For sheer heart-stopping terror, bungee jump from the Victoria Falls Bridge on the Zambezi River. At 111 metres, it is reputed to be the second highest commercial bungee jump in the world. The scenery of the gorge and the Zambezi River with the Victoria Falls as a backdrop makes this jump even more breath taking.

Abseiling: Expertly harnessed in climbing gear abseil down the side of the beautiful Batoka Gorge. Or try free falling off a 70m cliff harnessed to a rope.

River cruises. To relax take a sundown cruise up the Zambezi River. While gently sipping a cold drink, watch the wildlife and gorgeous sunset over the river.

The Victoria Field Museum: A few metres away from the falls is a museum of the Victoria Falls geology. Built around an actual excavation site the purpose of this museum is to preserve and display material telling the story of the falls.

The Curio Market: The small curio market, located by the Victoria Falls car park, offers a wide range of arts and crafts.

Mosi-O-Tunya Zoological Park, Old Drift Cemetery, Mukuni Village, Songwe Point Village, Livingstone Museum, Railway Museum and Maramba Cultural Village is also there to explore. Your guide would assist you to organize the optional excursions you would prefer to partake in.

Day 5: Gweta

We leave the Vic Falls behind and after an hour cross the Zambezi River by ferry into Botswana. We visit the frontier town of Kasane to change money into the local currency "Pula". We head south to Nata passing enclaves of teak and mukwa woodland. There is a good chance to spot elephant, giraffe, small mammals and even the odd predator. From Nata we turn west into the Kalahari. The afternoon is spent settling into our accommodation at Gweta. We can further explore this thatched village with towering palm trees, grey sand, vagrant donkeys and horses. Its name is from San and means, "where the big frogs meet". Gweta offers a rare opportunity to stay in a traditional village and experience life going on around you without feeling like an intruder. Optional is an excursion to visit the Magadikgadi Pans. At 12,000 square kilometres its sheer extent makes an impression. The expansiveness, silence and total isolation are awesome.

Lodge, 12 nights (B).

Day 6: D'Kar

After breakfast we head further west, travelling through the Magadikgadi Pans Game Reserve to Maun. From Maun we head south past Lake Ngami to the San Farm at D'Kar. We settle into our comfortable accommodation, which is a farmhouse. The Dq̄ae Qare Game Farm is

owned by the Ncoakhoe bushman people (San) of D'Kar. The aim of the project is to create employment, preserve the San culture and indigenous knowledge through tourism activities.

2 nights farm house (BD).

Day 7: D'Kar

Today we have the unique opportunity to gain a better insight into the lifestyle and culture of the San people. "We are called San or Bushman. We call ourselves Ncoakhoe, the "red people". The following optional excursions exist (all accompanied by a Bushman guide): guided bush walk, game drive, traditional dancing and Bushman story telling. The game farm (7,500 ha) allows ample opportunity to spot some of the Kalahari fauna, flora and birds.

(BLD)

Day 8: Central Kalahari Game Reserve

After an early rise we travel via Gantsi into the Central Kalahari. This Game Reserve has only recently been opened to tourism. We head for Piper Pan where we set up our camp. This 52,000 sq km reserve, Africa's largest protected area, sprawls across the flat and nearly featureless heart of Botswana. It is best known as Deception Valley: this 80 km long fossil valley is one of the reserve's most prominent features. Three other valleys – the Okwa, the Ouoxo and the Passarge - bring a geographical relief to this vast remote and virtually undisturbed expanse. Although rivers once ran through these valleys, they ceased flowing over 16,000 years ago. In addition to providing wildlife habitats, the dunes and fossil valleys of the Central Kalahari are home to the few remaining San and Bakgalakgadi who choose to pursue a traditional hunting and gathering lifestyle. We explore this vast dry wilderness in the next 2 days through game drives and by nature walks. We have our sundowner looking at the setting sun.

2 nights camping (2 x B, 2 x L, 2 x D).

Day 9: Piper Pan

We do a pre-sunrise game drive to one of the fossil pans on the lookout for the antelope and the predators that frequent this semi arid wilderness area. Predators to be found are the black main lions, cheetahs, brown hyena, caracal, jackal and serval. Other interesting species to be seen is aardwolf, springhare, crested porcupine, armadillo, honey badger and ert-mannetjies (meerkat). Various antelope of special interest is the Springbok, inhabit the Kalahari. We spend the day on game and other nature activities.

Day 10 & 11: Sunday Pan.

We break camp and take a game drive to our next campsite. Today's diverse safari takes us further into the remote Kalahari as we travel to the north eastern corner of the Reserve. We follow a fossil valley to our campsite at Sunday Pan. The site is extremely popular with wildlife as it has a pumped waterhole while the high dunes where the campsite is situated have splendid views of the Kalahari. After setting up our

camp we embark on a nature walk. The following day is spent on further game activities and exploration.

2 nights camping (2 x B, 2 x L, 2 x D).

Day 12: En-route to Chobe NP

We break camp after breakfast and leave the Sunday Pan behind, heading east. We cross the Boteti River and pass the Makgadigadi Pans on our way to Nata. It is in this area that Thomas Bains did his famous paintings of the Nxai Baobabs. We settle into our lodge and after having a well-deserved hot shower we have our cold sun downer in the wilderness, watching the sun setting over the Kalahari.

1 night Rondavel (B).

Day 13: Kasane

After an early (again) breakfast we drive through the Kasane Forest Reserve to set up our camp next to the Chobe River. In the afternoon we do a game drive in the Chobe National Park. Optional excursions are a night drive or a riverboat safari. Chobe National Park is Botswana's prime National Park and it is a raw and compelling wilderness packed with game. The park was created in 1968 and was named after the river that defines its northern boundary.

1 night campsite (B, D).

Day 14: Lusaka.

We cross the Zambezi River to the north today on our way to Lusaka. We follow in the footsteps of David Livingstone after his 2nd visit to Victoria Falls. We visit a museum on the way to Lusaka. The afternoon is spent lazing around the swimming pool of our lodge or to do some last minute shopping.

Mote, 1 night (B, L).

Day 15: To Airport

We transfer to the airport after breakfast End of Safari

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

Since January 2003, Barefoot Safaris has donated £10 for every person we take to Zambia, to assist with the funding and development of **Chanyoli School**. Parents and school staff have recently fired 60,000 bricks and will begin building this year. You may like to bring some books or school equipment to assist this very deserving project and see for yourself how well received it is.

We also support the **SOS Children's Village**, which you can visit in Lilongwe. They would be most grateful for any children's clothes or toys that you might donate.



Price Includes:

- All transport on tour.
- All meals as per the itinerary*
- All park entry fees.
- All game viewing activities as per the itinerary.
- All armed scout fees as per the itinerary.
- All accommodation fees as per the itinerary.
- Tents and sleeping mattresses.
- Safari equipment.
- Reference library.

Price Excludes:

- Airfare.
- Visa fees.
- Airport taxes.
- Meals as per the itinerary.
- Drinks.
- Expenses of a personal nature.
- Any changes to the itinerary.
- Travel and medical insurance.

NB: When camping everyone is expected help with camp cooking, camp chores, loading and unloading of the vehicle as well as making & breaking camp.

** **Excursions:** A qualified grade 1 safari guide from Barefoot Safaris will accompany clients on all excursions except where it is necessary to employ a guide from local parks.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Climate: Although Botswana straddles the Tropic of Capricorn, it experiences extremes in both temperature and weather. Botswana is primarily a dry country but does have a summer rainy season, which runs roughly from November to March. Days are normally clear, warm and sunny and nights are cool to bitterly cold. In the Kalahari subfreezing night time temperatures are normally in June and July. The inbetween periods – April/early May and Sept/Oct – still tend to be dry but the days are cooler than in summer and the nights are warmer than in winter.

Baggage:

- One piece of main luggage only (**max 12kg**), this should be a soft bag rather than a hard suitcase, so it can be easily stowed and not take up too much room in the vehicle or in the tent. space in the vehicle is restricted.
- A day sack (large enough to carry your camera, water bottle, & binoculars etc) is also essential.
- Sleeping Bag

Clothing and Footwear:

- For comfort in the heat, lightweight cotton is best. Brightly-coloured clothing is not appropriate for safari because it is easily seen by animals and has the added discomfort of attracting insects (wear muted tones in natural colours i.e. beige, khaki, olive, etc, but **not** army-style camouflage clothing).
- A long-sleeved shirt is essential to protect neck and arms while on game walks/drives.
- Long trousers and socks for evenings.
- Windproof/waterproof jacket.
- Lightweight trail boots.

- Trainers or sandals for relaxing.
- Sunhat.
- Swimming gear.
- Warm mid layers i.e. fleece or jumper for cool nights and early morning game drives (particularly May to October).
- Kagoul if you are travelling during the rains.

Equipment:

- Sleeping bag (2/3 season; possibly 3 season in winter months).
- Torch.
- Water bottle.
- Sunglasses, sunscreen and lipsalve.
- Insect repellent.
- Personal first aid kit.
- Binoculars.
- Dust can be a problem for cameras; take a dustproof bag.

Medicine:

- Basic personal first aid kit.
- Any perscription drugs required.
- Female sanitary products.
- Malaria prophylaxis.

Visas and Permits: For Zambia visas can be obtained at Lusaka International Airport. However we recommend that all visas are purchased beforehand. For Botswana please check before you leave your home country as to whether or not Visas are required.

Vaccinations & Health Advice:

Vaccination requirements & other health advice can change, so please check with a specialised travel clinic for up to date information before you depart. For useful advice you can visit The Medical Advisory Service for Travellers Abroad www.masta.org

Nevertheless we recommend that you protect yourselves against: *Malaria, Hepatitis A, and Polio & Typhoid as a minimum.*

NB: The Yellow Fever vaccination is compulsory and must be obtained along with a certificate prior to departure.

Food: Although every effort will be made to accommodate any dietary requirements, the availability of certain products is limited in Malawi, Zambia and Tanzania. Any special dietary requirements should be explained to us in writing at time of booking. Gluten free flour should be brought with you if required. Decaffeinated coffee should be brought with you if required.

Local Costs: 12 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 evening meals are included. You must pay for all other meals yourself (you can eat very well for £10 a day). Approximate costs are given for guidance only and may vary widely according to location and type of establishment.

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Coffee/tea | UK£0.30 |
| Soft drink | UK£0.30 |
| Medium beer | UK£0.60 |
| Bottle of wine | UK£4.00 |
| Local snack lunch | UK£2.00 |
| 3-course dinner* | UK£7.00 |

* Reasonable mid-range tourist class restaurant.

Optional excursions:

Some or all of the excursions detailed below may be available; others not listed may also be available. Approximate per person costs are given for guidance only, and may depend on the number of participants. Your safari guide should be able to assist you in arranging them.

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Snorkelling; half day | UK£7.00 |
| Windsurfing; one hour | UK£13.00 |
| Motor boat; half day | UK£13.00 |
| Dug out canoe; half day | UK£1.50 |
| Foot safari (armed ranger) | UK£16.00 |
| Night game drive | UK£16.00 |
| Horse-riding | UK£16.00 |
| White water rafting | UK£30.00 |
| Flight of the Angels | UK£60.00 |

Telephone: Mobile phone signals can be received at most major cities in Malawi and Zambia. Whether or not your phone will work depends on the network that you use. There are telephones at the lodges in South Luangwa which can be used in an emergency for a small fee.

Internet: E-mail communication for urgent or emergency use is available at most lodges via satellite phone. This is a limited service and a small fee will be charged.

Radio Comms: The lodges and camps communicate by HF radio, so if you are staying at a camp without telephone, contact can be made immediately by radio in the case of an emergency. This method of communication is widespread in Africa and the emergency medical services (Flying Doctors) can be contacted directly by radio.

Seasonal changes: Although all rooms and tents that we use are protected with mosquito netting; there will be insects and mosquitoes about. The camps are essentially "al fresco" so you should be prepared with insect repellent and appropriate long sleeved/legged clothing.

Insects are attracted to lights at night and are especially prevalent during the rainy season. Switching the lights off and placing a hurricane lamp a distance from you will remove the problem.

The evenings and mornings will be chilly from about June to August; so it is advisable to take a light sweater or fleece. The Highlands in Malawi has a much cooler climate, so if you are visiting these areas warmer clothes will be required during these months.

Currency: Zambian Kwacha and Botswana Pula. We recommend that you bring cash in US\$.

NB: Pre 1990 dollar bills are not accepted in most African countries. Foreign currency can be changed at commercial banks and major hotels, although opportunities to change money outside of major towns and tourist centres are limited. Your safari guide will be able to advise you on when and where to change money. Unfortunately, credit cards are not accepted at some of the lodges or camps that we visit.

Airport Tax: Please allow US\$20.00 for airport tax upon departure from Lusaka.



Climate Chart: Botswana (Maun):

Summer rainfall from late October to early April; cool to warm dry sunny winter days from May to early Oct

| Month | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Temp: Average Daily Max/Min (°C) | 32/18 | 32/17 | 30/16 | 29/12 | 26/07 | 23/06 | 24/06 | 27/09 | 33/14 | 35/15 | 33/19 | 33/19 |
| Rain: Average Monthly (mm) | 107 | 79 | 71 | 18 | 05 | 03 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 23 | 56 | 86 |
| Relative Humidity (%) | 69 | 73 | 74 | 70 | 68 | 70 | 63 | 60 | 55 | 56 | 63 | 65 |