

Tour code:

261112Zac06

2026

Guaranteed departures

Small group safari maximum: **8 travellers**

Travel through: **Zimbabwe**

Safari length: **6 days**

Date of issue: 05May26



ZIMBABWE CLASSIC EXPLORER

This Zimbabwe and Victoria Falls journey brings together some of Southern Africa's most iconic landscapes, wildlife regions, and cultural heritage in a single, well-paced itinerary. From the ancient granite hills and rhino stronghold of Matobo National Park, through the elephant-rich teak woodlands of Hwange, and on to the thunderous spectacle of Victoria Falls, the tour offers a progressive and immersive safari experience. Each region reveals a distinct character, combining guided wildlife encounters, scenic exploration, and meaningful cultural context, while staying in carefully selected lodges that reflect their surroundings and support local communities. The result is a balanced adventure that captures both the raw beauty and the human stories of Zimbabwe.

DEPARTS: BULAWAYO AIRPORT on **12Nov26** at 13:00pm

ENDS: VICTORIA FALLS on **17Nov26** at +/- 10:00am



Highlights

- * Victoria Falls – adventure activities
- * Hwange – game drives in an open vehicle
- * Matobos – game drive

SAFARI STYLE: CLASSIC

Overnight The accommodation throughout this classic journey is of 3+ star style and are chosen not only for their service and comfort level but also for their wonderful locations and local wildlife viewing opportunities. All rooms have private en suite facilities.

Meals 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners are included. All of which are provided by the lodges at which we are staying. Due to travel arrangements or game viewing activities, 3 of the lunches will be packed picnic lunches. Where meals are not included there will be an opportunity to buy a meal en route, but these are mostly travel days so a quick stop is required.

Transport for the majority of this safari you travel in a Mercedes Sprinter bus with 12 forward facing seats and air conditioning; or (on 30% of tours) in a Sunway Safari truck with 12 seats. For the game drives in Hwange and Matobos we use open sided 4WD vehicles with local guides.

Non participation This is an adventure tour, and as such please expect to get involved. Where there are porters, they'll help you, otherwise you'll need to carry your own bag. Included meals are all lodge provided. If you have a particular interest, please let your safari leader know, and he/she will endeavour to make your journey more rewarding.



CLASSIC JOURNEY ITINERARY

Day 1 -2 MATOBOS NATIONAL PARK [chalet Bx1, Lx1, Dx2]

The tour starts at Bulawayo Airport at 1pm where you will meet the group and your tour leaders. From here we make our way to the rounded granite boulders and undulating valleys of the Matobos National Park which are home to some of the last of the rhino in Zimbabwe. We spend the following day on an excursion into the park that includes a game walk to see the rhino, discovering the ancient Bushmen paintings that adorn the rocks, and admiring the landscapes from Worlds View, the site of Cecil John Rhodes' grave.

Our accommodation for the 2 nights is Big Cave Camp, a characterful lodge set amongst the balancing granite boulders of the Matobo Hills. Perched on a rocky outcrop, the camp offers sweeping views across the surrounding valleys, with comfortable chalets, a natural rock pool, and inviting lounge and dining areas that make the most of this unique landscape. It is an ideal base from which to experience both the wildlife and the rich cultural heritage of the park.

Day 2: Breakfast provided by the lodge

Day 2: Lunch provided by the lodge

Day 2-3: Dinner will be a set menu provided by the lodge

Includes: Entrance to Matobo National Park and game walk.

Distance/time: ±80km, 1h30 actual driving time, we expect a simple transfer into the Matopos and a total travel time of 2h.

Overnight: [Big Cave Camp](#) – chalets - twin rooms with en-suite facilities (hot showers), swimming pool, restaurant, bar & telephone. Satellite Wifi available at a fee.



Big Cave Camp is 100% Zimbabwean owned and has 18 staff from Matobo Hills area. Big Cave supports the Matobo Rhino Trust. The camp currently financially supports over 40 pupils at the local secondary school and are building a computer room for the school. The lodge also sponsors staff to train at the hotel and catering school in Bulawayo. 40% of power is from solar.



Day 3 - 4 HWANGE NATIONAL PARK [lodge Bx2 Lx2]

Hwange National Park is one of Zimbabwe's great wildlife destinations, renowned for its impressive concentrations of big game and vast herds of elephant. This diverse wilderness stretches from the sandy soils of the Kalahari in the west to open plains and dense teak woodlands in the east, creating ideal conditions for a wide variety of species.

Our base for two nights is Gwango Heritage Resort, set on a private estate in a teak forest on the edge of the park. Designed to reflect the feel of a traditional African village, the lodge offers a relaxed and authentic safari atmosphere, with its restaurant and pool overlooking a busy waterhole where elephant are often seen drinking just metres away.

During our stay we head out on game drives in open 4WD vehicles, immersing ourselves in the sights and sounds of the African bush as we search for elephant, lion, and other iconic species.

Day 3: Breakfast provided by the lodge

Day 3: Lunch will be provided by the tour leaders with the help of the group

Day 3: Dinner will be an own expense meal

Day 4: Breakfast provided by the lodge

Day 4: Lunch will be a packed lunch provided by the lodge

Day 4: Dinner will be an own expense meal

Includes: Entrance fees, half day game drive in open 4WD game viewing vehicle.

Distance/time: ±340km, 5h00 actual driving time, with a lunch stop en-route we expect ±6h00 total travel time. (Note: Roadworks between Bulawayo and Hwange can delay this travel time.)

Overnight: [Gwango Heritage Resort](#) – for 2 nights at Hwange National Park, en-suite rooms, swimming pool, bar & restaurant. Wifi available at fee. 



Day 5 VICTORIA FALLS [lodge - -]

As the journey approaches its conclusion, the majestic sight of Victoria Falls marks one of its most unforgettable highlights. Here, the Zambezi River thunders over the basalt edge into the gorge below, welcoming you to the final stage of your Zimbabwe Botswana adventure.

On arrival, we check in at Phezulu Guest Lodge, part of the Bayete Collection, a relaxed and comfortable base ideally located close to the Falls. The afternoon is dedicated to exploring this natural wonder on foot, following rainforest trails where the constant spray sustains a lush, green ecosystem. Multiple viewpoints reveal the sheer scale and power of the Falls, offering a fitting climax to the wildlife and wilderness experiences of the past days.

As evening falls, we head into Victoria Falls town for dinner at a local restaurant (own expense), providing an opportunity to soak up the lively atmosphere and reflect on the journey so far as the tour moves into its final day.

Day 5: Breakfast provided by the lodge

Day 5: Lunch will be an own expense meal

Day 5: Dinner will be an own expense meal at a local restaurant

Includes: Entrance fees to see the Victoria Falls.

Distance/time: ±190km, 3h00 actual driving time, with a visit to the Painted Dog Sanctuary, we expect to be in Vic Falls for lunch, a total travel day of ±4h00.

Optional Activities: Scenic flights & many more.

Overnight: [Phezulu Guest Lodge](#), twin rooms with en-suite facilities. Swimming pool, restaurant, bar and telephone. Wifi available. 



Bayete & Phezulu Guest Lodges are 100% Zimbabwean owned. The lodges catch rainwater in tanks for use and grey water is used in the gardens. Food is sourced locally as far possible & all waste is recycled. The lodges support Children in the Wilderness, Greenline Africa and are part of Green Tourism.



Day 6 VICTORIA FALLS ZIMBABWE – TOUR ENDS [- B - -]

We enjoy our final breakfast together before we bid a sad farewell. The tour officially ends at 10:00 am. Post tour accommodation is available for those who would like to extend their stay in Victoria Falls, or for those departing from Victoria Falls, airport transfers are available at EUR30.00 per person.

Day 6: Breakfast will be provided by the lodge

Includes: N/A

Distance/time: N/A

Overnight: N/A

Please Note: The distance and travel times quoted above are an estimate only, and subject to local road conditions and animal sightings!

Please note: That the accommodation specified above and in the itinerary, is a guide only and is subject to availability. Alternatives will be of a similar standard, and accommodation changes will be made without notice.

DETAILED TOUR INFORMATION:

In a nutshell

- A true African experience - wild and free!
- All inclusive trip with cultural experience, adventure and wildlife.
- Matopos National Park, Hwange National Park, Victoria Falls.

Why travel with Sunway Safaris

We understand that there are several options available to you when choosing your African safari. We also know that you want to make the most informed decision about your safari, what you get, what's included and what you see and experience. So these are just a few of the Sunway qualities and facts:

- **Small groups** – by travelling with a maximum of 12 people, you can witness Africa and have first-hand contact with this amazing continent and its people without being a negative influence. This has been a key factor in our continued success. Our trips appeal to a wide demographic of traveller. Our clients range in age from 25 to 65+ with the average being 45. The range of travellers gives a variety of perspectives which adds to the experience of each safari.
- **2 Sunway tour guides** – group leaders are the key to any safari. On a Sunway safari you will travel with 2 qualified field guides (Field Guides Association of SA). Two guides as crew, not a guide and a driver, means interesting trips with maximum knowledge and information. On German departures one of the tour leaders may be a German-speaking translator alongside one qualified guide, so you still benefit from expert guidance while enjoying the tour in your preferred language. Our guides have a passion for Africa, her people and wildlife, and they love nothing more than sharing their knowledge with you.
- **Guaranteed departures** – departure dates on each itinerary shown as bold are guaranteed departure dates. All other departures operate with a minimum of 4 clients.
- **All-inclusive price** – when we travel ourselves, we always feel that if we're in a country we should find and see the best it has to offer. So when planning the Sunway routes, we ensure that each trip provides the best inclusions and experiences. For example, if you go to Botswana – you have to visit the national parks in an open 4WD – it is the essence of the Botswana wilderness. If you tour Zambia, then you must visit South Luangwa NP and do a game walk with a local scout. When booking on a Sunway Safari there are no hidden costs. All of the entrance fees are included, and a wide range of activities, and most meals. We have included many highlights in our tours, so that you will see and experience the highlights without having to pay extra when you get there. So when you decide on which safari company to book with, look carefully at what you're actually getting. You may only visit a place once, make sure you get the most out of it.
- **Safety** – our fleet of vehicles are custom built to ensure comfortable and safe touring. Each is constructed, by an authorised passenger vehicle builder, to the latest safety requirements, with a safety shell, and every seat has a lap belt. This gives you peace of mind when travelling with Sunway Safaris on the often demanding African roads.
- **Good2Go** - Our commitment to sustainable & responsible tourism is reflected in our low impact travel style where all we take is photographs and all we leave is our footprints. Being an African company, we have the grassroots contacts to make a real difference in the lives of the people whose lands we visit. On each itinerary in the brochure you'll find this symbol which highlights just one of the sustainable travel initiatives that we support.
- **Solo Travellers** – Due to the group size and the lodge room allocations, if you are travelling on your own there is a price supplement.
- **Experience** - we have more than 31 years' experience planning tours throughout Southern Africa. As such, our itineraries and routes have been perfected over many years ensuring that your tour will run smoothly. We visit the highlights of Southern Africa but ensure that you do not follow the well-trodden tourist track. All of us at Sunway Safaris have extensive travel experience in Africa, and throughout the world. Being adventure travellers ourselves, we know how to plan trips that give you a broad experience of the countries that you will visit.
- **Based in Africa** - probably the most important part of a Sunway safari is that we are an African company with offices in South Africa and Botswana. We live in Africa, we travel in Africa and it is our passion for this amazing continent that makes Sunway your best travel option.
- **Age Policy** - On all scheduled tours, we accept children 12-17 with accompanying adult. We have no upper age limit. Clients older than 65 years of age at the time of travel require a medical certificate stating



the client is fit and healthy to join an adventure travel group tour. We have many clients over 65 years of age, who are perfectly capable of enjoying every aspect of a Sunway tour, both accommodated and camping. For more details contact marketing@sunway-safaris.com.

Local Payment

A local payment is not required on this safari.

Recommended reading

Before you travel you might want to read any of the following books. While not specific to the Sunway tour you will join, they do provide some background understanding of the countries you will be visiting.

- A Falcon Flies by Wilbur Smith (Fictional story of life in pre-colonial Rhodesia / Zimbabwe)
- Wankie by Davidson Ted (a story about Hwange National Park)
- Selous Scouts Top Secret War by Ron Reid-Daly (an account of the Zimbabwe War of Independence)
- How I Found Livingstone by Henry M. Stanley (a factual account of Stanley's travels in Africa)
- #1 Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith (Fictional story of life in Botswana)
- Trees of the Okavango by Veronica Roodt (A reference book with traditional uses and myths)
- Okavango: Jewel of the Kalahari by Karen Ross (A comprehensive description of the Delta ecology)
- Don't run whatever You Do by Peter Allison (A guide's perspective of Botswana lodge life)
- Okavango: Africa's Last Eden by Frans Lanting (A coffee table book of photography)
- Newman's Birds of Southern Africa by Kenneth Newman
- Sasol Birds of Southern Africa by Ian Sinclair, Phil Hockey, and W.R. Tarboton
- The Safari Companion: A Guide to Watching African Mammals Including Hoofed Mammals, Carnivores, and Primates by Richard D. Estes and Daniel Otte
- Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa (Field Guides) by Braam Van Wyk, Keith Coates Palgrav, and Piet Van Wyk

Shopping

- Craft shopping for carvings, batiks, paintings and clothing is best in Victoria Falls which has a wide variety of curios.

Food

- The majority of meals on this safari are provided by the lodges.
- Please be aware that, due to the diverse tastes of our clients, we are unable to accommodate individual food preferences on our group tours. The group shared meals we provide are subject to available produce, and in our sometimes-remote destinations, the variety of ingredients is sometimes limited. However, we do take allergies, vegetarian and vegan dietary requirements into consideration to ensure everyone has suitable meal options.
- All beverages will be for your own expense. We will not supply bottled drinking water although it is available at many shops on tour.

Difficulty

- Anyone who is generally active and in good health should enjoy this trip.
- Full itinerary with a couple of long driving days. The road conditions through the wilderness areas are very poor and our progress can at times be slow and dusty. Remember to hold on at all times and enjoy the ride!

Things you should know

- Includes park entrances, and game drives.
- As this tour spends a large amount of time in wildlife areas it is essential that clients adhere to the tour leaders (and local guides) instructions regarding interaction with wildlife, camp safety and game walk/drive rules.
- You will need a valid passport and visas for entry into Zimbabwe.
- Luggage, please pack to a limit of 12kgs in a soft sports bag. Also bring daypack for walks and keeping in the vehicle. On the Accommodated Adventures & Classic Journeys, all bedding is provided, and you will not be required to bring a sleeping bag or pillow. At most accommodation establishments, towels will be provided, but it is always a good idea to bring a small travel towel for the beach or swimming pool.
- We recommend that you bring a small amount of Euro or US\$ for personal expenses on this trip.. In Zimbabwe you will need USD cash (or EUR or ZAR although they are less readily accepted). Mastercard and Visa credit cards can also be used for restaurants, shops and optional activities throughout the tour. See the Sunway tour dossier for approximate costs of drinks and meals etc.

Common questions about this trip

1. **Is it safe?** Zimbabwe has been involved in a political power struggle over the past few years, and this has deterred tourists from travelling to the country. Having said this, the Zimbabwe people are always friendly and helpful to visitors to their country and tourists are welcome with open arms. In the wild areas your guide will brief you on the necessary precautions, follow this advice and you will be fine. Be aware of your personal belongings and you will have a great trip!
2. **Do I need malaria tablets?** Yes, the trip passes through malaria areas and prophylactics are recommended.
3. **What do I need to bring?** All details are covered in our general tour briefing (available from www.sunway-safaris.com home page) but the basics are: - comfortable clothes for warm days and cool evenings, walking shoes, flash light, a raincoat, hat and sunglasses, swimsuit, a small pair of binoculars also comes in very handy and most importantly - a sense of adventure!

