



## Featuring Local Professional Photographer Robert Hayson as our Photographic Tour Guide

Day 1, Wed 12 June 2019

Merimbula to Sydney

D

Welcome to our 17-day tour *"Focus on South Africa"*. Today we depart Merimbula Airport for Sydney, here we will have an overnight stay at Rydges Sydney Airport. We will get a good night sleep before our adventure begins.

Day 2, Thurs 13 June 2019

Sydney to Johannesburg

B



After breakfast, we make our way across to the International Airport for our 10:55am flight this morning, arriving Johannesburg at 5:00pm. On arrival we are transferred from the Airport to our accommodation for the night. The elegant 4-star Peermont Mondior hotel at Emperors Palace. Dinner tonight is at your own expense and arrangements.



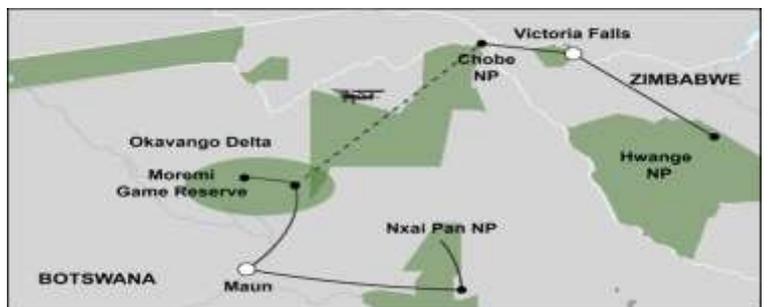
Day 3, Fri 14 June 2019

Johannesburg to Maun

B

Today we fly from Johannesburg to Maun where we will begin our private tour. We will experience the stunning beauty, the unimaginable vastness, the open plains at Ntsetse Pan, the world-famous Moremi Game Reserve and Khwai River Area and the untamed wildlife of the Chobe River and Chobe National Park.

Our journey takes us from Botswana into Zimbabwe visiting Hwange National Park before ending at the spectacular Victoria Falls. On arrival at Maun Airport, we will be met by our guide and transferred to our lodge. Set on the lush



banks of the Thamalakane River in Botswana the Thamalakane River Lodge offers its guests magnificent views of the riverbanks which are frequented by a wide array of birds and water fowl. The lodge is based just on the outskirts of Maun, the gateway to the Okavango Delta and the Moremi Game Reserve. It's location right on the river banks is what makes this accommodation special. Breathe in the deliciously refreshing river air while you enjoy the lodge's comfortable facilities including the full-service restaurant and large swimming pool.



**Day 4, Sat 15 June 2019****Makgadikgadi Pans****BLD**

This morning after breakfast, we will depart Maun and travel to the area of the Makgadikgadi Pans. After settling into our accommodation- Gweta Lodge, we take a stroll through the surrounding baobab grove, as our guide explains the local ecology, geology and the unique biology of the baobabs, which are in fact not trees but the largest succulents in the world. The Lodge is situated only a short distance from the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans where we can see the very entertaining Meerkats, the impressive Baobab trees and the incredible biodiversity of the region. We can also experience the way in which the locals live.

**Day 5, Sun 16 June 2019****Ntwetwe Pan****BLD**

After breakfast, we depart for today's excursion. The Ntwetwe Pan is one of the two major pans that make up the Makgadikgadi Pans and is amongst the largest salt pans in the world. The pan was fed by the Boteti River until it was left permanently dry following the construction of the Mopipi Dam, which provides water for the diamond mines in Orapa. The waters may have returned to the river but Ntwetwe is now famous for its extraordinary lunar landscape, particularly the rocky outcrops, dunes, islets, and channels found along the western shore. We explore the area, in search of uniquely adapted desert species such as bat eared foxes, springbuck, kori bustards, and some of the Kalahari's most fascinating inhabitants, the meerkats. We return to the lodge in the afternoon with some time to relax by the pool.

**Day 6, Mon 17 June 2019****Khwai River****BLD**

This morning we travel via Maun, the gateway to the Okavango Delta, to our camp, which is situated in a private concession in the Khwai River region. This large area is renowned for its concentration of mammals and it is not unusual to see many different types of wildlife during just one game drive. Game viewing is seasonal; depending on the time of the year you may see different species in different areas. The best time for game viewing is the end of the dry season or spring from August to November. During this season, in order for us to offer the best game viewing possible, extra driving may be required due to the animals migrating closer to the river. In the summer, birdlife can also be viewed in abundance with exceptional sightings of wildfowl and raptors. Our accommodation for the next 2 nights is Bedouin Bush Camp, located in the heart of Botswana. Overlooking the magnificent Khwai River on a private concession a 2-hour drive from Maun – your gateway to the Okavango Delta and the Moremi Game Reserve. The Khwai River area is known as one of the most beautiful and wildlife rich areas in Africa. Listen to the amazing sounds of the bush at night or watch one of the many elephants strolling around the camp at daylight. This basic camp is a true gem in the bush and most of the travellers unanimously agreed upon one thing: They want to go back! This tented camp is nestled deep in the bush and the river is frequently visited by animals such as elephant, impala, kudu, warthogs, lion and many more. By far the biggest highlight of this camp is that once you step into a vehicle, the game drive already begins.



There's no need to drive further than the concession because all the beautiful animals the Khwai Concession offers are at your door step. With comfortable tents all with en-suite bathrooms positioned privately under big Acacia trees we can relax in the privacy and the authenticity of the area while enjoying the astounding Botswana bush. Each river facing tent is equipped with twin beds, soft pillows and duvets and plenty of room to unpack your suitcase and store your most needed items on shelves and hangers. After dinner, we explore the concession on a night game drive.

**Day 7, Tues 18 June 2019****Moremi Game Reserve****BLD**

Today we head into the famous Moremi Game Reserve known as one of the most beautiful and varied reserves in Africa with an unprecedented concentration of wildlife. The full day is spent in the unspoiled nature of the Moremi Game Reserve.

**Day 8, Wed 19 June 2019****Chobe National Park****B**

We will be transferred to Khwai Airstrip for our flight to Kasane. On arrival we will be met and transferred to our lodge. Enjoy a boat cruise on the Chobe River in the afternoon from where we can watch elephants, hippos, crocodiles and a variety of birds without having to reach for our binoculars – we'll be near enough for close-up photographs, as well as having the chance to witness a spectacular African sunset. Our accommodation for



tonight is Chobe Bush Lodge, situated in Kasane on the banks of the Chobe River and shares a border with Chobe National Park. Right on our doorstep is the meeting point of four African countries: Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Zambia. Chobe Safari Lodge therefore offers an excellent getaway location to Chobe, Victoria Falls or Caprivi.

**Day 9 - 10, Thur & Fri 20 -21 June 2019**

**Hwange National Park**

**BLD**

This morning we depart Chobe and make our way to our lodge in a private concession near to Hwange National Park. The next two days are spent exploring this wildlife rich area. This afternoon we can partake in an optional game drive if time allows (at own expense). On Friday, we will have plenty of time to explore this vast wilderness on a game drive. Hwange National Park is one of Africa's finest havens for wildlife and is home to vast herds of elephant, buffalo, and zebra and has a very large concentration of giraffe. It is also home to many predators and endangered species plus varied birdlife. We will also visit the Painted Dog Conservation Centre to witness the work that is done to protect these endangered species. Our accommodation for the next 2 nights is Elephant Eye Lodge. Elephants Eye, Hwange is situated 13 km from the entrance to Hwange National Park on a private concession of 6000 acres. The lodge is a truly eco-style lodge offering a unique barefoot luxury experience. The concession has three waterholes which are frequently visited by game such as giraffe, buffalo, leopard, lion, plains game and many bird species. We can enjoy the beautiful setting looking onto a waterhole which is frequented by elephants and other game.



**Day 11 -12, Sat - Sun 22-23 June 2019**

**Victoria Falls**

**B**



Today we travel to Victoria Falls, full of real African experiences. Later this afternoon we enjoy a delightful sunset cruise on the mighty Zambezi River. Spend Sunday at leisure or partake in one of the many optional activities (at own expense). Our accommodation for the next 2 nights, Ilala Lodge offers distinguished accommodation in a gracious and secluded ambiance. The decor evokes a bygone era of adventure and the quest of discovery in Africa. The hotel is ideally situated and is the closest to the Victoria Falls as well as the



town centre. The National Park borders the front of property and wild animals often graze on the hotel lawns with the spray of the falls in the background. The rooms at Ilala Lodge hotel are designed to create a feeling of privacy and to minimise disturbance from other guests. The rooms on the upper tier open out onto a balcony, while the lower tier rooms have double French doors leading onto the lush, manicured gardens that offer charming proximity to the warthogs, and sometimes hippos, which often graze on the hotel grounds. All the rooms are spacious and are decorated with teak furnishings made from railway sleepers. This décor enhances the African ambience and laid-back lodge atmosphere of this boutique hotel. Muted tones and soft furnishings in creams and browns mirror this uncomplicated, restful atmosphere. Combined with comfortable beds and tranquil views, expect to leave Ilala Lodge well and truly rested.

**Day 13, Mon 24 June 2019**

**Livingstone to Mpumalanga**

**BLD**



After breakfast, we are transferred to Livingstone Airport for our flight to Mpumalanga. On arrival we are met by our transfer vehicle to take us to our accommodation for the next 3 nights, Moditlo River Lodge. Situated on 36,000 acres of African bushveld bordering the scenic banks of the Nbesi River, Moditlo Private Game Reserve offers a range of luxurious wildlife encounters and African safari options especially tailored for the



discerning traveller. Moditlo River Lodge sits at the heart of the Blue Canyon Conservancy, a stretch of protected land in close proximity to the world-renowned Greater Kruger National Park and is home to an astonishing array of fauna and flora. Named for the gentle beast of the bushveld, Moditlo means 'place of the elephant', and the quiet grace of this extraordinary creature echoes throughout the lodge and its surroundings.

**Day 14-15, Tues & Wed 25-26 June 2019**

**BLD**



For the next 2 days we will enjoy morning and afternoon game viewing activities.

**Day 16-17, Thu & Fri 27-28 June 2019**

**B**

Today we are transferred to Hoedspruit Airport board our flight to Johannesburg and commence our journey home. We arrive at Sydney International Airport in the afternoon of 28 June. We then make our way to the domestic airport for our Regional Express Flight back to Merimbula after our amazing African Adventure.

## *Inclusions:*

Return Economy Airfares from Merimbula

Airport Transfers in South Africa

Internal African Flights

15 nights' accommodation

15 breakfasts

9 lunches

10 dinners

Tours and attractions as per itinerary

\$13,583.00 per person twin share

\$15,586.00 sole occupancy