

**Unforgettable
Safaris in Botswana
and Zimbabwe**

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EXPLORING AFRICA'S WILD SIDE

Botswana and **Zimbabwe** are two countries that proudly display Africa's rich cultural heritage, natural landscapes, and ancient civilizations. Located in the southern region of Africa, each country attracts over 900,000 visitors each year. Botswana's principal tourist attractions are its game reserves, wildlife safaris, and the expansive Okavango Delta region, which, during the rainy season, is a maze of waterways, islands, and lakes to explore.



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Zimbabwe attracts visitors from around the world who come to view the country's outstanding natural landscape, which boasts an abundance of wonders, including the awe-inspiring Victoria Falls. The spectacular falls are breathtaking and a fascinating example of nature's magnificent work. Zimbabwe is not just about its majestic waterfalls; it's also a treasure trove of diverse wildlife, cultural traditions, artists, and history waiting to be explored.

Botswana and Zimbabwe are ideal destinations when planning a luxury safari. Both countries are renowned for their exceptional wildlife viewing and offer some of the best safari experiences in Africa. If you're ready for a life-changing experience where you will create forever memories, here's a guide for planning an unforgettable African safari.

Botswana's Okavango Delta is on everyone's bucket list of places to experience at least once. The Okavango Delta is a vast and varied ecosystem. It is created as the Okavango River rises in the central Angolan highlands, and during the summer rainstorms, it swells, heading towards the Kalahari desert.



Both men and women navigate the shallow waterway by standing in the stern and pushing their flat-bottom boat with a long wooden pole.

The river terminates in an immense inland delta known as the Okavango Swamp. However, don't let the word swamp alter your image. The Okavango Delta has been described as a sea of land, a land of water with channels of lagoons and narrow reed-lined paths, creating a bewildering network of interconnecting water highways. Local residents travel the vast pathways daily using a Mokoro, a wooden canoe built from carved-out trees. (However, today, conservation efforts require Mokoros to be built with fiberglass.) Both men and women navigate the shallow waterway by standing in the stern and pushing their flat-bottom boat with a long wooden pole.

The Okavango Delta is a World Heritage Site and sanctuary to some of the world's most endangered animals and birds. Hippos poke their heads above water to catch an inquisitive glance at the Polers; the name was given to those using mokoros and poles to navigate the paths. As you glide through the water, past waterlilies, large elephant herds graze along the shoreline, and cranes, egrets, and eagles fly, scouting for food nearby.

Exodus Adventures, an experienced tour company, will plan overnight camping in the Delta at one of several campsites. This will give you a unique experience of safely camping in the wild with tents, campfires, and a local crew who will make it comfortable, exciting, and extraordinary. During the day, experienced wildlife guides take you on walking safaris to see zebras, giraffes, elephants, and other wildlife that calls this area home.

Botswana's Chobe National Park is best known for its massive population of elephants and buffalos. According to Exodus Adventures, "There are an estimated 40,000 to 60,000 elephants in the park,



which is undoubtedly the best place to see them in the world. The park is also home to wild dogs, lions, leopards, and other wildlife." An early morning safari before the mid-day heat allows up to three hours of winding through the park, spotting the animals as the sunrises and their day comes alive.

There are boat tours that sail around the Chobe River, where you can spot hippos, crocodiles, and shore birds. You may also be lucky and spot a herd of elephants playing in the water.

The next stop is Zimbabwe's Matobo National Park, also known as Matopos National Park, where you'll find spectacular views of natural beauty stretching miles and miles. The area is filled with spectacular giant granite boulders called Kopjes that appear stacked on top of each other. Along the road, you'll pass women cutting and collecting long spears of



grass to sell. For wildlife, the park is one of the best places to see black and white rhinos, the elusive leopards, and a third of all eagle species.

Here, you'll also stroll among the rock paintings of the San people who once lived there. Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management states, "The paintings date back at least 13,000 years. The paintings illustrate evolving artistic styles, socio-religious beliefs, and rich cultural traditions that have disappeared. These hills were once populated by the indigenous San people, who have left their mark with rock paintings depicting giraffes, elands, and kudu. It was also the colonialist Cecil Rhodes' favorite place and where he asked to be buried."

A trip to Zimbabwe is only complete with a visit to Victoria Falls. Measuring 5,580ft wide and 330ft high, the Zambezi River flows between Zimbabwe and Namibia, creating Victoria Falls, one of the largest waterfalls in the world. From season to season, the water levels change; anytime you're there, you will feel the spray rising into the sky, softly touching your face, coating your hair, and giving you the complete sense of experiencing the falls. Exodus Travel states, "The falls have been given a local name Mosi o Tunya, the Smoke that Thunders."

The falls can be seen by hiking the designated paths, taking a flight over them, or for the brave crossing into neighboring Zambia for a view while swimming in Devils Pool.

Botswana and Zimbabwe offer a memorable way to have a fabulous safari on Africa's wild side.

TIPS FOR PLANNING A SAFARI:

Visa

A visa is required to enter Zimbabwe and can be purchased on arrival

Safe and security

Botswana and Zimbabwe are considered two of Africa's safest and most stable countries.

Accommodations and tours are offered by reputable companies with years of experience working with local guides.

www.exodusTravels.com offers several itineraries where you'll interact with local residents, enjoy regional cuisine, attend cultural activities, and have a chance to shop for souvenirs.