PRIVATE JOURNEYS PRIVATE JOURNEYS

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THROUGH TRAVEL

From the Falls to the Desert

Flying Safari in Zambia, Botswana and Namibia

Duration: **12 days** Best time to travel: April – October

Small aircraft flying in this part of Africa is an absolutely spectacular and intensely rewarding experience. We think the aerial view is a must to fully appreciate the beauties of the region's incredibly diverse sceneries. It's the big picture and the bird's eye view... a thrilling and completely satisfying perspective.

Namibia is the ultimate destination for any traveller looking for amazing landscapes, endless horizons and untouched nature. The Skeleton Coast, the desert and the mountains offer a constant change of perspective and panoramas. Botswana and its unique delta ecosystem offer not only a complete change of scenery but also one of the best locations for a wilderness safari experience.

Add Zambia with its world renowned Victoria Falls and the upper and lower Zambesi River and you have a complete experience. On this flying safari you'll both see from above and explore at ground level. Your flights are not just a way to get there, but a true safari in the air; you'll fly low over the massive dunes, follow watercourses and spot animals on the move. And on the ground, you'll stay at small, remote (but beautifully comfortable) camps where you'll safari by 4WD, driving deep in to mysterious valleys, up robust dunes and through the lush Delta.



How is a Private Journey created?

With a Worldwide Quest Private Journey you have the perfect match of safety, security and organization with the flexibility and freedom that suits your timeframe, budget and interests. We bring the same passion and expertise of our small group tours to creating Private Journeys for friends and family, typically to destinations that reward dedicated advance planning. We can adapt many of our small group trips for you or plan a completely hand tailored itinerary to suit your exact specifications. Our Travel Planners will work with you to create incomparable experiences wherever you would like to go.

Consulting

It starts with consultation with one of our team of in-house travellers. From this, we'll send you one of our Private Journey tour brochures, like this one. Our conversation continues as we ask you about what kind of travel experience you're looking for, how active you like to be, whether it's about fabulous hotels or fabulous food or awe-inspiring sights or creative experiences or all of the above. Next we tweak the itinerary and work with you to get the balance just right. Once we've agreed an itinerary and budget, you approve the next stage with your deposit.

Designing

We hone in on developing the perfect itinerary designed to meet your unique requirements. We review the nuts and bolts from flight arrangements to accommodation that's just right to transportation by car, camel or rickshaw. We work with our guides to make sure each day delivers what you want, whether that's an early morning game drive to observe the wildebeest migration or time to discuss life with a priest by the Ganges in Varanasi.

Delivering

Once the itinerary has been finalized, we require a second payment to secure your accommodations and services. A final balance of payment is required 90 days prior to your departure. A Private Journey is a totally customized and personalized journey designed to your own (and our own) exacting standards. And once you're on the road with us, you won't notice it, but we'll be with you every step of the way. Our local hosts will be your discreet fixers, making it all unfold effortlessly so that you have the luxury of making the most of every moment.

Suggested Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Victoria Falls

A grand start to a grand adventure! Your journey starts with "the smoke that thunders", the mythical Victoria Falls. You will be met on arrival at Livingstone and transferred to your hotel to freshen up and then get straight out for a good look at this natural wonder. *Overnight: Royal Livingstone Hotel, Livingstone*

Day 2: Fly to Chobe National Park

Your flying safari begins today; this morning you will meet your experienced pilot/guide at the airport to review the itinerary and set off. The first flight is a scenic overfly of the Falls and the mighty River. You'll then proceed westbound along the Zambezi to reach Kasane, the port of entry for Botswana. Once in Kasane, you'll transfer by vehicle to the lodge and then enjoy a game safari in the afternoon. In the evening you'll take a boat safari along the waters of the Chobe Channel to admire the numerous animals coming to drink. *Overnight: Chobe Chilwero Lodge Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 3: Fly to the Okavango Delta

This morning you'll take another game drive by 4WD vehicle in the park to observe morning activities. After lunch you fly westwards to the Delta. At first it is a low level flight over the Chobe River to spot the numerous elephants, buffalos and hippos, then we gain altitude and head to one of the most incredible ecosystems in the world, the Okavango Delta. Under our wings thick vegetation and open savannah give way to a maze of small channels, lagoons and swamps dotted by palm trees and framed by floating papyrus islands. This is a spectacularly scenic journey (not a simple transfer!). We land close to our "home" for the night - a camp whose activities are mainly water based. As this is a water dominated ecosystem we like to start our visit with a "water perspective". You'll travel by mokoro (local pirogues) in the Delta to discover the microfauna such as frogs, birds and insects. It is not rare to also observe bigger animals like elephants and hippos. *Overnight: Jao Camp*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4: Fly to Mombo Camp

After a morning activity at the water-camp, you'll have brunch and then set off for another very scenic flight above and across the Delta to reach the next camp, a well known safari icon with land based activities. Located in strategic position on the northern tip of Chief Island, the biggest permanent island in the Delta, the area has a very high population of predators including leopards and lions. The Delta is a real paradise for photographers so lens caps off at all times! *Overnight: Mombo Camp Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



Day 5: The Okavango Delta

You'll spend the day in safari activities in the Delta, taking game drives in 4WD through unique habitats to encounter its abundant wildlife, mainly cats, and varied flora. *Overnight: Mombo Camp Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 6: Fly to Serra Cafema, Namibia

Another morning game drive in the Delta and you are ready for a great "jump". Today is the day with the most striking contrast of sceneries, so take a good look at where you wake up this morning because you will be amazed by the huge change by sunset. First we go to Maun for immigration and customs clearance then we have a three-hour long flight across northern Kalahari plains into Namibia (to make it as comfortable and as fast as possible, we fly relatively high.) After refuelling at Ondangwa we take off for a much more rewarding journey, following the Kunene River as it scenically winds towards the Atlantic Ocean. From the air we can appreciate how the river and its green vegetated banks cut their way across these very harsh and rugged mountains. We then arrive at Hartmann Valley. After landing on the sandy airstrip, a very scenic transfer by 4WD takes you to your ultra-remote and beautifully designed camp only accessible by aircraft. Overnight: Serra Cafema Camp Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7: Serra Cafema Camp

The full day is dedicated to exploring the area by means of a boat cruise on the Kunene (water level of the river allowing) and spectacular nature drives in the Hartmann Valley by 4WD and/or quad-bikes. You may also be able to visit a Himba village, if this nomadic tribe has stopped in the area. Here you will truly feel an intense connection with this land. *Overnight: Serra Cafema Camp Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



Day 8: Fly to Swakopmund

After another good exploration of this incredible area, you are ready to continue with your flying safari. You head south on another very spectacular flight over a region of creamy sand dunes and flat sandy plains blending harmoniously with rugged dark mountain peaks. Next on the horizon is the world renowned Skeleton Coast with its fascinating landscapes: long lines of barchan dunes chasing each other along the shoreline, the rough Atlantic Ocean breaking along the coast... We climb a bit higher and on our left wing we can admire the Etendeka Mountains with their flat tops and mesas. Afterwards we catch sight of a river and follow it as it cuts its course inland till we reach some of the most amazing geological formations, only appreciable from up above. Extensive volcanic plains with their really interesting shapes and natural patterns, sometimes carved out by winding seasonal rivers. Late in the afternoon we land in Swakopmund, a typical German seaside town on the Atlantic coast of Africa... guite surreal! Overnight: Swakopmund Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 9: Fly to the Namib Rand Nature Reserve

This morning you'll enjoy a cruise in the harbour of Walvis Bay; you'll encounter playful dolphins (bottle nose and Benguela subspecies), habituated seals and numerous pelicans, seagulls, cormorants and other seabirds. Then when the sun lowers a bit (for the best light!) we depart for the most incredible flight possible in Namibia. We head south, along the coast, low level, to enjoy the great show of the Namib Desert dunes plunging directly into the ocean. The view from the air is incredible, an endless sea of sand dunes, forming the most fascinating patterns with their winding contours highlighted by the late afternoon light.

We are able to appreciate how the sand, as it moves inland, changes colour: from pale cream along the coast to intense redorange on the eastern edge, where it is stopped by the Naukulft Mountains. As we approach the edge of the desert we fly low over red dunes and vast golden plains dotted by the mysterious "fairy circles" and we eventually land in the Namib Rand Nature Reserve - situated on the edge of the Namib Desert near Sossusvlei and Sesriem Canyon. You'll transfer by 4WD to your lodge atop a sand dune, your homebase for the next two nights. *Overnight: Wolvedans Dune Lodge Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

Day 10: Namib Desert

The full day is dedicated to exploring what is arguably the most scenic corner of the Namib Desert by means of spectacular nature drives in 4WD and/ or on foot. Expect encounters with wildlife, mainly oryx, ostriches and springboks but the real highlight is the sheer beauty of the landscapes. *Overnight: Wolvedans Dune Lodge Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Dinner*

Day 11: Fly to Windhoek

As the sun rises, we take off from Wolwedans for a low level flight over red dunes which become higher and higher as we approach the famous Sossousvlei. We fly scenic over Sossousvlei and Deadvlei before landing at Sesriem. Here you'll jump in 4ED to explore from the ground what you've just admired from the sky; the famous dunes of Sossousvlei and the even more picturesque Deadvlei where its dry white lake and the black silhouettes of dead acacias stand in sharp contrast with the surrounding orange high dunes. In the afternoon we fly back to the capital of Namibia where landing is expected late in the afternoon. *Overnight: Hotel, Heinetzburg, Windhoek Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

Day 12: Windhoek

The morning is at leisure to explore the city before your afternoon transfer to the airport for departing flights.

Note: Flying Safari trips are designed to be flexible so that we can adapt to weather conditions, focus on the group's interests and take advantage of wildlife sighting opportunities that arise. Considering the special nature of the journey, some parts may be modified due to unpredictable factors and are based on decisions made by the pilot. Costs originating from such variations will be sole responsibility of the participants.



Tour Details

Private Journey Cost (per person):

From US\$15,995 based on 4 passengers From US\$13,995 based on 8 passengers

As all services are provided on a private basis, just for you, your Private Journey may be modified to reflect your interests, budget and time available. The approximate price is a guideline only.

What's Included:

- Transfers on arrival and departure
- All sightseeing flights by Cessna C208 Grand Caravan or Cessna 210 (depending on the number of participants)
- 10 days of flying safari with experienced pilot / guide
- Safari activities and nature drives by four wheel drive vehicle, by mokoro and on foot
- Accommodation in hotels and lodges as selected
- All meals
- Park fees
- Conservation fees

Not Included:

- Roundtrip airfare from your home
- Visa fees
 - Travel insurance
- Items of a personal nature: laundry, drinks, telephone calls, etc.
- Gratuities
- Meals and services not listed
- Airport and departure taxes
- Fuel surcharges, if any
- Additional arrangements required due to emergency or other situation

Payment Details:

A non-refundable deposit of US\$500 is required to book this Private Journey. A second deposit may be required. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

What to Expect

Local Arrangements

You are accompanied on your Private Journey by a qualified English speaking pilot/guide. He is responsible for flying you from place to place and providing information along the route. On the ground, game drives will be accompanied by a qualified English speaking driver/guide.

Accommodation

Accommodation on this Private Journey is based on standard hotels and lodges, including camps. All rooms have private facilities. A range of accommodation is available including luxury lodges and tented camps. The cost of your Private Journey will vary with the selected accommodation.



Chobe Chilwero Lodge

Transportation

The private aircraft used is either the Cessna Grand Caravan C208 (14 seats for a maximum of nine passengers plus the pilot/guide with all passengers having a window seat) or the smaller Cessna 210 (with six seats for a maximum of four passengers plus the pilot/guide with all passengers have a window seat). There is an average of 1.5 hours of flying time per day. On the ground we use open land rover style vehicles.

Travel Documents

You will require a passport for your Private Journey to Zambia, Botswana and Namibia. Please make sure that it is valid for six months after the date of your return home.



Terms and Conditions

For additional information about our terms and conditions, please refer to your booking form, the current brochure or our website. All participants booking with Worldwide Quest are covered by the terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Act (Worldwide Quest International, Ontario - License # 2667946). See full details <u>here.</u>

Cancellation Policy

All payments are non-refundable, however you may transfer your initial deposit for any land tour to another tour 90 days or more prior to your scheduled departure date. Initial deposits for cruises are non-refundable and non-transferable. Your second payment and your final payment are non-refundable and nontransferable. If you cancel within 90 days prior to trip departure, all associated trip costs are non-refundable. In the event of a cancellation, you must notify Worldwide Quest immediately and in writing. See full details <u>here</u>.

Travel Insurance

We urge you to ensure that you have adequate cancellation and medical insurance in place, should an unexpected event cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip or should the tour not be operable per our terms and conditions. We will offer you Manulife insurance coverage. Medical insurance including emergency medical evacuation coverage is mandatory on all our tours.

Worldwide Explorers Club

Travel twice with us and you become a member of the Worldwide Explorers Club. Earn 5% off all your subsequent eligible group tours. Look for the WEC icon to find your next tour. The bonus is non-transferable and cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount or credit. Note that some exceptions may apply. Members also get access to special offers and exploratory tours.

