

# drifters



## 16-DAY ZIMBABWE OVERLAND CAMPING SAFARI DETAILED ITINERARY

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Ancient Ruins
- Historical Sites
- Mountain Walks
- African Culture
- Zambezi Canoe Safari
- Save Game Reserve
- Kariba Boat Trip
- Victoria Falls
- Game Walks
- Open Vehicle Game Drives
- Hwange
- Matobo National Park
- Rhino Tracking on Foot

### OPTIONAL

- White Water Rafting
- Bungee Jumping
- Elephant Bush Safari

**DEPARTURES** - This tour departs every fourth Wednesday from Johannesburg. On occasion we may run two tours, one of which will do the itinerary in the reverse direction.

Undoubtedly one of the most beautiful countries on the sub-continent, Zimbabwe can boast of spectacular features including ancient ruins from an unknown past, one of the largest rivers in Africa and an abundance of game and wildlife reserves, an efficient tourism infrastructure and a vibrant - friendly local population. Our tour is primarily a camping safari with limited comforts but unlimited adventure. Flexibility and an open mind are essential.

## Detailed Itinerary

### DAY 1: JHB – ZIMBABWE RUINS

Depart JHB early, travel north to cross the border at Beit Bridge around noon. Continue northward towards Masvingo and on to the Great Zimbabwe Ruins, where we spend our first night in relative comfort (*own expense meals*).

### DAY 2-3: SAVE RIVER GAME RESERVE

Rising with the sun, we visit the ruins to view the magnificent structures, and to ponder over the mystery surrounding their origin. Thereafter we continue east to the Save River Game Reserve, an area offering some of the finest game viewing in Zimbabwe. We will spend two nights here in our private rustic bush camp, and will explore the area both on foot and in an open vehicle. **B L D ; B L D**

### DAY 4: EASTERN HIGHLANDS

Leaving the Lowveld, we travel through Mutare, and into the Eastern Highlands, an area of spectacular scenery, forests, mountains and waterfalls. This afternoon we will conduct a short hike in the surrounding mountains. Camp the night. **B L D**

## DAY 5: CHINHOYI

After an early start, we travel westward along the winding descent into the capital city, Harare, where we enjoy a short stop for lunch (*own expense*). Leaving Harare, we continue to our overnight stop near Chinhoyi, where we spend the remainder of the day enjoying a walk in the wilderness surrounding our camp. **B D**

## DAY 6: KARIBA

This morning we enjoy a short walk to an ancient Mashona dwelling before descending into the Zambezi Valley, and on to Lake Kariba, third largest man-made lake in the world. In the afternoon we enjoy a boat cruise on the lake, and return to camp the night on the shores. **B L D**

## DAY 7: ZAMBIA

After exploring the town of Kariba, we cross the dam wall to enter Zambia. Our next stop is Gwabi, at the confluence of the Kafue and mighty Zambezi rivers. The afternoon is spent preparing for the upcoming canoe trip. We camp the night. **B L D**

## DAY 8- 10: ZAMBEZI CANOE TRIP

A mighty river literally boiling with hippo and crocodiles, and luring every kind of animal imaginable to drink from its muddy banks, the Zambezi need very little introduction - and justifiably so. We start the adventure from Gwabi and then continue down the river, past Mana Pools, at our own pace. Paddling with the strong current, we spend two days on the water, game viewing and bird watching, camping wild on islands each night. The trip ends at the Chongwe River. We transfer back by boat to overnight once again at Gwabi camp where we enjoy a welcome restaurant meal. (*own expense*). **B L D ; B L D ; B L**

## DAY 11 –12 VICTORIA FALLS

An early start this morning, we travel through Zambia, via Livingstone, and then view the phenomenal Victoria Falls before crossing the original steel Railway Bridge to Zimbabwe. Here you are able to wander around, exploring the multitude of curio stalls and the other attractions that this bustling town has to offer. We spend two nights here in the DRIFTERS VICTORIA FALLS LODGE, giving those who wish to do so the opportunity of participating in a day's white-water rafting below the Fall's (*own expense*). We will eat at a restaurant on one of these two nights (*own expense*). **B L D ; B**

## DAY 13: HWANGE

Leaving the vibrant town of Victoria Falls, we head for our private bush camp in Hwange. This afternoon / evening we will conduct an extensive open-vehicle game drive / walk in search of the herds of game that this area is so well known for. Camp the night. **B L D**

## DAY 14: BULAWAYO – MATOBO

An early start, after breakfast we head for the wide streets of Bulawayo, and then on to our camp nestled amongst the precariously balancing boulders of Matobo. This afternoon we enjoy a game drive and rhino tracking on foot - in the National Park, before returning to camp for a celebratory meal at the local restaurant. (*own expense*). **B L**

## **DAY 15: NORTHERN PROVINCE**

Starting the homeward journey, we cross the border back into South Africa, and then travel the short distance to our camp within a private game reserve in Kalahari sandveld. We will spend the afternoon here simply relaxing, and viewing bushman paintings on the property. **B L D**

## **DAY 16: JOHANNESBURG**

A leisurely start this morning, we pack up camp and continue south to arrive in Johannesburg in the early afternoon. **B**

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Malaria precautions are necessary. A valid passport is required by everyone. Visas for most nationalities are obtainable at the border posts. Our price includes transport from Johannesburg and back, food, coffee, tea, fruit juice at breakfast, group equipment, accommodation, canoe safari, permits and park entry fees and a professional guide, Victoria Falls entry, game drives and walks.

The price does not include alcohol and soft drinks, visas, tips, curios, restaurant meals, flights, airport tax and airport transfers and any optional excursions such as rafting and bungee-jumping!

Clients are required to have their own comprehensive personal travel insurance.