

**Welcome to your TIA Safaris Capetown, South Africa to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (CV21) trip!**

We just wanted to give you an overview of what you may need to know for your upcoming trip with us!

As a trip can be a bit overwhelming we want to provide you with some information that will help you prepare for your trip with us. Africa is not nearly as scary as many may believe it to be, but there are some things you will need to know and some things you will need to bring to make sure your trip goes as smoothly as possible:

**Money:**

Money is accessible in most places we will go. It is a good idea to bring American dollars with you as they are still the easiest medium of exchange. Most Bureau de Changes and Banks will also accept Euros and English pounds. It is not necessary to bring your whole trip's worth of these currencies. American dollars are the best means of exchange to pay for your optional activities as most activities will cost more in local monies. Such activities like the Okavango Delta excursion and the Chobe Overnight are significantly cheaper in American dollars.

On average we will stop every three days or so to get money from ATMs. The best cards are Visa as well as Mastercard (although there are some places where Mastercard isn't as accessible as Visa). That is not to say that other cards do not work, but these other two seem to be the most effective at obtaining local cash from dispensers.

Traveler's checks are not a bad idea and obviously the safest. It will, however, take longer and be a little more difficult to process them along the way. Most places we patronize will not take traveler's checks and you will have to exchange them at banks usually with a fee attached.

Here is a list of Monies from various countries equivalent to 1 US Dollar:  
As of February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (currency prices will fluctuate)

Listed with the monies are some common products to demonstrate prices.  
(These prices are just a general idea and may also change by day or place purchased)

**South African Rand (ZAR)** (Used in South Africa and Namibia) = \$1 = 7.68 ZAR

Beer: 10 Rand

Toilet paper: 3 Rand

Pillow: 43 Rand

**Bostwanan Pula:** \$1 = 7.32 Pula

Beer: 12 Pula

Toilet Paper: 2.75 Pula

Pillow: 56 Pula

**Zimbabwe:** Uses US Dollars, English Pound, South African Rand, Euro

Beer: \$1

Toilet paper: \$0.25

Pillow: \$7.00

### **What to bring:**

It is important to recognize there are many things you can buy when arriving in Africa. Obviously the most important items are your passport, your necessary visas (One can check with the embassies of each country you are visiting to see if a visa is required for your country of origin), and monies. Electronic goods should be purchased at home as they are usually significantly more expensive in Africa. You **MUST** provide your own sleeping bag, blankets, pillow, and a ground mattress if desired. It is possible to get these items in Africa which can be donated to local charities at the end of the trip.

Such things as cosmetics can also be purchased at the places where we do our shopping. Particular cosmetics that people use should be brought from home as Africa may not have your exact specie of shampoo, soap, facial cream, etc.

Here are other things that you will need to maximize your experience of the trip:

- 1 Flashlight, preferably a headtorch or headlamp
- 2 Insect repellent
- 3 Rain jacket or poncho
- 4 At least one set of warm clothes, especially traveling Southern Africa May – September as it can reach freezing temperatures at night
- 5 Shoes suitable for walking, hiking, and trekking
- 6 Towel, preferably a quick-drying type
- 7 A rudimentary medical kit with basic materials (band-aids, pain killers, anti-biotic creams, medicine for flu, coughs, colds, etc.)
- 8 Books, “Ipods”, board games, cards, etc. for entertainment on the days with longer drives
- 9 Alarm clock and/or time piece
- 10 Sense of adventure and humor

### **Notes on Safety:**

It is important for our passengers to understand that, although we will be there along the way to insure your safety, you must be responsible and aware of your surroundings. Most of the places that we travel to are safe, but there is still crime, particularly in the

cities. One should not carry a lot of cash, garish jewelry or watches, or very expensive cameras in the cities or in crowded markets.

When we are traveling in the wilds of Africa it is extremely important to listen to your guides. These are people who have been trained and/or live in these places and have intimate knowledge of the terrain and the creatures there. The only time people have been hurt in the past is when they have made a distinct effort NOT to listen to their guides and suffered the consequences. Travel in Africa does not have to be dangerous as long as visitors listen to the people that know Africa well.

### **Respecting Africa:**

It is important to know what you may or not do when traveling through Africa. When you are traveling in Africa (or anywhere for that matter) you are under the jurisdiction of those country's laws and regulations. If you should choose to break a law such as carrying drugs, illegal materials, or committing a crime, there is nothing more that we at TIA Safaris will be able to do for you if you are arrested except call your embassy. A trip to an Africa jail is not recommended. Such things as drug possession, drug use, or public displays of drunkenness can have some very profound consequences. It is better to follow the rules of the places we visit than to take the risk of punishment by local authorities.

### **Photography:**

You will meet an endless array of fascinating people, places, and wildlife. It is very important to understand that there are many people, things and places of which you cannot take photos, e.g. Government buildings, government officials, road blocks, bridges, and border crossings. If there is any doubt about the desired photo subject please check with your guide as to the safety of taking the photo.

It is important to respect the people living in the places we are visiting. As a general rule please be respectful of the people you see and meet across Africa. Please check with people before you take a photo of them. For some, taking their photo is a major offense and problems will ensue if caught doing so. The best way to do it is to ask if you can get your photo taken with those people first. They may ask for something in return and you are welcome to barter for the photo opportunity. Ultimately, it must be understood that nobody wants to feel like they are a part of a human zoo or just another part of the landscape.

When in the wilds it is very important to ask if it is safe to take a photo of a creature or area. You may run into an animal that appears to be a safe distance away when, in fact, you are in its danger zone.

### **Travel insurance:**

TIA Safaris **requires** that every passenger obtains travel insurance for any possible contingency. There are many places that are quite remote. In the highly unlikely case that

there is an emergency, it is important that one has the coverage that will allow for such things as an emergency flight, a helicopter extraction, or hospitalization for an extended period of time. Although medical expenses are surprisingly cheap in most places, one must be prepared for every possibility.

### **Vaccinations:**

Depending where you are traveling in Africa, it is necessary to obtain certain vaccinations. Many countries require a yellow fever shot and certification of your vaccination. Without the shot certification you **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED INTO THE COUNTRY**. Please check with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website to see which shots are recommended and each country's websites to see what vaccinations they require.

### **Malaria Medications:**

There are a number of possible medications for protection against Malaria. It is very important that you choose the best one for you. You should discuss the different possibilities with your doctor to see which one suits your body chemistry, other drugs you may be taking, and your needs if you are traveling other places.

One word of caution: **Larium**, or **Mefloquine**, is known to cause very serious mental problems with certain people, particularly those with a history of mental health issues. Such things as nightmares, paranoia, and even irreversible psychosis are possible. Please be very careful in choosing this drug as your alternative.

### **Itinerary for Capetown, South Africa to Vic Falls, Zimbabwe (CV21):**

The **Pre-departure Meeting** will take place Saturday evening at 5:00 PM *the night before* the day of departure. This will take place at the **Ashanti Lodge** (unless you are otherwise informed) located at 11 Hof St. Capetown 8001. The phone number there is (27) 021 423 8721.\*

It is not recommended that you miss the Pre-departure as you will be meeting your guide and your fellow passengers for the first time. You will also be given a comprehensive introduction to your trip.

\* If you must miss the Pre-departure for whatever reason, you must be ready with your personal items at the truck, Sunday morning at 8:30AM.

Day 1: Cederburg

We leave from the front of Ashanti Lodge, and Capetown at approximately 9:30am. Learning about South Africa's fascinating history, we travel north to the Cederburg and Highlander's campsite for wine-tasting. For those interested in learning about local flora

and fauna before wine-tasting, there is a rigorous hike with a spectacular view over the vineyards below.

#### Day 2: Orange River

We travel to the Orange River's popular Bushwhacked campsite, via the bustling town of Springbok. For those who love to canoe, this is a perfect chance to paddle down one of South Africa's longest river systems and experience its wildlife and beautiful desert topography.

#### Day 3: Fish River Canyon

We cross the border into Namibia, learning about this vast country's dramatic history. We head straight to Fish River Canyon, the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest canyon in the world. We do a one to two hour sunset hike along the canyon rim. Later that night at the beautiful campsite Canon Roadhouse, we do a night walk under a blanket of stars to find the nocturnal denizens of the Namibian desert.

#### Day 4: Sesriem

We delve further into the depths of the Namib-Naukluft desert, stopping along the way to snap photos of the dramatic topography. We arrive at the campsite in the afternoon and set up our tents in the red sand of Sesriem. At night we go on yet another nocturnal adventure seeking out the elusive night creatures that haunt Sesriem.

#### Day 5: Sossusvlei, Dead Vlei, and Solitaire

Waking up before sunrise, we whiz out to Dune 45. We climb the 120 meters to its top to watch the sunrise over this magical landscape. For those with a competitive and adventurous spirit, you can try your luck at winning the Africa-renowned Super Dune 45 super race: 120 meters down at a 34 degree angle. We have breakfast and cheer the winner.

We then drive another 17 kilometers to Sossusvlei itself. We spend two hours hiking through the dunes to the world-renowned, photographic marvel known as Dead Vlei (as seen in the Hollywood movie "The Cell"). After this adventure, we pack up camp and beeline for our next destination, Solitaire, a place locally known for the mouth-watering delights of its bakery.

#### Day 6-8: Swakopmund

After a short drive, we arrive in the sea-side town of Swakopmund. We check into Gruner Kranz Swakop Lodge and either jump immediately into activities, or walk the streets of this picturesque, "German" town. In the evening we sample the culinary delights of the town's innumerable restaurants and plan the weekend's adventures such as sand-boarding, sky-diving over the dunes, dolphin and seal cruise, horse-riding through the desert, or quad-biking the massive dunes.

### Day 9: Spitzkoppe

After spending the morning enjoying the last of civilization's comforts, we drive a few hours to our first bushcamp, Spitzkoppe. Among the huge granite inselbergs we hike and learn about this beautiful place, a sacred location for the San people.

At sunset we climb a koppe and watch the sun sink into the desert horizon. When Spitzkoppe's uproarious night activities end, those desiring to do so, may sleep on the top of the inselbergs under the star-filled Namibian sky.

### Day 10: Cheetah Park

For those who love big cats, Cheetah Park is your place. Before the park, we stop in the small town of Outjo, perhaps catching a glimpse of some of the Himba tribe who frequent this town. After filling up on baked goods, we beeline for the Cheetah Park near Kamanjab. There we interact with the cheetah; petting and admiring these magnificent creatures. After the interaction, we go out to the reserve and feed the protected cheetahs...All fifteen of them!

### Day 11: Etosha National Park

For those who are coming to Africa for the classic safari to see Africa's world-famous wildlife, this day marks the beginning. We drive to Toshari Lodge, set up camp, and have lunch. We then enter Etosha National Park and game drive for the afternoon. We search for the Big Five, giraffe, herds of zebra, wildebeest, springbok, oryx and an endless array of bird and wildlife that makes Etosha one of Africa's most coveted National Parks.

### Day 12: Etosha National Park

Waking up early, we once again head into the depths of Etosha. We spend the day game driving across the great expanse of the park. We stop at the beautiful oasis Halali Resort halfway across the park. We have our lunch and relax by the pool, or sit by Halali's waterhole to watch the animals come to drink. After our break, we go out to the edge of the vast, white expanse that is Etosha Pan. We then spend the rest of the afternoon seeking out the animals we have not yet found.

We camp at another of Etosha's beautiful resorts, Namutoni, which has a waterhole lit by floodlights. Passengers may sit by the waterhole all night and watch the animals come to drink.

### Day 13: Rainbow Lodge

This is a day of driving across the Caprivi Strip. Although a long drive, we are richly rewarded in the late afternoon when we arrive on the banks of the Okavango, just across the river from Angola. Rainbow Lodge is a fantastic location to rest our road-weary selves with a dip in the pool, a photographic jaunt to capture the resident hippos and crocodiles, or have a chat with Johan, the delightful owner of this popular overland spot.

#### Day 14: Maun

Rising early, we cross the border into Botswana. Learning about Botswana and the Okavango Delta, we venture south toward Maun. In Maun, we shop in preparation for the following day's adventure into the Delta. At night we camp at Sitatunga Campsite. Right next to the camp is a locally famous Crocodile farm harboring a croc over 17 feet long!

#### Day 15-17: The Okavango Delta

Traveling by mokoro (dugout canoe) into the heart of the Okavango Delta, we spend two nights, three days in the true wilds of Africa. Based at a bush camp for the two nights, we venture into the Delta's Big Five territory on foot by day. At night we share our day's adventures around the campfire in the entertaining company of our Bostwanan guides.

When we return to Maun in the afternoon of the third day, those who want to take a flight over the Delta may opt to do so to see the Delta from another eye-popping perspective.

#### Days 18-19: Chobe National Park

Traveling across the elephant-populated countryside of Bostwana arrives us in the town of Kasane and Thebe River Camp, our base for delving into the heart of Chobe National Park. The first morning begins with a river cruise on the Chobe River. The river cruise allows all to glimpse the massive herds of elephants, rare Red Lechwe and Puku antelope, hippos, and buffaloes that make Chobe their home. Later in the afternoon, the Chobe Overnight option allows overlanders to experience the inner depths of the park in the spirit of the old vintage safaris.

#### Days 20-21: Victoria Falls

Those on the overnight, return at 10-11am Friday morning. We drive the short distance to the border and cross into Zimbabwe. We head to the town of Victoria Falls, home of one of the Seven Wonders of the World for our last two days. Aside from seeing the awesome falls themselves, the town of Vic Falls has an endless array of other activities to choose from. Such favorite activities as Walking with Lions, Elephant-Back Safaris, or the infamous Gorge-swing and Bungee-jump are the perfect way to end a trip of a lifetime!

**If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to call or email us!**

**1-602-561-7823**

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**We look forward to seeing you in Capetown...**