



**Duration:** 15 days, April 25 - May 9, 2010 - 8 nights camping safari, 3 nights game lodge on the Zambezi River, 2 days each way travel time

**Price:** \$7800.00, including taxes, airfares, airport transfers (except in Canada), all meals & activities *except* optional activities in Victoria Falls and lunch in London on the way to South Africa. N.B. Single travellers: Due to the limited size of bush camps, any single travellers will have to share a tent, and their booking requests will be put on a wait list to see if another compatible single wishes to book the trip.

**Trip Host:** Erica Jurus - Hon. BSc., First Aid certified, experienced in travel, safaris and wildlife photography  
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#### Pre-trip Requirements:

- A non-refundable deposit of \$1,200 per person, your passport number and email address are required at the time of booking to reserve your place on this trip
- Final payment is required by January 15, 2010
- Please advise your trip host of any allergies, medical conditions or food preferences/special diets as soon as possible

**Activity Level:** Light to Moderate

#### Itinerary

**Day 1 April 25** Depart Toronto approx 8:20pm, overnight flight to London Heathrow (LHR)

**Day 2 April 26** Arrive London approx. 8:15am GMT - optional tour of London with lunch (not included in tour price).  
Depart LHR approx. 7:00pm for overnight flight to Johannesburg, South Africa (JNB)

**Day 3 April 27** Arrive Johannesburg approx. 7:00am. Time for breakfast at the airport.  
Depart JNB approx. 10am for Air Botswana flight to Maun, Botswana; arrive Maun approx. noon. We'll be met by representatives of & Beyond Africa and transfer to light aircraft to fly to our first camp, approx. a half-hour flight, during which you may catch your first glimpse of the animals.

We'll land on a small sandy airstrip in the Okavango Delta, then drive in our bush trucks to our first camp, Nxabega (which means "Place of the Giraffe"), deep in the heart of the Delta. At our camp we'll meet the staff and be shown to our tents. We'll then have a couple of hours to settle in, have a buffet lunch overlooking the floodplain, unpack & perhaps have a shower. Later in the afternoon we'll have tea and then head out on our first full game drive. We'll return to camp after dusk to enjoy a delicious 3-course meal amid the sounds of the African bush at night, talk about our first day, write in our journals and finally call it a day in our comfortable tents.

**Day 4 April 28** We rise before daybreak for breakfast and an early start to spot animals before the hot mid-day sun sends them searching for cover. The permanent waters of the Delta attract a wide variety of wildlife - you'll be taking a lot of photos. We'll return to the camp for lunch & some relaxation time, have afternoon tea & head out for the evening game drive, a routine which most of our safari days will follow. On this evening our guide takes us on a special boat trip through the Delta waters to see the water life close up.

- Day 5 April 29** This morning we experience a relaxing ride through the Delta floodplain in traditional Botswanan canoes called mekoro (mokoro - singular). After the ride we return to the airstrip to catch another flight to our second camp in the Moremi section of the Delta, where we'll be camping in the beautiful Khwai River area.
- Day 6 April 30** We explore the Moremi Reserve, with its own unique landscape and large variety of wildlife. We'll stop in at Khwai Village, where you'll be able to shop for some Botswanan handicrafts and take photos of the traditional African huts.
- Day 7 May 1** We spend the day driving to our 3<sup>rd</sup> camp, the Savute area of vast Chobe National Park, and game-spotting along the way. It will take us most of the morning to leave the Moremi Reserve, and we'll have a morning tea break en route. By the time we stop for a picnic lunch, we'll be on the 'road' to Savute - a deep sandy, bumpy track that runs through an old riverbed. We'll drive through classic African savannah, mopane groves and more, arriving at the Savute Channel valley before dusk. The Savute Channel is a periodic riverbed that's also a prime area for leopards, which are the most elusive of African cats. When we reach our 3<sup>rd</sup> camp, the staff, who've driven straight there, will have the tents & showers set up for us, the lamps lit, and a delicious dinner waiting.
- Day 8 May 2** We explore the large Savute area, which is famous for its lion population. We may come across a male ostrich shepherding his large brood of youngsters, a secretary bird stepping sedately through the grasses, or herds of wildebeest, zebras & elephants.
- Day 9 May 3** We pack up and drive to our 4<sup>th</sup> & final bush camp in the Serondela area of the park, along the banks of the Chobe River. Serondela is particularly known for its large elephant herds. We'll have another picnic lunch en route and stop for about an hour in the town of Kasane, where you can do some shopping, download photos, or purchase more film/memory cards/batteries. In Kasane we'll board a boat to cruise up the Chobe River to our camp.
- Day 10 May 4** We explore the Serondela reserve, including drives along the river, where groups of animals congregate in great variety. There's also a resident population of baboons who've appropriated the original camp, and we can watch their interactions for as long as we want.
- Day 11 May 5** Our last morning in Botswana before lunch and transfer to the Kasane airport, where a bus will pick us up to drive across the border to Matetsi Water Lodge in Zimbabwe outside of Victoria Falls. We'll stop at the border to purchase our entry visas to Zimbabwe (approx. \$65 US in cash required for this.) At Matetsi we enjoy a full game lodge experience. Cool drinks will be waiting for us when we arrive, as well as a fabulous lunch before we're driven into town for a personal tour of Victoria Falls. Have your cameras ready and be prepared to get very wet. There will be blankets waiting for us on the safari vehicle as we return to Matetsi, where we can luxuriate in hot showers or baths before meeting at the main lodge for pre-dinner cocktails, followed by a delicious grilled meal on a terrace overlooking the Zambezi River.
- Day 12 - 13 May 6 - 7** Our 2 full days at Matetsi are open to enjoy as you please. You can go for game drives, relax, or participate in a wide variety of optional activities based in Victoria Falls.

Matetsi offers twice daily game drives where we'll have the opportunity to spot some wildlife we may not have seen yet, including rhino and the beautiful black and white male sable antelope. Matetsi also offers bush walks accompanied by armed rangers, as well as night drives using spotlights to find wildlife that are nocturnally active.

One very special option is the Lion Encounter, where you'll be able to spend an hour and a half walking with and interacting with young lions who've been rescued and habituated to humans. Lions are close to being on the endangered species list, and this is a unique opportunity to observe their charm close up. Our guide will explain the rules about interacting safely with the lions and then lead us on the hike.

*Erica & her husband in 2007*

Young lions are as playful as they are beautiful; they love



to have their heads scratched and their tummies rubbed. You may even get your arm licked by a big, very raspy tongue. A videographer will be on hand to record your walk, and you'll be able to preview and purchase your session on DVD. All fees help to fund the important work that this organization does in saving the world's lion populations.

Other possible activities include: helicopter flights over the Falls, bungee-jumping, white water rafting (depending on the level of the river), jet boat rides, zip-lines, a cultural village & market tour, and walks across to the Zambian side of the Falls (purchase of Zambian visa required at border) for a much closer view of the Falls themselves in Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park. A full list with prices will be provided.

**Day 14 May 8** Depart Victoria Falls airport 1:45pm to Johannesburg; Arrive 3:30pm. 10:00pm overnight flight back to London. Johannesburg's OR Tambo airport has a number of African craft shops if you'd like to pick up additional mementos or gifts, and restaurants where we can have refreshments or a light bite before our evening flight.

**Day 15 May 9** Arrive London approx. 8:30am. Depart for Toronto approx. noon GMT. Arrive Toronto approx. 3pm local time.

**Accommodations** 8 nights Camping:  
Classic domed tents (4m x 4M) with comfortable beds, crisp linen, bedside tables & non-electric lamps. Private attached bathroom with flush toilet, hand basins and hot bucket showers. There is no electricity in camp.  
3 nights Lodge:  
Spacious, airy African-style fully-serviced bungalows with full bathroom, netted king-size beds, outdoor terrace & private plunge pool overlooking the Zambezi River. Covered main lodge with 3 dining areas overlooking the Zambezi.

**Medical Requirements** General recommendations - Inoculations:

- Tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis-polio - single injection, good for 10 years
- Hepatitis A & B (Twinrix) - 3 injections at 0, 1month & 6 months intervals for full immunization (15 - 20 years); or expedited inoculation schedule at 0, 7 & 21 days for immunity for 1 year only

General recommendations - Oral:

- Typhoid - 4 capsules at 2-day intervals to be completed at least 1 week before departure, good for 7 years
- Anti-malarial - various types, started before departure, taken daily or weekly throughout trip and continued for several weeks after return

**Please check with your local health unit for official information regarding preventative medicines for this trip.**

**Recommended Packing (General)** Clothing:  
All clothing for the camping portion should be in neutral earth tones. Camouflage prints are not allowed. Bright colours will scare off the animals, whites get dirty too quickly, blue & black attract insects. Blue jeans are too hot and don't dry well. Due to the temperature fluctuations throughout the day, layering is the best option.

- 2 prs quick-dry ventilated outdoor shirts
- 2 prs quick-dry convertible outdoor pants (roll-up or zip-off legs)
- Several quick-dry t-shirts
- Sweater, hoodie or fleece top
- Water-resistant jacket
- Lightweight, water-repellent, packable, ventilated bush hat with at least 2" of brim on all sides, preferably with a cord for securing during game drives.
- 2 prs quick-dry outdoor socks
- Hiking boots or shoes for game drives, sandals for walking around camp
- Additional clothing for game lodge and activities in Victoria Falls if desired, keeping in mind your luggage weight limit.

Toiletries: Biodegradable, unscented shampoo, conditioner, lotion & soap are provided by & Beyond Africa. Scented toiletries are not recommended. Any small appliances must operate

with rechargeable batteries, as there is no electricity in camp. Matetsi Water Lodge has full electricity and provides in-room blow-dryers.

Currency: U.S. dollars, U.K. pounds and S. African rand are all widely accepted in most of Southern Africa - choose the one with the most favourable exchange rate. **N.B. Zimbabwe is now accepting only U.S. currency, in cash (you will not be able to withdraw currency from ATMs there), so please bring enough U.S. cash for all of your needs while in Zimbabwe.** Bring lots of small-denomination bills for change, tips - they're very difficult to find in Southern Africa, even in banks.

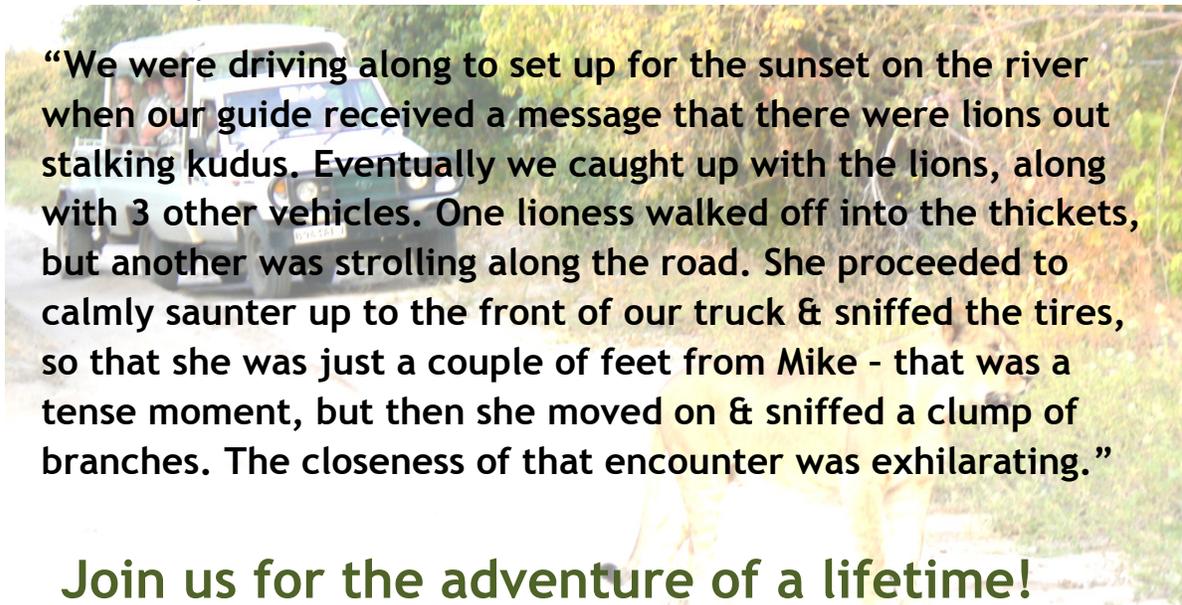
Other:

- Photographic: for keen photographers, digital camera with wide-angle to *minimum* 12x optical zoom lens and image stabilizer- enough memory cards to hold at least 1,000 photos/movie clips - lithium batteries are recommended, as AA-cell batteries don't seem to hold their charge well on safari; 2 camera batteries so that one can recharge while the other is in use - the Trip Host will bring along rechargers that plug into the cigarette lighters of the bush trucks.
- Binoculars: 1 pair per person - as lightweight as possible, anti-fog, 8 x 40/42 or 10 x 40/42 resolution
- Small LED flashlight to carry at night
- First Aid: the safari trucks & the Trip Host will be carrying first aid kits - if you want to bring your own supplies, the Trip Host can provide you with a list of recommended items
- Useful personal items:
  - Pre-moistened towelettes are extremely handy
  - Insect repellent is supplied in the camps and lodges
  - Small plastic bags for wet items, trash
  - Small packets of laundry detergent for camping portion - the camp staff can provide clothes lines, although you can bring your own; Matetsi Lodge provides laundry services

Luggage Requirements:

- Your packed luggage must not exceed 25 kg per person in order to be suitable for our 2 flights on light aircraft - lightweight duffle bags or oversized soft-sided backpacks with small wheels work well
- Many international flights have had strict hand baggage allowances, but are starting to relax their restrictions. Your group leader will have more information once the carriers are confirmed, but you will want to consider bringing a single day-bag that can hold all your essentials for both the flights and while out on game drives: your passport, flight tickets, prescription medications, camera/ batteries/film or memory cards, basic toiletries while en route, contact lens solution, sunglasses, something to read, etc.

Additional information in all areas will be provided upon booking your place on the trip.



**“We were driving along to set up for the sunset on the river when our guide received a message that there were lions out stalking kudus. Eventually we caught up with the lions, along with 3 other vehicles. One lioness walked off into the thickets, but another was strolling along the road. She proceeded to calmly saunter up to the front of our truck & sniffed the tires, so that she was just a couple of feet from Mike - that was a tense moment, but then she moved on & sniffed a clump of branches. The closeness of that encounter was exhilarating.”**

**Join us for the adventure of a lifetime!**