



## ZAMBEZI RIVER & BOTSWANA SAFARI

*Itinerary*



ANGOLA

NAMIBIA

ZAMBIA

LIVINGSTONE

VICTORIA  
FALLS

ZAMBEZI RIVER

CHOBENATIONAL  
PARK

ZIMBABWE

BOTSWANA



AFRICA

<b>MEETING PLACE:</b>	Livingstone International Airport, Zambia
<b>MEETING TIME:</b>	Arrive by 2:00 PM or earlier on Day 1
<b>RETURN TIME:</b>	Day 8 for flights departing after 1:00 PM
<b>RIVER RATING:</b>	Class IV-V
<b>RIVER MILES:</b>	55
<b>AGE LIMIT:</b>	Minimum age is 16
<b>TRIP LENGTH:</b>	8 Days / 7 Nights
<b>ACTIVITIES:</b>	Rafting, wildlife safari

Deep in the Batoka Gorge, bathed in the mist from the legendary Victoria Falls, begins a journey full of excitement. The Zambezi River is home to some of the most notorious whitewater in the world and the combination of its spectacular scenery, fascinating wildlife and unique African culture makes this trip a must-do for true adventure travelers!

Home to one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, Victoria Falls, Zambia enchants all who visit this wonderful and diverse country. As soon as you arrive in Livingstone, Africa's adventure capital, you'll be charmed and well-looked after by the wonderful local people.

Enjoy the "best of the best" on this adventure with four days of excellent warm whitewater action, stunning beaches and an incredible helicopter ride through the Batoka gorge, combined with three days on safari, watching Africa's fascinating and unusual selection of wildlife—elephants, giraffes, impala, water buffalo, lions, hippos, crocs and an impressive number of bird species. This is truly a trip of a lifetime!

### **AWARD-WINNING NATURE-BASED ADVENTURES SINCE 1969**

O.A.R.S. has been in business for over 40 years and that is no accident. Great trips on some of the world's best rivers and coastlines are the recipe for this success. Always focused on our clients and their vacations, it is our genuine belief that river trips and nature-based adventures are extremely valuable life experiences. With that as our foundation, we have committed ourselves over the years to providing the best trips available, always with an eye on improvement.

For more information, call 1-800-346-6277 in the USA and Canada or 1-209-736-4677 outside the USA and Canada, or e-mail [info@oars.com](mailto:info@oars.com)

## **Whitewater & Climate**

The Zambezi River is at its best between August and November when water levels are dropping. To compliment this, these months also represent the best weather. Temperatures can occasionally rise to 113°F in the Batoka Gorge, but more often it ranges from 95-105°F. The water temperatures are a comfortable 75°F and provide welcome relief from the heat. The rainy season is from November until March and for any departures toward the end of October into November, we encourage a raincoat as there can be heavy showers. It does cool down a little in the evenings but nothing worth worrying about. Generally guests are quite comfortable just sleeping under the stars!

## **Geography & Wildlife**

There is a plentiful supply of opportunities in Southern Africa to experience some of the most amazing wildlife viewing found anywhere in the world. It would be a shame to come to this region and not visit the wide variety of parks available. We visit Chobe National Park in Botswana, widely acclaimed as having some of the best game viewing in Africa, where you can see a wide range of animals, including elephants, zebras and lions! Here you will take several guided safari tours, giving you the opportunity to view the wildlife in their natural environments.

## **Sample Itinerary**

We pride ourselves in running a relaxed and flexible schedule. Every trip is different depending upon the group, other trips on the water and sometimes the weather. The following is a sample of what your trip might be like.

### **Day 1: Sun – Arrive Livingstone, Zambia / Sunset river cruise**

- You will be met on arrival at Livingstone Airport and transported to the Waterfront Lodge where you will have the rest of the day to relax on the deck by the river and adjust to the different time zone! Visit one of the seven natural wonders of the world—Victoria Falls. The 2-kilometer-wide waterfall drops 100 feet down into a narrow gorge creating some of the most exciting whitewater on the planet.
- For your early evening entertainment we'll enjoy a cruise on the upper section of the Zambezi, a chance to watch the African sun set behind the ancient Baobab trees. Hopefully we will get glimpses of elephants and buffalo on the banks and pods of hippos relaxing in the water. This is a wonderful way to unwind, meet the rest of your group and get a feel for the delights of the real Africa.
- After dinner at the hotel, there will be a pre-departure meeting where you will have the opportunity to meet your guides, pick up your drybags and get an overview of your next seven days. Sleep tight, for the Mighty Zambezi awaits... *Waterfront Lodge*

### **Day 2: Mon – Begin Zambezi River adventure**

- You will meet for breakfast at 7:00 am. With all valuables locked up safely in the hotel and all dry bags packed for the days ahead, it is now time to head to the base of the falls for the start of your river adventure!
- The Batoka Gorge provides a magnificent backdrop for a detailed safety briefing before we don our high-float life jackets and practice our paddling techniques in the warm water of the river. Our epic journey begins with "Morning Glory," a real eye opener, before one of the biggest commercially run rapids in the world, "Stairway to Heaven." This is a day of unparalleled fun with rapids such as "Gulliver's Travels" and "Midnight Diner" which features one of the biggest waves you will see on a river. This is expedition rafting at its best and consequently some rapids we are not able to run in a raft, but our kayakers will delight you as they take on the likes of "Commercial Suicide," a great spot for photos. We will transfer the rafts around this rapid before heading on down to our fitting finale, "The Gnashing Jaws"

of Death.” A secluded, sandy beach is our camp for the night where your guides will create a feast upon which you can celebrate your first day on the river. It is now time to relax, watch the sun disappear behind the basalt cliffs and to enjoy our first night under the stars. *Riverside camping*

### **Day 3: Tue – Zambezi River**

- After a hearty breakfast, we load all our equipment into the rafts and the fun continues. Our morning’s entertainment begins with “Creamy White Buttocks” and “The Mother.” Our guides will explain how they got their names, if you don’t manage to work it out for yourselves. The highlight today is probably one of the most famous commercially run rapids and one of the most thrilling of rides, “Number 18,” also called “Oblivion.” It isn’t the first wave that gets you, nor the second, but the third rather HUGE crashing wave that normally has all the photographers poised, ready to capture your big moment. We strike camp on a gorgeous expanse of sand a little further downstream and prepare dinner while admiring the fish eagles gracefully soaring overhead. *Riverside camping*

### **Day 4: Wed – Zambezi River**

- To ensure we are all fully awake, our first rapid, “Morning Shower” provides us with just that: an invigorating burst of refreshing whitewater. The river begins to widen today but that doesn’t mean that the rapids get any smaller especially with one of the more technical and exhilarating rapids to conquer today, “Open Season!” A huge adrenaline rush is a certain recipe to stimulate our appetites while we polish off the fresh salads prepared for lunch. The afternoon brings along “Chamamba” and the outstanding ride through “Upper Moemba.” After which we will stop at a glorious beach for the night, within sight of the magnificent Lower Moemba Falls. Here we can sit back and enjoy the beauty of this majestic section of the river while sipping our sundowners and recounting the day’s events.  
*Riverside camping*

### **Day 5: Thur – End Zambezi River adventure / Helicopter flight over river**

- Today we portage the rafts over the Lower Moemba Falls, a rapid that we will not be able to run, and drift downstream for an hour. We will pass the proposed site for the joint Zambia / Zimbabwe power project, which threatens the entire section that we have been rafting down the previous three days. At Chabango Falls (our final mandatory portage) we will unload all our gear from the rafts, have a tasty lunch in the shade before the final crescendo to our whitewater trip.
- With our now empty rafts re-launched on the river we get the chance to run the longest and one of the biggest rapids on the Zambezi, “Ghost rider.” This adrenaline-charged ride provides a fitting climax to our journey. On the riverbank our helicopters are waiting to transport us back to Livingstone. This is an incredible experience. You will be flying back up the magnificent Batoka Gorge with a bird’s-eye-view of the rapids you have just been down, before being dropped off at a beautiful lodge overlooking the river. There is time for a shower before meeting up to share all our experiences over dinner. We will spend the night at the Taita Falcon Lodge with its breathtaking views over the rim of the canyon and enjoy a celebratory evening. You have rafted one of the ten classic rivers of the world: well done! Believe us, you will be feeling exhilarated from an experience that is out of this world! *Taita Falcon Lodge*

### **Day 6: Fri – Chobe National Park, Botswana**

- Enjoy a gorgeous view this morning over a leisurely breakfast at the lodge. We will transfer you to the Kazungula border with Botswana, where you will be met by the transfer company who will be taking you into Chobe National Park. The afternoon will be spent on a safari tour. Chobe National Park is home to one of the largest populations of African elephants in the world and you will be captivated by the close-up views of these huge, yet gentle creatures. Time permitting; enjoy a pre-sunset safari before heading back to your tent cabin overlooking a watering hole. *Elephant Valley Lodge*

### **Day 7: Sat – Chobe National Park**

- Awaken to the real sounds of Africa and an early morning safari, the perfect time to see lions and leopards before the heat of the midday sun drives them into the shade. After the safari you will return to the lodge for breakfast. Afterward you will have time to relax, read, or maybe cool off with a shower before lunch. More wildlife touring in the afternoon before enjoying pre-dinner drinks looking out on the African plains and the setting sun. Enjoy a delicious evening meal at the lodge, then sit outside and watch the wild visitors at the floodlit watering hole. *Elephant Valley Lodge*

### **Day 8: Sun – Return to Livingstone & depart**

- Enjoy a final early morning safari and our last chance to see Botswana's unique wildlife before packing your bags and enjoying the scenic drive to the border. You will be transported back to the Livingstone airport for your return flight home. You will arrive at the airport in time for flights departing at 1:00 pm or later.

### **What's Included?**

- Skilled professional guide service
- Transfers to and from Livingstone Airport
- 3 nights catered camping & 4 nights hotel accommodations (based upon double occupancy)
- All meals from dinner day 1 through breakfast day 8
- All activities, instruction and related equipment as outlined in the itinerary
- Expedition equipment including personal flotation device, helmet, waterproof bag to hold your gear, including 2-person shared tent, sleeping bag, Thermarest-style mattress and chair.
- All park fees and necessary permits

### **What's Not Included?**

- Transportation to and from Livingstone
- Pre- and post-trip accommodations and meals
- Single room supplement \$350
- Visa \$160
- Airport taxes and fees
- Insurance of any kind, including travel and **mandatory** medical and evacuation insurance
- Items of a personal nature and equipment outlined in personal equipment list
- Video/DVD of your trip \$150 each (optional)
- Gratuities

### **SOMETHING VOLUNTARY**

- In reviewing your statement, you'll note a \$1/person/day donation to Waterkeeper Alliance, a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to fishable, swimmable and drinkable waterways worldwide. One-hundred percent of these funds go directly to worldwide watershed protection and your contribution is tax-deductible. This donation is voluntary and may be removed from your invoice if you choose not to participate. Please notify our office if you would prefer to delete the donation from your balance.
- The O.A.R.S. Foundation is a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 organization with the express goal of providing opportunities for young people to experience the magic of a river trip. Visit [www.oarsfoundation.org](http://www.oarsfoundation.org) to learn more about how your tax deductible donation can change young lives for the better.

## **Terms & Conditions**

### **Reservations and Deposits**

- A \$500/person non-refundable deposit is required at the time of reservation. The balance is due 90 days prior to departure.

### **Cancellations and Refunds**

- If you find it necessary to cancel your trip, please notify us as soon as possible. All payments are non-refundable and we regret we cannot make exceptions for personal emergencies. For this reason, we strongly urge our participants to investigate trip insurance (see Insurance).

### **Medical**

- Under most circumstances, if you are of an adventurous spirit and in reasonably good health, you should have no problem enjoying this trip. People with medical conditions, including pregnancy, should have a physician's approval before taking an adventure travel trip.

### **Insurance**

- Although every effort is made to insure a safe trip for all, **we require that you purchase medical evacuation insurance to participate in this expedition.** Call Travel Insurance Services at 800-937-1387 or visit their website at [www.travelinsure.com/what/imedhigh.htm?32635](http://www.travelinsure.com/what/imedhigh.htm?32635) for inexpensive options that cover this requirement. We also strongly recommend that you protect yourself, your belongings, and your vacation through the purchase of a short-term traveler's policy. A trip cancellation policy covers your non-refundable payments in most cases, should you have to cancel your trip at the last minute due to illness or injury, as well as including the coverage required above. Trip participants should realize that in the event of illness or injury on a river trip, evacuation could be prolonged, difficult, and expensive. Personal belongings and cameras are carried entirely at the owner's risk, and we accept no responsibility for lost, damaged, delayed, or stolen property.

### **Liability Waiver**

- Everyone is required to sign a standard release form before the trip, acknowledging awareness that some risks are associated with the trip. Safety is of the utmost concern on our trips. However, due to the nature of the activities, a condition of your participation is that you will sign this form and return it to our office before the trip begins. Anyone who refuses to sign the form will not be allowed to participate, and consistent with Travel Outdoors, Inc.'s cancellation policy, there will be no refund of the trip fees at that time.

### **Responsibility – An Important Notice**

- Travel Outdoors, Inc., Water by Nature and cooperating agencies act only in the capacity of agent for the participants in all matters relating to transportation and/or all other related travel services, and assume no responsibility however caused for injury, loss or damage to person or property in connection with any service, including but not limited to that resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, detention, annoyance, delays and expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, theft, pilferage, force majeure, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, civil disturbances, government restrictions or regulations, and discrepancies or change in transit over which it has no control. Reasonable changes in itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well being of the participants, including cancellation due to water fluctuation, insufficient bookings, (this trip requires a minimum of 7 guests), and other factors. There is risk in whitewater rafting, particularly during high-water conditions. Rafts, dories and kayaks do capsize. You could be swept overboard. Your guide will make every attempt to assist, but you must be strong and agile enough to "self-help" and "float-it-out" without further endangering yourself or others. We reserve the right not to accept passengers weighing more than 260 pounds or with a waist/chest size exceeding 56 inches. We may decide, at any time, to exclude any person or group for any reason we feel is related to the safety of our trips. We are experienced at accommodating people with various disabilities. Please give us an opportunity to make you feel welcome. We need to discuss any special requirements ahead of time. On advancement of deposit the depositor agrees to be bound by the above recited terms and conditions. Prices subject to change without notice.

### **Water by Nature**

- Water by Nature, a travel partner of Travel Outdoors, Inc., is the operator of this trip. Upon arrival, Water by Nature staff will meet you and escort you throughout the program. These international staff members are the very best and will strive to ensure your complete satisfaction.