

# Topdeck

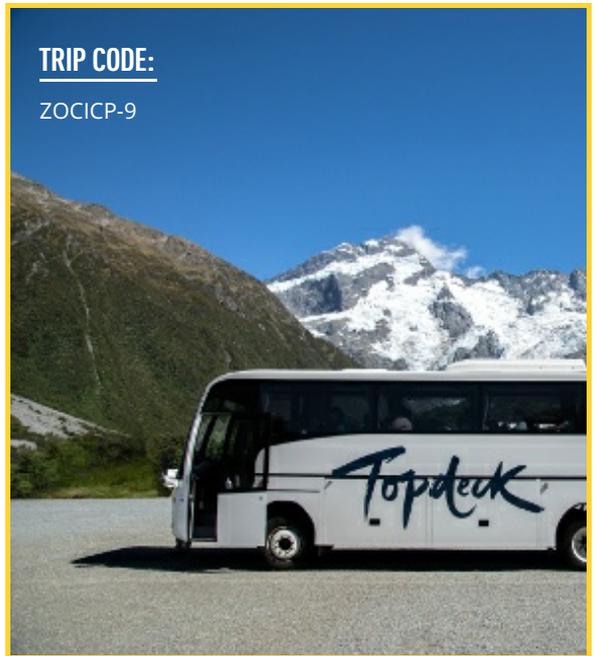
## DESERT TRACKER 25

## DAY



TRIP CODE:

ZOCICP-9



## Topdecker, MEET AFRICA

Ain't nothing like the scenic route. Hit the dusty trail on this once-in-a-lifetime expedition from Cape Town to Pretoria. This unforgettable safari ticks off the best of South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zambia. From the burnt orange landscapes of the mighty Namib desert to the lush wetlands of the Okavango Delta, your Instagram feed is guaranteed to look like the pages of a National Geographic magazine after this adventure. BYO sense of adventure!

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Overland



Nights



Android/iPhone app  
download info



This is a principal  
package.

# Hi, AND THANKS FOR CHOOSING TO HOLIDAY WITH TOPDECK

## HI, AND THANKS FOR CHOOSING TO HOLIDAY WITH TOPDECK!

We really appreciate your decision to travel with us, and rest assured that the entire Topdeck team will be pulling out all the stops to make your trip an unforgettable one.

Now it's time to get excited and get ready for a fantastic holiday!

From all the crew at Topdeck Travel

## ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs, including where to meet, what to bring and what you can expect on your trip of a lifetime! Also, you can easily download and print this document off so you can check off the lists or bring it with you when you travel.

Please do bear in mind though, some points should be taken as a guide only - after all, everyone's different! For example, daily spending money and clothing lists can vary greatly from one person to the next so don't be alarmed if you don't expect to spend (or even wear) so much! However, we're sure you'll find the information in general to be very useful.

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**PLEASE NOTE:** We strongly urge you to refresh this document as close to the time of your departure as possible to ensure you have the most up-to-date accommodation list and information available.

### ON THE BUCKET LIST (INCLUDED)

- + Cape Town Township tour
- + See Sossusvlei and Dune 45
- + See the Spitzkoppe Bushman paintings
- + Visit Etosha National Park
- + Kalahari Bushman walk
- + Okavango Delta mokoro/walking safari
- + Fish eagle boat cruise
- + Visit Chobe National Park
- + Visit Mosi
- + oa
- + Tunya National Park (Victoria Falls)
- + Shangaan cultural evening
- + Visit Matobo National Park
- + Visit Kruger National Park

### MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Cape Town Township tour
- + See Sossusvlei and Dune 45
- + See the Spitzkoppe Bushman paintings
- + Etosha National Park game drive
- + Etosha National Park game drive
- + Kalahari Bushman walk
- + Okavango Delta mokoro/walking safari
- + Fish eagle boat cruise
- + Visit Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park (Victoria Falls)
- + Half day Matobo National Park game drive and wilderness walk
- + Shangaan cultural evening
- + Kruger National Park game drive

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

Cape Town  
Africa

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

Pretoria  
Africa

## *Trip currencies*

- + South Africa - ZAR
- + Namibia - NAD
- + Botswana - BWP
- + Zambia - ZMW
- + Zimbabwe - BWP

# Your Itinerary



**AWESOME TRIP  
LEADER**



**DRIVER**

## DAY 1 | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA TO CEDERBERG REGION

Bust out the chic safari attire – our overland adventure begins in cosmopolitan Cape Town! Overlooked by Table Mountain and bordered by the Atlantic, Cape Town is one of the world's most picturesque cities. Before we leave, we'll take a tour of the Cape Flats, one of the city's intriguing townships. After that, we'll head to our campsite on the Western Cape, where we'll spend our first night under the huge African sky. This is gonna be one for the books!



**MEALS:**

- + Lunch
- + Dinner



**INCLUDED TODAY:**

- + Cape Town Township tour

## DAY 2 | CEDERBERG REGION TO GARIEP (ORANGE) RIVER

Tonight we'll set up camp on the South African side of the Gariiep (Orange) River. If you're looking for a few creature comforts, you're in luck – our site provides hot showers, flush toilets, grassy floors and even a bar. Hello, sundowners!



**MEALS:**

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

## DAY 3 | GARIEP (ORANGE) RIVER TO FISH RIVER CANYON, NAMIBIA

One of the natural wonders of Africa, Fish River Canyon is around 500 metres deep and over 160 kilometres long, and is the second largest canyon in the world after the Grand Canyon. Prep your camera lens for amazing photos this afternoon, especially when the sun begins to set over the sharp bend in the river known as 'Hell's Corner'. Trust us, it's friendlier than its name implies.



**MEALS:**

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

## DAY 4 | FISH RIVER CANYON TO NAMIB NAUKLUFT NATIONAL PARK

After a night near the canyon we'll continue north until we reach Namib Naukluft Park, which is home to the world's oldest and highest desert sand dunes. With an overall area of 49,768 square kilometres, the park is larger than Switzerland!



**MEALS:**

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

## DAY 5 | NAMIB NAUKLUFT NATIONAL PARK TO SOLITAIRE

This morning we'll trek to the top of the famous Dune 45 and check out the amazing views of the open desert. It's a spectacular sight, but be warned – it's an energy-sapping climb to the top (some dunes are over 300 metres high)! After a well-deserved breakfast, we'll continue deeper into the park. Be sure to bring your camera – the shifting colours of the desert as the sun climbs higher in the sky make for some great photo opportunities. After a day of exploring, we'll rest our heads in Solitaire.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + See Sossusvlei and Dune 45

## DAY 6 | SOLITAIRE TO SWAKOPMUND

Next up: a few days of adventure activities in Swakopmund. Wanna tick off some bucket list items? This is the place to do it!



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Sandboarding
- + Quad biking
- + Skydiving
- + Deep sea fishing
- + Scenic flight

## DAY 7 | SWAKOPMUND

Swakopmund is Namibia's main seaside resort, sandwiched slap bang between the desert and the ocean. Make the most of your time here with a spot of quad biking, sandboarding or skydiving (weather permitting). Not your thing? Steal a moment to yourself and take a look at the town's many shops, restaurants, museums and art galleries – or simply stroll along the promenade admiring the ocean. #beaut



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Sandboarding
- + Quad biking
- + Skydiving
- + Deep sea fishing
- + Scenic flight

## DAY 8 | SWAKOPMUND TO SPITZKOPPE

Our next stop is Spitzkoppe, where we'll take a closer look at the ancient bushman paintings that are still visible on the area's peculiar rock formations. The rocks peak at approximately 2,000 metres above sea level, making for some ah-mazing views – one of the most impressive being the 'Bushman Paradise' cave (Google it).



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + See the Spitzkoppe Bushman paintings

## DAY 9 | SPITZKOPPE TO ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Today we'll make our way north to Etosha National Park. After pitching our tents near a floodlit waterhole (OMG), we'll embark on a short afternoon game drive. As dusk falls, keep your eyes peeled for a range of nocturnal visitors – including elephants, giraffes, zebras, hyenas... and even lions!



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Etosha National Park game drive

## DAY 10 | ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Etosha National Park = the ultimate game viewing destination. Picture this: a barren landscape full of flamingos and pelicans, surrounded by nothing but native bush, scrubland and saline lakes. Trust us, this place is magical! Keep watch for more of the local residents on today's game drive.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Etosha National Park game drive

## DAY 11 | ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK TO WINDHOEK

Departing epic Etosha, we'll head south to Windhoek – the capital of Namibia. Quick fact: Windhoek is home to approximately 200,000 people (an extremely small capital by global standards). Pro tip: take the opportunity to check out one of the local restaurants or visit the famous Joe's Beer House tonight.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch

## DAY 12 | WINDHOEK TO GHANZI, BOTSWANA

In Ghanzi, we'll head out on a guided Kalahari Bushman walk and discover how the locals manage the resources around them to the max. Tsamma melon, anyone? FYI: Your support of this ecotourism venture will give the Bushmen a sustainable income (plus, it helps keep their culture alive). It's a win-win!



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Kalahari Bushman walk

## DAY 13 | GHANZI TO MAUN

Maun is the fifth largest town in Botswana, and is packed with an eclectic mix of modern buildings and native huts. We'll stay here for the night before pressing on to the Okavango Delta tomorrow.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

## DAY 14 | MAUN TO OKAVANGO DELTA

When we get to the Okavango Delta, we'll travel by mokoro (dugout canoe) past giant lily pads and tall grasses in search of hippos, crocodiles and a variety of birds. After settling into our island tented camp, we'll explore the area on a walking safari. Anyone for critter bingo?



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Okavango Delta mokoro/walking safari

## DAY 15 | OKAVANGO DELTA TO MAUN

Back to Maun! Spend the rest of your time here on your own watch, taking in the awesome natural scenery from camp.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

## DAY 16 | MAUN TO NATA

We'll stop off at Nata on our way to Kasane. Get excited for allllll the animal-spotting opportunities tomorrow will bring!



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

## DAY 17 | NATA TO KASANE

First things first today: a fish eagle boat cruise! Try and catch a glimpse of the sneaky bird (and other varmints too). They're out there. We know they're out there (eyes emoji).



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Fish eagle boat cruise

## DAY 18 | KASANE TO LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA

Bye bye, Kasane. Today we'll be making tracks to Livingstone – where the mighty Victoria Falls awaits. Not only that, but we've got some awesome optionals for you to get involved in, too. How about a bungee jump over the falls? Or a spot of gorge swinging? Or some abseiling? Or whitewater rafting?



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park (Victoria Falls)



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Victoria Falls bungee jump
- + Chief Mukumi Village tour
- + Gorge Swing
- + Zambezi jetboating and cable car
- + Half-day canoe safari
- + Zambezi sunset cruise
- + Whitewater rafting
- + Fishing

## DAY 19 | LIVINGSTONE

Of course, there's more to Livingstone than hair-raising activities – which is why you have another day to check out the markets and museum, visit a nearby village, or simply relax on the serene campsite deck and watch the Zambezi River flow rapidly to the Falls.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Victoria Falls bungee jump
- + Chief Mukumi Village tour
- + Gorge Swing
- + Zambezi jetboating and cable car
- + Half-day canoe safari
- + Zambezi sunset cruise
- + Whitewater rafting
- + Fishing

## DAY 20 | LIVINGSTONE TO BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

Departing Livingstone, we'll cross the border to Zimbabwe and pass through Victoria Falls town on the way to Bulawayo, a pleasant city with broad tree-lined avenues and wide open spaces.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

## DAY 21 | BULAWAYO

Today: Matobo National Park! This place is home to a wide variety of animals, including black and white rhinoceroses, zebras, wildebeest and giraffes. We've got a half-day game drive to soak it all in – or, if you fancy it, you could opt in to extend the experience with a full-day upgrade.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Half day Matobo National Park game drive and wilderness walk



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Full-day Matobo National Park game drive upgrade

## DAY 22 | BULAWAYO TO TSHIPISE, SOUTH AFRICA

Leaving Bulawayo behind, we'll continue to Tshipise, a town situated in the northern Limpopo province.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

## DAY 23 | TSHIPISE TO HAZYVIEW

Next up: Hazyview, where a cultural Shangaan dance show awaits. Kruger is South Africa's premier national park – and, in connection with parks in adjoining Mozambique and Botswana, it covers a whopping 24,000 square kilometres of land used for the protection of African wildlife. Wowee.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Shangaan cultural evening

## DAY 24 | HAZYVIEW

Get your camera at the ready! Today we've got a full day's game drive in store, so keep your eyes peeled for the Big Five (lions, elephants, buffaloes, rhinos and leopards). Want more? Well, you could be lucky enough to see giraffes, hippos and zebras, too! Nothing will prepare you for the first time you spot these incredible creatures in the wild. Expect goosebumps, and lots of them. If you want, you can even opt in to do a game drive after dark tonight.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Kruger National Park game drive

## DAY 25 | HAZYVIEW TO PRETORIA

Today we'll leave Kruger National Park behind and make our way to Pretoria, where our unforgettable adventure will come to a close. If you're up for exploring more of the city, chat to your guide about adding a few cheeky nights on to your itinerary.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast

## Meals

Your included meals are detailed in the 'More Inclusions' section of this document. While on the road, you will be provided with three meals a day unless otherwise stated. African overland trips are participation based, which means you will be expected to do your bit for the team by helping with purchasing, cooking and cleaning-up duties. In some places, we will be able to go out for a meal. If you have any dietary requirements we will make every effort to cater to your specific needs, as long as you advise your travel agent or Topdeck Trip Consultant when you book. Please be aware that it may not be possible to cater for every single dietary requirement, but we will always try our best to arrange it.

## Topdeck Travel App

Our travel app is **AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD BEFORE YOU TRAVEL**. With a range of cool features including a Currency Converter, Budget Planner, Check-In tool and Social Timeline (so your next #TravelEnvy post is never too far away) you can plan your trip like a pro.

Think of it like your very own Topdeck Trip Leader, always on call with the latest info, weather, maps and city guides to give you the trip of a lifetime, all in the palm of your hand.

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[GET IT FOR ANDROID](#)



## Passenger safety

One of the best parts of travelling is experiencing the nightlife and entertainment each city has to offer. However, amidst the fun and excitement, it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety as well. Before you hit the road with us, be sure to familiarise yourself with the following safety information.

When you're on a night out, remember to avoid walking alone, particularly through deserted areas like beaches and back streets. Always stick

together, take a registered taxi where possible, and keep a note of your accommodation details so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. It's also a good idea to get your Topdeck trip mates' mobile numbers in case you need to get hold of them while out and about.

In some countries, alcoholic measures can be considerably larger than what you may be used to. Try to keep track of what you're drinking, and if you see one of your trip mates looking a little worse for wear, take them back to your accommodation. Never leave your drink unattended.

It's also important to be aware that what you might consider harmless flirting may be interpreted differently in some countries. Be yourself and have fun, but stay savvy – you don't want to find yourself in an uncomfortable situation.

## OTHER INFORMATION



**THAT'S IT!**