



# 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)

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

### MORE INCLUSIONS

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

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

Pretoria  
Africa

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

Cape Town  
Africa

## *Trip currencies*

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

# Your Itinerary



**AWESOME TRIP  
LEADER**



**DRIVER**

## DAY 1 | PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA TO HAZYVIEW

Touch down in Pretoria, meet your new Topdecker BFFs and get excited for the adventure ahead! Starting out early, we'll hit the road in style (and by style, we mean fully equipped safari truck) to 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:**

+ Dinner



**INCLUDED TODAY:**

+ Shangaan cultural evening

## DAY 2 | 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



**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

+ Kruger National Park night game drive

## DAY 3 | HAZYVIEW TO TSHIPISE

After leaving Kruger we'll shimmy north and spend the night near the Limpopo River in Tshipise.



**MEALS:**

+ Breakfast  
+ Lunch  
+ Dinner

## DAY 4 | TSHIPISE TO BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

When we've got the formalities over with at the border post, we'll rock and roll into Zimbabwe and make a beeline for Matobo National Park, near Bulawayo. This place is home to a wide variety of animals, including black and white rhinoceroses, zebras, wildebeest and giraffes.



**MEALS:**

+ Breakfast  
+ Lunch  
+ Dinner

## DAY 5 | BULAWAYO

The wind-sculpted Matobo Hills are the site of numerous Bushman paintings, so it's no surprise this area holds a special cultural and spiritual importance to the indigenous people. Keep an eye out for beasties, 'cos today we've got a half-day game drive in store – 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 6 | BULAWAYO TO LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA

Next up: adventure-loving Livingstone, where we'll visit the thundering Victoria Falls. At over a mile wide, the falls form the largest curtain of falling water in the world, with spray visible from 20 kilometres away – hence the local name Mosi-oa-Tunya ('the smoke that thunders').



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

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



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

## DAY 7 | LIVINGSTONE

This is Africa's adventure capital, so get out there and make the most of it! We've got optional whitewater rafting, gorge swinging and even bungy jumping to fulfil all of your adventure needs. If you want to take it easy, you could go fishing or take a sunset cruise on the Zambezi (both optional).



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

## DAY 8 | LIVINGSTONE TO KASANE

Chobe National Park's up next. First things first: 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 9 | KASANE TO NATA

Today we'll leave Kasane and make our way south, hugging the fringes of the dry and dusty Kalahari Desert on the way to our campsite near Nata.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

## DAY 10 | NATA 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 11 | 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 12 | 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 13 | MAUN TO GHANZI

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 14 | GHANZI TO WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

Departing Ghanzi, 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 15 | WINDHOEK 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 16 | 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 17 | ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK 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 18 | SPITZKOPPE 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 19 | 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 20 | SWAKOPMUND TO SOLITAIRE

Today we'll cross over the Tropic of Capricorn on our way south, with a stop for a photo opportunity en route to Solitaire (Namibia's smallest town).



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

## DAY 21 | SOLITAIRE TO SESRIEM AREA

Time to crack on to the desert landscapes of Namib Naukluft Park, home to the highest sand dunes on the planet (we're looking at you, Dune 45). We'll also head off on a Sossusvlei shuttle to see the Sesriem Canyon and take a guided walk.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + See Sossusvlei and Dune 45
- + Visit Sesriem Canyon

## DAY 22 | SESRIEM AREA TO FISH RIVER CANYON

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 23 | FISH RIVER CANYON TO GARIEP (ORANGE) RIVER, SOUTH AFRICA

Tonight we'll set up camp on the South African side of the Gariep (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 24 | GARIEP (ORANGE) RIVER TO CEDERBERG AREA

Today we'll head to our campsite on the Western Cape, where we'll spend our final night under the huge African sky. Try not to get too emosh!



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

## DAY 25 | CEDERBERG AREA TO CAPE TOWN

After waving goodbye to the scenic Cederberg area, we'll make tracks to cosmopolitan Cape Town – without a doubt one of the world's most beautiful cities. Here, our trip will come to a close (sad face). If time allows, why not spend a few days exploring the city and its surrounds?



### 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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## *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!**