



**COMPASS  
EXPEDITIONS**

# Canyons, Dunes and Falls

**16 Days**

## Information Kit

**South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe**

Few journeys in Africa can rival the epic Cape Town to Victoria Falls tour, and no one else can show you this route like Compass Expeditions in our small 4WD convoy far away from the crowds.

# COMPASS EXPEDITIONS

From the "Mother City", Cape Town, to the rugged canyonlands of the Cederberg's, the world's oldest deserts of Namibia, majestic wildlife of Namibia and Botswana, and superb African safari lodges, this journey is simply breathtaking. Listen to the roar of lions at night or the grunting of hippos from the balcony of our 5-star lodges. Hear the raucous birdsong that greets another African sunrise, go on safari in world renowned national parks, and witness the power of the breathtaking Victoria Falls. These are quintessential African experiences never to be forgotten.



## Itinerary

### Day One: Cape Town

Today is the joining day where you will meet your fellow drivers, passengers and crew.

Hotel Accommodation

### Day Two: Clanwilliam

We take delivery of our 4WDs and within a couple of hours we hit the dirt of the rugged Cederberg's, a South African Heritage site, and a remote, stunning region of canyons and valleys where we guarantee we won't be seeing any tour trucks! We visit the wonderful Stadsaal Caves, and 5,000-year-old San paintings, then follow the beautiful Olifants River, via a single lane track into the 10th oldest town in South Africa, Clanwilliam.

Hotel Accommodation

### Day Three: Springbok

Departing Clanwilliam we climb the Pakhuis pass and drive into the Bushman's Kloof Wilderness region for another full day off road as we drive into the desolate yet hauntingly beautiful Namaqualand. We visit the quirky village of Nieuwoudtville and the nearby quiver tree forest before hitting more dirt via extremely remote tracks that wend their way to Kliprand. We reach pavement at the last town in South Africa, Springbok.

Inn Accommodation



#### Day Four: Fish River Canyon

Crossing over the Orange River and into Namibia we are soon in some of the most beautiful desert scenery imaginable. We follow the Orange River lined with vineyards before driving into the magnificent Ai Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park. A breathtaking region of valleys, plains, and canyons, the mightiest of them all being the renowned Fish River Canyon, the second largest canyon on earth. Tonight's accommodation is a completely unique motor vehicle themed lodge in the middle of the Gondwana Nature Reserve.

Lodge Accommodation

#### Day Five: Burgsdorf Guest Farm

Leaving the "roadhouse" we keep an eye out for giraffe, oryx and zebra as we make our way to Helmeringhausen, a wonderfully small oasis village where the entire village is owned by one family. The restaurant lunch here is magnificent. We continue north to the superb Burgsdorf Guest Farm a family-owned farm that has been in the same family for generations. Tonight, is an example of some amazing Namibian hospitality and the dinners are legendary.

Farm Stay Accommodation

#### Day Six: Sessriem

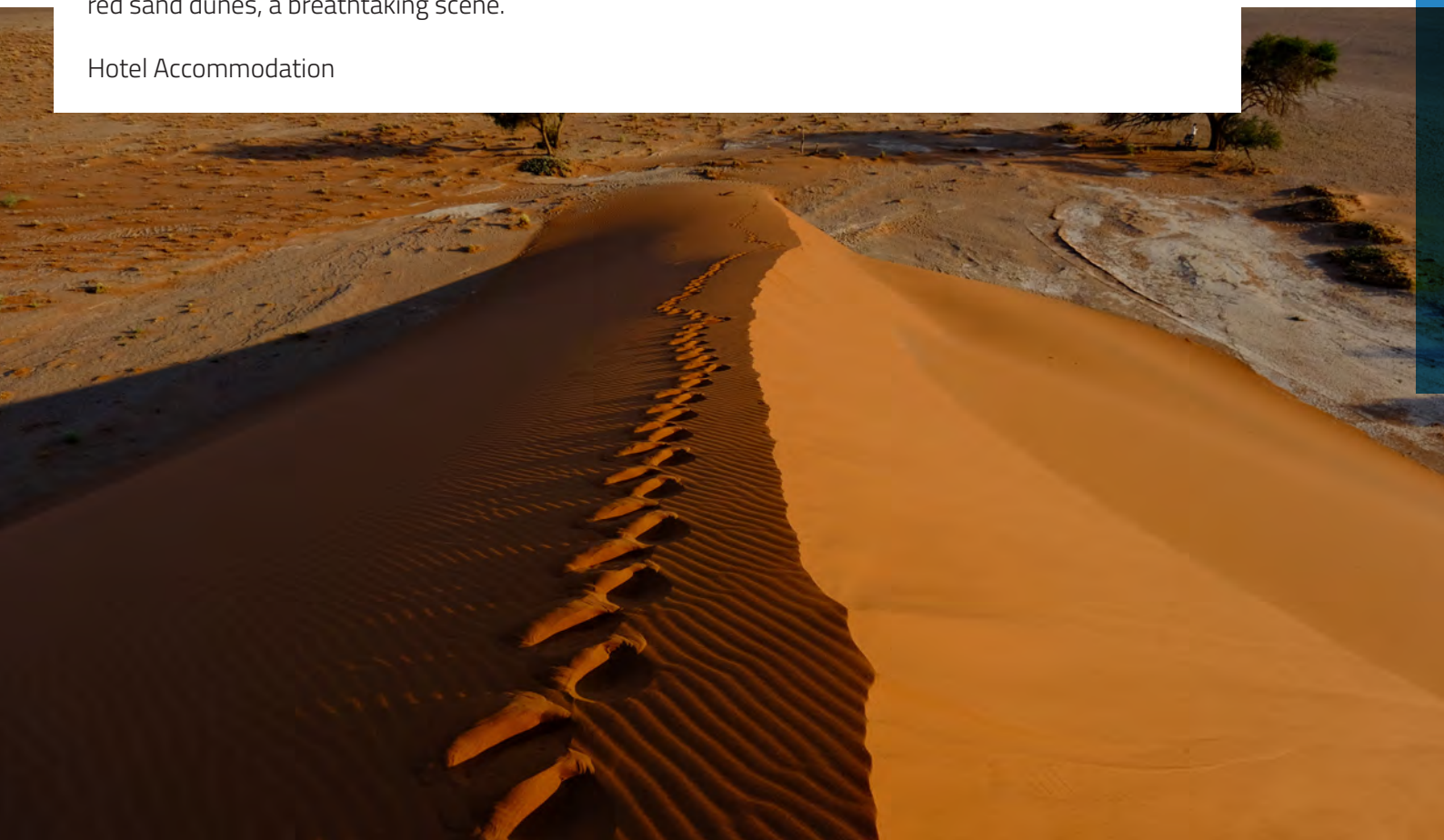
Leaving Burgsdorf we soon arrive at the wonderfully incongruous Duwisib Castle, a castle built in 1909 by German Baron Han Heinrich Van Wolf. The castle remains today exactly as it did over a century ago. We soon enter the world-renowned Namib – Nakluft National Park, home to some of the most outstanding desert scenery on earth. The drive shall take us across a magnificent landscape of desert tracks bordered by the occasional quiver tree where we are likely to see oryx taking shelter and black rock mountains that offer a perfect backdrop to the golden sands all around, it's truly magnificent.

Hotel Accommodation

#### Day Seven: Sessriem

It's a VERY early start today allowing us to witness a breathtaking sunrise over towering sand dunes that glow a brilliant red at sunrise. We will have breakfast at the foot of Dune 40 before driving the deep sand tracks to possibly the scenic highlight of Namibia, the incomparable Deadvlei, a dry pan, in its centre of which lies bleached skeletons of trees that provide a perfect contrast to the surrounding red sand dunes, a breathtaking scene.

Hotel Accommodation





### **Day Eight: Swakopmund**

The epic scenery remains, of golden grasslands populated by occasional oryx and zebra, as we head toward the Atlantic coast. But, not before enjoying apple pie at a remarkable bakery founded by a Scotsman in the middle of the Namibian Desert!! We cross the Tropic of Capricorn and descend to the shores of the Atlantic via a wonderful Pink Flamingo viewing hotspot at Walvis Bay. We arrive at Swakopmund where Mad Max – Fury Road was filmed and have dinner in a reclaimed tugboat overlooking the Atlantic.

Resort Accommodation

### **Day Nine: Vingerklip**

We drive north along the Skeleton Coast stopping off at the Zeila, the wreck of a fishing trawler that ran aground in 2008. We shall visit the wonderful Cape Cross seal colony before turning inland into the lands of the Herero and Himba tribes. It's here we can visit the roadside markets of these tribes' people as we drive onto the remarkable landscape of escarpments with a feature known as Vingerklip, a single tower of rock rising above the surrounding landscape. The restaurant tonight, situated high above our accommodation on an escarpment is possibly the finest setting for a restaurant anywhere.

Lodge Accommodation

### **Day Ten: Etosh National Park**

More remote tracks today as we make our way north to one of Africa's finest national parks, Etosha. We swap our 4WDs for open Landcruiser safari vehicles and enjoy a wonderful sunset safari inside this world-renowned national park. The park is home to the Big 5, lion, rhino, buffalo, leopard, and elephant and one of the largest pans on earth, so big it can be seen from space. Being on safari is the quintessential African experience.

Lodge Accommodation

### **Day Eleven: Etosh National Park**

Today we can explore the park in our own 4WDs. We shall visit numerous waterholes and watch a seemingly endless array of animals as they come and go. We have a great chance of seeing elephants caked in the Etosha dust, lions and cheetahs lazing in the midday sun, numerous giraffes grazing the treetops and vast herds of zebra, impala, and wildebeest.

Lodge Accommodation

### **Day Twelve: Rundu**

Leaving Etosha we drive north and start to see numerous traditional villages of mud brick rondavels with thatched roofs inside perimeter fences of mopane trees. On the roadside are an endless array of wooden carvings for sale. We reach the mighty Kavango region and overnight on the shores of the Okavango River on the other side of which lies Angola. We will enjoy an afternoon sunset boat trip on the Okavango followed by a wonderful dinner on a floating deck that overlooks Angola.

Lodge Accommodation

### **Day Thirteen: Madumu National Park**

We drive onto the famous Caprivi Strip and visit Mudumu National Park, a landscape of lush wilderness of riverine forest, marsh, and open woodland, providing a home for an abundance of wildlife. Tonight, is one of the accommodation highlights of the entire trip, We spend a night at the luxurious Lianshulu Lodge, spectacularly located on the Kwando River. A night spent on the deck listening to the grunting of nearby hippos and endless African birdsong can only be experienced, not explained! It is a truly magical African experience.

Lodge Accommodation

### **Day Fourteen: Chobe National Park**

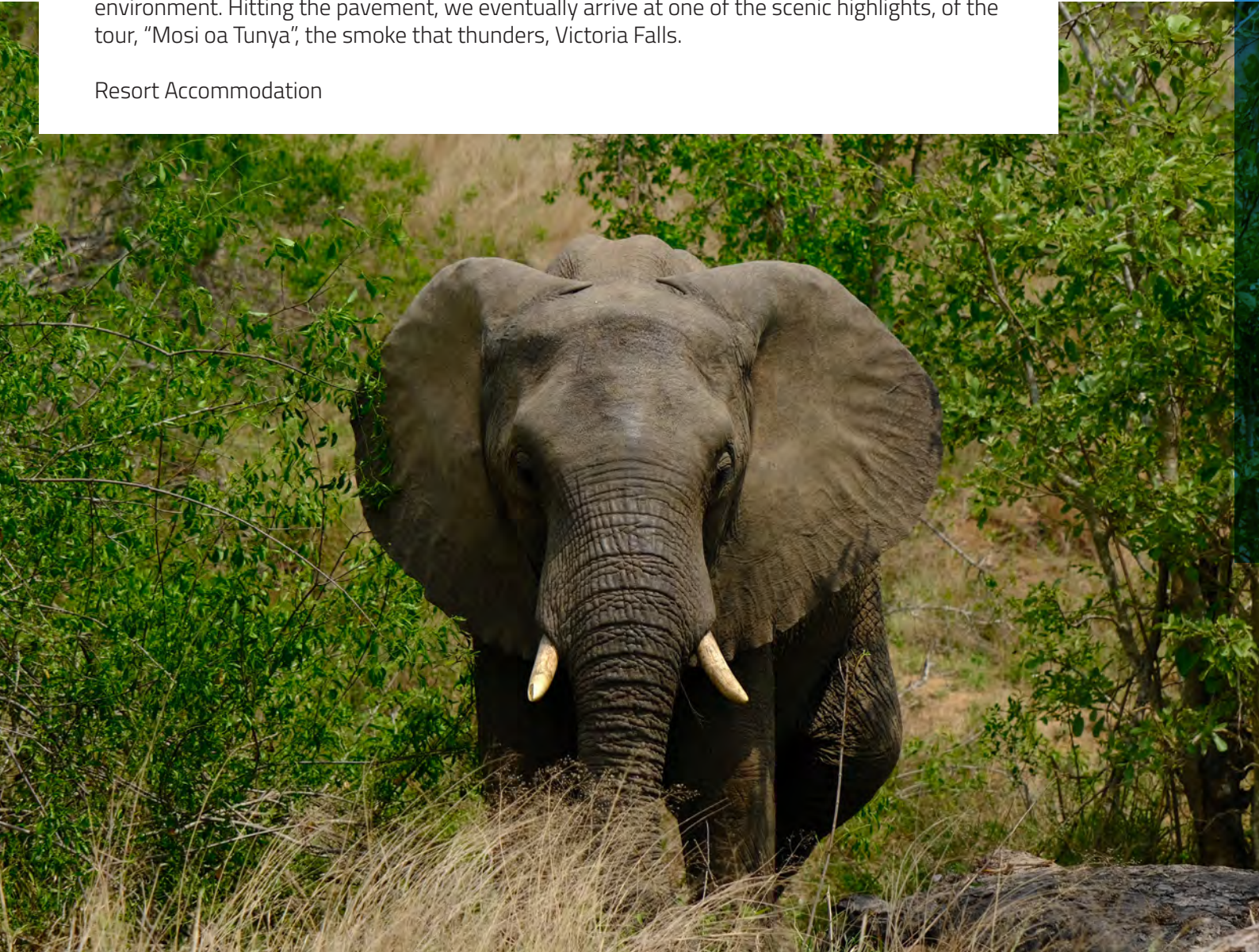
Leaving Lianshulu we cross into Botswana on onto the renowned Chobe National Park, home to abundant wildlife. Once in Botswana, we are driving through the park, so game could be prevalent on the drive. We arrive at our wonderful accommodation on the banks of the Chobe River in Kasane and enjoy an incredible afternoon / sunset cruise of the mighty Chobe River, where we will see a lot of wildlife including elephant, buffalo, crocodiles, numerous bird species and a long list of other animals, the cruise offers us a unique wildlife viewing perspective.

Lodge Accommodation

### **Day Fifteen: Victoria Falls**

Today we will leave the tourist hordes of Chobe behind as we take the long way round before crossing into Zimbabwe via the Seloko Plains and the Kazuma Forest Reserve. We cross using the remote Pandemantenga border that offers us a wonderful 4WD track into Zimbabwe. This is remote and wild where we can expect to see numerous animal sightings in a totally wild environment. Hitting the pavement, we eventually arrive at one of the scenic highlights, of the tour, "Mosi oa Tunya", the smoke that thunders, Victoria Falls.

Resort Accommodation



## Day Sixteen: Victoria Falls

We spend a day exploring these iconic falls on the Zambesi River that form the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. We shall enjoy a walk into the Falls National Park offering astounding viewpoints of these falls. We can visit the iconic and historic Victoria Falls Hotel for an afternoon beverage and celebrate what has been an incredible 4WD adventure through Africa. There is a plethora of other activities, such as bungee jumping, zip lining, sunset cruises, and helicopter flights that can be enjoyed while at Victoria Falls.

Resort Accommodation

## Departure day: Victoria Falls

Spend some time in Victoria Falls or fly home, the choice is yours.

## Tour Highlights

- **Dinner dockside at the V&A Centre, Cape Town** – Started in 1860 this iconic 123 hectre waterfront precinct is the focal point for tourism in Cape Town and offers epic views across the water of Table Mountain. It is home to a plethora of great restaurants.
- **4WD driving through the Cederberg's.** – a region of exceptional beauty that is both rugged and historic making it a highlight in any adventurers travel dairy.
- **Fish River Canyon** – the second largest canyon in the world. Sunset here is remarkable.
- **Overnighting at the super remote Canyon Roadhouse** – A wonderful motor vehicle themed lodge located in the middle of the desert. The nights sky is breathtaking.
- **Cape Cross seal colony** – One of the largest populations of Cape Fur seals on earth and the point where the first European set foot on Namibian soil in 1486.
- **The wonderful Burgsdorf Guest Farm and the 5-star Lianshulu Lodge** - Two incredible lodges offering unique wildlife experiences and amazing hospitality.
- **Namib–Naukluft National Park & the epic dune 45** – World renowned national park, home to the remarkable Sossusvlei, a sea of towering sand dunes and Deadvlei, a dried pan populated with skeletons of dead trees surrounded by massive red sand dunes.
- **World renown Etosha National Park & game drives** – Go on safari in Etosha with the chance to see the big 5.
- **Sunset cruise in Chobe National Park** – For a completely different safari experience we cruise the Chobe River in search of Elephant, Buffalo, Crocs, and a plethora of birdlife.
- **The incomparable Victoria Falls** - One of the greatest waterfalls on earth, the 1.7 km wide falls are a sight to behold.



## Tour Details

### Drive Profile

We have created a drive grading system for each tour we do, this gives those wishing to participate in this tour as a self-driver, some more insight into what driving conditions might be expected during the tour. Please note that this is a guide only and conditions are constantly changing, new roads are built, and older roads fall apart, and dirt roads can change by the week.

The Canyons, Dunes and Falls tour is a **Grade 3** tour – We spend a lot of time on dirt tracks. The dirt tracks of South Africa are often corrugated, stony and cross steep mountain passes. In Namibia the tracks are sandy, some very corrugated, and rocky but very dry making it dusty. A lot of tracks in northern Namibia can be narrow and rough and wildlife should be expected. The tracks in Zimbabwe are very rough and narrow with wildlife abundant. The paved roads are generally in reasonable condition, however pedestrians do walk on the roadways and are sometime oblivious to traffic. Some paved roads have large potholes, and some areas have wildlife, such as elephants, wandering across the roads.

**41%** of this tour is on pavement.

**59%** of this tour is on dirt.

The total distance is approximately 4,265 km / 2,665 mi.

### Driver Requirements

If you have chosen the self-drive option, you should be familiar with driving a manual vehicle and being comfortable with driving off road, however, it is important to note that we won't be forwarding raging rivers or climbing cliff faces and your crew are on hand to assist should the need arise. Additionally, if you have chosen the self-drive option, you are only permitted to have family & friends travel in your vehicle, we won't be putting other guests in your rental vehicle.

All drivers must have a valid driver's license and at least two years driving experience.

### Weather

We drive in the cooler, drier months with daytime temperatures ranging from mid 20°C / Mid 70°F in South Africa to low 30°C / high 80°F further north. It can be cold in the evening, especially in the deserts of Namibia dropping to as low as 5°C / 40°F. Very little rain should be expected throughout, although some rain could be experienced in Cape Town..

### Accommodation

Our joining hotel and several safari lodges on tour are 5-star. Most other hotels are 3 to 4 stars. We stay at a working farm in Namibia and super remote roadhouses that are also rated at 4 stars.

**Accommodation: 16 nights**



Drive Grade: 3



Drive Distance:  
4,265 km / 2,665 mi



Sealed / Dirt:  
41% / 59%

## Tour Inclusions

- Airport Transfers
- 4WD rental, if self drive option has been requested
- Fuel & Tolls
- Services of Compass Expeditions leader and support staff
- Pre-departure material
- Access to Compass Expeditions App, chock full of tour information, route maps and what to expect.
- Access to satellite phone, pay per minute
- Compass Expeditions tour shirt
- Entrances to all attractions and excursions mentioned in the itinerary

### Meals

**Breakfasts** – Breakfasts are in general huge and consist of cooked meats, sausages, bacon and eggs, cereals, yoghurts, fresh fruits, breads, teas, coffees, and juices.

**Lunches** - On most occasions we prepare our own picnic lunches that will include salads, vegetables, tuna, processed meats, and fruit (depending on availability). These lunches are prepared on the spot, not prepacked. On occasions we have lunch at a prebooked café.

**Dinners** - A large variety of western foods are available, particularly in the safari lodges. Local meats such as Kudu and Oryx and assorted vegetables are often available at braais (BBQs) at many of our lodges and all dietary requirements can be catered for. Deserts are always available. Africa is not the place to start a diet!

**Breakfasts: 16**

**Lunches: 12**

**Dinners: 11**

### Airport transfers

We include a private airport transfer to and from your joining hotel.

### Your Tour Leader

Our tour leaders are the face of Compass Expedition and are often what turns a good experience into a great experience. On all Compass tours we use Compass employees, not handballed off to local operators. We do however utilise a local operator / fixer to assist in the day to day running of the tour.





## The Travel App

Once a booking has been made you will receive access to our Compass Expeditions Travel App. This App is loaded with details regarding your tour, from daily drive descriptions, maps, accommodation info, tips of what there is to see, handy hints and more. The details of this App are sent to you 30 days before departure ensuring the most up to date information is included.

## Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. The price you see at booking is set in stone.

## Is this tour right for me?

- » This tour travels through some remote areas where modern day facilities and conveniences are scarce. Each night is spent at an excellent safari lodge or hotel but some of these accommodations are in extremely remote locations where there are no other facilities other than the accommodation provider.
- » We travel remote areas populated with wild animals.
- » Some days considerable time is spent travelling in the 4WDs over rough terrain at slow speeds, including those days on safari.
- » This tour will expose you to cultures far removed from our own and standards of living far lower than what we are accustomed to.
- » This tour is family friendly; the locals love the kids!

## Tour Exclusions

- International Flights
- Visas (if required)
- Personal Health / Travel Insurance
- Tips & gratuities



## Travel insurance

It is compulsory to have travel insurance to tour with us. It just makes sense! Accidents happen, luggage is lost and tour or flight cancellations can occur, so all participants on Compass Expeditions tours must have an appropriate level of travel insurance to cover the unforeseen. You must satisfy yourself that your policy covers medical emergencies resulting from any and all of the activities you propose to undertake during the course of the tour.

## Passport

Your passport will need to be valid for at least six months AFTER completion of your tour. Your passport should have at least one full page available, for each country you will be visiting on this trip.

## Visas

Most nationalities can get visa on arrival at the borders. These nationalities include, but are not limited, to Australia, US, UK, Canada and NZ.

If a visa is required for your nationality, then it is your responsibility to ensure that you have all necessary visas for your travels. Compass Expeditions will assist by providing documents required for your visa application.

## Vaccinations

We highly recommend that you speak with your doctor or travel specialist clinic to obtain the latest information on any vaccinations you may require, prior to departure.



## What's to love about this trip?

In a word animals, this amazing trip offers us an endless opportunity to get up close and personal with the greatest wildlife experiences on earth. It also offers us an insight to remarkable cultures and traditions so utterly removed from our own.

- » You will love the opportunities to go "on safari" numerous times throughout the trip.
- » You will love the wildlife experiences during a normal day, when not on safari, as it isn't surprising to see elephants cross the road in Botswana or wander around Victoria Falls.
- » You will love the rugged breathtaking scenery and sense of remoteness and wilderness of this tour.
- » You will love the included excursions, especially the sunset boat cruises and game drives.
- » You will love the deserts, the veld, the falls, and everything in between.
- » You will love the superb 4 & 5 star safari lodges.





## Canyons, Dunes and Falls Information Kit

### You've made a booking, what next?

Once a booking has been made, you will receive an automated booking confirmation. Soon after, you will receive a "welcome" email, with a link to our comprehensive pre departure booklet. This booklet will prepare you for your adventure and has more details on what to bring and what to expect. We email login details for our travel app 30 days before departure; the app is full of information, including historical and country information. The more you read, the more you will get out of your trip.

Of course we are also available anytime prior to your tour if you require further information or assistance.

Thanks for spending your time reading this information kit. We hope it has inspired you to challenge yourself, if not traveling with us, then just enjoying this remarkable world that we live in.

**the**  
**adventuretraveller**  
take the road best travelled

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