

South Africa

Depart Cairns 18 October at 3.55PM arrive Sydney 7.50PM – Qantas

Accommodation: Travelodge Hotel Sydney airport IN: 18 October OUT: 19 October

Depart Sydney 19 October at 11.55AM arrive Johannesburg 5.00PM – Qantas

Depart Johannesburg 19 October at 7.30PM arrive Cape Town 9.40PM – South African airlines

Commence the following tour with Intrepid in Cape Town on the 19 October and ending in Victoria Falls on the 09 November

Day 1: Cape Town

Your adventure begins with a welcome meeting at 6pm on Day 1. Please look for a note in the hotel lobby or ask the hotel reception where it will take place. For those with time here before the trip starts, highly recommended excursions include catching the cable car up to the top of Table Mountain, taking the ferry across to Robben Island (where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 27 years), or the day trip down to Cape Point and the Cape of Good Hope Peninsula.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Complimentary Airport Arrival Transfer

Optional Activities

- Cape Town - Table Mountain Hike - ZAR720
- Cape Town - Table Mountain Aerial Cable - ZAR250
- Cape Town - Robben Island tour - ZAR260
- Cape Town - South African Museum - ZAR27
- Cape Town - District Six Museum - ZAR25
- Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens - ZAR45
- Cape Town - South Africa National Gallery - ZAR35
- Cape Town - Harbour cruise - ZAR200
- Cape Town - Bo-Kaap Museum - ZAR30

Meals Included

There are no meals included on this day.

Special Information

An airport arrival transfer is included. This transfer is only valid if arriving on day 1 or if you have booked pre-trip accommodation through Intrepid. Please provide your flight details at the time of booking, or at a minimum 15 days prior to travel (note - we may not be able confirm request made within 15 days of travel). Once you have provided your details a transfer representative will be booked to meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel.

[Day 2: Lambert's Bay](#)

Depart Cape Town and travel along the west coast to the small seaside town of Lamberts Bay (265km approximately 4-5 hours). Its white beaches, lobsters and incredible wildlife earned this place the nickname 'diamond of west coast'. It's also simply a quaint fishing town tucked into the western Cape Province, best explored by foot. You'll visit Cape Gannet Island today. At the right time of the year, you might be lucky enough to view the spectacular flocks of gannet, which make use of the spot for breeding in August and September. For birdwatchers, the colony at Lambert's Bay is the most accessible of the six gannet colonies in South Africa and Namibia. They are a spectacular sight in their tightly packed community, and it's an awesome experience to see them wheel, land and settle into their designated positions. Sit down to a delicious feast at a local open-air restaurant, where the amazing ocean views are sure to dazzle.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Lamberts Bay - Cape Gannet Island

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

[Day 3: Orange River](#)

Farewell your coastal retreat as you cross the border into Namibia (500km approximately 7hrs). You should reach your destination on the banks of the Orange River by mid-afternoon. The border crossing and a few photo stops could delay this arrival a little. This is the longest river in South Africa, running from high up in the Drakensberg mountain range and on to the Atlantic Ocean. The river is significant for its role in transporting diamonds which in turn leaves deposits that are found along the Namibian coastline.

Accommodation

- Lodge (1 night)

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Special Information

500km, approximately 7hrs

[Day 4: Fish River Canyon](#)

Kick things off with a half-day canoe adventure along the Orange River today. You will wind through the ancient Richtersveld Mountains.

The canoe trip will be done in 2 man canoes with a local guide. It is a slow paced trip covering

approximately 10km and we should be travelling down stream for most or all of the trip. After you have returned to land you'll venture to the Fish River Canyon (200km approximately 5hrs), one of the biggest canyons in the world. Along the way you will stop at various lookouts, all great opportunities to catch this beautiful and gigantic gorge on camera. Look out for some exotic birdlife while you're here: plovers, wagtails, hammerkops and herons. You might even catch a glimpse of a baboon or an antelope at dusk if you're lucky.

Accommodation

- Lodge (1 night)

Included Activities

- Fish River Canyon - Canyon entrance
- Orange River - Canoe trip

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Day 5: Solitaire

Today is a long travel day. We head to the eastern edge of the Namib Desert today (610km approximately 9hrs). This region of the world's oldest desert is known for its array of geological features. Take in the diversity and sprawling beauty of the scenery as you drive to your lodgings for the night.

Accommodation

- Guesthouse (1 night)

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Day 6: Solitaire – Sossusvlei

Today you will make an early morning visit to Sossusvlei, which lies at the end of an ancient riverbed. If you find yourself in the mood, a climb to the top of Dune 45 will reward you with unparalleled views of the region.

After breakfast head to Dead Vlei. A clay pan well known for the iconic postcard like images taken here by many. The pan is surrounded by some of the highest dunes in the world, "Big Daddy" or "Crazy Dune" average about 350m.

If you'd like to avoid a long walk in the sun you can opt to pay for a 4x4 transfer from the 2x2 car park out to the Dead Vlei entrance point. This will cost approximately 130NAD per person.

In the afternoon you will visit Sesriem Gorge, tranquil natural corridor you can walk through and explore. The canyon was caused by water erosion over thousands of years. The people who lived in the area used to pull buckets of water up from the depths with six knotted belts. Therefore, the canyon was named after the Afrikaans word "Sesriem" meaning "six belts".

Accommodation

- Guesthouse (1 night)

Included Activities

- Sesriem - Sesriem Canyon
- Sossusvlei - Dune 45

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Day 7: Swakopmund

Depart your desert lodge and travel across the Namib Desert today (280km, approximately 6hrs), a trip culminating in the gorgeous Atlantic Ocean coastline. The drive goes through a beautiful, diverse, colourful landscape. You'll see the awesome Kuiseb Canyon along the way, before arriving at the beachside town of Swakopmund, located on the Skeleton Coast.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch

Special Information

Your leader will take you to a local activity centre where a range of activities will be on offer. We have not risk assessed all activities and only those listed in our trip notes are recommended. If you are unsure please check with your leader.

Please note that it is against company policy for leaders to facilitate the booking of any activities that have not been risk assessed or do not adhere to our company's Responsible Travel policy and ethos. This includes organising transport to and from these activities in our vehicles.

Day 8: Swakopmund

Enjoy some free time in this pretty coastal spot. Your accommodation is within walking distance of town. Perhaps go for a stroll along the beach, explore the open-air markets or visit the local museum. The Namibian National Marine Aquarium is also a good choice. There are plenty of options on offer at the local activity centre, which your leader will take you to.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Optional Activities

- Swakopmund - Horse riding - USD65
- Swakopmund - Swakopmund Museum - USD2

- Swakopmund - Fishing trip - USD120
- Swakopmund - Sand boarding - USD50
- Swakopmund - Seal and dolphin cruise - USD60

Meals Included

- Breakfast

Special Information

We have not risk-assessed all activities, and only those listed in our trip notes are recommended. If you are unsure about anything, please check with your local guide. Please note that it is against company policy for leaders or guides to facilitate the booking of any activities that have not been risk-assessed or do not adhere to our Responsible Travel policy and ethos. This includes organising transport to and from these activities in our vehicles.

[Day 9: Damaraland](#)

Get off the beaten track and head into the heart of Damaraland (330km approximately 6hrs). You should arrive at your lodge this afternoon.

The ancient landscapes of the Kunene Region are ruggedly spectacular, awesome sunsets and night skies filled with a multitude of dazzling stars await you. This part of Namibia is also known as Damaraland, as it is the ancestral home land of the enigmatic Damara people whose exact origins remain unclear. Also home to the small population of hardy desert adapted elephant as well as a host of other unique flora and fauna.

Accommodation

- Lodge (1 night)

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Special Information

Many of the roads we travel on today will be untarred and often corrugated. They are some of the worst on this itinerary so be prepared for some extra bumps.

[Day 10: Damaraland](#)

Spend the morning visiting the surrounding sights such as Twyfelfontein Heritage Site and the Petrified Forest. Twyfelfontein has one of the largest concentrations of ancient rock engraving in southern Africa and is a fascinating insight into the past. The Petrified Forest looks back into nature's history, where 280 million-year-old fossilised tree trunks lie.

We will be accompanied by local guides at both the Petrified forest and the Twyfelfontein sites. The guided walks take between 30-60mins and although not difficult there are some steep rocks and hills at the Twyfelfontein site. It can get hot at this time of day so be sure to have a hat, sunscreen and a bottle of water with you.

Daytime temperatures often peak around 30°C here, so sightseeing is best completed as early as possible, before the thermometer climbs too high. Spend the remainder of the day back at the lodge, perhaps by the pool or relaxing in the shade.

Accommodation

- Lodge (1 night)

Included Activities

- Damaraland - Petrified Forest
- Damaraland - Twyfelfontein Bushman Paintings

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Special Information

Many of the roads we travel on today will be untarred and often corrugated. They are some of the worst on this itinerary so be prepared for some extra bumps.

[Day 11: Etosha National Park](#)

Depart our lodge this morning and head towards Etosha National Park (220km approximately 5hrs). Namibia has protected its game reserves against poaching, so there are large herds of elephants, antelope and other herbivores here.

We head out on a short afternoon Game Drive in our truck on arrival.

Accommodation

- Lodge (1 night)

Included Activities

- Etosha National Park - Overland Vehicle Game drives

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

[Day 12: Etosha National Park](#)

Enjoy a full day of game viewing in the truck.

Keep your eyes peeled for black rhino, Hartmann's mountain zebra, black-faced impala, roan antelope and the tiny Damara dik-dik. Game viewing in the park is relatively easy due to the man-made waterholes and the large, sparsely vegetated pans. The bushland surrounding the pans is hard to see through, but there are enough clearings, pans and waterholes to allow for some sightings. Head back to the lodge this evening.

Accommodation

- Lodge (1 night)

Included Activities

- Etosha National Park - Overland Vehicle Game drives

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

[Day 13: Windhoek](#)

From Etosha National Park you will head to Windhoek, an old German colonial town, now a cosmopolitan centre. The Germanic colonial architecture of this city contributes to its charming feel. You'll arrive in the late afternoon or early evening. The old German colonial town of Windhoek has been blended into a modern city. The German architecture of the older buildings lends the town a historic atmosphere. Good examples of this German architecture can be seen in a number of buildings, but the best are the Tintenpalast (Ink Palace), the Christuskirche (church), the gymnasium and the Genossenschaftshaus. This evening you may wish to join new members of the group for an optional welcome dinner.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch

Special Information

As this is a combination trip, the composition of your group may change at this location. There will be a group meeting to discuss the next stage of your itinerary and meet your new fellow travelers.

[Day 14: Ghanzi/Central Kalahari](#)

Cross the border into Botswana and travel to Ghanzi, known as the "Capital of the Kalahari" (560km approximately 8hrs). Accommodation tonight is at a lodge just outside the small cattle ranching town of Ghanzi and a bit more basic than what you will encounter throughout your journey, however the concept and experience of will be well worth it. The lodge is situated in the Kalahari region of Botswana that is inhabited by a large portion of Botswanas' San community. Unemployment is one of the main social issues that affect the San community, who have become an increasingly marginalized minority in Southern Africa. The lodge helps empower the community through employment. A traditional San/Southern African meal will be served in the communal lounge and dining area. There is also a bar with wine, beer and soft drinks available to buy. Later this evening we will be treated to a real cultural experience and interaction with the locals. Around the campfire, you will experience the ancient dance rituals of the San, with a chance to chat afterwards. On special occasions this could be a healing or trance dance, which can continue all night, and is an intense spiritual experience for both participants and visitors alike.

Accommodation

- Lodge (1 night)

Included Activities

- Central Kalahari - San Cultural Experience

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

[Day 15: Okavango Delta](#)

Before breakfast this morning there will be a chance to go out on an optional walk with a member of the San community. The San are renowned as the most skillful trackers on Earth and have an extraordinary knowledge of the Kalahari for both plants and animal tracking. Here you will be shown the wide variety of both edible and medicinal plants, while also tracking a variety of animals and learning about their habits. Of course, you will also spend quality time with your guide to understand their very different world view. Head to the Okavango Delta (400km approximately 7hrs), where we board speedboats that will take us to your home for the next two nights, a houseboat in the Okavango Delta Panhandle. Please note you will need to pack a small bag or backpack for this trip as we won't be taking all of our luggage with us. Your floating home for the next 2 nights is the most incredibly peaceful way to experience the delta. The houseboat has twin-share cabins with bedding, towels and mosquito nets provided (no single supplement is available on these nights). Cabins are very small and basic with shared facilities however we don't expect you'll be spending much time in there. There is also a dining area on the deck, tea/coffee making facilities and a small collection of books and board games.

This evening head to the deck where your captain will serve dinner, enjoy a sundowner, and listen to the sound of the Hippos along the waters edge.

Accommodation

- Houseboat (with shared facilities) (1 night)

Included Activities

- Okavango Delta - Speedboat Cruise

Optional Activities

- Central Kalahari - Bush Walk - BWP80

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

[Day 16: Okavango Delta](#)

After breakfast we take a speedboat and 4WD to a nearby poling station. From here you have the opportunity to experience the myriad waterways in traditional dugout canoes (mokoros) with a local

guide. Your guide will take you on a short nature walk around one of the many Islands in the Delta. After a picnic lunch, return to the houseboat where you're free to relax, read a book or do some fishing. This evening grab a sundowner, pull up a chair and witness the often breathtaking sunset.

Accommodation

- Houseboat (with shared facilities) (1 night)

Included Activities

- Okavango Delta - Speedboat Cruise
- Okavango Delta - Mokoro safari
- Okavango Delta - Nature Walk

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Day 17: Maun

After breakfast, we leave our houseboat behind, and again board the speedboats to take us back to our truck, and then on towards Maun - the gateway of the Okavango Delta (350km approximately 6 hrs). For those wanting more adventure, there's an opportunity to fly over the delta in a small plane for a bird's-eye view - a great way to appreciate the immensity of this watery world. Your leader can give you more information on this activity and how to book. Otherwise the afternoon is free to sit by the pool, catch up on emails and laundry.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Okavango Delta - Speedboat Cruise

Optional Activities

- Okavango Delta - Plane Scenic Flight - From USD75 - USD390

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Day 18: Makgadikgadi Pans

We depart from our lodge after breakfast and head towards north-east Botswana (210km approximately 4hrs). Our next stop is the Makgadikgadi Pans; a large salt pan situation in the middle of the dry savanna is located. This pan is now all that remains of the former Lake Makgadikgadi. Our accommodation tonight is located on the edge of the pans. Sit by the pool or relax in the lounge area

and take in your surroundings after a long day. Head out to the Makgadikgadi Pans for an afternoon excursion in open 4WDs to one of the largest salt flats in the world. Here you'll sit out in the wild enjoy sundowners and snacks while observing the amazing scenery. With the aid of trackers you may have the opportunity to spend some time in the company of the local meerkat colony, and look out for elephants that meander their way down to the watering hole to quench their thirst. Soak in this incredible place while the sun sets behind the old beautiful baobab.

Accommodation

- Lodge (1 night)

Included Activities

- Makgadikgadi Pans - Meerkat Pan Experience

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Special Information

Accommodation tonight is simple but comfortable rondavels which are equipped with ceiling fans, tea and coffee facilities, mosquito nets and outdoor enclosed shower & toilet.

During the wetter months the pan sometimes floods and the Meerkat Experience activity may not be available. In these instance this activity will be replaced with an afternoon game drive at Chobe National Park the following day.

[Day 19: Chobe National Park](#)

This morning we make tracks after breakfast and travel towards Kasane on the edge of Chobe National Park (410km approximately 7hrs). The stretch of road between Nata and Kasane is known as the 'Elephant Highway'. With no fences elephants are free to move between Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe and Botswana. So keep your eyes peeled for roadside elephants. Botswana's first national park, Chobe, is perhaps best known for its high concentration of elephants. You will spend the next two nights in a lodge on the banks of the Chobe River.

Accommodation

- Lodge (1 night)

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

[Day 20: Chobe National Park](#)

This morning we wake early and take a dawn game drive in Chobe National Park, where you may see elephants drinking at the waters' edge, large herds of cape buffaloes and many impala within the park. In the afternoon you'll take a breathtaking cruise on the Chobe River, ideal for spotting bird life such as saddle-billed storks, malachite kingfishers, fish eagles and beautiful bee-eaters as well as

hippos, crocodiles and large families of elephants. The boat trip will be a shared activity with other travellers. There will be an opportunity to have a sundowner drink and watch the sunset over the river.

Accommodation

- Lodge (1 night)

Included Activities

- Chobe National Park - River Safari Cruise
- Chobe National Park - 4x4 Game Drive

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Dinner

Day 21: Victoria Falls

Travel on to Victoria Falls, crossing the border into Zimbabwe in time to have lunch on the banks of the Zambezi (100km approximately 2hrs depending on border formalities). These falls are one of the natural wonders of the world and, when in full flow, form the largest sheet of falling water. Your leader will take you to a local activity centre where a range of activities will be on offer. We have not risk assessed all activities and only those listed in our trip notes are recommended. It is against company policy for leaders to facilitate the booking of any activities that have not been risk assessed or do not adhere to our company's Responsible Travel policy and ethos. This includes organising transport to and from these activities in our vehicles. A unique dinner at Boma restaurant is included, which specialises in Zimbabwean barbecue, is the perfect way to spend your evening.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Victoria Falls - Entrance & Visit
- Victoria Falls - The Boma Dinner & Experience

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Dinner

Special Information

You may notice businesses offering an optional 'Walk with the Lions' experience. We ask all Intrepid travellers to avoid this activity as it is contrary to our Responsible Travel policy. While wildlife viewing is a big part of many of our itineraries, we strive to only view animals in their natural habitats and to do so with the greatest level of respect. The lion walking industry directly contributes to the captive breeding and canned hunting of lions.

Read more about animal welfare and our 'Born to Live Wild' pledge here:

<http://www.intrepidtravel.com/animal-welfare>

Day 22: Victoria Falls

Your adventure will come to an end after breakfast this morning. No accommodation is included for tonight, but can be requested at your own expense.

Optional Activities

- Victoria Falls - Sunset cruise on the Zambezi river - USD50
- Victoria Falls - Village & township tour - USD50
- Chobe National Park - Morning Game Drive in 4X4 vehicle - BWP210
- Victoria Falls - Helicopter flight (12 mins) - USD175
- Victoria Falls - Helicopter flight (25 mins) - USD334
- Victoria Falls - Whitewater rafting (half day) - USD140
- Victoria Falls - Whitewater rafting (full day) - USD140

Meals Included

- Breakfast

Depart Victoria Falls 09 November at 1.55PM arrive Johannesburg 3.35PM – Comair

Depart Johannesburg 09 November at 6.50PM arrive Sydney 10 November at 3.35PM – Qantas

Accommodation: Travelodge Hotel Sydney Airport IN: 10 November OUT: 11 November

Depart Sydney 11 November at 1.40PM arrive Cairns 3.40PM – Qantas

Cost per person \$11,680*pp and includes the following:

- Airfares
- Airport taxes
- Two nights accommodation at Sydney airport
- 22-day tour including 21 breakfasts, 17 lunches, 17 dinners and sightseeing as per itinerary