

UNIQUE ZIMBABWE & VICTORIA FALLS

4 September 2020, 17 Days



HOSTED FROM MACKAY

WELCOME TO HELLOWORLD TRAVEL HOSTED JOURNEYS

Hosted Journeys are experts in offering travellers unique, hand-picked holidays to destinations all over the world. Our itineraries are designed to ensure you have a hassle-free and seamless holiday experience. With over 30 years experience in group travel you can rest assured you are in expert hands from start to finish.

A professional tour host travels with the group from Australia ensuring all details are taken care of. They provide security and peace-of-mind, maintain positive group morale, provide assistance through airports, immigration and crossing borders, assist with flight cancellations or alterations, lost luggage, reconfirm touring and transfers, distribute tipping, all to maximise your holiday experience.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- African lodge experiences in intimate, first class accommodation
- Expertly guided safari activities and game drives per day as offered by the lodges
- Group use of private vehicle for Zambia Victoria Falls Day Trip
- Ra-Ikane Sunset Cruise and Riverbank Dinner in Victoria Falls
- Game drive and bush dinner in Victoria Falls national park
- Bushtracks Express steam train experience and 5 course dinner at Victoria Falls.

YOUR TOUR HOST

Roz has worked in the travel industry for over 30 years and has travelled extensively to all parts of the world, including many African countries. In 2018 Roz visited Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa, which provided the inspiration for this Hosted Journey. Roz has previously hosted groups to Namibia, Antarctica, Western and Eastern Canada, Zambia, Kenya, Europe and Japan.

"I invite you to join me on this once in a lifetime experience through Zimbabwe. This itinerary has been created to offer you the best of this amazing country. Zimbabwe is a beautiful place with amazing game experiences. We will enjoy this country in style and comfort that is second to none".

Roz Nielsen, Helloworld Travel Mackay





This unique Zimbabwe Safari has extended stays, allowing you to enjoy the rich and diverse landscapes and abundant wildlife of Zimbabwe. These beautiful boutique game lodges fit perfectly into their surrounds and encapsulate a style and experience that is distinctly African.

DAY 1. Fri 4 Sep 2020 MACKAY - BRISBANE

Let's meet at Mackay airport to begin our journey to Brisbane for our overnight stay at Brisbane Airport accommodation.

DAY 2. Sat 5 Sep 2020 BRISBANE - JOHANNESBURG

This morning we check in at Brisbane International Airport for our flight to Johannesburg. Upon arrival, we make our way to our airport accommodation for an overnight stay.

DAY 3. Sun 6 Sep 2020 B JOHANNESBURG - VICTORIA FALLS

Our journey through this re-emerging country begins today as we fly from Johannesburg to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Upon arrival at Victoria Falls Airport we will be met by our driver and taken by private road transfer on the 20 minute drive to Ilala Lodge.

Offering distinguished accommodation with gracious and secluded ambiance, the décor evokes a bygone era of adventure and discovery. The elegant hotel is close to the Falls and town centre, and borders the National Park. Wildlife is often seen on the lawns as well as the spray from the Falls themselves.

This evening, experience a private Raikane Sunset Cruise and Dinner on board a small luxury cruise boat. This boat is small enough to explore the quieter channels of the Zambezi River where we have more chance of seeing fantastic birdlife and wildlife.

After the Sunset Cruise we will enjoy an exceptional dining experience along the banks of the Zambezi River before returning back to Ilala Lodge.

DAY 4. Mon 7 Sep 2020 B D VICTORIA FALLS

This morning is at leisure, it is an easy walk to see the magnificent Victoria Falls (entrance fee USD\$30) or you may like to relax in our resort or explore the town.

As one of the Seven Wonders of the World, Victoria Falls is a truly spectacular sight. A natural phenomenon, Victoria Falls is an immense curtain of water cascading over 100m. Around 550 million litres flow over the edge every minute and, at peak flow, this increases to 750 million litres. Around the Falls is a rainforest sustained by the spray of the Falls with some plant species rarely found elsewhere in Zambia or Zimbabwe. 75% of the falls are viewable from Zimbabwe and 25% from Zambia. At the height of the dry season the flow on the Zambia side is less.

This afternoon, we are collected from our hotel and transferred to the Stanley & Livingstone Private Game Reserve for our night game viewing experience and dinner.

The night game drive is a great opportunity to see nocturnal animals, a very special experience. After your game drive, delight in a bush dinner before returning to your hotel. The Victoria Falls Private Game Reserve is a Big 5 Safari destination; lions, elephants, buffaloes, leopards and rhinoceroses can all be seen. The savannah is full of wildlife and

apart from the Big 5, giraffes, waterbucks, zebras and sables all regularly roam across game-vehicle paths.

The Victoria Falls Private Game Reserve is recognised as an Intensive Protection Zone for the black rhinoceros and since implementing a Black Rhinoceros Monitoring and Breeding Program, the population has flourished to the point that they have been able to supply black rhinoceroses to other intensive protection zones for restocking.

DAY 5. Tue 8 Sep 2020 B D VICTORIA FALLS, ZAMBIA

Today, we have a second opportunity to view Victoria Falls and its unspoiled grandeur from the Zambian side (admission is approximately USD\$30). It is a 3km walk around the falls stopping at many view points along the way.

After the Falls walk, there is free time to shop and have lunch (own expense). Alternatively you might take the opportunity for a helicopter flight over the Falls or experience an animal encounter. You may want to tour Livingstone Island tour where the falls flow right beneath you.

This evening, we are collected from the hotel for our luxury Bushtracks Express rail experience. The train will travel across the iconic Victoria Falls rail bridge to Jafuta Conservancy Siding, where a 5 course gourmet dinner will be served.

After dinner, the train will depart for its journey back to Victoria Falls Station before you are transferred back to your hotel.

DAYS 6-8.

B L D

Wed 9 - Fri 11 Sep 2020

HWANGE, NEHIMBA SAFARI LODGE

Our journey continues as we make our way, by private transfer, to Victoria Falls Airport, where we board our light aircraft to take us to Hwange Airport. Flying time is approximately 45 minutes. Upon arrival in Hwange, we are taken by road to Nehimba. Transfer time is approximately 3 hours including possible game viewing.

Hwange has always been renowned for its incredible diversity of wildlife and, to this day, it boasts more varieties of mammal and bird species than any other Zimbabwean National Park, in particular its 44,000 strong elephant population.

During our stay, we enjoy expertly guided safari activities and game drives each morning and afternoon, as well as the opportunity for walking safaris.



DAYS 9-11.

B L D

Sat 12—Mon 14 Sep 2020

LAKE KARIBA, BUMI HILLS SAFARI LODGE

After transferring to Hwange Airport (3 hours with possible game viewing) we take our light aircraft transfer to Bumi Hills.

Situated above the lake, our activities at Bumi Hills include morning and afternoon game drives, fishing and canoeing on the lake and the opportunity for cultural visits.

During our stay we take part in expertly guided safari activities and game drives each morning and afternoon.

DAYS 12-14.

B L D

Tue 15—Thu 17 Sep 2020

MANA POOLS, NYAMATUSI CAMP

Today we travel by light aircraft from Bumi Hills to Dandawa airstrip in Mana Pools. Flying time is approximately 30 minutes.

Mana Pools is situated on a river, and we take the opportunity to not only join game drives but canoe and walking safaris as well.

This area boasts wildlife sightings that include elephant, kudu, sable antelope, zebra, wildebeest, gemsbok, the rare and endangered roan antelope, buffalo, lion, leopard, hyena, and many other wildlife species.

DAY 15. Fri 18 Sep 2020

B

MANA POOLS - HWANGE - JOHANNESBURG - SYDNEY - BRISBANE

We commence our journey home today with a light aircraft transfer to Harare Airport. Flying time is approximately 1.5 hours. We then fly to Johannesburg and then onto Brisbane, via Sydney.

DAY 16. Sat 19 Sep 2020

BRISBANE

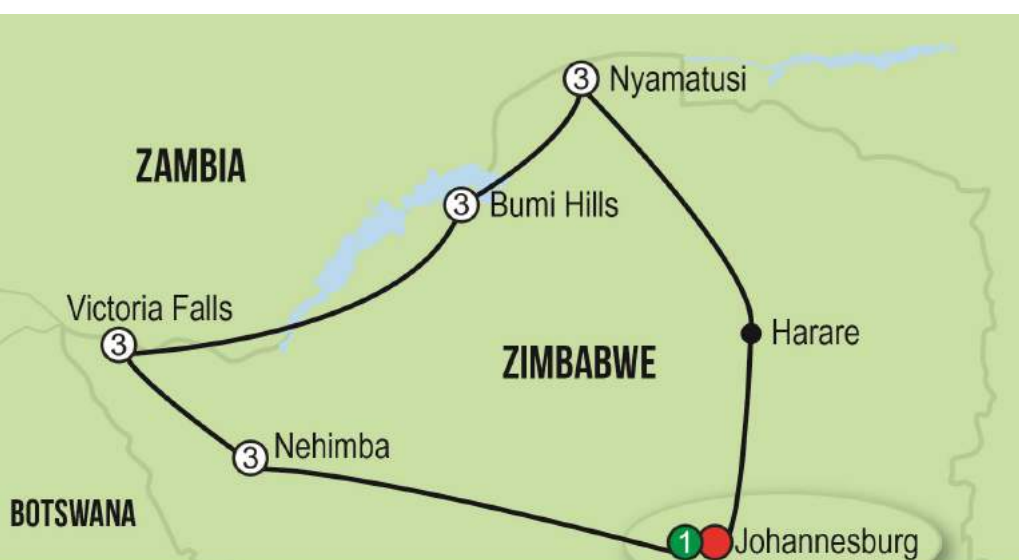
Our flights see us arrive late into Brisbane where we will clear customs and immigration before making our way to our overnight accommodation at the Brisbane Airport.

DAY 17. Sun 20 Sep 2020

B

BRISBANE - MACKAY

This morning we check in at the Brisbane Domestic Airport for our flight to Mackay.



BUSHTRACKS EXPRESS STEAM TRAIN



The Bushtracks Express is an indulgent luxury fine dining experience going back in time to the age of romantic steam train travel. The rejuvenated train jaunts onto the famous Victoria Falls Bridge which was built by Cecil Rhodes in 1905. He wanted a crossing “at the point where the spray from the falls would fall on the train carriages crossing the bridge.”



A red carpet will lead us to the train and the locomotive will be ‘in steam’: the perfect photographic

opportunity. The train will depart Victoria Falls Station and chuff its way through the Victoria Falls Game Park to the border. The train will pause at the border so a ‘general declaration’ can be given by the train guard to the immigration authorities and then continue to the bridge. After arrival on the bridge guests may alight from the train for some tremendous photo opportunities of Victoria Falls, the train, the bridge and the sunset.



5 STAR INCLUSIONS:

- 5 Course Gourmet Dinner
- South African Wines, local beers and soft drinks
- Access to the Club Car, Dining Car and Observation Car





ILALA LODGE, VICTORIA FALLS

As one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the iconic Victoria Falls is steeped in both natural beauty and rich history. Ilala Lodge Hotel is a family-run hotel that offers luxury and comfort in the heart of Victoria Falls. Nestled in attractive gardens, the well-appointed hotel is a mere 8-minute walk from Victoria Falls. Ilala Lodge Hotel is ideally located and it is very easy for guests to access all the historical sites, restaurants and activities available in Victoria Falls. Your stay includes, 3 nights in the elegantly appointed Deluxe Room, gourmet breakfast daily and complimentary Wi-Fi.



BUMI HILLS SAFARI LODGE, LAKE KARIBA

Bumi Hills offers guests a multitude of ways to explore Lake Kariba and its surrounds. Spend your days cruising the lake in a private boat, taking in the gorgeous vistas and incredible shows of light and try your hand at catching a tiger fish. Visit a local village, or just sit back evening and stargaze. Your stay includes, 3 nights accommodation in a Lakeview Room with ensuite facilities, all meals, local drinks, two activities daily, park fees, conservation levy, voluntary community levy, laundry and Wi-Fi.



NEHIMBA SAFARI LODGE, HWANGE

Nestled in a 8,000 acre game-rich private concession in the northern part of Hwange National Park, Nehimba Lodge combines an ideal location, luxury living and African charm to create an exceptional safari experience. The lodge overlooks a prolific waterhole frequented by large numbers of elephants and other game, which could include lions, wild dog, buffalo, sable and zebra. Your stay includes, 3 nights accommodation in a Thatched Room with ensuite facilities, all meals, local drinks, daily activities, park fees, Wi-Fi and laundry.



NYAMATUSI CAMP, MANA POOLS

Set in one of the wildest and most remote parts of Africa, on the banks of one of the oldest rivers in the world, Nyamatusi allows guests to experience an authentic view of the old untouched Africa. The design of the camp subtly incorporates the element of water and pays homage to the astounding beauty of the mighty Zambezi River. There is an abundance of game and birds dance on the breeze. Your stay includes, 3 nights accommodation in Tented Suites with ensuite facilities, all meals, local brand drinks, 2 activities daily, park fees, conservation levy, voluntary community levy and laundry.



EXPLORING AFRICA

WHAT TO EXPECT ON SAFARI

No two safaris are the same. Typically, we rise at dawn and, after a refreshing coffee, depart on our morning game drive. Early in the morning is when the animals are at their most active. As we will be travelling during the dry winter months, wildlife will be easier to spot since waterholes become a place for animals to gather and thinned vegetation assures they are more easily seen. Bright skies are common and rain is scarce.

After the morning game drive, we return to our property for a revitalising breakfast and then take the opportunity to relax and enjoy the facilities during the day. After lunch, we enjoy an afternoon game drive as the animals rise from their siesta to drink, eat and hunt.

Sunset doesn't mean our day is over, or the adventure has to stop. As the sun sinks below the horizon, we will find ourselves with a refreshing drink in our hand as we witness the sun burning the sky red, pink and orange. As a herd of elephants come down to the waterhole for a drink, we will be still and reflect on our day in the wild. The first stars appear, and the sky seems bigger than it does in the rest of the world. When we return to our lodge we celebrate with our friends. We enjoy a delicious meal after a long day of adventures this is just what we need to refuel. We will listen to the stories of our fellow travellers as they describe their close encounters with wildlife on their game drives, or sit by the campfire, or the bush television as its sometimes referred to, it is the perfect way to end your day.

Safaris, sunsets, dinner and drinks, campfires, night excursions and beautiful views. After such an adventurous day, we need a soft pillow and a warm bed to rest our bodies. Reset and refresh our exhausted senses in luxury and rest easy knowing that we will get to do it all again tomorrow.

BEYOND TOURISM

With a responsibility to ensure the future development in Africa and to make a difference on the ground, over the many years, our supplier, Bench Africa, has created a number of links with organisations devoted to the welfare of the African people, wildlife and environment. These organisations include, Rhino Ark, New Hope Children, East African Wildlife Safari and Tsavo Trust.

ON LOCATION

With offices in Cape Town and Mombassa, our supplier, Bench Africa, have experienced eyes and ears on the ground in Africa. This means that our tailor-made itinerary is well-researched to ensure that your African journey is seamless.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

Included Services

- Return flights from Mackay to Africa with Qantas and South African Airways
- Overnight airport accommodation in Brisbane in each direction
- Overnight airport accommodation in Johannesburg
- Twin or Double unique first class accommodation
- Tipping for drivers and guides, including game drives
- Charter light aircraft transfers: Victoria Falls / Hwange / Bumi / Mana Pools / Harare
- Private road transfers in luxury air-conditioned vehicles
- Services of an experienced Helloworld Travel Tour Host

Important Climate Information

- We will be travelling during the dry winter months
- May–September is the best time to visit Victoria Falls
- Mosquito numbers are very few, so Malaria risk is minimal
- There will be very little humidity and the temperature will average 25°C
- As the climate will be dry, it will be a little dusty
- Mornings can be cooler, so a fleece, scarf and gloves are recommended

Important Luggage Information

- There is a strict restriction on our Charter light aircraft transfers. Luggage is restricted to 15kgs per person in checked luggage and 5kgs hand luggage due to limited space available for storage in regional aircrafts. This includes photographic equipment and hand luggage. Only soft bags (duffle style) will be accepted, rather than hard Samsonite type suitcases.

Not Included

- Visa for Zambia and Zimbabwe. This is to be paid on arrival and is approximately USD\$50 total.
- All items of a personal nature
- Premium brand drinks at the lodges
- Entry Fee to Victoria Falls on the Zimbabwe side. This is to be paid on arrival and is approximately USD\$30 per entry
- Entry Fee to Victoria National Park on the Zambian side. This is to be paid on arrival and is approximately USD\$30

Included Meals

14 Breakfasts (B) 9 Lunches (L) 11 Dinners (D)

HOLIDAY PRICING

17 Day Tour, departing Mackay

\$21,495* per person twin share

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

Deposit and Payment:

A non-refundable deposit of \$3000 per person is due within 7 days of making a booking along with a copy of your passport, booking form & the Hosted Journeys medical & fitness form. Bookings are subject to auto cancel after 7 days if the deposit is not received. Final payment is due no later than Tuesday 12 May 2020.

Tour Price:

* The tour is a customised itinerary based on 2019 prices. The final price is subject to change once 2020 prices are available. The package price is per person based on twin share accommodation and subject to a minimum amount of 13 passengers booked. Should minimum numbers not be met, we reserve the right to withdraw the departure and a refund of your paid deposit will be offered, or the tour will proceed as planned however the tour host may not travel with the group and you will be issued with a revised quote for your holiday. Deposits merely hold the reservations and due to ongoing currency fluctuations, prices cannot be guaranteed until final payment has been made. Hosted Journeys reserve the right to modify program itineraries, included sightseeing and substitute accommodations & transportation at any time due to unforeseen circumstances.

Special Requests:

Specific requests such as bedding, adjacent rooms, seat requests on flights and special meal requirements can be made on your booking form. Please note, Hosted Journeys will do everything they can to accommodate your requests, however, they can not be guaranteed.

Single Accommodation:

Single Accommodation may be available upon request. Please see your consultant for more information.

Travel Insurance:

Travel Insurance is compulsory when travelling on an Hosted Journey. We recommend Covermore (offered by Helloworld Travel) as whilst you are away, our tour host can communicate directly with our Covermore representative and provide assistance when making claims or enquiries when overseas. If you choose an alternative insurance provider, our tour host can not guarantee assistance.

"Insurance is issued by Great Lakes Australia (ARBN 127 740 532, ABN 18 964 580 576, AFSL 318603). Any advice provided is general advice only. Please consider your needs, financial situation and the Combined FSG/PDS available from us before deciding to buy this insurance."

What's not included:

Items such as (and not limited to) passports, items of a personal nature, beverages, meals & sightseeing not detailed on the itinerary, excess baggage, portage and travel insurance.

Airfare Conditions:

Airfares included in this package are based on Qantas & South African Airways (subject to change without notice) in economy class and are subject to availability at time of booking and the group airfare conditions. Taxes and fuel surcharges included are subject to change & additional charges may apply for alternate routes & airlines. If you wish to upgrade to Premium Economy or Business Class please ask your consultant for availability & upgrade costs.

Passport & Visas:

Well before travelling, please ensure you have a current passport that is valid for at least six months after your scheduled return home to Australia. It is the guest's sole responsibility to obtain, and have available when necessary, the appropriate valid travel documents. Your reservations must be made in exactly the same name as your passport. Should any amendments to names be made from those advised on the booking form, or if a change needs to be made as a booking form was not supplied, fees will apply.

The issuance of visas is not the responsibility of your travel agent and we cannot be held responsible should you be unable to obtain the correct visas to undertake your journey. Australian passport holders do not require a visa for travel to Italy.

Changes & Amendment Fees:

If you extend or alter your holiday, a minimum fee of \$100 per person per change is payable to Hosted Journeys to cover administrative & communication costs. This is in addition to any fees charged by airlines & applicable suppliers.

Refunds & Cancellation:

Cancellation must be in writing & such notice is not effective until received by Hosted Journeys. Any part payments received by Hosted Journeys over and above your deposit, including payment for airfares, will be subject to cancellation fees at the discretion of Hosted Journeys plus any third party suppliers. A 100% cancellation fee will apply if your reservation is cancelled on or after the final payment deadline.

In the event that an act of terrorism occurs or natural disaster at your chosen travel destination after your final payment has been made but before your departure date, Hosted Journeys will perform all possible efforts to minimize your travel disruptions, however in extreme cases, your tour may be altered or cancelled for your safety. Hosted Journeys can not be held responsible should any third party suppliers be unable to offer any refunds due to such causes.

Documentation:

Your documentation will be available approximately two weeks prior to your departure. Approximately one month before departure, you will be sent an invitation to attend your pre departure evening where you can meet your fellow travellers and collect your travel documents.



Let us make your dream holiday a reality today!

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TRAVEL
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