



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Johannesburg to Victoria Falls - *the Spirit of the Southern Africa*

Southern Africa is blessed with exceptional nature, the most impressive wildlife, and a cultural diversity that makes it a joy to explore all its many influential facets.

South Africa has a healthy, albeit still new and growing, democracy that is finding its feet. It is a country where the contrasts between rich and poor are enormous. But at the same time, it is a country full of ethnic diversity and home to cultures that are infused with many different local tribal traditions, European customs, and Asian influences, making music, song, dance, and food a real joy to explore.

When the conversation turns to Zimbabwe, it is often the country's long-time leader Robert Mugabe and his radical redistribution of agricultural land that strikes one first. After Mugabe's fall from the throne in 2017, the country has been riding a wave of renewed hope and optimism. And lucky for that, because Zimbabwe has so much to offer – a population that is one of the most highly educated in Africa and welcomes guests with open arms; an unspoiled wilderness and some of Africa's most beautiful nature, which provides fertile ground for unique safari experiences. The country's tourism policy has limited the number of tourists by maintaining a relatively high price level, which has led to limited wear and tear on the wilderness and the sensitive environment. Therefore, we often meet far fewer tourists compared to most other countries in Africa, which provides a far more authentic and adventurous experience.

Of all Zimbabwe's natural wonders, Victoria Falls is the most famous. The world's second largest waterfall is considered one of the world's most spectacular with its width of 1.7 km and a drop of 128 meters at the highest point. It was the English explorer David Livingstone who, as the first white man, on 17 November 1855 "explored" the waterfall and named it in honour of the then English Queen Victoria. He described his first impression of the falls as *"the most wonderful sight I have seen in Africa"*.



Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Evergreen Escape has tailormade a 12-day combined cultural and safari trip, which gives you the chance to experience the best national parks in the southern part of Africa spiced up with visits to local tribes in South Africa and Zimbabwe - in short, one of the most versatile and adventurous Southern Africa can offer:

Zulu-tribe, Ndembele-tribe & Shona-tribe
Kruger National Park – Matobo National Park – Hwange National Park –
Chobe National Park & Victoria Falls

A true treat of a journey which is named:

Johannesburg to Victoria Falls – the Spirit of the Southern Africa

The journey begins in South Africa's largest city, *Johannesburg*, which in many ways encapsulates the very soul of South Africa. Here we will visit the most famous and infamous of all townships, *Soweto*; experience the only street in the world that has housed 2 recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize; and visiting *the Apartheid Museum*.

We get out and experience the most beautiful nature route in South Africa - *the Panorama Route* – where we see the spectacular *Blyde River Canyon*, a 25-kilometre-long gorge that cuts through the landscape.

We experience wildlife in the largest and most animal-rich parks southern Africa can offer you in 3 different countries – *Kruger National Park, Hwange National Park, and Chobe National Park*.

We both see, hear, and feel the world's second largest waterfall, *Victoria Falls*. And we get the opportunity to go back to colonial times for a while as we enjoy our tea at the legendary *Victoria Falls Hotel* overlooking the Victoria Falls Bridge.

But no trip to southern Africa is complete until we have visited the hospitable population far away from classic tourism. That is why we visit villages in South Africa and Zimbabwe, where we get a close-up look at the daily life of the local population.



Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Johannesburg to Victoria Falls - *the Spirit of the Southern Africa*

Day 1: Arrival to Johannesburg

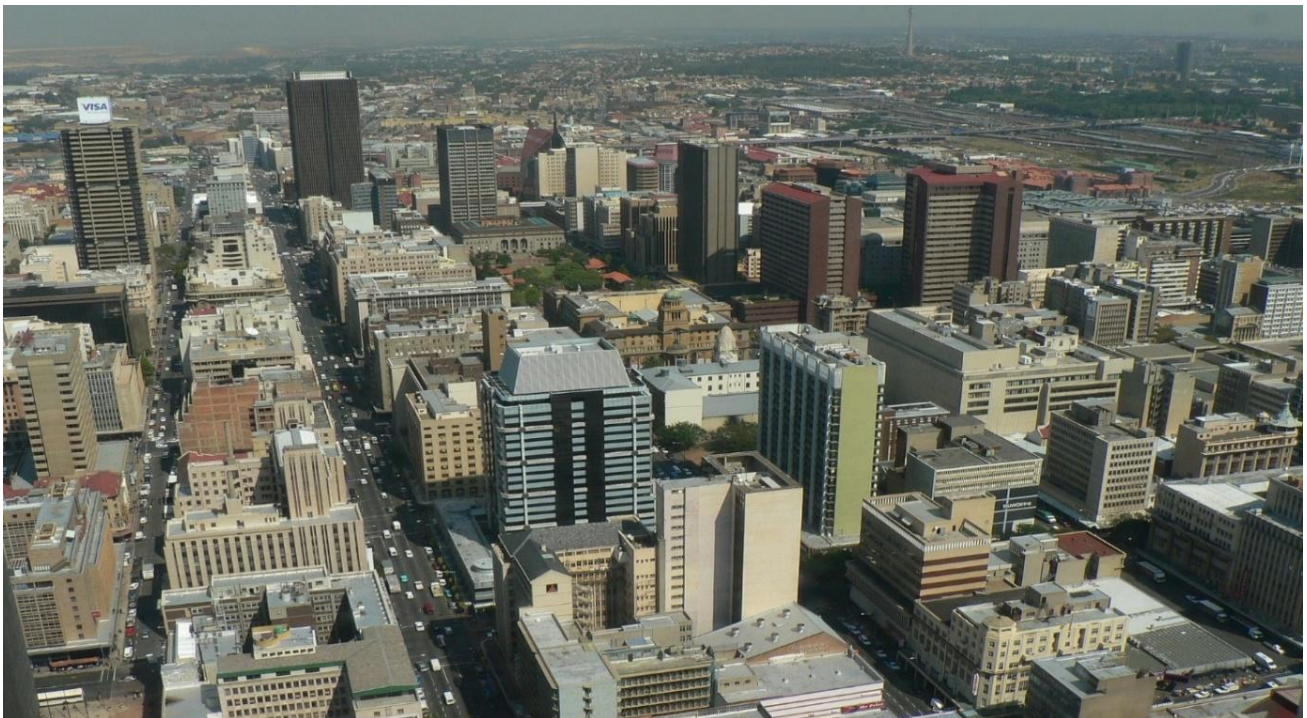
Without exaggeration, Johannesburg can be said to be the city of contrasts. "Joburg", as it is often referred to, is South Africa's largest city with a population of approx. 6.3 million people.

The town was founded in 1886 when gold prospector George Harrison accidentally found a gold vein. The news of the gold find spread like wildfire, and within a short time the primitive carts and tents of the gold diggers were replaced by more modern metal constructions and buildings. The gold rush attracted gold diggers from all over the world and was a contributing factor to the Boer War of 1899-1902, where the Boers and the British fought for control of the area and thus over the gold.

After the end of the war came another wave of immigrants. Up to 60,000 Chinese workers were imported to restart mining operations. Mining also attracted more affluent European migrants, whose investments ensured that the gold could be dug deeper into the ground, while black South Africans were recruited to extract the gold.

In 1904, the first forced relocations of blacks began, which was the beginning of the city's and the country's largest and most notorious township – Soweto.

Johannesburg's geography reflects a hundred years of racially driven division that culminated in the apartheid system in South Africa from 1948-1994. The result is a city of unusual contrasts: giant glass and steel skyscrapers - large townships; internationally recognized universities – widespread illiteracy; glittering opulence – desperate poverty. Johannesburg represents - for better or worse - the soul of South Africa.



Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

When you have passed through passport control at the airport, your tour leader, local tour guide and driver will be ready to welcome you. You will be driven to your hotel, so you have the opportunity to have a refreshing bath before we go out to experience the first highlight of the journey.

We are going to visit the famous and infamous township Soweto (Southwest Township) and get a little insight into the daily life here. It is estimated that there are approx. 2 million people in the urban area, which is about 65 km² in size.



Originally the area was only intended as a temporary residence for the miners, but in 1923, as part of the white government's infamous Urban Areas Act, it was transformed into a ghetto for the black population of Johannesburg. Soweto ended up becoming the largest black town in South Africa, but until 1976 the inhabitants could only have the status of "temporary residents" without legal rights.



Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

On 16 June 1976, several students began protesting in the streets of Soweto in response to the decision to make Afrikaans the official language of all schools. It is estimated that 20,000 students participated in the protests. They were met with fierce brutality by the police, and many were shot and killed, including 13-year-old Hector Pieterse. He was carried by a fellow student and his sister in the iconic photo taken by photographer Sam Nzima.

The image became an icon of the struggle against apartheid, a photo that defined an entire generation. The number of people killed in the uprising is officially 176, but it is believed that up to 700 students lost their lives that day. June 16 is now officially "Youth Day", and the entire month of June is dedicated to the youth of South Africa.



Since 1994, the district has undergone significant changes, where, among other things, a large part of the thousands of tin sheds has been replaced by real homes. There are also better areas in Day with schools, university, sports clubs, and hospitals.

On our tour around Soweto, we will visit Nelson Mandela's house. Already as a young law student, Mandela became involved in the freedom struggle against the white apartheid rule. He soon became one of the leading figures in the African National Congress (ANC), and from 1947 and 14 years later he and his wife Winnie lived at the address Vilakazi Street, House 8115 in Soweto. When he left the house in 1961, it was in a hurry, running for his life. He revisited the house in 1990, after spending 27 years as a prison inmate, and said on that occasion that this place had always been the centre of his world. In Day, it is the best-known address in South Africa. The house has become a museum that tells the story of the Mandela family in sound, pictures, and film. Vilakazi Street is also the only street in the world that has housed 2 recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize. Archbishop Desmond Tutu lived in the same street.

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS



After lunch, we finish the day's sightseeing with a visit to the Apartheid Museum. Founded in 2001, the museum is recognized as the leading museum in the world dealing with the history of South Africa from the 20th century.

In 1948, the white elected National Party government implemented the apartheid policy that made 20 million people second-class citizens and condemned them to a life of servitude, humiliation, and exploitation. The election of Nelson Mandela as president in 1994 simultaneously marked the end of apartheid and became a high point in the saga of a country's resistance, courage, and strength.

The apartheid museum, which is the first of its kind, illustrates the "greatness" and fall of the apartheid system. The museum is a beacon of hope, showing the outside world how South Africa has come to terms with an oppressive past, and is working towards a future that all South Africans can call their own.



Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

In the courtyard of the museum there are 7 tall concrete pillars that symbolize the 7 most important pillars of South Africa's constitution – democracy, diversity, reconciliation, responsibility, freedom, equality, and respect.

An eventful day ends with an authentic African experience when we have dinner and spend the night in Lesedi Cultural Village.

The area consists of five traditional villages - Xhosa, Zulu, Pedi, Basotho, and Ndebele. Listen to the traditional music being played and the fascinating stories told by the people of Lesedi. Enjoy the local South African tribal gatherings and experience some traditional dancing.

After the traditional dance we head towards the Nyama Choma restaurant. There is an extensive selection of African dishes, including ostrich and crocodile. The restaurant is divided into three different themed areas: North Africa, East Africa and South Africa.



Accommodation: Lesedi Cultural Village (<https://www.aha.co.za/lesedi/>)

Meals: Dinner

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Day 2: Johannesburg – Hazyview

(Distance: Approx. 444 kilometre)

After a good night's sleep, it's time for a day dedicated to nature experiences. We are going out on South Africa's most beautiful nature route - *the Panorama route* - in the north-eastern part of the country. The most fascinating area of the route is the spectacular *Blyde River Canyon*. The 25-kilometer-long and 1.4-kilometer-deep gorge is the second largest canyon in Africa and is one of nature's great wonders on the continent.



In the area we find *God's window*. When you look through the "window" you will understand why it bears this name - with magnificent views of canyons, rock formations and waterfalls, this is truly an area of breath-taking scenic splendour.

The Three Rondavelles are three unbelievably beautiful and eye-catching rock formations that look similar to the round huts we find in many local villages around Africa.

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

We will also experience the geologically very breath-taking Bourke's Luck Potholes, which are cylindrical rock sculptures formed by water erosion over thousands of years.



The somewhat peculiar name comes from the local geologist and gold digger Tom Bourke, whose luck it was to find gold in the area in the 1880s.

We arrive at the family-run Gecko Lodge late in the afternoon, where we have the opportunity to take a refreshing dip in the small rock-cut swimming pool.



Accommodation: Gecko Lodge (<http://geckolodge.co.za/>)

Meals: Breakfast and dinner

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Day 3: Hazyview - Krüger National Park

(Distance: Approx. 222 kilometre)

Today we have to get up early and have a full day's game drive in South Africa's largest national park, which has an area of almost 20,000 km². Krüger National Park was established in 1926 and opened its gates to the first 3 guests in 1927. In Day, the park boasts one of the world's largest concentrations of animal species - more than 140 different mammal species, more than 100 different reptile species and more than 500 bird species. The landscape in the park is very varied and there are many permanent rivers and waterholes, which is why many of the species have their densest populations here - 90,000 impalas; 27,000 buffaloes; 18,000 zebras; 12,000 elephants; 9,000 rhinos; 5,000 giraffes; 3,000 hippos; 1,600 lions and 1,000 leopards.



So, on today's game drive there is a great chance that we can experience The Big Five - the rhinoceros, the lion, the leopard, the elephant, and the buffalo. The term dates back to the 1800s, when big game was hunted on foot. The hunters judged that these five animals were the most difficult and dangerous to kill. So even though the term originates from a bygone era, nothing has changed in that it is still an achievement and requires a lot of luck to spot these five animals.

But regardless of which animals we experience on today's game drive, it is always a huge experience. To sit and watch the gazelles elegantly leap through the grass. Or the giraffes, who stretch just that little bit further to be able to eat the leaves from the characteristic acacia trees. Or the large herds of zebras, where each and every one of their patterns is as unique as human fingerprints. Or the cheetah, which with its slim and athletic body is the world's fastest mammal.

We drive around in an open 4-wheel drive to better enjoy and observe the wildlife.

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories



We spend the night at the idyllic Letaba Rest Camp, located in the heart of the Krüger on a wide bend of the Letaba River, where we can see and observe the buffaloes and elephants that come to drink.



Accommodation: Letaba Rest Camp

http://www.krugerpark.co.za/Kruger_National_Park_Lodging_&_Camping_Guide-travel/letaba-camp.html

Meals: Breakfast and dinner

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Day 4: Krüger National Park – Soutpansberg Mountain Range

(Distance: Approx. 238 kilometre)

We eat breakfast early and continue our journey north through the Krüger National Park. The area is dominated by the mopane tree, which with its characteristic "butterfly-shaped" leaves is a treat for elephants. The area is also known to be home to large herds of buffalo, lions, and the African wild dogs.

We leave the park and drive towards the spectacular Soutpansberg mountain range in the northern Limpopo province, known as the gateway to the three neighbouring countries – Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Botswana.

No trip to the African continent is complete until we have met the local population on their terms - an authentic encounter far removed from classic tourism. Then we spend the afternoon in the village of Mphambo, inhabited by people from the Shangaan-Tsonga tribe.

The black South African population is divided into 4 major ethnic groups: Nguni (Zulu, Xhosa, Ndelebe and Swazi), Sotho, Venda, and Shangaan-Tsonga.

The Tsonga people are made up of several different groups, including the Shangaan people. The formation of the 2 peoples is, like so many other tribes from southern Africa, influenced by the infamous and successful Zulu king Shaka. His uncle Dingiswayo, who was the leader of a small chiefdom, was killed by a group of enemies. In his efforts to avenge the killing, Shaka appointed the Zulu warrior Shoshangane as his general. With him at the head, Shaka wanted to conquer and defeat the surrounding chiefdoms, e.g., in Mozambique, where the Tsonga people resided. When Shoshangane arrived in the area he was struck by the beauty and fertility of the land, as well as the humility and kindness of the people. He therefore decided to settle down and create his own tribe – the tribe that we today know as the Shangaan tribe. Today, the tribe is found in Mozambique, south-eastern Zimbabwe, and north-eastern South Africa.



Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

In the village of Mphambo we will experience the same friendliness and hospitality that has always characterized the tribe. The men typically look after the cattle, while the women look after the cultivation of the land. When we arrive, we will meet the local chief who will introduce us to the village and its residents. While we are offered various local dishes, we get a unique insight into the everyday life of the villagers, where they tell us about their culture, customs, history, their daily life, and relationship with their ancestors.

We will meet the local medicine man, who will give us a more detailed introduction to how they use plants and herbs to prevent and cure various diseases. We will also experience their traditional dance and music – it is a genre of music that is characterized by an extremely fast tempo and specially created for a dance style with a focus on footwork. If you are up for it, you may be asked to join the dance.



After a memorable day it is time to say goodbye to the village and drive to our lodge for the night. We spend the night at Shiluvuvar Lakeside Lodge, situated on 30 hectares of natural vegetation. While we enjoy a sundowner and absorb the day's impressions, we may be lucky to see waterbuck and kudu, which regularly visit the area.



Accommodation: Shiluvuvar Lakeside Lodge (www.shiluvuvar.com)

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Day 5: Soutpansberg Mountain Range – Masvingo

(Distance: Approx. 445 kilometre)

After breakfast, it is time to say goodbye to South Africa and continue the journey further north to Zimbabwe. We cross the border at Beit Bridge. The border formalities may take a little longer than we are used to, but it just adds a little extra spice to the experience account.

Together with a local guide, we will take a big step back into the past and experience the origins of what we in Day know as Zimbabwe.

The name Zimbabwe is derived from "*Dzimba Dzembahwe*", which in the local Shona language means "stone houses without the use of mortar". The name refers to Great Zimbabwe, an ancient city in present-day Zimbabwe, which was built from the 11th century and continued until it was abandoned in the 15th century. The city is estimated to have had 18,000 inhabitants at its peak. Archaeological artefacts, including Chinese pottery shards and coins from Arabia, show that the city was an important trading city. Among other things, Arab merchants bought up ivory and gold on their way to the coast.



The 7 km² area is on UNESCO's World Heritage List and consists in Day of the largest collection of ruins in Africa south of the Sahara. Some of the walls are up to five meters high and stand there to this day despite the lack of mortar. The high walls symbolized prosperity and power. It is therefore assumed that Great Zimbabwe has functioned as a palace for the local king. Why the city was abandoned remains a mystery to this day.

Among the more notable elements were 8 carved bird sculptures 40 cm high, which stood on 90 cm high columns. They are completely unique to this area, as they have not been seen anywhere else in the world. It is believed that the birds, which resemble an African osprey or a golden eagle, were sacred and were considered messengers from God. In the late 19th century, these birds were stolen from the area by an English hunter and local tribes. As a curiosity, it can be mentioned

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

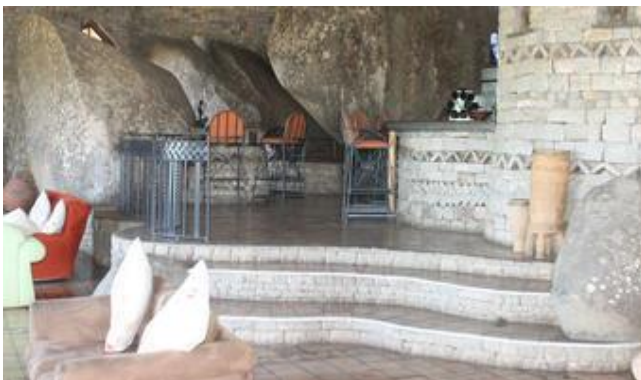
EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

that one of the birds was sold to Cecil Rhodes, who installed it in his house in Cape Town, and decorated the staircase of the house with wooden copies. He also made a stone copy, three times the size of the original, which adorned the gate of his house in England.

Shortly after Zimbabwe's independence in 1980, 4 of the birds were returned from South Africa and another 3 were returned from Europe and are now back in Great Zimbabwe. The last one, that Day, is still standing in Cecil Rhodes' house, which Day has turned into a museum in Cape Town. The Zimbabwe bird can be seen on the national flag, stamps, and coins.



We continue our journey into the past as we drive on to our lodge for the night – Lodge at the Ancient City. It is built on a rocky outcrop and has a wonderful view across the valley towards the Great Zimbabwe ruins. The cabins are decorated in such a way that we can almost feel like an African king for a night.



Accommodation: Lodge at the Ancient City (<http://ancientcitylodge.co.zw>)

Meals: Breakfast and dinner

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Day 6: Masvingo – Bulawayo – Matobo Hills

(Distance: Approx. 354 kilometre)

After a wonderful breakfast, it's time to shake off yesterday's dust and continue the journey towards Bulawayo, which is the country's second largest city after the capital Harare. On the outskirts of the city is Makokoba, which was the first black township in the city. The township is named after Mr. Fallon, who was the first commissioner in the area, and who usually walked around with a cane ("ukukhokhoba" in the local Ndebele language). The word describes the noise of the cane hitting the ground ko-ko-ko.



No trip to Zimbabwe would be complete without visiting a local urban community and getting a real feel for their day-to-day life. So, this morning we are going out to experience the everyday life of the local inhabitants of Makokoba. It is estimated that approx. 20,000 from the Ndebele tribe in the township. Despite the economic and social challenges, it is also a township characterized by hope, where artists, writers, musicians, and athletes flourish against all odds.

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

On the tour, we get the opportunity to experience the large market, where all kinds of local and traditional things are sold, including traditional medicine. We will see some of the small bars and restaurants, and we will experience the local people up close.



After an eventful tour, it's time to drive to Matobo Hills and our lodge for the next 2 nights, in plenty of time to enjoy a sundowner while absorbing the day's experiences.



Accommodation: Farmhouse Lodge (www.farmhousematopos.com)

Meals: Breakfast and dinner

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Day 7: Matobo Hills & Matobo National Park

After breakfast it is time to go on a game drive in Matobo National Park.

The scenery in Matobo is literally breath-taking. A land area characterized by massive kopjes, which are small, rounded peaks of granite. Matobo National Park is located right in the heart of the Matobo Hills and is the country's oldest national park from 1926. In 2003, the area was added to UNESCO's world heritage list.

The national park is only 425 km² and is very little visited compared to the country's largest national park, Hwange National Park. But even though the park does not have the greatest concentration of wild animals compared to Hwange, it is actually the best park for spotting both the white and black rhino. The reason why the rhinoceros are called black and white is not, as one might be led to think, that they are of different colours. But this is simply due to a translation error – when it was discovered that there were two different types of rhinoceros, the difference between them was purely physical. One type of rhino's head was wider than the other. This word was heard as "white", and thus the two types of rhinoceros were named and coloured after a translation error.



As part of our visit to the park, we help support the "Matobo Rhino Trust Program", which means that extra work is done to protect the horned animals from extinction.

It will be possible for us to leave the car and experience the thick-skinned giants on foot in a fenced area that acts as an intensive protection zone. It is an experience out of the ordinary and compared to sitting in a safari vehicle, it is far more rewarding to meet the animals on their terms, as participants in their world.

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

The park is also home to the largest number of leopards in Zimbabwe, but they are very shy, so spotting them requires a little extra luck.

For bird enthusiasts, the park is a bit of a paradise. More than 400 species live here, including the very rare eagles such as the Verraux eagle (also called the black eagle) and the African hawk eagle, and the rare horned owl.

After our game drive, we will go out to visit a small local village, located just outside the park.



The village is inhabited by people from the Ndebele tribe – the same tribe we met in the township of Makokoba. Ndebele constitute Approx. 15% of the population and is the second largest tribe after the Shona tribe making up Approx. 70% of the population of Zimbabwe.

The Ndebele were historically referred to as Matabele, which in the local language meant "people who protect themselves behind high cowhide shields". The history of the Ndebele began when a group seceded from the Zulu king Shaka. The group was under the leadership of Chief Mzilikazi, who was a former general under Shaka. As a result of the Zulu Kingdom's expansion in the 1820s, Mzilikazi and his tribe fled from the southern part of South Africa towards present-day Lesotho and from there further north to the present-day city of Pretoria. They were displaced by the white Boers in 1837 and therefore continued their flight further north and settled in the later Matabeleland. Here they lived until the British under the leadership of Cecil John Rhodes defeated them in 1893.

Many of the Ndebele people work in Day on plantations owned by whites or as migrant workers in South Africa. Some, however, seek to maintain their attachment to an existence as farmers in villages such as the one we are about to visit. Each family has a circle of huts around a central cattle pen. The main crop in this subsistence agriculture is maize, while cattle are mostly kept for milk, and are also used as bride prices. The men take care of the cattle, while the women look after the fields. Patriarchal forms with polygamy are still quite widespread. The husband distributes the land among his wives, and the eldest son of the first wife is the main heir.

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

On our tour around, we hear more about life in the village and get a completely unique insight into a daily life, which is so far from ours.

After the visit to the village, we will go out to experience the Matobo Hills on foot. The area has one of the highest concentrations of petroglyphs in southern Africa, dating back at least 13,000 years.

The rock carvings illustrate evolving styles and different religious beliefs. It shows that people have interacted with and been inspired by the dramatic rock formations over many thousands of years.

For the local population, Matobo Hills is a sacred place – a place where you can come into contact with the spiritual world. And when you look around, it may be easy to understand why the area is considered Zimbabwe's spiritual home.



On our walk we will visit the burial site of Cecil John Rhodes. Rhodes was originally born in England, but at the age of 17 he went to South Africa at the urging of his doctor, who believed that the dry climate would cure his incipient tuberculosis. When he arrived in the country in 1870, the diamond fever was at its peak, as huge quantities of diamonds had been found in the town of Kimberley. Rhodes therefore became a diamond hunter and eventually gained control of several diamond mines. He founded De Beers, which to this day is still the world's leading diamond company.

His biggest dream, however, was to expand the British Empire and build a railway line from Cairo to Cape Town. But for him to realize his dream, it required the English to conquer the last independent kingdom in southern Africa, Matabeleland, where the Ndebele chieftain Lobengula ruled. At first Rhodes tried to persuade the chief to enter the country. But the chief trusted neither

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

white traders nor missionaries. However, Rhodes succeeded in persuading him by signing a treaty in which Lobengula was promised arms against the white people gaining access to the country. But the chief was cheated – he never got the promised weapons, and instead he and more than 1000 of his men were killed by the white men. Rhodes then founded a colony in the area under the name Rhodesia (present-day Zambia and Zimbabwe).

On one of his trips in the area, Rhodes found the hilltop Malindidzumu ("abode of the benevolent spirits"), which he himself renamed "View of the World". He wrote in his will that he wanted to be buried here, so when he died in Cape Town in 1902, he was brought up here and buried in the presence of the local Matabele chiefs.



Accommodation: Farmhouse Lodge (www.farmhousematopos.com)

Meals: Breakfast and dinner

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Day 8: Matobo Hills – Hwange National Park

(Distance: Approx. 325 kilometre)

After breakfast, it's time to drive towards the country's largest national park, Hwange National Park.

Hwange National Park is one of the best national parks on the African continent and should be on every animal lover's list. With its 15,000 km², this huge reserve is one of Africa's most animal-rich national parks and is famous for its large herds of buffalo and elephant.



The park is located in the north-west of the country and borders Botswana and the dry sands of the Kalahari Desert. The area once belonged to the nomadic Sanfolk (Bushmen), who lived off the large herds of big game. In time, however, the San people were displaced by the stronger Ndebele tribe, who's chief Mzilikazi declared the area his hunting ground. When the whites came to the country in the 19th century, they started shooting the big game in their hunt - or rather predatory - for horns, ivory, and animal skins. It took a long time before the authorities noticed the harmful development, and only in 1928 did they declare the then Wankie National Park a reserve.

The reserve was effectively created when the land was considered unsuitable for agriculture with its poor soil and scarce water supply. The first inspector for the area, Ted Davidson, was able to quickly ascertain that there was not much big game left – the number of elephants was below 1000, and the black and white rhinoceros completely extinct. Ted Davidson created 60 artificial waterholes that helped attract wildlife from the Kalahari Desert. In 1949, the reserve became Hwange National Park. The idea was to save the endangered animals - especially the elephants - and at the same time attract tourists on their way to and from Victoria Falls, which was - and still is - Zimbabwe's biggest attraction.

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories



The biological diversity is enormous with over 100 different kinds of mammals. The park is also home to The Big Five. In addition, there are regular sightings of cheetahs and Africa's largest population of the endangered wild dog. The bird life is at least as rich as the animal life. Over 400 different species of birds live in the park, from the large and not so charming vulture to the beautiful, purple-breasted crow. Even the park's trees are interesting. Both the special Zimbabwe teak tree, the gigantic red mahogany and African ebony grow here.



Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

In the park we will visit The Painted Dog Conservation. The Painted Dog - or the wild African dog - is about to become extinct. There are fewer than 7,000 left on the entire continent. They may not be as famous as their horned counterparts, but African wild dogs are beautiful, unique, and fascinating social animals.

The wild dogs are native to Africa and are not found in nature anywhere else on the globe. They live in small pockets across a handful of countries, including Zimbabwe. We will experience some of the 700 dogs that live here and hear more about the work the place does to preserve them in the wild.



We spend the night at Hwange Safari Lodge, which is located just outside the park. The rooms have a view of the waterhole or the savannah, so you should not be surprised to see a curious elephant that comes remarkably close to the windows.



Accommodation: Hwange Safari Lodge

<http://www.africansunhotels.com/hotels/8/hwange-safari-lodge>

Meals: Breakfast and dinner

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Day 9: Hwange National Park

Today we have to get up early to go on a game drive and experience the animals just after sunrise. We drive around in an open 4-wheel drive, so we have the best conditions for experiencing wildlife.

Hwange today has the country's largest concentration of animals. The elephants in particular have benefited from the protected area and the artificial watering holes that have been constructed. The park today has so many elephants that they almost pose a problem. But they are also the park's biggest attraction.



The national park is a wonderful mix of open savannah, forest, and semi-desert. Such a varied landscape provides living conditions for a number of animals that are not found in many other places in Africa. Among other things, the park is home to the "Big Five Antelopes": eland - the largest of them all; kudu - with the world's longest horn; oryx - whose horn in the Middle Ages was marketed as being from the unicorn; the roan - which is almost extinct, and the sable antelope - with its backward-pointing horns and where the males' skin is jet black.

The many watering holes scattered around the park make it easier to find the animals, and you can sit for hours near watering holes and enjoy the spectacular sight. Watchtowers and hiding places have also been built at several waterholes.

We drive around the park until lunchtime. After lunch there is some time to relax before we go on a game drive again in the afternoon.

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories



Accommodation: Hwange Safari Lodge

<http://www.africansunhotels.com/hotels/8/hwange-safari-lodge/>

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Day 10: Hwange National Park – Chobe National Park – Victoria Falls

(Distance: Approx. 184 kilometre)

After breakfast it is time to drive further north and cross the border into Botswana to experience Chobe National Park. We drive around in an open 4-wheel drive, where we can enjoy the animals in their natural habitat.

Chobe National Park was the first national park in the country and, with its area of 11,700 km², is Botswana's third largest, but the most biologically diverse. It is also the park in the world that is home to the most elephants. It is estimated that there are around 45,000 elephants in the park out of Botswana's population of more than 100,000 elephants. In addition, you can see large herds of buffalo, various antelopes, zebras, giraffes, warthogs, wildebeests, hyenas, lions, and leopards.



We drive around in the early morning hours, as most animals are grazing at this time, so the chances of spotting them are optimal. Lions and the other big cats that like to lie in the shade of the bushes are also often spotted more easily.

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

After lunch, it's once again time to find the camera and get water under the keel when we go out to experience the wildlife on a boat trip on the Chobe River.

The open river landscape makes it possible to experience the animals up close when they go down to the river to drink. It is an incredibly special sight when the elephants bathe in the river or even swim to the other bank, where we can just make out its back and trunk sticking out of the water.



There are great chances of seeing the African Fish Eagle, majestically perched in the treetops, and guarding; crocodiles on the riverbank waiting for prey to pass by; hippos, barely visible with their eyes above the water, and all the other animals that feed on Chobe's life-giving drops.



Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories



At the end of our boat safari, we experience the very special African sunset, where the sky is lit up in the most fantastic burnt orange-red colours.

After disembarking, we drive towards the border to say goodbye to Botswana and drive to our hotel in Zimbabwe Shongwe Lookout. The hotel has a lookout tower overlooking the Zambezi River.



Accommodation: Shongwe Lookout (<https://www.shongwelookout.com>)

Meals: Breakfast

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Day 11: Victoria Falls

After a delicious breakfast, it's time to drive towards the impressive Victoria Falls.

Before we get to the waterfall, we make a stop at the big Baobab tree, which is probably both the oldest and largest Baobab tree in Zimbabwe. The tree is estimated to be at least 2000 years old and has an impressive girth and height – 22.40 meters in circumference and 24 meters high. A traditional legend tells how the baobab tree got its appearance:

"God gave each animal a tree to plant, but the hyena had not been given a tree. God said to the hyena: "Here you have a seed, you must plant it, then you will also have a tree". The hyena was not particularly clever, so when it had to plant the seed, it turned it upside down. Therefore, it looks as if the baobab tree has its roots in the air and its crown in the ground."



Many call it the tree of life, as it grows so slowly that it takes 1000 years to reach its full size. Over time, the tree is hollowed out and therefore it has been used as both housing, as a prison and to bury important villagers. For that reason, there are many locals who believe that you can get in touch with your ancestors via the tree.

One of the tree's peculiarities is that it absorbs large amounts of water during the rainy season. It can hold up to 4500 litres of water inside its trunk during the dry season, which is why elephants go in search of water under the bark when lakes and streams dry up.

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

From there we continue the journey to Africa's largest and the world's second largest waterfall Victoria Falls on the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia. It is one of the natural wonders of the world and with its width of 1.7 km and a drop of 128 meters is very spectacular. It was the English explorer David Livingstone who, as the first white man on November 17, 1855, "discovered" the waterfall and named it in honour of the then English Queen Victoria.

The indigenous people from the Tonga tribe called the waterfall Mosi-oa-Tunya, which directly translates to "the smoke that thunders". A very telling name, as especially in the rainy season it sounds like a strong thunder from the gorge, when the water masses hit the bottom and throw up a cloud of water up to 400 meters high. The Tonga tribe believed that the thunder and the huge flood were caused by evil spirits. They believed in the river god Nyaminyami who lived under a large rock further up the Victoria Falls. The mythical creature was a mixture of a fish and a snake and has been hiding since the white man arrived in the area. When it appears, the water turns red. No one dares to get too close to its rock as legend has it that the men who sailed there in their canoes disappeared and have never been seen again. Whether you believe these myths or not, they are still quite fascinating. Today you will discover the magic yourself...



After we have enjoyed the guided tour around the waterfall, heard a little more about the geological wonder and the legends that surround it, it is time for the afternoon experience.

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

When talk falls on Victoria Falls, 2 things often come to mind: Of course, the world-famous waterfall, and then the almost equally legendary hotel Victoria Falls Hotel. Built by the British in 1904, the hotel was originally intended as accommodation for the workers who worked on the railway from Cape Town to Cairo. As part of the railway system, a bridge was to be built over the mighty Zambezi River. Cecil Rhodes, who could see that this railway would strengthen the British Empire, wanted the bridge to be built in a place where the water spray from the waterfall would fall on the passing trains, which is the reason why the bridge is so close to the waterfall.



The Victoria Falls Hotel has been modernized over the years but has retained the distinctive colonial style that makes us almost feel like we are in a time warp when we walk around the hotel. Here we will have their famous High Tea with a view of the Victoria Falls Bridge.



Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

We will meet again at 19.00, where we will have our farewell dinner at The Boma restaurant. We sit overlooking the Zimbabwean night sky and enjoy various excellent local dishes. While we eat, we are entertained by traditional dance and music.



With the inciting African rhythms present in consciousness, it's time to get back to the hotel and get a good night's sleep.

Accommodation: Shongwe Lookout (<https://www.shongwelookout.com>)

Meals: Breakfast, High Tea, and dinner

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Day 12: Departure to Denmark

Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

Enjoy the last morning atmosphere in southern Africa. Take a dip in the hotel swimming pool or buy the last souvenirs before we get ready to go to Victoria Falls Airport to begin our journey home to Denmark. Tired, but filled with lots of lovely holiday memories, new friendships and, of course, unique spot shots.



Meals: Breakfast

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Overview of the itinerary *- the Spirit of the Southern Africa*

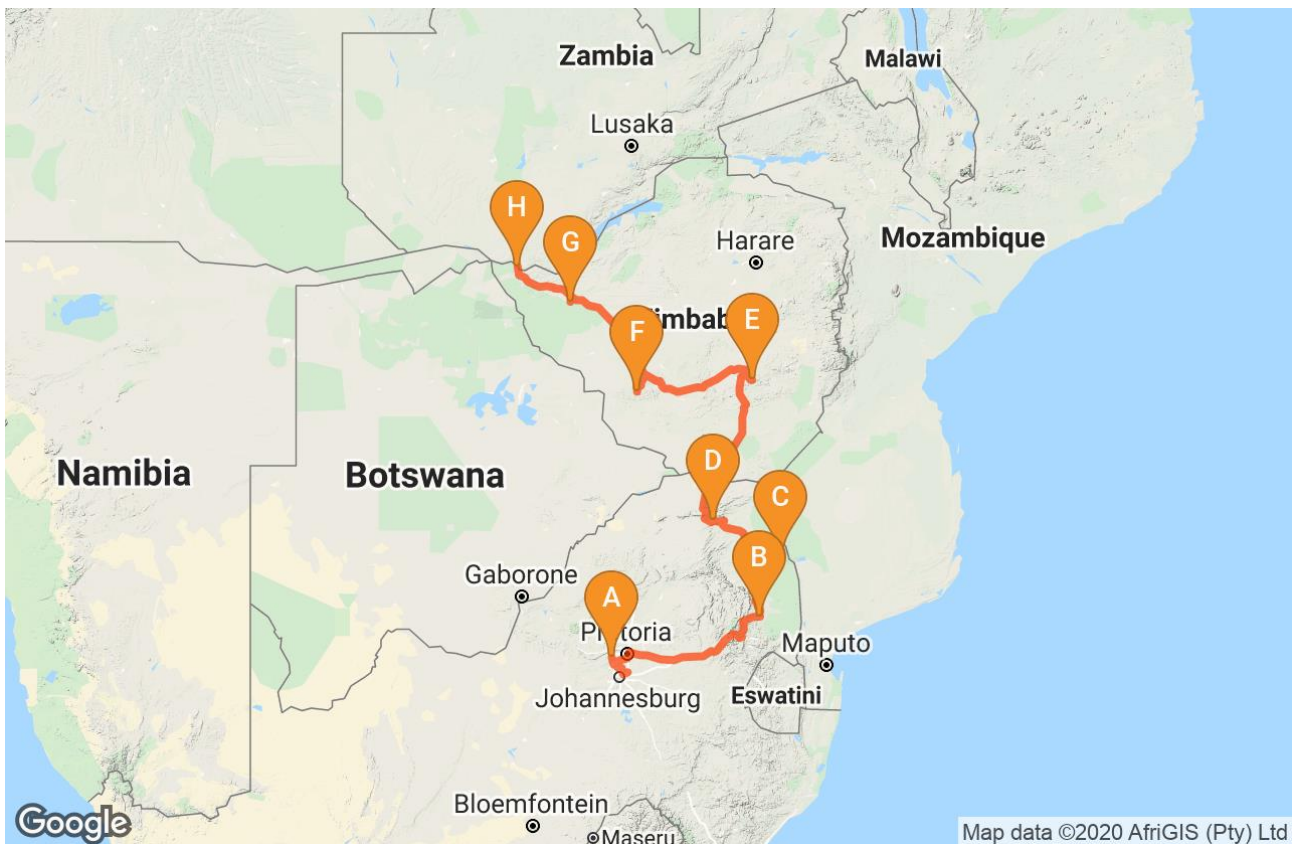
Day	Duration	Accommodation	Meals
1 - 2	1 night	Lesedi Cultural Village, South Africa	Day 1 Dinner
2 - 3	1 night	Gecko Lodge, South Africa	Day 2 Breakfast & dinner
3 - 4	1 night	Letaba Rest Camp, South Africa	Day 3 Breakfast & dinner
4 - 5	1 night	Shiluvuri Lakeside Lodge, South Africa	Day 4 Breakfast, lunch & dinner
5 - 6	1 night	Lodge at the Ancient City, Zimbabwe	Day 5 Breakfast & dinner
6 - 8	2 nights	Farmhouse Lodge, Zimbabwe	Day 6 Breakfast & dinner Day 7 Breakfast & dinner
8 - 10	2 nights	Hwange Safari Lodge, Zimbabwe	Day 8 Breakfast & dinner Day 9 Breakfast, lunch & dinner
10 - 12	2 nights	Shongwe Lookout, Zimbabwe	Day 10 Breakfast Day 11 Breakfast, High Tea & dinner Day 12 Breakfast



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Overview of the travel route *Johannesburg to Victoria Falls* *- the Spirit of the Southern Africa*



Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

Practical information *- the Spirit of the Southern Africa*

Travel budget

Most meals on our trip are already included. For drinks and additional lunches or dinners, calculate around DKK 150-200 per person.

Tips

It is customary to tip guides, waiters, and other service personnel. They receive a very small, fixed salary, and are therefore very dependent on the tips they receive when they deliver a good effort. Evergreen Escape Expeditions recognizes this custom, but also knows that Danes generally have a hard time tipping, as we are not used to it. That is why we have included tips for guides and drivers in the journey.

It is often a large item on a travel budget. Guests of Evergreen Escape Expeditions avoid this post and the considerations associated with it. Gratuities for both local guides and general guides, drivers and helpers are included in the price for the journey.

What remains are the small items such as tips for maids and porters. Most often, their salary is based on tips. We cannot change this. Therefore, it is always a good idea to show your appreciation in the form of a small amount, both to the driver who takes the suitcase from the room to the lobby, and to the maid in charge of the room.

Likewise, Evergreen Escape Expeditions recommends that you round up - or add 10% - when paying at a restaurant. The same rule applies here as in hotels: the salary is based on the guests tipping.

Passport

Passport must be valid for six months beyond the date of entry and have 2 blank pages for entry and exit stamps.

It is always a good idea to have an extra copy of the passport's information page with you. It is kept in a different place than the passport itself.

We advise all travellers to check with the country's consulate about possible changes regarding entry requirements, as these can change at short notice.

Visa

Visa is required for EU citizens in Zimbabwe. The visa can be purchased at the border crossing and currently costs USD 30.

For Botswana and South Africa, a visa is not required.

Vehicles

We use air-conditioned vehicles.

From 10 to 14 people, we travel with a 17-person Crafter or a Mercedes Sprinter. These vehicles are very agile, flexible, and reliable.

For more than 14 people, we travel with a 24-person bus.

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com



Evergreen Escape
EXPEDITIONS
Everlasting Dreams & Memories

EVERGREEN ESCAPE EXPEDITIONS

When we are on a game drive in Krüger National Park, Matobo National Park, Hwange National Park, and Chobe National Park, we drive in open terrain 4-wheel drive vehicles.

Luggage

Please bring a soft bag or rucksack rather than a suitcase, as they are often easier to pack in the car.

Packing List

Documents:

- Your passport & a copy of the passport (keep it separate from the original)
- Your flight confirmation
- Vaccination certificate & copy
- Contact details and insurance card for your international health insurance
- Cash in Euro or USD
- Credit card, preferably Visa
- Last travel documents with the contact details of the contact person on site

Clothing:

- Sturdy shoes
- Sandals
- Warm fleece or wool sweater for chilly mornings and evenings
- Light summer clothes
- Long-sleeved shirt/blouse and long cotton trousers
- Light rain/wind jacket
- Headgear
- Swimwear, bath towel and bath shoes

Equipment:

- Small backpack
- Money belt or chest bag for storing money and valuables
- Sunglasses
- Flashlight + extra batteries
- Headlamp
- Camera and possibly telephoto lens for animal photos
- Memory card
- Binoculars
- Power adapter
- Travel alarm clock
- Travel hair dryer if needed
- Neck pillow for travel and long journeys

Health/First Aid Kit:

- Sunscreen for skin and lips
- Mosquito spray (mosquito spray can also be bought on arrival - e.g., Nobite or Medisoft)
- First aid kit (with plasters and disinfectant)
- Important personal medicine
- Small provisions, e.g., biscuit
- A roll of toilet paper

Evergreen Escape Expeditions
P.O. Box 1234-10400 Nanyuki, Kenya
+254 (0)7 9191 8888
info@evergreen-escape.com