

# Africa



**eclipse**travel  
*Adventures of a lifetime*





# Amazing Africa

From its endless deserts and burning sunsets, to its iconic wildlife and diverse culture, Africa has it all.

There is nowhere else on the planet with such incredible natural beauty and rich traditions. Spanning across 54 countries and both hemispheres, Africa is stunningly complex and diverse. With new traditions infusing with ancient customs, there is so much to experience in Africa.

With Table Mountain in South Africa, the savannah of the Serengeti and the tropical coastline of Eastern Africa, this continent is indisputably magical and guarantees to take your breath away. Experience the Big 5; the lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and buffalo. A true African Safari exploring exotic wildlife in their natural habitats is an opportunity of a lifetime!

## Why choose Eclipse Travel?

At Eclipse Travel we're committed to delivering the very best experiences to some of the world's most breath-taking destinations. We'll take the hard work out of organising your holiday, and design a personalised itinerary that's a perfect fit for your interests, dates and budget.

With our personal insight and exceptional knowledge of travelling and trip-planning in Southern and Eastern Africa, we can design a remarkable and truly unforgettable adventure perfectly tailored to your needs.





# *Tips to help* **Plan your Trip**

**There are a number of considerations to take into account when deciding on where to go on your trip to Africa - here are some quick tips to help start the planning process.**

## *Decide when can you go, and for how long*

Generally, people plan their trips for between one and four weeks. If you have time we encourage you to focus on exploring fewer countries in depth, giving you the chance to fully experience everything on offer. For those short on time, we have designed a number of highlights tours that cover off some of the most popular experiences on offer in each destination if you have a checklist of things you would like to see.

## *Who are you are travelling with?*

The make-up of your group has a huge impact on the options available to you. For families or large groups, it can be more difficult to find availability or room types which match your requirements. Many lodges have strict age requirements which can limit your options when travelling with children. Similarly, some overland tours are focused on younger age groups and can restrict the options available to you. If you are travelling solo, you may prefer to join a group and may need to or want to consider single supplement options.

## *Make a list of what you hope to see and experience*

A safari to see the 'Big 5' is on most people's bucket list, but you may also want to include a trek to see the gorillas in Uganda or Rwanda. If you want to see part of the Great Migration, this will definitely influence where and when you can travel. Other year-round attractions such as visiting the mighty Victoria Falls, wine tasting in Cape Winelands, or snorkelling in the turquoise waters of Zanzibar are more accommodating in terms of when you can go.

## *It helps to have a budget in mind*

We appreciate you want to get as much value for your money as possible, so it is important for us to understand where best to allocate your budget to make sure we can optimise the best personal travel experience for you.

## *Top Tip: the sooner the better!*

Most accommodation has strict limitations on numbers, and availability is very limited. To give yourself the best chance of securing your preferred accommodation (or even being able to go to some destinations at all) we can't stress enough the importance of booking early. Booking over a year in advance for your upcoming safari is often necessary. Even in the short time you are deciding on your itinerary accommodation often books out.

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# Tailor-made Itineraries

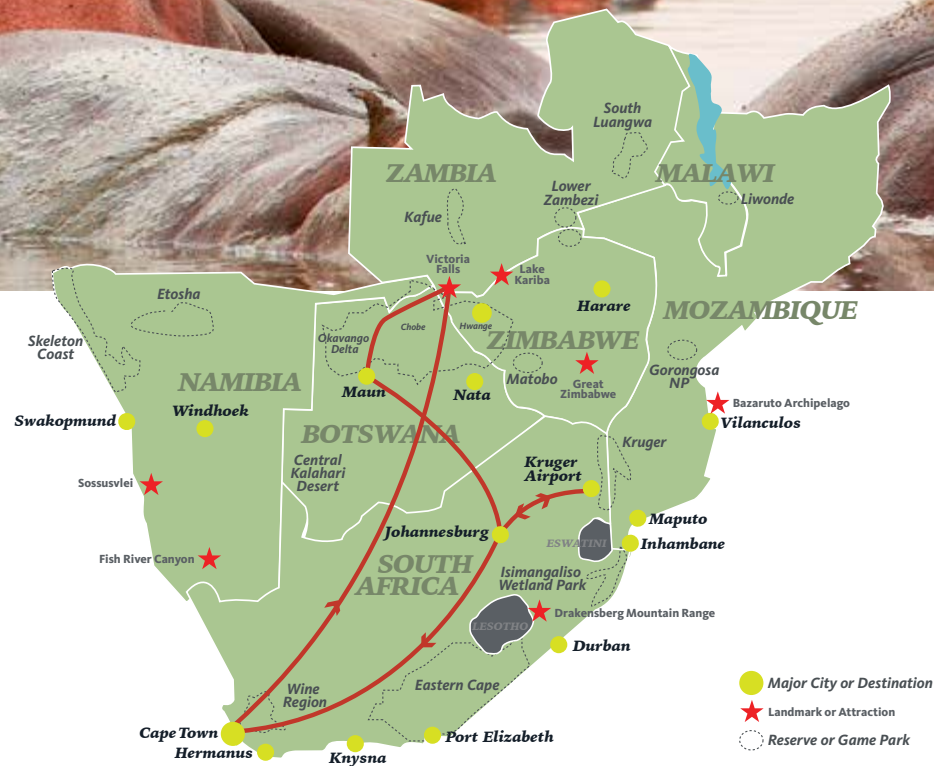
At Eclipse Travel we can offer a range of travel options which operate in an independent and flexible way whilst always having the support of our local offices and ground operators.

We are happy to tailor-make a proposal for you with your choice of accommodation standard, transfers and tours all designed to suit your tastes, interests and budget. In this way we can offer daily departures and the tour can also be customised to your requirements if you would like to add in a few extra days or destinations, or upgrade any hotels.

Our clients love the flexibility of our customised itineraries and we work hard to make sure each trip is perfect for you!

## Example Tailor-made Tour: Best of Southern Africa

Experience the renowned game viewing and unspoiled bush of the Kruger National Park before heading to iconic Cape Town. Experience all the essential sightseeing opportunities and relax at the remarkable natural wonder that is Victoria Falls before exploring the world-renowned Chobe National Park and Okavango Delta.



## Itinerary Highlights

- Witness the magnificence of Victoria Falls in all its splendour
- Visit Cape Town with its dramatic coastline of pristine white beaches, nearby winelands and the iconic flat-topped Table Mountain
- Explore the Kruger National Park and Chobe National Park to meet with the “Big 5”
- Visit the wildlife-rich Okavango Delta and explore this wetland paradise



# Small Group Escorted Tours

**If a large group tour isn't for you and the idea of independent travel doesn't appeal, why not try our small accommodated group tours?**

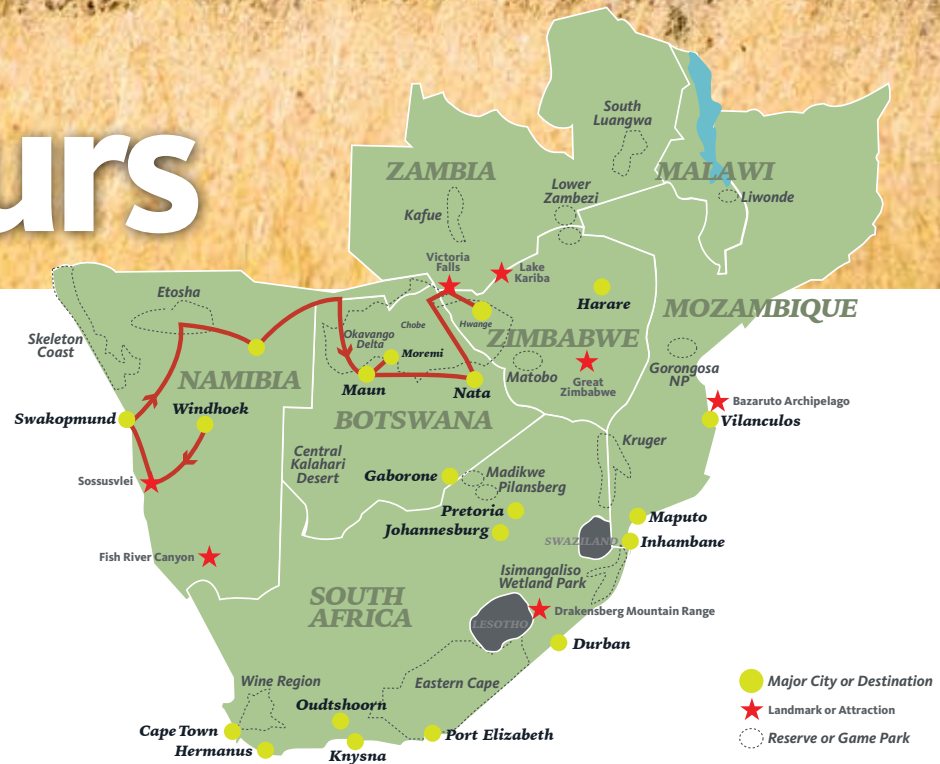
We have sourced a unique range of small group tours which offer the most enjoyable way to experience all that Africa has to offer, whilst sharing the experience with like-minded travellers. All the time you will be in the expert hands of an experienced guide who will help you 'get beneath the surface' to help discover the real people, places, culture and incredible wildlife of this amazing continent.

Solo travellers, couples and friends travelling together are all welcome, and the mix is what makes these escorted group tours work so well.

## *Example Escorted Tour:*

### *Great Trans-African Lodge Safari*

Spend 21 days exploring Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe on this small group tour. From marvelling at Victoria Falls to the breath-taking magnitude of Namibia's dunes and big game interaction, this tour combines all the comforts of lodge accommodation with an unforgettable safari experience.



### *Itinerary Highlights*

- Admire the epic landscapes and towering red sand dunes in Sossusvlei
- Visit the vibrant coastal town of Swakopmund offering a variety of adventure activities
- Mokoro excursion in Okavango Delta
- Sunset cruise to Popa Falls in Caprivi and on the Zambezi River



# Choosing your Accommodation



## Safari Lodges

Safari Lodges (sometimes known as game lodges) are permanent lodge accommodation. There is a diverse selection of options on offer, ranging from luxury to comfortably rustic and everything in between. You may be in a larger central lodge or individual cabins with ensuite facilities and private verandahs. Facilities and services available also vary, including many that you would normally find in a boutique four or five-star hotel.



## Tented Safari Camps

There is something thrilling about staying in a luxury tent on safari where it is possible to recapture the magic and romance of a bygone era. We offer a huge range of permanent and semi-permanent tented safari lodges in locations which showcase the very best of Africa's iconic safari destinations. A tented safari lodge experience offers impressive comfort normally only found in the most luxurious hotels, with many 'tents' boasting air-conditioning, luxury bathrooms, and even plunge pools.



## Mobile Camping

Camping on your safari offers the opportunity to get under canvas out in the African wilderness. This can range from budget participation style camping safaris, staying in two-man dome tents, to the more comfortable serviced safaris where everything is looked after for you, including erecting large canvas tents with ensuite bathrooms. Your level of involvement depends on the tour, but in all cases at each location a new camp will be set up before leaving the area completely clean.

A photograph of a safari vehicle, a white Land Rover with a roof rack and a spare tire on the back, driving through tall, dry grass in a savanna. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The license plate on the vehicle reads 'T868 AAZ'.

# *Experiences* in Africa

## ***Small Group Safaris***

Africa can often be a daunting destination for first time visitors, so why not join one of our exciting group tours and experience the magic of safari whilst making new friends along the way? Whilst these trips often involve longer drives on rough roads, they can be very cost effective and cover some incredible and remote destinations. This style is perfect for the solo traveller or couple wanting to share their trip with a group of like-minded people, enjoying the peace of mind and expertise of the group leaders.

## ***Walking Safaris***

Taking a safari on foot brings about a totally new way of understanding your surroundings. Your guide (who may be armed depending on the location) can show you how to track wildlife, and you will begin to notice the smaller things around you; taking the time to smell, listen and seek out the wealth of animal and bird life that surrounds you.

Walking safaris are most often completed as a half day excursion from your safari camp or lodge, but in some locations you have the option of taking a mobile walking safari where you walk between camps each day, looking for wildlife along the way. Walking safaris can be offered throughout Africa with some fantastic multi day walks offered in Zambia and

other unique experiences like rhino tracking in Namibia and gorilla treks in Rwanda and Uganda. Walking Safaris can usually only be done at lodges in private conservancies.

## ***Fly-in Safaris***

If you have a higher budget and want to cut out long distance driving, why not opt for one of our fly-in safaris which will take you from one safari camp to the next, staying in exceptional accommodation? This option maximises your time on the ground — not to mention the spectacular views that you will get from the comfort of the plane. When you reach your camp, you will have a range of activities to choose from including game drives, boat trips and walking safaris.

## ***Beach Extensions***

Safari holidays are, without doubt, one of the most amazing and unique travel experiences in the world, however they can also be quite hard work at times. After a few days on safari with early morning starts and so much to take in, you may be ready for a change of pace. Kicking back and relaxing on one of Africa's exceptional beach destinations such as Zanzibar, Mozambique, the Kenyan coast or even Mauritius and the Seychelles can offer the perfect complement to your safari.

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# The Great Migration

**The annual wildebeest migration is one of the last natural wonders left on earth and a must see on any East Africa safari.**

Over two million wildebeest migrate from Tanzania's Serengeti National Park to the Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya. This incredible spectacle has to be seen to be believed. Predicting the movement of the large herds is not an exact science, as it is dictated by the amount of rainfall in certain areas, but by looking at historical information you can garner a good idea of where and when to start planning your encounter of this amazing event.

## *What, When and Where?*

### **December to March**

In the early part of the year the herds spread throughout the Southern Plains of the Serengeti. This is the time that the southern plains are lush and green, which gives the newborns the strength for the long journey ahead. February a great time to witness the

big herds all together as they converge for calving season. Things however, are not all cute and cuddly as predators lurk in the shadows...

### **April to July**

April and May the herds tend to spread out a due to the long rains creating good grazing conditions. May onwards the long trek towards the Maasai Mara in Kenya is in full swing, with some of the herds following the traditional Western Corridor routing, which is where the fabled river crossings occur at the Grumeti River. The big question of survival comes up at this point... will they survive the crocodiles?

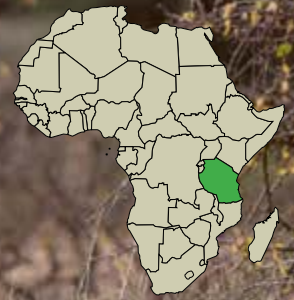
### **August to November**

The herds are generally located in the northern reaches of the Serengeti and in the Maasai Mara and beyond. The wildebeest are met with some more opportunities for river crossings on the Mara River, before the long return journey back to the Serengeti.



*The wildebeest migration also includes large numbers of zebras and gazelles as they circulate between Tanzania and Kenya looking for food*





# Tantalising Tanzania

**The vast wilderness areas of Tanzania boast exceptional wildlife and offer arguably Africa's best safari destination.**

Tanzania is home to Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro, with its lowest point being the Indian Ocean that borders the west coast. It also contains seven UNESCO World Heritage sites including the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Serengeti National Park, and the Kilimanjaro National Park. Don't forget Lake Manyara which is world famous for its flamingos and tree climbing lions!

With 16 national parks, 29 game reserves, and 40 conservation areas, you'll be able to fully immerse yourself in the African nature experience in Tanzania.

## Tanzania Highlights

- Witness the largest mammal migration in the world in the Serengeti National Park
- See a huge number of diverse wildlife at the incredible Ngorongoro Crater —the world's largest inactive, intact, and unfilled volcanic caldera

- Search for flamingos and the elusive tree climbing lions in Lake Manyara National Park
- Visit Olduvai Gorge for a fascinating insight into the history of human evolution
- Tarangire National Park is home to huge herds of elephants, wildebeest, zebra, buffalo and more—and is Tanzania's greatest concentration of wildlife outside of the Serengeti

## Eclipse Travel Insights

- The Serengeti is home to many natural wonders & wildlife areas—we recommend flying at least one way from Arusha to your lodge to reduce travel times & fatigue
- Tanzania's lesser known game reserves such as Selous and Ruaha may be less accessible but unspoilt landscapes, no crowds and incredible wildlife encounters await for those who make the effort
- You can never be over prepared for the sheer number of wildlife and scenic photo opportunities on safari—make sure you take at least one spare camera battery
- Visit Mto wa Mbu cultural village where 120 different tribes can be found
- For the more active traveller, why not trek to 5,895m summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest free-standing mountain in the world (allow 6-8 nights depending on the route)

## Best Times to Visit Tanzania

*April to May is the rainy season. The southern and western circuit parks are best visited during the dry season, unlike the northern circuit parks that can be visited year-round. Tarangire is the exception with wildlife viewing considerably better in the dry season.*

Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Great	Great	Great	Great	Great	Good	Good
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec



# Magical Kenya

**With some of the world's best safari destinations, the snow-capped peak of mighty Mt Kenya and superb beaches, Kenya is East Africa's most popular tourist destination.**

Kenya boasts many world-famous national parks, such as the Maasai Mara, Lake Nakuru, Amboseli and Tsavo East where you can expect to enjoy stunning wildlife including the immense herds of the Great Migration. Kenya offers Africa's most diverse landscapes encompassing everything from savannahs, volcanoes, mountains, lakes, and valleys, to desert islands and white sandy beaches. Add in its traditional indigenous cultures and you have the perfect mix for your next African adventure.

## Kenya Highlights

- Visit the famous Maasai Mara National Reserve where you can witness the Great Migration, known as 'the greatest wildlife show on Earth', and see throngs of wildebeest, zebra, and gazelle thundering to and from the Serengeti, from July through October
- Take a hot air balloon ride over Mara for incredible birds-eye views

- Catch the big-tusked elephants against the spectacular backdrop of Mt Kilimanjaro in Amboseli National Park for the perfect photo opportunity
- Spot impressive eastern black rhinos and southern white rhinos at Lake Nakuru – a small park around a beautiful, flamingo-filled lake
- Take an amazing safari away from the crowds in Northern Kenya's Samburu or Laikipi

## Eclipse Travel Insights

- It is considered polite to ask before taking a photo of people or their houses – sometimes a tip may be expected in return
- Whilst the Maasai people are the most well-known of Kenya's people there are more than 70 tribes in Kenya, each with their own distinctive costumes and customs
- To avoid the crowds on safari, consider staying in a lodge located on a private reserve where you can also do walks and night game drives
- The dry season (June to October) is your best bet for wildlife watching

## Best Times to Visit Kenya

*The best wildlife viewing months in Kenya are during the dry season from late June to October. The wildebeest migration usually reaches the Maasai Mara in July and remains until October when it moves back to the Serengeti in Tanzania. Wildlife viewing is generally good year-round.*

Great	Great	Good	Fair	Fair	Great	Great	Great	Great	Great	Good	Good
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec



# Exotic Zanzibar

**When people hear mention of Zanzibar it often conjures a mixture of images of the exotic and dark past for the 'spice island'.**

The capital, Stone Town, is a UNESCO World Heritage site comprised of intricate narrow alleys and a fusion of Arabic, Indian, European and African influenced architecture. Zanzibar's white sandy beaches have to be seen to be believed, lined with palm trees to form postcard perfect vistas wherever you look. Nearby islands are in easy reach with a multitude of boat trips available to access diving, snorkelling and more.

Experiencing a classic spice tour is an excellent way to discover part of the historical importance of Zanzibar's story. Combine relaxation with adventure in this diverse and historic destination.

## Zanzibar Highlights

- Relax on the powdery white sand beaches with tranquil, warm tropical waters

- Immerse yourself in turquoise waters for great snorkelling and coral reef diving
- Enjoy a tour of Stone Town the capital of Zanzibar and some spend time discovering this melting pot of Asian, European and African cultures
- Visit Zanzibar's famous spice plantations and choose your own exotic fruits and spices to smell and savour
- Take a boat trip out to Prison Island, once a site used to detain slaves, this beautiful Island is home to a colony of giant tortoises

## Eclipse Travel Insights

- Greeting is an important part of the local culture - 'Shikamoo' is a respectful greeting usually for people you don't know
- There are also lot of rooftop restaurants/bars in Stone Town which make the perfect spots for watching the many stunning sunsets
- Try octopus curry which is one of the most popular dishes or urojo which is a unique food creation in Zanzibar to get a taste of the local cuisine

## Best Times to Visit Zanzibar

*The best time to visit Zanzibar for a beach escape is from June to October or December to February. The monsoon season runs from the end of March until May. Diving is best in July/August or February/March, and you can swim with whale sharks from November to January.*

Great	Great	Fair	Fair	Fair	Great	Great	Great	Great	Great	Fair	Great
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec



# Unique Uganda

**Exploring Uganda is an absolute delight, with many citing it as an all time favourite travel experience.**

Gorilla trekking in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest of southwest Uganda is a bucket-list must. Follow this up with an unforgettable chimpanzee trek in Kibale Forest National Park. Top off your Uganda trip with a safari in Queen Elizabeth National Park which is known for its abundant wildlife such as cape buffaloes, elephants, leopards, lions, hippos, crocodiles and chimpanzees. Although landlocked, Uganda contains many impressive lakes which provide multiple wildlife viewing opportunities.

## Uganda Highlights

- Keep your camera ready for chimpanzee encounters in the Kibale Forest
- Enjoy the diverse landscape and variety of animals in Queen Elizabeth National Park
- Visit Bwindi National Park, home to half of the world's population of mountain gorillas
- Soak in the scenery of rolling hills and tea and coffee plantations
- Enjoy a huge variety of activities including boat rides, trekking and game drives in the

area surrounding spectacular Murchison Falls, where the River Nile forces its way through a narrow gorge

- Cruise along the Kazinga Channel and encounter a variety of animals such as hippos, buffalo, elephants, crocodiles - all in close proximity of one another

## Eclipse Travel Insights

- Uganda is one of the world's top places for birdwatching with over 1,000 different species including the legendary shoebill stork
- Queen Elizabeth National Park is home to elusive tree climbing lions – seek them out on a game drive
- Every trip to Uganda invites an exhilarating trek through the dense rainforests of Bwindi National Park to spot gorillas—we recommend flying from Entebbe to Bwindi rather than taking the long drive
- The small town of Jinja is famous for being the historic source of the Nile River—you can also take part in adventure activities such as white water rafting, bungee jumping and mountain biking here

## Best Times to Visit Uganda

*The best wildlife viewing months in Uganda are during the dry seasons from June to August and December to February. Primate walks in the forest are a big part of any safari in Uganda. The habitat of rainforests is very wet, and you can't avoid rain completely.*

Great	Great	Fair	Wet	Fair	Great	Great	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Good
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec



# Wonderful Rwanda

**Rwanda is home to breath-taking scenery, friendly and welcoming locals, and life-changing primate experiences.**

The Volcanoes National Park is home to twelve families of gorillas. A two-hour drive from Rwanda's capital of Kigali, the park is a central location for exploring some distinctly Rwandan experiences. While a visit to the mountain gorillas is always a drawcard, the dramatic landscape also offers scenic hiking and opportunities to see the fascinating golden monkeys.

You can complement this magical encounter with chimpanzee trekking in the vast area of mountain rainforest of Nyungwe National Park. Nyungwe Forest is home to thirteen primate species, including chimpanzees and Ruwenzori colobus monkeys. In addition to primate encounters, there are opportunities to explore the scenic coffee growing regions and to learn about Rwanda's tragic past. For an immersive cultural encounter, visit Ruhengeri village to experience local markets and traditional dishes.

## *Rwanda Highlights*

- The bright orange fur of the golden monkeys contrasts against the lush green rainforest, making for spectacular photos
- Gorilla tracking in the Volcanoes National Park, which lies along the Virunga Mountains and is home to eight ancient volcanoes
- Explore the 1,000 square kilometre Nyungwe National Park, one of the world's most pristine mountain rainforests and home to many species of primates

## *Eclipse Travel Insights*

- Start your trip by visiting to the Genocide Museum in Kigali to help set the context to your journey as you explore a country of valuable historical and social perspectives
- If you have time, visit the Mille Collines Hotel for a drink by the bar, famous for taking over 1200 people into refuge during the Rwandan Genocide in 1994, and it was also the basis for the famous Hotel Rwanda movie

### *Best Times to Visit Rwanda*

*June to mid-September and mid-December to early February are the dry seasons and most comfortable to visit. For chimpanzee trekking, the best times are mid-February to early June, with mid-September to mid-December during the rainy seasons the best for spotting apes.*

Great	Great	Great	Fair	Fair	Great	Great	Great	Great	Great	Good	Great
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec



# Sensational South Africa

Nowhere does diversity quite like South Africa. Home to the iconic Table Mountain and Cape Point, Kruger National Park's wildlife-packed Bushveld, the magnificent scenery of the Drakensberg Mountains... the list goes on.

South Africa is one of those rare destinations that has something for everyone—you can combine a cosmopolitan city break, a beach stay and a wine tour with your safari adventure. A holiday to Africa isn't complete without a trip to South Africa!

Embark on a South African Safari and discover local exotic wildlife in their many parks and reserves—Kruger National Park, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, Addo Elephant National Park, Madikwe Game Reserve just to name a few!

## South Africa Highlights

- Visit Kruger National Park to spot the 'Big 5' game animals; the lion, leopard, rhino, elephant, and Cape buffalo
- Fall in love with Cape Town's incredible Table Mountain, Camps Bay and Victoria &

Albert Waterfront

- Discover breathtaking scenery, warm hospitality and world class wines in the charming wine farms of Stellenbosch or Franschhoek

## Eclipse Travel Insights

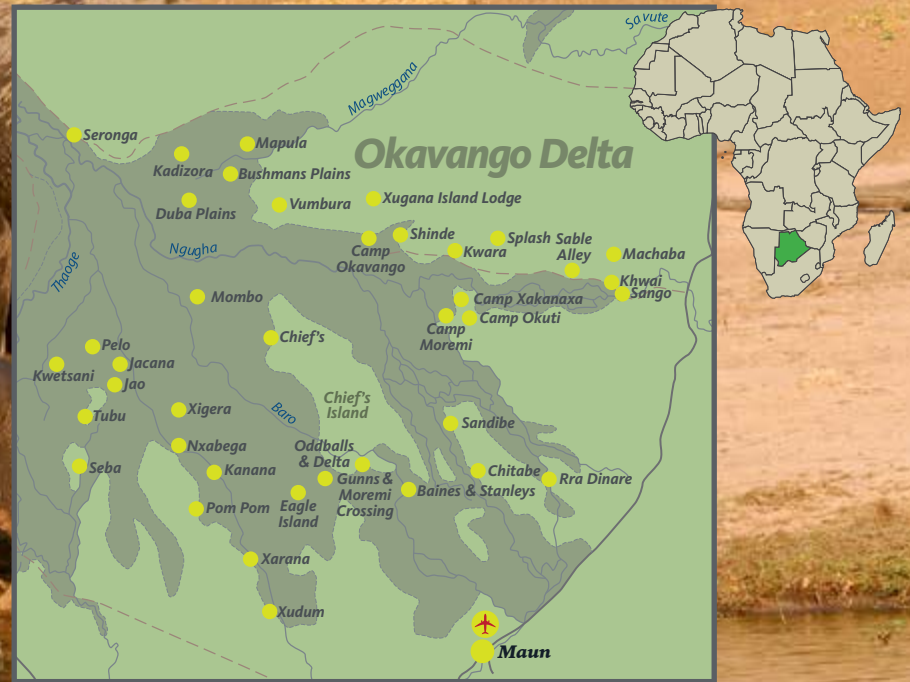
- Hike Cape Town's majestic Lion's Head for vistas of the Cape and Robben Island
- KwaZulu-Natal is an eclectic region with an amazing array of sights and experiences on offer—don't miss a visit to the cosmopolitan cities, stunning national parks and fascinating tribal settlements
- Jacarandas are in full bloom in Pretoria during October and November - be sure to visit the Freedom Park, Rietvlei Nature Reserve and the National Botanic Garden
- Self-driving is a great low-cost option to explore at your own pace—explore the Garden Route's many lush indigenous forests, tranquil lakes and golden beaches
- When travelling to Kruger National Park, Johannesburg is well worth a stopover with the Apartheid Museum and affluent Sandton area of particular interest

## Best Times to Visit South Africa

Cape Town and the Garden Route can be crowded with locals during the summer months - autumn and spring are the best time to avoid the crowds and peak temperatures. Winter is the best time to visit the north including Pretoria and Kruger in order to avoid the rains.

Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Great	Great	Great	Great	Great	Great	Great	Fair
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

# Beautiful Botswana



**Landlocked Botswana is renowned for its abundance of wildlife parks which encompass nearly one-fifth of the country.**

With attractions such as Chobe National Park, Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, Moremi National Park in the Okavango Delta and the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, a Botswana Safari should be top of your list.

The UNESCO World Heritage-listed Okavango Delta is indisputably one of the most stunning places in Africa. In contrast to the Kalahari Desert, this is one of the largest inland deltas in the world, sustaining an incredible variety of wildlife. The Delta is one of the best places to see birds and animals in Africa, and the perfect spot for a Botswana Safari. Lodge transfers via light aircraft give the opportunity to see the beauty of this fascinating ecosystem from the air.

## Botswana Highlights

- Encounter the world's largest herds of elephants in Chobe National Park
- Immerse yourself in unforgettable nature experiences in stunning secluded campsites

- The Central Kalahari Game Reserve is the second largest wildlife reserve in the world with unbeatable safaris
- The Okavango Delta is an impressive inland river wetland home to an abundance of birdlife and breathtaking scenery
- Enjoy the many different types of safaris that can be experienced – game drives and walks, mokoro rides, and boat rides
- Sleep under the stars in the Kalahari, surrounded by the soothing sounds of Africa for a truly unique adventure

## Eclipse Travel Insights

- Wildebeest, zebra, elephants, giraffes and springbok are abundant and usually easy to spot from December to April
- Black-maned lions can be found in Central Kalahari, where you can also go on bushwalk with San Busman to learn about their fascinating and ancient lifestyle
- The Okavango Delta has a variety of 'wet' and 'dry' camps - make sure you book one that suits the type of game watching and activities that you are interested in

## Best Times to Visit Botswana

The Okavango Delta, Moremi and Chobe are Botswana's most popular parks. The best time to visit them is from May to September, during the dry season and winter, resulting in more moderate temperatures. In addition, the Okavango is flooded from June to October.

Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Great	Great	Great	Great	Great	Good	Good	Good
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec



# Unforgettable Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's status as one of Africa's leading safari destinations was dampened in past years by political instability, but the country has re-emerged as a highlight with its spectacular natural beauty, friendly people and rich culture.

Victoria Falls – known to locals as Mosi-oa-Tunya or 'The Smoke That Thunders' – is one of the seven natural wonders of the world and the sheer power of this massive body of water plunging into the Zambezi Gorge is awe-inspiring and unforgettable. Lake Kariba, with its wildlife-rich shores and islands, is an amazing safari spot featuring spectacular sunsets, whilst Hwange National Park is known for its huge herds of elephants. A kayak trip down the Zambezi through the Mana Pools National Park will appeal to the adventurous traveller, providing close encounters with crocodiles, hippos and more.

## Zimbabwe Highlights

- Victoria Falls is one of the most iconic highlights in Africa and not to be missed
- Hwange National Park is home to giraffe, lion, zebra and around 40,000 elephants

- Mana Pools National Park on the Zambezi River, is home to a wide range of large mammals, over 350 bird species and aquatic wildlife
- Kariba is a man-made lake stretching over 200km and home to an abundance of crocodiles, fish, elephants and hippos

## Eclipse Travel Insights

- The Zimbabwean sunsets are unmatched anywhere else in the world, pick the best position with a gin & tonic (and camera) in hand!
- Bring your walking shoes—most lodges offer walking safaris and experiencing the thrill of the African bush on foot compares to none other
- Combine Zimbabwe with its lesser-known neighbour, Mozambique, a land of picture-perfect coastlines and pristine beaches. Diving in Inhambane or anywhere along the Bazaruto archipelago brings you up close to whale sharks, dugongs, whales, turtles and manta rays

## Best Times to Visit Zimbabwe

May to October is the best time for game viewing, especially in Hwange and to visit Victoria Falls as they are in full flood. November to April is the wet season so it is harder to spot game. August to December is best for white water rafting as the water is lower and the rapids are more exposed.

Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Great	Great	Great	Great	Good	Good	Fair
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec





# Friendly Malawi

**Known affectionately as ‘the warm heart of Africa’ due to its friendly people, land-locked Malawi is a place of wonders.**

The crystal clear waters of Lake Malawi offer the perfect place for snorkelling or diving with quaint fishing villages dotting the tranquil shores. Malawi is incredibly diverse in its wildlife and stunning landscapes. Although Liwonde is one of Malawi’s smaller parks, it is arguably the most popular of all the game parks. Malawi’s principle river, the Shire, forms its western boundary and is the reserve’s life blood. Hippos, crocodiles and elephants are abundant and black rhinos have been re-introduced into the area. The birding is excellent and plentiful, with Pel’s fishing owl a favourite sighting.

## Malawi Highlights

- Enjoy Malawi’s numerous attractions without the crowds of other countries
- Liwonde National Park is brimming with wildlife thanks to its successful wildlife translocation and reintroduction program
- Liwonde National Park is one of Malawi’s smaller parks and arguably the most

popular in terms of encounters with hippos, crocodiles, elephants and the critically endangered black rhino

- Trek on foot to see rhino in Matopo National Park
- Visit Lake Malawi, known as ‘The Lake of Stars’ which is Africa’s third largest lake and home to more species of fish than any other lake in the world

## Eclipse Travel Insights

- Combine your Malawi tour with the beautiful South Luangwa National Park in Zambia, renowned for its dense population of leopards and enjoy a spectacular sunset over the south Luangwa Valley to end your day
- Ending a safari with some time off by the beach is ideal for some relaxation and reflection—head to Cape Maclear to enjoy the serene setting of Lake Malawi National Park with its beachside bars and local restaurants
- Malawi is also called the Land of Smiles, for it is said to be home to the friendliest and most welcoming people in the world

## Best Times to Visit Malawi

*June to November has little to no rainfall making it the best time for game-viewing as wildlife is concentrated along the rivers and waterholes. December to May is lush and green from the rains, with lots of baby animals and great birding and the showers never last long.*

Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Great	Great	Great	Great	Great	Great	Good
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec



# Exhilarating Zambia

**Zambia offers an authentic African feast brimming with culture, scenery, and adventure activities in the heart of the Victoria Falls and Lower Zambezi.**

Spend your evenings cruising along the Zambezi River with a sundowner and stunning sunset views. Head into the country's premier game-viewing park, South Luangwa National Park for exciting game safari drives and nature walks guided by expert rangers. The park is known to have the densest population of leopards in Africa as well as large pods of hippos, elephants, and buffalos. Thanks to the successful anti-poaching campaigns, the park has developed into a world-renowned wildlife haven.

## Zambia Highlights

- Experience the full magnitude of Victoria Falls from the Knife Edge pedestrian bridge
- Take a sundowner cruise along the Zambezi River during sunset and witness the antics of wildlife as they drink from the river
- Bungee jumping, kayaking, white water rafting, abseiling and jet boating are some

- of the adventure activities to choose from in the Zambezi region
- Walking safaris in South Luangwa National Park

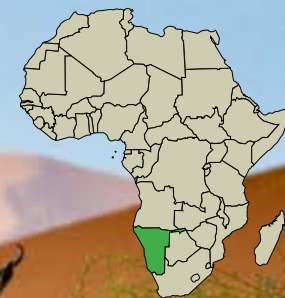
## Eclipse Travel Insights

- Combine your Zambia tour with a visit to its neighbouring country Malawi, where herds of elephants and hippos are often sighted in Liwonde National Park
- A highlight of any trip to Zambia is the opportunity to sleep under the African sky and enjoy a view of a million stars on the sunbed included in your camp
- Zambia is well known for the excellent fishing it offers, with the chance to capture the famous Tiger fish—the Zambezi River, Lake Kariba, and Lake Tanganyika are popular fishing spots
- The Busanga Plains are an excellent place to get close to massive herds and witness predator activity
- Visit remote Liuwa Plains National park, famous for the second largest wildebeest migration on earth
- Zambia parks have only few lodges and are far less crowded than parks in other countries

## Best Times to Visit Zambia

*In May to September pleasant temperatures and little rainfall making it ideal for wildlife viewing. During the wet season (November to April) most parks and camps close down. The Mfuwe sector of South Luangwa NP is accessible year-round. The best time to see Victoria Falls is from June through September.*

Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Great	Great	Great	Great	Great	Good	Fair	Fair
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec



# Dramatic Namibia

**In Africa's South-West, nestled between Orange River and Kunen River lies Namibia, a land of dramatic beauty and contrasting landscapes.**

Namibia is home to the world's oldest desert, highest sand dune, and Africa's deepest canyon. Described by the bushmen as the 'Soul of the World', Namibia is rugged, natural, soulful and liberating. Prepare to fall in love as you journey across the semi-desert of Kalahari to Twyfelfontein and its rock-engraving sites, and embark on an unforgettable game safari in Etosha National Park.

The vast and boundless Etosha Pan literally shimmers with mirages in the heat of the day. Lions are enticed by a veritable smorgasbord of wildlife here including multiple species of antelope, giraffes, blue wildebeest and zebra. Hyenas and the elusive black rhino, leopard and cheetah also share the picturesque hunting ground.

## Namibia Highlights

- Visit Sossuvlei to see the iconic red dunes, contrasted against clear blue skies
- See some of the many rock paintings and over 2500 rock engravings left by the San

## Best Times to Visit Namibia

*Wildlife viewing is best in the dry season from June to October. In the wet season, animals move away from the waterholes and scatter around the park. Between December and March, some days will be humid and rain may follow, often in localised, afternoon thunderstorms.*

Bushmen at Twyfelfontein, meaning 'Fountain of Doubt'

- Explore mineral hot springs, treks and more at Fish River Canyon (Africa's largest canyon)
- Visit Swakopmund with its strong German influence, and Namibia's adventure capital
- Check out Damaraland and the Himba tribes for a different cultural experience
- Visit Etosha National Park to see the wildlife concentrate around unique floodlit waterholes for night-time viewing

## Eclipse Travel Insights

- Accommodation in Namibia can be very remote and availability is limited so make sure you book well in advance to avoid being locked out of your travel dates
- Experience the alluring Namib Desert from above in a hot air balloon during the cool hours of the early morning and capture a beautiful sunrise
- Leave Etosha National Park until the end of your trip so you can finish off your trip and witness a variety of animals congregating around waterholes – this is truly an iconic sighting that makes for a spectacular photograph
- Namibia has the highest concentration of cheetahs on earth

Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Great	Great	Great	Great	Great	Good	Fair	Fair
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec



# Mystical Madagascar

Having separated from the African continent 60 million years ago, the island of Madagascar has evolved by itself with no influence from its motherland, leaving the country with unique wildlife and plants.

Often referred to as the 'Galapagos of Africa', this is a paradise for nature lovers where 80% of the flora and fauna are endemic, including more than 40 species of lemurs and 6 species of baobabs. The island is deeply contrasted with lush rainforests, rice fields, picturesque mountains, trees, coastline stretching 5,000km, idyllic beaches and coral reefs.

While the debate of who first settled in Madagascar may still be undecided, the mixed origins of the Malagasy people are drawn from parts of Southeast Asia, India, Africa, and the Middle East, and most predominantly Indonesia.

## Madagascar Highlights

- Take a pirogue cruise and admire the Manambolo Gorge in the Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park

- Northern Madagascar has some of the best diving and snorkelling spots and delicious Malagasian food
- Isalo National Park's stunning sandstone formations, deep canyons, rocky cliffs, and green-tinted waterholes are perfect for plunging into after a long hike
- Find the world's largest lemur species, the Indri Indri Lemurs, in Andasibe National Park
- Take a walk up the 'Avenue of Boababs', a UNESCO World Heritage Site

## Eclipse Travel Insights

- Travelling in Madagascar can take a lot of time due to poor road conditions and requires patience during your trip
- There are direct flights from Perth to Mauritius connecting to Madagascar—this allows for a great beach extension to your holiday after your Madagascan adventure
- French is the second official language, with English now being taught in some schools —learning a few french words will be helpful

## Best Times to Visit Madagascar

The cyclone season falls between January to March and travelling is not recommended. For adventure and wildlife, July to October is typically the peak and driest season to visit. For birdwatchers, November and December are great however these are the hottest months of the year with more frequent rainfalls.

Wet	Wet	Wet	Good	Good	Good	Great	Great	Great	Great	Good	Fair
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec



# Ancient Ethiopia

**Ethiopia is a country steeped in rich ancient culture. Known as the Cradle of Mankind, archaeological finds date back 3 million years.**

You may not find Ethiopia at the top of most people’s Africa wish-list, but it possibly should be. Thousands of years of tumultuous history are reflected throughout the architecture and culture scattered over one of the oldest countries in the world.

The western and eastern highlands are home to some uniquely Ethiopian and endangered species including the walia ibex, the mountain nyala (a type of antelope), the Simien jackal, and the gelada monkey. From Lake Tana, which is the source of the Blue Nile (Abbay) River and Ethiopia’s largest lake, to the deep valleys and high plateaus of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Simien Mountains National Park, Ethiopia is a country of wonder.

## Ethiopia Highlights

- Lake Langano is home to a variety of wildlife, including hippos, monkeys, baboons, warthogs, and a huge variety of birds

- Gondar is known for its distinctive architecture, including glorious castles that were occupied by Gondarine Kings during the 1600s
- In Danakil you can witness the age-old tradition of salt caravans, experience Afar culture, and marvel at a myriad of active volcanoes

## Eclipse Travel Insights

- Trek by foot or take a mule to the Asheten Mariam monastery nestled in the small medieval village of Lalibela in Northern Ethiopia, with monolithic rock-hewn churches built in the 12th century
- Ethiopian food is some of the most diverse in Africa, and likely completely different to anything you’ve tasted before - with strong, spicy flavours and rich stews giving the cuisine a unique flair
- Two days in Gondar is ideal so you have more time for guided tours of the castles, and churches on one day, and the next day spent at the Fasilidas’ Bath, an artificial pool used for occasional religious ceremonies
- Gelada baboons, Ethiopian wolf, Mountain Nyala, and Walia Ibex are endemic to Ethiopia

## Best Times to Visit Ethiopia

*The wet season generally lasts from June to September, with light rains beginning as early as March. The best time to travel is October to February, when the climate is both dry and sunny. At this time of year, night time temperatures can drop dramatically, so it’s important to pack plenty of layers.*

Great	Great	Great	Fair	Fair	Wet	Wet	Wet	Good	Great	Great	Great
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec



# Frequently Asked Questions

## *What currency should I take?*

We recommend using the local currency for each country throughout Africa as you will get the most value for your money. You will be able to access ATMs in most of the large cities and high end hotels but as soon as you leave the city, ATMs become scarce. Having said that, we also recommend carrying a supply of US dollars as these are widely accepted except in South Africa and Namibia which use the Rand. Small denominations are useful for tipping. Many countries charge airport entry fees in US dollars and some national parks will only accept US dollars for their entry fees.

If you are on a high end safari, it is quite common to tip using US dollars as well. Travel money cards are also an option for your African holiday as they work the same as a bank card. If you are planning to travel with a credit card then we highly suggest having a Visa card as it is the most widely accepted. Mastercard is accepted in most major cities, however you may have difficulty using it in smaller towns. Diners Club cards and American Express are not widely accepted so have backup options.

## *What visas will I need?*

Visas are required to enter many countries in Africa and the exact requirements will depend on the destinations you visit and which passport you hold. Our team will be able to quickly inform you of the requirements for your specific trip but in general it's very important that your passport has at least **six months** validity from your return date and that you have **plenty of empty pages** in your passport as Africa border guards love to stamp passports. Additionally South Africa and Botswana have very specific rules for passengers under 18 years of age who are required to present an unabridged birth certificate when entering, departing or transiting their borders.

## *Which vaccinations should I get?*

A range of factors need to be considered by both yourself and your healthcare professional when assessing the need for vaccinations when planning your trip to Africa. It is recommended that you visit a travel clinic several weeks before you travel to ensure that you are fit and well to travel. In general you should consider vaccinations such as Hepatitis A and B, Typhoid, Yellow Fever (required in some destinations), Malaria (Tablets), Rabies, Tetanus, Pertussis, Diphtheria and Meningitis.

## *Will I have access to electricity and internet whilst on safari?*

Most camps and lodges are situated in remote wildlife locations and are not connected to a mains electricity supply. Solar panels and generators are common and provide enough electrical power to charge batteries for cameras but you are unlikely to be able to use larger electrical devices such as hairdryers unless you are staying in a larger lodge. Due to the isolated location of camps and lodges, communication to the outside world is limited and you are unlikely to have internet access. There are exceptions to this but for many the chance to have a digital detox adds to the allure of a safari. All camps have satellite phones in case of emergencies.

## *Are children allowed on African safaris?*

Africa is a great destination for children; however some safari lodges and camps do have a minimum age limit. Generally speaking, children must be over 6 years old to participate in game drives however some lodges do not accept children under 12 years old. There are exceptions to this rule, particularly if you charter your own safari vehicle and private guide and there are certain destinations and camps that are designed with families in mind.

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