

NVZJ – 12 DAY GREAT ZIMBABWE EXPLORER

Activity Package

This is an optional payment that covers what we consider to be ‘essential activities’ on our tours. Ideally we would include all of these, but not everyone can afford this. This payment is 100% transparent and is listed below. The Activity Package can be pre-purchased prior to your arrival or through your guide on day 1 of your tour. **This dossier has been written with the inclusion of the Activity Package items.**

Activity	Price
Overnight Canoe Trip -Lower Zambezi	R2970
Chinhoyi Caves Visit	R150
Full day Game Drive in Matopos NP	R980
Bulawayo Historical Museum	R50
	R4150

Countries Visited

South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia

Vehicle

Adventure Truck

Malaria

Malaria prophylactics are required.

Departure Point

08:00am Vic Falls Adventure Lodge, Stand 954, Corner Pioneer Road and Chinotimba Drive, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Tel: +263 134 1354

<http://www.adventurezonevicfalls.com/accommodation-detailed.html?accomdet:acode=3>

End Point

Garden Court O.R. Tambo International Airport, 2 Hulley Road, Isando Ext. 3, Kempton Park, Gauteng, South Africa. Tel: +27 11 392 1062

What’s included

Meals as indicated on the itinerary (unless otherwise specified, all meals are prepared and served at the Nomad truck), accommodation, registered guides and transport. We also include some of the highlights. These highlights are listed below in the day-by-day descriptions as “included highlights”.

What’s excluded

All items of a personal nature, alcohol, snacks, souvenirs, tips and optional activities (see list for an indication of prices).

Electricity

Zimbabwe uses UK plugs and there are rarely other plugs or convertors available. Therefore please make sure that you bring an adaptor if you have one. If you do not have one it is possible to buy a Europe to UK adaptor at Johannesburg Airport. It is

possible to charge your phones and cameras on the Nomad truck, but because this charge is via the alternator the current can fluctuate and this can be bad for delicate equipment.

Health

Please inform us of any pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or asthma and any prescription medicine you may be taking. We also need to know about any food allergies or physical disability that you may have.

Insurance

All clients require adequate Travel Insurance. Medical Insurance is not sufficient. Activity providers can refuse participation of activities, if the correct valid Travel Insurance is not provided. Travel insurance can be purchased via the Nomad website http://www.nomadtours.co.za/travel_insurance.html (Nomad World travel insurance is in no way affiliated with Nomad Tours)

Visas

Please note that these are your responsibility. Some nationalities require visas for Botswana. Most nationalities will require visas for Zimbabwe and Zambia. See Pre Departure Booklet for more information.

Climate

The African sun is very strong. Please use a factor 30 sunscreen and wear a hat. You should drink at least 3 litres of water per day to avoid dehydration. It can also get very cold during winter months on this route. Please see Pre Departure Booklet for detailed information.

Currency and Banking

South African Rand and US Dollars are the most widely used currency on this route. Credit Cards cannot always be processed – especially in remote areas. USD Notes printed before 2004 (i.e. the old style notes) will not be accepted and many places will not accept USD100 notes, so make sure to bring small notes. Make sure to bring lots of USD1 and USD5 notes as there is a serious shortage of change and so exact amounts are required to pay for things, especially in Harare.

Vaccinations

A Yellow Fever Certificate is required for this tour. Please see the Pre Departure Information booklet for detailed information on vaccinations in Africa.

Onward Travel

This tour can be linked to the Cape Town to Victoria Falls and the Okavango & Chobe Trail – North beforehand.

Pre and Post Tour Accommodation

If you require accommodation before or after your tour we can arrange this for you. We can also arrange airport

Camping

transfers – contact your travel agent or Nomad to make these bookings.

Arrival

Please be sure to arrive 1 day before your tour is due to depart. This will avoid any unforeseen problems.

Note: All information is subject to change without prior notice. Travel times and campsites can change depending on road or weather conditions, etc. These are used as a guideline only. On our longer tours it is possible that your crew, truck and fellow travelers will change due to our unique tour linking system. There will be a maximum of 24 travellers traveling on this tour.

Did you receive your Pre Departure Information Booklet?

If not please contact us at nomad@nomadtours.co.za and we will e-mail you the document; alternatively visit us at 1st Floor, Leadership House, 40 Shortmarket St, Greenmarket Square, Cape Town to collect one. You can also download from our website at www.nomadtours.co.za. After hours contact number: +27 (0) 82 578 2199.

Day 1 Zambia - Livingstone and Zambezi River

We begin our journey by crossing over the historical railway bridge that links Zimbabwe and Zambia at the Victoria Falls. This bridge was completed in 1905 and was placed, at the request of Cecil John Rhodes, so that the spray from the falls could embrace the railway carriages as they crossed from one side to the other. Once in Zambia there will be a short stop to collect any additional passengers and then we have a long drive to reach the camp for the evening.

Meals:	Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Machembere camp – no website available
Facilities:	Shared ablutions
Route:	Victoria Falls to Chirundu ±500km
Travel time:	±7-8 hrs
Border posts:	Zimbabwe: Victoria Falls border, Tel: +263 13 44235, Open 24 hours. Zambia: Victoria Falls border, Tel: +263 13 44235, Open 24 hours.

Lower Zambezi

The magnificent Zambezi is one of the longest rivers in Africa, and the largest flowing into the Indian Ocean. The area of its basin is 1 390 000 square km, slightly less than half that of the Nile. The river is 3 540 km long, beginning in Zambia and flowing through Angola, along the borders of Namibia, Botswana, Zambia again, and Zimbabwe, to Mozambique, where it empties into the Indian Ocean.

The Zambezi's most spectacular feature is the beautiful Victoria Falls. Other notable falls include the Chavuma Falls at the border between Zambia and Angola, and Ngonye Falls, near Sioma in Western Zambia.

There are two main sources of hydroelectric power on the river. These are the Kariba Dam, which provides power to Zambia and Zimbabwe and the Cahora Bassa Dam in Mozambique which provides power to both Mozambique and South Africa.

Our canoe trip on the river takes us through unspoilt wilderness, and some of the finest game and birdlife in the region. Mana Pools National Park, a World Heritage Site is on the southern bank - the remote Lower Zambezi National Park is on the northern shoreline in Zambia, so the whole area on both sides of the river is a sanctuary for wildlife. Enormous herds of elephant, some up to 100 strong, are often seen at the rivers edge and island-hopping buffalo and waterbuck are quite common.

Day 2 Lower Zambezi National Park Canoe Trip

Today we will be beginning our canoe adventure in to the Lower Zambezi National Park. Starting early in the morning we will be taking the minimum of equipment necessary and 'bush camping' on an island this evening, surrounded by wildlife, including the hippo. This is a unique experience as we will be a long, long way from any form of civilisation!

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Bush Camp Kakomalala - www.riverhorsesafaris.com
Facilities:	No facilities
Activity package:	Overnight Canoe Safari

Departure

Please book your flight to depart the day after the tour officially ends. This is to account for any delays that we may experience due to unpredictable road conditions.

Day 3 Lower Zambezi National Park

This is the second day spent on the mighty Zambezi River. As we are travelling downstream with the current the physical effort required to negotiate the river is not extreme and many happy hours can be spent simply drifting and enjoying the beautiful scenery, birdlife and company. At certain times of the year it may not be possible to canoe on the river due to extreme temperatures or water levels. In this instance the 2 days normally spent on the river will be swapped for a 2-night houseboat excursion on Lake Kariba.

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Bush Camp Nyakasanga Island - www.riverhorsesafaris.com
Facilities:	No facilities
Activity package:	Overnight Canoe Safari

Day 4 Kariba

We finish our canoe trip in the morning and make our way to Kariba where you will have the time to relax next to this famous lake. In the evening there is the chance to enjoy an optional sunset cruise. Kariba is the largest artificial lake in the world. Lake Kariba was filled between 1958 and 1963 following the completion of the Kariba dam. *Optional Activity: Sunset cruise*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Charara Kariba: No website available
Facilities:	Shared ablutions, hot water, swimming pool, shop
Route:	Chirundu to Kariba ±220km
Travel time:	± 3-4 hours

Day 5 Zimbabwe – Chinhoyi Caves

We will pass through the Chirundu Border (sometimes a time consuming process) and re-enter Zimbabwe. From Chirundu it is not a long trip to Chinhoyi. Probably best known for cave diving, the Chinhoyi caves system is the largest publicly accessible cave system in Zimbabwe and reputedly a 'mysterious' area.

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Chinhoyi Caves Campsite: www.zimparks.com
Facilities:	Shared ablutions
Route:	Chirundu to Chinhoyi ±220km
Travel time:	±4-5 hrs
Border posts:	Zimbabwe: Chirundu, Tel: +263 637 675/660, Open 24 hours. Zambia: Chirundu, Tel: +263 637 675/660, Open 24 hours.

Chinhoyi Caves

Chinhoyi Caves, found within the Chinhoyi Caves National Park, are named after a local Shona chief who used them as a refuge during raids from the Ndebele in pre-colonial Zimbabwe. They are not only geologically interesting, but also hold a certain mysterious fascination. The cave system, formed thousands of years ago when the ground collapsed into a sinkhole, is composed of limestone and dolomite, and the descent to the main cave with its pool of cobalt blue water is very impressive. This pool, said to be 172 m deep, is popularly called Sleeping Pool or *Chirorodzira* (Pool of the Fallen), and according to Shona legend the victims of Nguni raiders were thrown into the pool, where their bones remain to this day. The caves are still revered by the local people as the custodian of their ancestral spirits.

The caves are part of a larger underground waterway whose true extent is still unknown. Divers have discovered a submarine passage leading from the Bat Cave (appropriately named), a subchamber of the Dark Cave, to another chamber known as the Blind Cave. Diving is fantastic in the caves all year round, with exceptional visibility and temperatures, inexplicably constant at 22 - 24 degrees Celsius.

Day 6 Harare and Chimanimani National Park

After visiting the caves it is a short drive from Chinhoyi to Harare, the capital city of Zimbabwe, where we will stop for some shopping, lunch and exploration. Although Harare has not had a lot of positive press in the last 10 years, many will be surprised at just how safe and accessible this small, modern capital is. After lunch we will be travelling to the Eastern Highlands and the Chimanimani National Park. The Mountain range that separates Zimbabwe and Mozambique is the site of some simply spectacular hiking and scenery and with time permitting we will take a short walk to the well-known Bridal Veil Falls in the late afternoon.

Meals:	Breakfast, Dinner
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Accommodation:	Camp: Chimanimani NP Camp: www.zimparks.com
Facilities:	Shared ablutions
Route:	Chinhoyi to Chimanimani NP ±570km
Travel time:	±8-9 hrs
Activity package:	Chinhoyi Caves Visit
Included Highlight:	Quick Shop Stop in Harare, afternoon hike to Bridal Falls with Nomad Guide (time permitting)

Chimanimani National Park

The Chimanimani National Park is probably Africa's least-known nature reserve. Situated in Manicaland Province, eastern Zimbabwe, it includes the magnificent Chimanimani Mountains, a massive barrier of ancient and jagged crystalline rock forming the border with Mozambique. The highest of the peaks (mt Binga) rises to over 2 440 m and the range stretches some 50 km. The breathtaking beauty and pristine environment of these mountains have always drawn adventurous travellers. The mountains offer excellent hiking among the sparkling waterfalls, notably Bridal Veil Falls, and natural swimming pools. The distinctive flora is similar to the African Cape's coastal vegetation, including a wealth of proteas.

During the Zimbabwe independence war, mountain passes in the Chimanimani area were frequently used by guerilla fighters between Zimbabwe and their camps in Mozambique, who laid mines along local roads to disrupt the local economy. Because of this, the passes were heavily mined by Rhodesian government forces. Land mines continued to be a real hazard in the area until very recently.

Day 7 Chirinda Forest

It is possible to spend another full day hiking in the Chimanimani, or take a day trip to Zimbabwe's only rain forest on the Mozambique Border. Chirinda is the southernmost rain forest in Africa and home to some spectacular large mahogany trees. A short hike to 'the big tree' is a lovely outing and a fantastic spot for a picnic lunch.

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Chimanimani NP Camp: www.zimparks.com
Facilities:	Shared ablutions

Chirinda Forest

Chirinda forest is Africa's southernmost tropical rainforest, covering the two rounded hilltops of Mount Selinda. This area, known as the Eastern Highlands, is wetter than surrounding areas due to its altitude and low cloud cover. The forest harbours a variety of plantlife including strelitzias, wild orchids, tree ferns, cycads and rare trees. It is most well-known for its 1000-year-old Big Tree, a red mahogany (*Khaya anthothea*) nearly 70 m high and 16 m in circumference.

Day 8 Great Zimbabwe Ruins

No visit to Zimbabwe could possibly be complete without visiting the world-famous Great Zimbabwe ruins. Dating from around the 11th century these iron-age ruins have been the source of much speculation and disagreement over the years. Built without any mortar some of the walls are up to 5 metres high and still standing after so many centuries. This site was also home to 8 carved Zimbabwe birds, the image of which is found on the Zimbabwean National Flag.

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Masvingo Campsite (no website available)
Facilities:	Shared ablutions, hot shower
Route:	Chimanimani NP to Masvingo ±305km
Travel time:	±5-6 hrs
Included Highlight:	Visit to Ruins (2 hrs) with Nomad Guide

Great Zimbabwe Ruins

The Great Zimbabwe Ruins in Masvingo are sub-Saharan Africa's most important and largest stone ruins. Designated a World Heritage Site in 1986, the ancient and long-abandoned city of high-walled granite structures were built out of millions of stones balanced perfectly on top of one another without the aid of mortar. Hence the name 'dzimba dzembabwe' or 'houses of stone'. It is not known exactly when the walled city was built, but it is believed to be around the 11th century, when the local people were becoming increasingly influential – controlling gold and ivory trade with the Swahili, Portuguese and Arabs who were sailing down the Mozambique coast. As the Great Zimbabwe people flourished, they built an empire whose huge stone buildings eventually spread over 500 square km. It is thought that as many as 18 000 people lived here during its heyday.

By the 15th century, Great Zimbabwe was in decline due to overpopulation and political discord. When the Portuguese arrived in the 16th century in search of rumored cities built of gold, Great Zimbabwe had already fallen into ruin.

There have been many theories as to who was responsible for building the magnificent monuments; some believed that Great Zimbabwe was built by Phoenicians or Arabs. It wasn't until 1929 that archaeologist Gertrude Caton-Thompson proved that Great Zimbabwe was built by black Africans. Nowadays, various tribes in the region claim that Great Zimbabwe was built by their ancestors. Archaeologists generally believe that the Lemba tribe is responsible.

Great Zimbabwe gave modern Zimbabwe its name as well as its national emblem - an eagle carved from soapstone, many of which were found at the ruins.

Day 9 /10 Matobo - Matopos National Park

It is a long drive to reach Greater Matopos NP area. The next day we enjoy a full day Game drive with a local operator into the Greater Matopos NP area. We head towards the Matobo Hills where we view the Bushman Paintings, rock formations and scenery in the National Park. We briefly leave the National Park pay a visit to the African Villages where we have the opportunity to meet the local community. We re-enter the Game Park section of the National Park, where we track Rhino on foot with our guides, as well as looking for other game.

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight:	Camp: Big Cave Camp: http://www.bigcave.co.za/
Facilities:	Shared ablutions
Route:	Masvingo to Matopos ±350km
Travel time:	± 6-7 hours
Activity package:	Full day Game Drive in Matopos NP

Motobo NP

Less than an hour's drive from Bulawayo, this park is set in a sea of fascinating granite rock formations. It is the oldest in Zimbabwe, established in 1926 as Rhodes Motopos National Park, a bequest from Cecile John Rhodes, who founded Rhodesia in 1890, inaugurating 9 decades of colonial rule. The beautiful rocks are said to be his favourite place, and he was buried there. The jumble of granite domes more importantly has a deep significance for the ancestral peoples. Other historical sites can be found here, the most fascinating being the rock paintings left by the San bushman who lived in these hills about 2 000 years ago, and various archaeological sites dating back to the Stone Age.

A large section of Matobo National Park is fenced to contain wild game including some of the more beautiful larger antelope (kudu, sable and eland) as well as black and white rhinoceros. The park boasts the largest concentration of black eagles and leopard in an area of its size in the world. The Motobo Hills, with their distinct rock formations, were formed 2 000 million years ago with granite being forced to the earth's surface and weathered into fantastic shapes such as the famous balancing rocks, known as *Mother and Child Kopje*.

Day 11 South Africa – Bulawayo to Messina

After a short visit to the Bulawayo Historical Museum we start the drive back to South Africa. We cross the border at Buitbridge, which can sometimes take a long time, and return to South Africa where we will camp at the border town of Messina.

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Tshipise Aventura Camp: www.forevertshipise.co.za
Facilities:	Bar, shared ablutions, hot showers
Route:	Motobo NP to Musina ±400km
Travel time:	±5-6 hrs
Activity package:	Bulawayo Historical Museum

Border posts:	Zimbabwe: Beitbridge, Tel: +263 42 862121, Open 24 hours South Africa: Limpopo, Tel: +27 (0)14 763 7931, Open 24 hours
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Bulawayo

Bulawayo, the second largest city in Zimbabwe, was once the capital of the Ndebele kingdom (now Matabeleland) in the 19th century. It is known as "the City of Kings", and was founded by an Ndebele king, Mzilikazi, 1840 and is mostly populated by Ndebele people, descendents of the 19th century Zulu migration. The city has a rich and fascinating history. Over the years it has been a place of battle, particularly between the British South Africa Company and Ndebele, during the Matabele Wars, and today it is a stronghold of opposition against the current dictatorship.

Musina

Musina (or Messina) is situated very near to the Limpopo River border with Zimbabwe. A dry and dusty town, teeming with activity, it was founded by the Musina tribe when they discovered copper and settled here. In the 20th century European prospectors rediscovered large copper deposits and established the town of Messina. Today the constant flow of traffic between Zimbabwe and South Africa has resulted in a bustling town with the main focus on border trade.

Day 12 Johannesburg

Today we leave early for the journey South along the Great North Road for our final destination in Johannesburg, the City of Gold. We will gradually move up from the Bushveld and Baobabs of the Limpopo Province through citrus and maize fields to the heavily populated and industrialised Highveld and Gauteng Province, the powerhouse of Africa. We will travel through Pretoria, one of South Africa's capital cities, before arriving in Johannesburg in the late afternoon. Although this final night is not included in the tour most people choose to get together for a final meal out at one of Johannesburg's many excellent restaurants.

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation:	Own arrangement/ post-tour accommodation can be booked through Nomad
Route:	Musina to Johannesburg ±510km
Travel time:	±7-9 hrs including border crossing

Johannesburg

Johannesburg is the largest and most populated city in South Africa, and the second largest city in Africa, after Cairo. Gold was discovered in the mineral-rich Witwatersrand in 1886 by an Australian prospector, George Harrison. This discovery started a major gold rush as fortune hunters came to the area from all over the world. A huge labour force of contract workers sprang up to work in the mines and within three years Johannesburg became the largest settlement in South Africa.

It is now the economic and financial core of the country, and although mining is no longer practiced within the city bounds, the headquarters of most of the mining companies can be found here.

Johannesburg is also known as the world's largest human-made forest, with over 10 million trees planted throughout the city.

Tour Ends

We will drop you off at Garden Court O.R. Tambo International Airport www.southernsun.com/garden-court/or-tambo-international-airport/pages/overview.aspx. We suggest you book accommodation here for this evening. If you choose to stay elsewhere you will need to arrange a transfer. Garden Court O.R. Tambo International is about 10km drive from O.R. Tambo (Johannesburg) International Airport. If you are flying out the following evening we highly recommend the day tour of Johannesburg city and Soweto as an informative and enjoyable way to spend the day.

TIPPING ON TOUR

Southern Africa: In general tipping in restaurants is generally expected and is around 10% for good service, more if you have received exceptional service, and, feel free not to tip at all if you received poor service. Tipping taxi drivers etc is really at your own discretion and not always expected. If in doubt please ask your guides. Our guides do work hard, but they are also paid at (and often above) industry levels for this work. Our Crew can be tipped if you feel that they have done a good job and/or gone above and beyond the call of duty. The best way to arrange tips is to elect one person in the group to collect the money. We recommend USD1 (or about R5) per day per person, per guide as a fair tip. So if you have 3-crew on a tour, we would recommend that 3 envelopes are used and each crew members name written on one. Place what you feel is fair in to each envelope and the elected person can give these to the crew at the end of the tour. If you do not feel that the crew deserve a tip, please, do not tip them. You must remember that tipping is only for exceptional service and is not at all compulsory or expected.

THE NOMAD AFRICAN TRUST www.nomadafricantrust.co.za

At Nomad we are passionate about the people, places and wildlife of Africa that make our tours so special. In order to give back we have set up the Nomad African Trust. By the end of your tour you may have left-over local currency that you will not be able to change outside of its country of origin. Any assistance you could provide to the trust by donating this left over currency will be appreciated. Thank you for your help and please join our newsletter at the website above to receive regular updates on what we are doing to support our beneficiaries.



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Nomad gives you the opportunity to offset your carbon foot print by purchasing a "Green Seat". If you would like to help Nomad making Africa Greener, simply choose the tick box on your booking form and we will take care of the rest. The Nomad African Trust will plant trees that are ecologically viable and that have very



high carbon absorption. Green Seats can be purchased at departure or on tour with your guide. For more information on our “Green Seats”, please visit www.nomadtours.co.za/nomad_greenseats.html

THANK YOU FOR TRAVELLING WITH NOMAD

At the end of your tour you will be provided with feedback forms. These forms are confidential and should be given to your crew in a sealed envelope. If you are not sure of the confidentiality of the feedback form please feel free to email us as well on ops@nomadtours.co.za. Please make sure to also complete the feedback form as we use the answers on these forms to improve and maintain our service levels.

Accommodation providers are subject to change without notice, the accommodation listed in this dossier is our preferred supplier, but sometimes due to availability, we are unable to make use of the property listed in this dossier. If we cannot use the accommodation provider as listed we will substitute another property of similar standards.