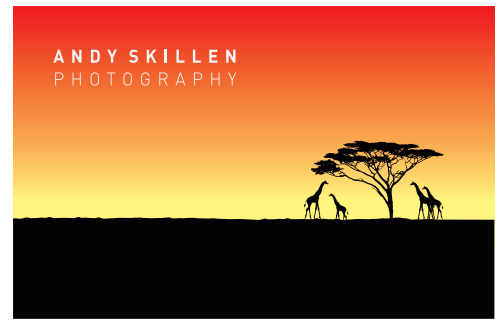


Botswana and Vic Falls: a photo experience

An exclusive, six person photographic adventure to the world-famous Victoria Falls and Chobe National Park taking in land-based and boat-based accommodation and photographic situations.

June 2018; 9 days, 8 nights

GBP3,795; US\$4,950 (per person based on double occupancy)



Itinerary

Day 1 and 2: Victoria Falls Hotel (2 nights Deluxe Central Room).

The Victoria Falls are on every bucket list and have to be seen to be believed. The local tribes call it Mosi-o-Tunya which means the Smoke that Thunders and it's easy to see why. Starting this trip at The Falls will give you a couple of days to ease into the pace of African life with plenty of activities on offer. Whether you fancy the rush of some white water rafting or a more sedentary afternoon taking high tea on the terrace of a grand old colonial hotel there is literally something for everyone.

The flights from Johannesburg normally arrive around lunchtime allowing you enough time to get settled, have a bite to eat and then head out to explore.

You will be met at Victoria Falls International Airport and taken to the Victoria Falls Hotel. Steeped in history and one of the oldest Hotels in Africa, The Victoria Falls Hotel serves as a reminder of the distinguished and elegant era to which it was born and has earned its status as the epitome of grand luxury travel.

This is a great way to start your trip, and we can help you book any activities in advance you wish, or help you plan your time (see note at end). This can be discussed once you have booked, and we can run through the options for you. We will have a brief meeting for a drink on the first night so you can meet your fellow travellers, but otherwise your time in Victoria Falls will be yours to enjoy at your own pace and to do as little or as much as you like.

Days 3 – 6: Chobe tented camp (3 nights)

An early start as you are collected from the hotel and driven from Victoria Falls, across the border into Botswana and then through the park to our tented camp in the western reaches of The Chobe National Park in our specially adapted game viewing vehicle.

This camp comprises large walk in tents each with their own private ensuite toilet and shower facilities. There are real beds with linen, blankets and pillows and plenty of room for luggage and camera gear. In front of the tent is a shaded "stoop" with a wash basin and a couple of chairs. This is not your average camping experience but rather a comfortable rustic tented lodge deep in the African bush.

The camp staff are on hand to prepare three meals a day, enough ice in your drinks and to ensure that you have hot water whenever you need it for the shower at your tent. Meals are taken around a long table set up under an awning which doubles as a media centre for mid afternoon photo editing. In the evenings you are invited to spend time around the camp fire with your favourite tippie and enjoy the sense of being immersed in nature.

During the day you will do game drives around the hills and floodplains leading to the river that surround our camp. I have a rule of a maximum of 6 clients per photo safari (two per row) to provide plenty of space. We will rotate positions over the course of our time in the Chobe. Each seat is equipped with custom swing arm on which to rest your camera. The area is fantastic for sightings of plains game like zebra and giraffe along with regular sightings of large herds of elephants, buffalo and prides of lions. The area is also excellent for leopard and wild dog. It should be noted that it is a requirement of game viewing vehicles within National Parks in Botswana to have a canopy fitted.

At this point I should point out that this is a wilderness experience and there are no fences around the camp

but I believe that if you are going to the bush you should be “IN” the bush. The animals are not interested in coming into the camp and if they do you will be made aware by the staff as to what to do allowing you to thoroughly enjoy this natural encounter.

Days 7-9: Chobe Voyager (3 nights)

After three nights in the tented camp you will be transported to the Eastern side of The Chobe where you will be collected by the guides from our five cabin “Voyager” houseboat, which cruises along the magnificent Chobe River.

From the houseboat you will have a very different wildlife experience as you literally look back onto the land you have spent the last 4 days exploring. The game viewing on the houseboat is done on photo boats that we launch out into the river each day with custom built photo chairs. The chairs are equipped with camera mounts and are able to rotate 360 degrees.

From the river you can expect to see plenty of elephants coming to drink from the river as well as large populations of hippos, antelope and multiple species of birds including Fish eagles, Jacanas, Pygmy Geese and Kingfishers. Game viewing and photography on the river is spectacular but should you wish you can also try your hand at some Tiger fishing or even go and visit a local village to meet the inhabitants and learn about their way of life. We can also offer walks on a local baobab covered island but you are just as welcome to enjoy the sun deck with a good book.

The Voyager changes mooring points every night (when the river conditions allow) as we move along the river so you will always sleep in a different location onboard our “floating lodge”. Our superb chefs will keep you well fed throughout your stay with snacks and meals produced in the galley. There are plenty of drinks onboard and these are included in the package as they are at the tented camp too.

Only too soon, however, our adventure will come to an end, and we will disembark the Voyager at Kasane from where transfers will be supplied to Kasane International airport. We can arrange transfers to Victoria Falls at an additional cost if required. Alternatively there will be options to extend your stay into, perhaps, the Okavango Delta, Madikwe National Park or other wildlife centres in the region. Our handling agent can assist with suggestions and bookings if you wish.