



Zimbabwe Family Safari Adventure

12 Days



The Adventure Company | EST. 1969

MT·SOBEK[™]
MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

➤ Zimbabwe Family Safari Adventure

Share Zimbabwe's pristine wilderness with those you love on this thrilling family adventure. Venture across the waterholes and grassy pans of Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe's largest game reserve brimming with spectacular wildlife. Head out for exciting bush walks, game drives railway safaris, and mountain biking along elephant paths of Zambezi National Park. Visit local villages, spot beautiful bird variety on canoe rides and marvel at Victoria Falls, the world's largest sheet of cascading water. End evenings with delicious campfire dinners and snuggle up in your "star bed" beneath the African sky.

Details

Arrive: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Depart: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Duration: 12 Days

Group Size: 6-10 Guests

Minimum Age: 13 Years Old

Activity Level:



Testimonials

"MT Sobek took care of everything for our extended family vacation. Not a hiccup in the planning, the itinerary, the lodging or the guide. Everything in life should be so easy."

Kathy J.

"I've taken six MT Sobek trips and they have all exceeded my expectations. The staff, the food, the logistics and the communications have always been exceptional. Thank you for being my "go to" adventure travel company!"

Margaret I.

GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.

📞 1.888.831.7526

✉️ INFO@MTSOBEK.COM

Why Take This Trip With Us?

REASON #01

Fall asleep to the sounds of hundreds of elephants moving around the camp in Hwange National Park.

REASON #02

Unique ways to experience Africa's wild bush and epic animals by train, 4x4 vehicle, hikes, and even by bike - all tailored for families.

REASON #03

Join conservation efforts by helping maintain borehole pumps that support the wildlife of Hwange National Park.

What to Expect



ACTIVITIES

Elephant encounters, game-watching, open-air rail safari, and hikes. Guided bush walks, meeting locals, and canoeing down the Zambezi River with picnics alfresco.



LODGING

Landscape-inspired campsites, lodges and fly camps nestled in remote wilderness, with opportunities to sleep beneath the African sky.



CLIMATE

The weather is pleasant throughout the year - warm/hot days and cooler nights. May to August can be chilly at night and in the early morning.

Meet Our Guides

Our expert guides and trip leaders are truly the key to our trips' success. Many are locals who live in-country year-round; others have made it their second home—all are passionate, enthusiastic and endlessly knowledgeable. Meet two of the guides that might be on your trip.

Tyron grew up outside Bulawayo city, Zimbabwe, in a rural area where he spent many days outdoors with his older brother, riding his bicycle, building forts and fishing. After serving as an apprentice guide for several years in the Hwange area, he began guiding professionally at 22. Since then, he has worked in the lower Zambezi valley, Hwange, and Matopos regions. Notably, Tyron developed his concern for protecting rhinos during his time in Matopos after becoming aware of the declining population, and began his conservationist efforts. He is based at Nehimba Lodge in northern Hwange National Park.

Tyron Hurst

Sibs – our Hwange head guide – has been guiding professionally for over 15 years. Zimbabwe has stringent guide licensing regulations and our pro-guides are widely recognized as some of the best in Africa. Sibs has a world of experience in the region, having worked for several outfitters and operators. He also spent a year in Botswana, working as a cultural guide with the San people of the Kalahari Desert. Sibs' passion and working knowledge of Western Zimbabwe's people, parks and ecosystems adds great value to each MT Sobek adventure in the region.

Ibahle Sibanda

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Itinerary

DAY 1

ARRIVE IN VICTORIA FALLS

Arrive at Victoria Falls Airport and transfer to the luxurious Gorges Lodge, perched on the Batoka Gorge overlooking the mighty Zambezi River. Use the afternoon to rest, swim in the pool, and take in the phenomenal views. Before the three-course dinner and traditional Zimbabwean dance show, enjoy happy hour cocktails and mocktails.

Meals: D

DAY 2

MARVEL AT VICTORIA FALLS & MEET LOCAL VILLAGERS

After breakfast, set off for an immersive cultural experience at Chisuma village near the Gorges Lodge, the first lodge in Zimbabwe to be built on community land. Enjoy a traditional lunch, meet the local families and learn about their daily lives. Hike back to the Lodge, an easy hour-long walk. In the afternoon, head out for a guided tour of one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World - Victoria Falls, the world's largest sheet of cascading water.

Activity: Cultural encounter and optional zip-lining

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 3

SCENIC FLIGHT TO HWANGE NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, transfer to Victoria Falls airport for a 1.5-hour scenic flight into the most remote corner of Hwange National Park, in its far southwest. Upon arrival, receive a debriefing on the fascinating Jozibanini story and then settle into the tent before venturing out for a game drive and picnic lunch overlooking the Jozi waterhole. In the afternoon, join a guided walking safari, exploring the region around camp, and tracking elephants and other game which frequent the waterhole. Savor dinner under the stars before settling in your tent.

Activity: Bush walks and game drives

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 4

MOUNTAIN BIKE IN HWANGE

Today get ready for a safari on two wheels. After breakfast, grab a mountain bike to cycle along elephant paths. (If you want to skip biking, head out for a bush walk or a game drive instead.) Fuel up for the ride back at a shaded

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picnic lunch, then enjoy game viewing and amazing photo opportunities of the wildlife at the camp's waterhole. Fall asleep to the sounds of hundreds of elephants moving about in a "star bed" outdoors.

Activity: 3-4 hours biking or game drives

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5

EXPLORE HWANGE BY FOOT OR BIKE

Today depart Jozibanini Camp and head out to explore the far-flung southern corner of Hwange National Park on foot. Walk and/or bike approximately 6 to 12 miles, with a siesta in the middle to gather up energy. Join the Cobras anti-poaching team on patrol and visit their camp for lunch, learning firsthand about their role on the front lines. Sleep under the blanket of bright stars in a fly camp, with a comfortable setup of beds under mosquito nets, around a big crackling campfire - harkening back to the early days of safaris.

Activity: 3-6 hours/6-12 miles walking, biking, or driving

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6

TAKE PART IN A PUMP RUN AT SOUTHERN HWANGE

Embark on another full-day walking safari for the trademark MT Sobek "pump run," a one-of-a-kind experience that pairs remote-area game viewing with hands-on conservation fun. Take part in day-to-day maintenance at borehole pumps, the heartbeat of Hwange's wildlife, and meet the pump attendants, who are the unsung of wildlife conservation. Enjoy a midday picnic and end the long day by settling in another cozy fly camp.

Activity: 3-6 hours/6-12 miles walking, biking, or driving

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

DISCOVER MORE OF HWANGE

Named after a local Nhanzwa chief, back in the 19th century Hwange was a royal hunting ground of Ndebele warrior-king Mzilikazi; it became a national park in 1929. Head out for an easy walk through the park's native acacia forests, enjoy guided bush talks by licensed local experts, and look out for some of the area's 100 mammal and 400 bird species. Check in to Bomani Tented Camp, home for the next three nights.

Activity: Game drives by open 4X4 vehicle

Meals: B, L, D

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DAY 8

VISIT LOCAL VILLAGES BORDERING HWANGE

Today explore community-based tourism on a tour of several front-line villages located directly on the border of Hwange National Park. Meet with local leaders, including the village headman and school headmasters, to learn more about typical Zimbabwean village life. Take part in community activities such as painting murals in a classroom, collecting firewood and water to drop off with elderly village widows/widowers, helping local mothers prepare and serve school lunch, or playing soccer with the school kids.

Activity: Tour villages and participate in community activities

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 9

SPOT GAME AT HWANGE

After a sumptuous breakfast, hit the trail for thrilling game drives or explore by horseback. Look out for elephants - Hwange National Park boasts one of the world's largest elephant populations, over 45,000 of these giants. Spot lions, cheetah, wild dogs, giraffe, and hippo. Come evening, relish in campfire dinners beneath the stars.

Activity: Game drives by open 4X4 vehicle

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 10

REACH ZAMBEZI NATIONAL PARK VIA ELEPHANT EXPRESS RAIL SAFARI

Enjoy the final early-morning bush walk in Hwange before boarding the Elephant Express for a 2-hour open-air rail safari to Dete Railroad Station. Shuttle over to the luxurious Zambezi Sands River Camp on the wild Zambezi River in the Zambezi National Park, a 3-hour ride away. Settle into a lavish tent and after a tasty snack head out for an afternoon game drive. Unwind with evening sundowner cocktails and game watching as the sun sets. This evening, savor a superb 3-course meal under the stars.

Activity: Game drives by open 4X4 vehicle

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 11

CANOE TO THE ZAMBEZI RIVER ISLANDS

This morning head out to explore Zambezi National Park's spectacular shoreline on foot, learning how to spot signs of poaching activity from the park rangers. Return to camp for lunch, a dip in private splash pools, and a siesta. In the late afternoon, hop into a canoe to explore Zambezi National Park's islands and inland riverbeds. Keep an eye out for game hanging out by the banks. Take in the sunset from a sand bar and end the day with a farewell dinner after the last game drive in the park.

Activity: 2-3 hours walking and game drives by open 4X4 vehicle

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Meals: B, L, D

DAY 12

DEPART FROM ZIMBABWE

Take in the final sights and sounds of the African bush over a hearty goodbye breakfast. Pack up and hit the road to Victoria Falls Airport for your flight home.

Meals: B

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Dates

For full terms and conditions please visit www.mtsobek.com/terms. Please note that our itineraries may be subject to change.

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Pricing

2020

\$ 7,995 per person

Additional Cost

\$ 1,500 Single Supplement

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expert leadership from experienced family-friendly adventure guides
- Accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- Meals as noted in the daily itinerary
- Potable water and snacks throughout
- 1 glass of wine or beer at dinner
- Age-appropriate welcome gifts for minors
- 1 – 2 Nights of planned childcare activities (on trips for children ages 9 – 12)
- All tips and gratuities for support staff with the exception of your lead adventure guide(s)
- All necessary biking gear
- All group entrance fees, activities, and ground transportation
- Arrival and departure day group airport transfers

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, any airport taxes, or excess baggage charges
- Optional tips to your lead adventure guides
- Personal expenses such as medical immunizations, phone calls, laundry, or souvenirs
- Airport transfers if arriving outside of Day 1 and departing outside of Day 12
- Optional travel protection

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➤ **The World of MT Sobek**

At Mountain Travel Sobek, we believe life is an adventure and adventure is life.

As the originators, innovators and leaders in adventure travel for more than five decades, we passionately create, craft and share indelible, transformative journeys to the world's most memorable places. Our more than 200 unique and once-in-a-lifetime trips are designed to inspire and exhilarate, enliven and excite--opening eyes and minds through profoundly personal connections with nature and culture.

Our small group and custom adventures span the globe, and the spectrum—of interests, environments and activities—every one expertly planned and knowledgeably and passionately guided. And our commitment to making every experience a remarkable one has earned us preferred travel outfitter status for National Geographic Active Expeditions, Active New York Times Journeys, and Smithsonian Active Journeys.

We are *the* adventure company.

Awards



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