

# Zimbabwe Victoria Falls & Hwange Private Safari

## From Thundering Falls to Thrilling Game Drives

Thank you for checking out our adventures and for downloading this itinerary. Please note that this itinerary and accommodations may be subject to change depending on the specific departure date. Be sure to check with us before scheduling any flights.

**We love talking travel!**  
Contact us at [info@mtsobek.com](mailto:info@mtsobek.com)  
or call **800-974-0300**



# Feel the difference

with **Mountain Travel Sobek**

## **Unrivaled Expertise**

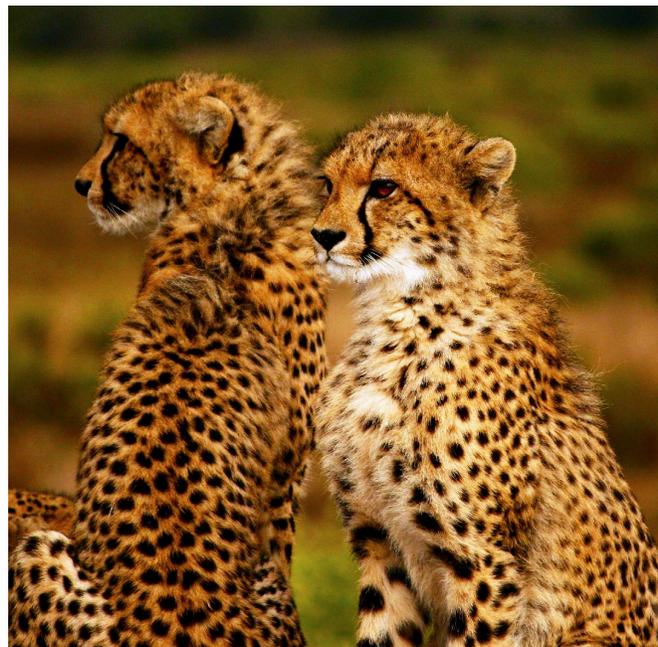
MT Sobek started it all! Since our first Everest Base Camp trek in 1969, we've been leading award-winning adventures and building authentic connections in far-flung locations around the world. We were named Best Adventure Travel Company by Newsweek Readers' Choice Awards.

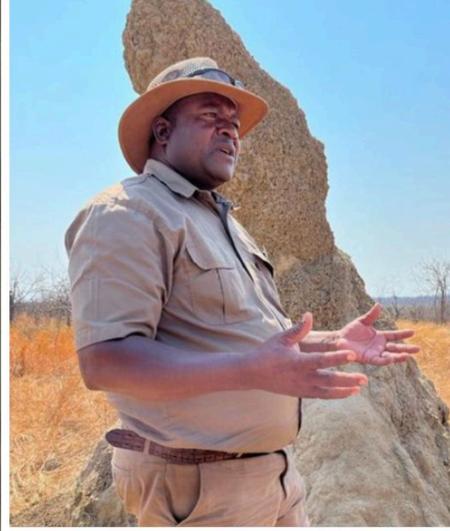
## **Unique Trip Design**

Our adventures are perfectly paced, with incredible attention to detail — the right mix of fun, learning, and challenge that guarantees lifelong memories. Plan nothing, enjoy everything. We take care of all of the logistics so that you can have more time to do what's most important: relax, take in the experience, and enjoy!

## **Small Groups**

We keep our groups intentionally small — usually fewer than 10 people. This allows you a more intimate experience with the people and wildlife you encounter. With a smaller group size, we can take advantage of many unexpected invitations and opportunities that would be impossible with larger groups.





## Leading the Way

### World-Class Local Guides

Our knowledgeable and passionate expert guides effortlessly create an immersive local experience for you. They are trained to the highest professional standards and are at the heart of everything we do. They make it possible to meet the challenges of adventure travel, and help create lasting memories and lifelong friendships... we can confidently say our guides are the best in the business.





# Why take this trip with us?

## REASON 1

MT Sobek has been operating adventures in Africa for over 50 years, scouting unique experiences at excellent camps in private concessions.

## REASON 2

This perfectly paced adventure includes highlights of Zimbabwe, from Victoria Falls and Hwange National Park to the mighty Zambezi River.

## REASON 3

Our safari adventure is led by professional local guides in partnership with Imvelo Safari Lodges and includes support of local conservation initiatives such as rhino re-introduction.

## At A Glance

### ACTIVITIES

Thrilling game drives and elephant encounters, open-air-rail safari, guided bush walks, Zambezi River canoeing, and optional bike ride.



### LODGING

Comfortable and authentic lodges and camps, located in scenic private concessions and surrounded by majestic wildlife.



### CLIMATE

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



## KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK

### Seasons

We offer safaris in Zimbabwe during both the high (dry) season from June to October and the lush green season in the shoulder months. We'll work closely with you to set the right expectations and help you choose the best time to travel—based on what you hope to see and the typical weather conditions for that time of year.

### Vehicles

Guests should be comfortable climbing in and out of safari vehicles at camps. While assistance is always available, safari vehicles have high clearance, and you may need to climb a short ladder or use a step ladder to get in/out of the vehicles.



# Zimbabwe Victoria Falls & Hwange Private Safari

## From Thundering Falls to Thrilling Game Drives

Go deep into Zimbabwe's prime wildlife habitats and leading conservation efforts on this breathtaking safari adventure. Marvel at mighty Victoria Falls, the world's largest sheet of cascading water, and experience the Zambezi River by cruise and canoe. Venture across grassy plains of Hwange National Park to waterholes in search of magnificent elephant and buffalo herds. Enjoy exciting game drives and walking safaris — and even explore by mountain bike and train! Connect with communities involved in sustainable practices in the region and participate in a ground-breaking rhino community conservation project. At night, unwind at authentic lodges beneath starry African skies.

### 11 Days

**Start:** Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

**End:** Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

**Departing:** January, February, March, May, June, July, August, September, October, December

**Activities:** Safari & Wildlife, Family Adventure, Private Travel

**Lodging:** Comfortable Hotels, Deluxe Camping

**Group Size:** 2-10 Guests

#### ACTIVITY:



Check [mtsobek.com](https://mtsobek.com) for date-specific pricing.

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*“Great experience every time with some of the most knowledgeable guides in their fields. We always come home with wonderful memories of the people we meet and things we see.”*

- Bob J.

# The Itinerary

DAY  
01

## Arrive in Victoria Falls

Arrive at Victoria Falls Airport, meet up with your MT Sobek guide, and transfer to your comfortable accommodation. In the late afternoon, soak up the splendor of the Zambezi on a memorable sunset cruise, watching for surfacing hippos and crocodiles sliding off the riverbanks. Gourmet snacks, wines, and spirits are served onboard the custom-built boat as you glide down the iconic river. After your cruise, transfer from the jetty back to your lodge. Dinner is on your own this evening, either at the lodge or at a local restaurant in Victoria Falls.

**TRANSPORTATION:** 45-minute private transfer, sunset cruise with transfers

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DAY  
02

## Walk in Zambezi National Park & Experience Victoria Falls

Begin the day at dawn, walking through the awakening bush in Victoria Falls National Park. Led by your expert professional guide, get a close-up look at the African wilderness, discovering the flora, fauna and intricate ecosystems influenced by the massive cascade of Victoria Falls. The distance of the walk is determined by you and is based entirely on your interests. Enjoy a leisurely picnic brunch in a scenic spot within the national park before taking in awe-inspiring Victoria Falls itself, one of the world's most spectacular natural wonders. Forming a natural border between Zimbabwe and Zambia, this cascading sheet of water is known as "The Smoke That Thunders." Your afternoon is free to relax or further explore the astounding falls. You may opt to see the falls from a different perspective on a scenic helicopter ride (at extra cost). Dinner is at your leisure at the lodge or one of the eateries in town.

**MEALS:** Lunch

**ACTIVITY:** Early morning walk, 2-hour private tour of the falls, optional helicopter flight

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DAY  
03

## Ride the Elephant Express to Hwange & Take a Game Drive

Get an early start by vehicle to the Dete Railroad station on the edge of Hwange National Park. Here you'll board a one-of-a-kind game viewing train, the Elephant Express! Specially designed for safaris with a knowledgeable guide on board, the single-car train has open sides and wide aisles, offering panoramic views of the savannah and wildlife. Enjoy a light lunch onboard as you look out for an array of plains inhabitants including wildebeest, buffalo, kudu, waterbuck, and sable—and lions and cheetahs on the prowl! After your adventure, settle into your camp, where you may observe wildlife roaming past as you prepare for a late-afternoon game drive watching for Hwange's famed elephant herds, wild dogs, and big cats. Sip a sundowner as you enjoy the scenery before dining under African skies.

**MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**TRANSPORTATION:** 2.5-hour private vehicle transfer; 2.5-hour Elephant Express wildlife viewing train ride

**ACTIVITY:** Game drive

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## Take a Walking Safari in Hwange & Visit Local Villages

Wake for a remote bush walk with your expert guide, who will provide fascinating insights into Hwange's circle of life as you stride through Hwange National Park, always on the lookout for interesting wildlife, large and small. Visit some of the villages bordering Hwange National Park on an exploration of community-based tourism, a sustainable livelihood for these communities. Meet with local leaders to learn more about typical Zimbabwean village life and even take part in community activities such as painting classroom murals, collecting firewood, or playing soccer with school kids (when school is in session). Have a look at the social enterprise handicrafts produced in these villages and perhaps purchase a souvenir to help support the community. Return to your camp in the afternoon for relaxation and a delicious dinner.

**MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**ACTIVITY:** Bush walk, Cultural connections

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## Meet Rhinos with an Anti-Poaching Unit & Afternoon Game Drive

Today you'll become involved in one of the biggest conservation wins in Hwange, the re-introduction of rhino to the area. Start with a behind-the-scenes experience at the Cobras Community Wildlife Protection Unit basecamp. Here you'll learn from them about their anti-poaching efforts to protect rhinos and work with local communities to alleviate human-wildlife tensions. You will hear about the ground-breaking Community Rhino Conservation Initiative which pairs the re-introduction of rhinos with socio-economic benefits for local communities, fostering sustainable growth. Then you'll join the Cobras on foot or by vehicle to meet some of the white rhinos who now call Hwange home! There will be lots of photo opportunities and quality time to watch and enjoy the rhinos in their natural environment on the Ngamo plains; how close you will be able to get to the rhino will be subject to conditions on the ground. This afternoon, enjoy a game drive through the bush with your expert guide, spotting some of the many species who inhabit the area.

**MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**ACTIVITY:** Rhino re-introduction and conservation talk, rhino viewing, game drive

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## Discover Remote Hwange & Jozibanini Camp

Board a bush flight from Bomani to the exclusive Jozibanini Camp, situated in the remote southwest corner of Hwange National Park. Flying low over the savannah, delight in getting a bird's eye view of this vast and wild expanse of untamed land and try to spot wildlife from the air. Arriving at your five-tent camp, enjoy lunch and settle into the wild. Decide with the camp guide how you would like to explore—by vehicle, on foot, or simply watching wildlife gather to drink at a nearby waterhole from the cool interior of a sunken hide. Whichever you choose you are likely to see Hwange's prolific elephants along with other interesting sightings. Spend the afternoon exploring your surroundings with an expert guide. This evening savor a dinner under the stars before settling in your tent and drifting off to sleep to the sounds of the bush.

**MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**TRANSPORTATION:** Light aircraft transfer

**ACTIVITY:** Choice of game drive, walking, or hide sit

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## DAY 07

### Mountain Bike & Walk in Hwange

Get ready for a safari on two wheels and two feet. After breakfast, grab a mountain bike to cycle along paths forged by elephants, known as “ecological engineers,” because they clear the way for flora and fauna to flourish. Combine this with a bush walk for a slower pace and closer look at wildlife connections such as dung beetles and acacia trees. If you want to skip biking, just head out for a bush walk or a game drive instead—the choice is yours! If you chose to bike, fuel up for the return ride with a shaded picnic lunch. This afternoon, head out game viewing by vehicle and take advantage of amazing photo opportunities of the wildlife at Jozibanini's waterhole hide. Don't miss the opportunity to sleep outdoors in your “star bed” under southern hemisphere skies.

**MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**ACTIVITY:** 2-3 hours biking/walking, game drive and hide sit



## Experience the Elephant Pool at Nehimba

Leaving the remote wilderness of Jozibanini by air, your destination is Nehimba Lodge, located in a massive private concession in the game-rich northern region of Hwange. Land at the Shumba Airstrip, then board the camp's specially modified safari vehicles, designed for ideal wildlife viewing and photography access, for a drive to your comfortable nine-tent camp. Nehimba is well-known for having the best waterhole in Hwange as the elephants that frequent it will testify! The pool is adjacent to camp so wildlife viewing frequently happens right from the deck. Located on the edge of mopane woodlands with the Kalahari sandveld to the west, the area is known for its elephant-hunting lions, as well as an array of species such as leopard, buffalo, and hyena. Activities include classic daytime game drives, exciting night drives to spot nocturnal wildlife, and walking safaris, all accompanied by professional guides who share their expertise along the way.

**MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**TRANSPORTATION:** 40-minute flight transfer; 20-minute vehicle transfer

**ACTIVITY:** 3-4 hours game drive

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## Discover More of Hwange's Many Wonders

Enjoy an early morning tea or coffee on your private deck followed by a hearty breakfast. Then set out for a morning game drive exploring the dams (lakes) of Northern Hwange, which attract wildlife, particularly in the dry season. Your expert guide will be on the lookout for interesting sightings and tell you about the ecosystems you are passing through. Mandavu Dam is situated in a scenic hilly spot and is a wonderful location for both bird watching and game viewing, including many crocodiles and large pods of hippo, and it's here that you'll pause for a memorable picnic lunch. In the late afternoon head back towards the lodge. Stop for sundowners in a picturesque location along the way, then continue your safari as dusk turns to night. Filtered spotlights are used to pick out the various nocturnal species that can be found such as hyena, porcupines, civets, genet cats, and if you're lucky, perhaps even a leopard on hunt! Arrive back at the lodge for dinner and a good night's rest as the shuffle of elephants lulls you to sleep.

**MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**ACTIVITY:** Day and night game drives

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## Explore Hwange on Foot

Get close to nature on a thrilling walking safari. Learn how to track Nehimba's diverse wildlife and learn about the surrounding vegetation, including beautiful mopane woodlands, with your expert guides. Keep an eye out for bird life and insects while enjoying the fresh air and subtle scents of the wild. Break for a picnic lunch surrounded by nature before strolling back towards the lodge. Soak in the richness of this special private concession and reflect on all you have seen and experienced in the African wilderness. Later this evening, follow your guide to the Nehimba viewing platform. Situated close to camp, this lovely platform is the perfect spot to marvel at the splendor of an African sunset, providing an ideal backdrop to the abundance of wildlife that sip from the nearby waterhole—the perfect way to cap off your safari.

**MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**ACTIVITY:** 3-4 hour walk, platform game viewing

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## **Return to Victoria Falls & Depart Zimbabwe**

Take in the final sights and sounds of the African bush this morning before you pack up and return to the Shumba Airstrip. Board your flight to the Victoria Falls Airport, where you will make your onward connections on your homeward bound journey or begin your safari extension.



## Where You'll Stay

**These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.**

### **Batonka Guest Lodge**

Batonka Guest lodge is a quiet oasis, just over a mile from the mighty Victoria Falls. Set in lush gardens, the main lodge offers indoor and outdoor dining, a cozy lounge, and beautiful verandah opening out onto the surrounding gardens. Its 27 pool- or garden-view rooms are well-appointed with modern amenities, and have both contemporary features and colonial touches. There are two pools at Batonka and an excellent onsite restaurant.

### **Bomani Tented Lodge**

This charming camp is located in a private concession bordering Hwange's southeastern corner, where wetlands and savannah support an abundance of wildlife. Experience the thrill of the wild in one of the camp's elegant tents with waterhole or grassland views. Admire the vistas with your group in the dining area, lounge, bar and viewing deck or take a dip in the splash pool. Enjoy pre-dinner drinks around the fire pit and delicious candlelit dinners.

### **Camelthorn Lodge**

Located in the southeastern corner of Hwange National Park, Camelthorn Lodge boasts as its centerpiece a huge ancient Camelthorn tree that spans a 35-metre outdoor dining area. The lodge's eight luxurious forest villas each include en-suite baths, feature a window overlooking the woodlands, ground level deck and upstairs maisonette with hammock. Less than a kilometer away is an underground hide, perfectly located in view of a beautiful waterhole where Hwange's elephants frolic.



# Where You'll Stay

**These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.**

## **Jozibanini Camp**

Nestled in the remote southwestern region of Hwange National Park, Jozibanini is an exclusive wilderness camp where guests game-watch and dine out under the African sky. Beneath shepherd and camelthorn trees, tents are elevated on wooden decks with mosquito nets, en-suite toilets, and bucket showers. Open-topped verandas invite guests to sleep out under the stars.

## **Nehimba Lodge**

Feel at home in the heart of the wild at Nehimba Lodge, a charming camp on the edge of mopane woodland. Enjoy a deluxe stay in one of its nine chalet-style safari tents, built on teak decks with thatched roofs and complete with a private balcony, en-suite bathroom, outdoor shower, and hot running water (the camp is fully solar). See elephants drink at the waterhole from the traditional open-fronted main lodge and indulge in fresh, delicious fare in the dining area.

# Departure Dates

This trip is available to run in: January, February, March, May, June, July, August, September, October, December

# What's Included

## PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portorage

## PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses



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