



Back to Africa

Draft Farm Study Tour 2018

Date	Activity	Overnight
DAY 1 Fri, Aug 17* D	Tour leader: David Dowling 0437 000234 Various departures on South African or Qantas Airlines. All tour members, irrespective of airline flown or arrival time, will be met at the airport and transferred to our hotel. *We provide an option to travel the previous day to rest up a little before the adventure starts. The Irene Country Lodge is a haven of peace and tranquility on a beautiful lake. Half way between Johannesburg and Pretoria, it is a great location to start the tour.	South Africa Pretoria Irene Country Lodge http://www.irenecountrylodge.co.za
DAY 2 Sat, Aug 18 B,L,D	This morning we are transferred to the airport for our flight to Maun, Botswana. After clearing customs we transfer to our charter flight to the Khwai River – in the magnificent Okavango Delta and our gateway to the wildlife wonderland of the Delta. For the next three days we will be in a traditional tented safari camp. It is a real ‘Out of Africa’ safari, but we are by no means roughing it, although there will be private ‘long drop’ loos and hot bucket showers. The camp is lit by hurricane lamps and torches are a necessity. No wi-fi, phone signal or power. We will be with professional and passionate local guides who will introduce us to the amazing natural and cultural world of the Okavango Delta. We enjoy our first Delta game drive this evening before our silver service dinner under a billion or so African stars.	Botswana Okavango Delta Mobile Safari Camp https://www.barclaystenner.com 
DAY 3 Sun, Aug 19 B,L,D	Today we learn more about the wildlife, geography and agriculture unique to the Okavango Delta. This huge inland delta is formed by the Okavango River as it reaches a tectonic trough in the central part of the Kalahari. Each year around 11 cubic km of water spreads over the 6000 to 15,000 km sq area. All the water ultimately evaporates and transpires and does not flow into any sea or ocean. Countless species of wildlife are found in the Delta. Five primary tribes make up the native people of the Okavango and they use the area for fishing, crops and hunting. We enjoy an early morning and late afternoon game drive today.	Okavango Delta Mobile Safari Camp 
DAY 4 Mon, Aug 20 B,L,D	After our early morning game drive and breakfast, we are transferred to the nearby Khwai airstrip for our charter flights east to Kasane. You will be met upon arrival and taken down to the Chobe River for lunch on floating restaurant. From there the group be taken on a game cruise on the Chobe River. In the afternoon, we will drive to Pandamatenga – a major farming development in Botswana near the Zimbabwe border. We will arrive at Wild Tracks Eco Lodge in the late afternoon. Wild Tracks is built not far from Pandamatenga Farm block on the border of Hwange National Park and Kazuma Pan National Park but still within the Chobe Wildlife area. The wildlife roams freely within the area. The lodge consists of thatched chalets with ensuite facilities. The lodge over looks a watering hole which is frequently visited by elephant. NOTE: Not all the group will be able to fit in the Wild Tracks Lodge so some people will stay at the Touch of Africa Safari Lodge, which is probably a slightly lower standard. But the evening meals will be at Wild Tracks and the 4km drive to the Touch of Africa will provide an opportunity for some great night-time wildlife spotlighting.	Pandamatenga Wild Tracks Eco Lodge https://wildtrack-safaris.com OR Touch of Africa Safari Lodge http://www.touchofafrica.tv 

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DAY 5 Tues, Aug 21 B,L,D	<p>Today we will visit the farms and farmers at Pandamatenga – a government-backed project which covers around 50,000 hectares (surrounded by an elephant-proof electric fence!!). It has been established to not only provide a reliable source of food crops for the Botswanan people, but also a means by which the local traditional farmers are able to learn modern agricultural techniques. This is achieved by encouraging some experienced farming families (many of them disaffected white farmers from Zimbabwe and South Africa) to be part of the project.</p>	Pandamatenga Wild Tracks Eco Lodge OR Touch of Africa Safari Lodge
DAY 6 Wed, Aug 22 B,L,D	<p>Today we will be collected by 4WD vehicles and cross the nearby border into Zimbabwe and the famous Hwange park. It takes an hour or so to drive to our camps over rough roads, but this saves several hours driving the “long way” with the added advantage of some game viewing along the way in a part of Hwange that very few visitors get to see. In Hwange, the group will split between two neighbouring camps to ensure a great, non-crowded, experience for everyone.</p> <p>Both camps are fantastic and owned by the same people, but Camp Hwange is probably slightly smarter, so those who stay at the Touch of Africa in Pandamatenga will get preference at Camp Hwange.</p>	Zimbabwe Hwange National Park Camp Hwange http://www.camp-hwange.com/home.html# OR Hwange Bush Camp http://www.hwangebushcamp.com
DAY 7 Thu, Aug 23 B,L,D	<p>Hwange is the largest park in Zimbabwe and boasts a tremendous selection of wildlife with over 100 species of mammals and nearly 400 bird species recorded. The elephants of Hwange are world famous and the park’s elephant population is one of the largest in the world. Both camps offer high levels of comfort and a truly natural experience as you enjoy the sights and sounds of the African bush while exploring this remote and beautiful National Park.</p>	Hwange National Park Camp Hwange OR Hwange Bush Camp
DAY 8 Fri, Aug 24 B,L,D	<p>After a morning game drive, we will leave Hwange and head north to Victoria Falls with a close up look at the state of Zimbabwean agriculture along the way. After settling in to our comfortable chalets, we head to the mighty Zambezi River for an evening dinner cruise.</p>	Victoria Falls Lokuthula chalets http://www.africaalbida-tourism.com/where-to-stay/lokuthula-lodges/
DAY 9 Sat, Aug 25 B,D	<p>Enjoy breakfast as you watch the animals come down to the waterhole. We then take a guided tour of Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe side). Rest of the day is at leisure with a chance for activities such as helicopter rides or just shopping in the local markets. Evening dinner in the Boma Restaurant.</p>	Victoria Falls Lokuthula chalets
DAY 10 Sun, Aug 26 B,L,D	<p>This morning we will cross the bridge to the Zambian side and another view of the falls. We will also visit a Zambian farm – growing wheat, ground nuts and tobacco. After lunch on the farm we get up close and personal with the Falls with a visit to Livingstone Island and a chance to swim in the Devil’s Pool, nature’s most amazing infinity pool. It looks scary, but they have a 100% safety record. Then return to the Zimbabwe side of the Falls in the afternoon.</p>	Victoria Falls Lokuthula chalets 
DAY 11 Mon, Aug 27 B,D	<p>Leisurely start this morning before a lunchtime flight to Cape Town. We will be met by our local guide and have farm and scenic visits along the way north to Stellenbosch and the stunning Paarl and Franschhoek valleys – the home of the South African wine industry.</p>	Franschhoek Protea Hotel Franschhoek http://www.marriott.com/hotels/hotel-deals/cptfr-protea-hotel-franschhoek 

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DAY 12 Tues, Aug 28 B,L,D	<p>Today we cross the spectacular Franschhoek Pass into the beautiful Overberg region of the Western Cape and the town of Caledon. This is the “Golden Triangle” agricultural region with both grain and livestock production.</p>	Gordon’s Bay Krystal Beach Hotel http://www.krystalbeach.co.za
Day 13 Wed, Aug 29 B,L,D	<p>Today we will experience the splendour of the Cape Peninsula where the Indian and Atlantic Oceans meet. We will travel along the coast to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Nearly 8000 hectares of indigenous fynbos (fine bush) cover the reserve and about 1200 plant species have been recorded in the area. We call into Simons Town and visit a unique and endangered land-based colony of African Penguins. Then head back to Cape Town in the afternoon to our waterfront hotel with a brief city tour on the way to help get your bearings. Dinner tonight on the waterfront.</p>	Cape Town The Commodore Hotel https://www.legacyhotels.co.za/en/ 
Day 14 Thu, Aug 30 B	<p>Cape Town is South Africa’s oldest and arguably most attractive city. Known affectionately as the ‘Mother City’ it was here that Jan van Riebeeck, a Dutchman, developed a victualling station in 1652 which later became known as Cape Town. Today we visit Table Mountain and Signal Hill (weather permitting), to enjoy the spectacular views over Table Bay. Table Mountain (1134 m) is arguably the best-known mountain in the southern hemisphere. Free afternoon and evening in Cape Town.</p>	Cape Town The Commodore Hotel 
Day 15 Fri, Aug 31 B,L,D	<p>This morning we fly to Windhoek, the capital of Namibia. Our local guide and driver will meet us at the airport. We will head north, visiting a farm on the way to Erindi Private Game Reserve. Erindi covers over 70,000 hectares and is widely acclaimed as Namibia’s best private game reserve and is ‘well-stocked’ with the ‘Big 5’ – lion, elephant, buffalo, leopard and rhino – as well as many other species of game. In the 1970s and 1980s Erindi was an over-stocked cattle farm causing severe damage to the natural vegetation. Owners Gert Joubert and his nephew Paul, phased out cattle farming entirely and re-introduced numerous species that once occurred naturally in the area. In 2007, the reserve was transformed into a nature conservation venture. Over the years Erindi has successfully transitioned into a unique, best-practice eco tourism and conservation venture – constantly implementing and monitoring programs across all aspects of the land rehabilitation process. We enjoy a game drive this afternoon.</p>	Namibia Erindi Private Game Reserve https://erindi.com 
Day 16 Sat, Sep 1 B,L,D	<p>Today we will do two game drives and spend the rest of the day exploring this wonderful reserve. The Lodge is right next to a waterhole and the verandah provides some great wildlife viewing at any time.</p>	Namibia Erindi Erindi Private Game Reserve
Day 17 Sun, Sep 2 B,L,D	<p>After breakfast and morning game viewing, we will leave Erindi and travel west by charter coach to the Namibian coast at Swakopmund. The Namibian coast is mostly desert, with sand dunes and arid land running right to the sea. Most of the precipitation for the sparse vegetation comes from the coastal mist, which is present on most mornings and afternoons. In the afternoon we have a guided “Little 5” desert tour through the dunes surrounding Swakopmund to learn about the resilient creatures calling one of the more arid environments on the planet, home. We may see geckos, rolling spiders, scorpions, lizards, snakes, chameleons and skinks before a scenic drive back through the dunes.</p>	Swakopmund Swakopmund Plaza Hotel https://aha.co.za/swakopmund-plaza/ 

Date	Activity	Overnight
Day 18 Mon, Sep 3 B	Today we will take a spectacular charter flight over the 'sea of sand' to Sossusvlei. Situated in the largest conservation area in Africa (the Namib-Naukluft Desert National Park), Sossusvlei is a large, white, salt and clay pan surrounded by huge red sand dunes. The dunes in this area are some of the highest in the world, reaching almost 400 metres, and provide wonderful photographic images. We also fly over the Sesriem Canyon, carved by the Tsauchab river. The name Sesriem is Afrikaans and means "six belts" and was so named by the early settlers who had to join six belts to reach buckets down into the canyon to scoop up water. On the return flight, we travel up the spectacular and desolate coast of central Namibia. Free evening.	Swakopmund Swakopmund Plaza Hotel 
Day 19 Tues, Sep 4 B,D	Some free time this morning – Swakopmund is a great place to meander around and has excellent shopping for local handicrafts and leather goods. Then transfer to the airport to board our flight to Johannesburg. Dinner at the hotel with a presentation by a guest speaker from Agri South Africa.	South Africa Pretoria Irene Country Lodge http://www.irenecountrylodge.co.za
Day 20 Wed, Sep 5 B,L,D	We travel northeast of Pretoria for a farm visit on a property with sheep, cattle and cropping. We enjoy lunch on the farm. After lunch we will visit the world-famous Cullinan diamond mine and the Brits embryo transfer centre. Then it's back to Pretoria for our farewell dinner.	Pretoria Irene Country Lodge
Day 21 Thu, Sep 6 B,L	This morning we will visit the Voortrekker Monument built in honour of the epic exodus between 1835 and 1854 by disillusioned Boers from the Cape into the interior. This laid the foundation for the borders of present day South Africa. The monument also offers a great insight into the evolution of modern agricultural techniques in southern Africa. After lunch at the hotel, there will be time to freshen up before heading to the airport for our afternoon/evening flights back to Australia.	
	Serengeti Add-on Some customers have already booked a 7 day add-on tour taking in Mt Kilimanjaro, Ngorongoro Crater and the start of the Great Migration on the endless plains of the Serengeti. See here for full details and pricing . Please contact us for further details.	

TOUR COST: \$17950 pp twin share

Single supplement (room to yourself) – add \$1600

TOUR INCLUSIONS...

- All international and internal flights (economy class) including taxes and airport charges that can be included on the pre-purchased air ticket. International flights are based on departure from any east coast of Australia capital. Tour costs for Perth departures can vary slightly up or down depending on destination. We can also offer a range of premium economy and business class flight options. If you book your own international flights using FF points or other arrangements, the economy class flight cost built into the Farm Study Tour is deducted from the final tour price;
- First class, centrally located city accommodation (best available in regional areas) with full buffet breakfast;
- Farm and other technical visits;
- Most lunch and evening meals are included and are of the highest standard. Meals are designed to showcase the best of the regional food and wines. Some evenings will be left free to sample some of the great local restaurants at your leisure;
- Local, as well as our own, experienced Greenmount Travel guides/translators accompany the group to ensure any problems that may arise are quickly fixed;
- Private first class charter coach and experienced drivers; and,
- Park and site entries, transfers, etc mentioned on the itineraries.

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