
GEEO ITINERARY

Southern Africa

Day 1: Victoria Falls Arrive in Victoria Falls at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m. We recommend arriving in Victoria Falls a day early.

Arrive in Victoria Falls at any time. The airport is **Victoria Falls International Airport (VFA)**. There is a lot to see in Victoria Falls, so we suggest coming in one day early. This will also give you time to adjust to the time difference, overcome any jet lag, and avoid any disruption to your trip due to flight delays or cancellations. We can book extra hotel nights for you in Victoria Falls before the trip. Please note that hotel check-in usually opens around **2:00-3:00 p.m.**, so if your flight arrives early in the morning, you may wish to book a pre-trip hotel night so that you can rest when you arrive. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up tomorrow. After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another. The mist off Victoria Falls can rise to a height of more than 400m (1312 ft). Local tribes used to call the falls Mosi-o-Tunya, meaning "the smoke that thunders." Explorer and missionary David Livingstone renamed the falls after Queen Victoria when he first saw them in 1855. Visiting both the Zimbabwean and Zambian sides of the falls is a must and can easily be done in one afternoon. Please see our optional activity list further below to get an idea of the things you can do in the area. Your accommodation is in Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) and NOT Livingstone (Zambia). Please make sure you have the necessary visa. **Accommodation:** Shearwater Explorers Village * *For the actual hotel your specific departure will be using, please check your voucher.*

Day 2: Victoria Falls/Kasane Cross the border into Botswana, and stay in Kasane, just outside of Chobe NP. Try to spot the elephants, crocodiles, and hippos this region is famous for during an optional sundowner cruise.

Today we drive to the border and cross from Zimbabwe into Botswana. Continue to the Kasane area, outside the gates of Chobe National Park, home to the largest elephant population in Southern Africa. You will have the option to check out one of Botswana's national parks and its thousands of resident elephants, crocodiles, and hippos on a sunset boat cruise on the Chobe River. There are options here for a casual cruise to enjoy the scenery with a cocktail. The evening is a great time to be on the river.

Approximate travel time: 1.5 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Thebe River Safaris Lodge
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3: Kasane/Nata Opt to rise early for a sunrise safari on the Chobe River. Travel to Nata. Opt for a bushwalk or sunset wildlife safari drive in the area. Watch elephants drink from the camp's watering hole at night.

You can opt to rise early for a sunrise safari on the Chobe River. Then we travel to Nata where you can opt for a bush walk or sunset wildlife safari drive in the area. Watch elephants drink from the camp's watering hole at night. **Approximate travel time:** 4 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Elephant Sands Lodge **Meals included:** Breakfast | Dinner

Day 4: Nata/Maun Prepare for a 1-night/2-day journey into the delta. Opt to take a scenic flight over the delta.

Prepare for a 1-night/2-day journey into the delta. Opt to take a scenic flight over the delta. In the morning we travel to Maun, the biggest town in the Okavango Delta area, to pick up any supplies needed and prepare for the journey into the Okavango Delta. You will be able to pre-book an amazing flight over

Okavango Delta, which would take place this day. Get a fresh perspective on the vast wilderness of Africa with a once-in-a-lifetime view only a select few will ever see. Enjoy the hippos in the waterways and elephants and buffalo in the tree line. Gaze at the winding water channels as they make their way through the Delta. In the evening, watch a traditional dance group performance on the poolside terrace. **Approximate travel time:** 3.5 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Sedia Riverside Hotel **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 5: Okavango Delta Enjoy wildlife walks, traditional mokoro excursions, and birding. Learn the ways of the bush from the local polers.

Today the excursion begins with a drive in safari vehicles for about 1-2 hrs to the "dock" to board a mokoro (canoe) that takes us deep into the delta. After a 1-2 hrs in the mokoro, arrive at the basic bush camp. You will enjoy wildlife walks, mokoro trips, and birdwatching in the pristine wilderness area of the Okavango Delta, the world's largest inland delta. In the evening, count the shooting stars, sing with the locals, or simply unwind with a sundowner (cheers!) around the campfire. **Approximate travel time:** 1-2 hrs by 4x4, 1-2 hrs by mokoro **Accommodation:** Delta Overnight Bushcamp **Meals included:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 6: Maun/Ghanzi Traverse the Kalahari Desert. Spend the night in Ghanzi in western Botswana, and meet the local San Bushmen on a walk to learn their desert survival skills.

Enjoy the sunrise in the delta before traveling back to Maun by mokoro. Travel along the northern portions of the Kalahari Desert throughout the day—this is a severely arid and barren landscape, though very beautiful—and arrive at Ghanzi in the heart of the Kalahari. Get a glimpse of how the San tribe adapted to the Kalahari Desert and learn about their fascinating wilderness survival skills. The gatherer life of the San/Bushmen has all but disappeared; there are few remaining who retain the survival skills of their ancient way of life. During the walk, San/Bushmen guides will share their knowledge on mastering this harsh environment, helping us learn about the botany of our surroundings. Arrive in the late afternoon and camp in the Ghanzi area. **Approximate travel time:** 1-2 hrs by Mokoro, 1-2 hrs by 4x4, 4-5 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Thakadu Lodge **Meals included:** Breakfast | Dinner

Day 7: Ghanzi/Windhoek Travel to Windhoek, the German-influenced capital city of Namibia.

Today we leave Botswana and travel to Windhoek, the German-influenced capital city of Namibia. **Approximate travel time:** 8-9 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Auas City Hotel BB **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 8: Windhoek/Etosha National Park Visit the G Adventures-supported Penduka Village Restaurant & Shop, just outside of Windhoek, to pick up a tasty packed lunch, then continue up to Etosha National Park. Enjoy an afternoon wildlife safari drive in our touring vehicle, then opt to explore more on an open-vehicle night drive.

This morning we visit the G Adventures-supported Penduka Village Restaurant & Shop, just outside of Windhoek. Penduka works with women from the Katutura township and surrounding rural communities by helping them develop livelihoods while working in their handicraft workshops and cafe. Penduka trains and employs women disadvantaged through poverty, disability, ill-health, or lack of education, empowering them to develop skills in textiles, beading, and pottery. Pick up a fresh-packed lunch at the cafe to help support the center before touring the facilities and purchasing some of these crafts. Then continue up to Etosha National Park and set off into the wilds in the touring vehicle for an included wildlife safari drive. Over 100 species of mammals call Etosha home, including elephants, giraffes, lions, rhinos, and hyenas. After sunset, some animals may head to the watering holes near the campground. Travelers who prefer not to camp in tents over the next two nights can pre-book rooms or chalets at

[Okaukuejo Camp](#) or [Okaukuejo Resort](#). Note that travelers who book rooms will be responsible for the cost of the rooms and will not be reimbursed for the cost of the campsite. Please inform us [by email](#) if you pre-book rooms. See the Accommodation Notes below for more information and a full list of all camping nights and available upgrades. **Approximate travel time:** 5.5 hrs by private vehicle
Accommodation: Okaukuejo Restcamp **Meals included:** Breakfast | Lunch

Day 9: Etosha National Park Enjoy another wildlife safari drive in our touring vehicle and keep your eyes peeled for some of the famous wildlife.

Enjoy another wildlife safari drive in our touring vehicle and keep your eyes peeled for some of the famous wildlife. You can opt for more safaris in an open-top jeep or just have a bit of downtime back at the campground. **Accommodation:** Okaukuejo Restcamp **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 10: Etosha National Park/Swakopmund Drive to the historical city of Swakopmund.

Drive to the historical town of Swakopmund. Looking out over the beautiful desert landscapes as we begin moving to the far west of Namibia. On this route, we pass through a moon-like landscape and see the imposing Spitzkoppe, also known as the “Matterhorn” of Namibia in the distance. We spend two nights in Swakopmund, where you can explore this historical town or try sandboarding or a guided desert tour focused on human and animal survival in the harsh desert landscape. **Approximate travel time:** 7.5 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Hotel Eberwein **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 11: Swakopmund Spend a day exploring all the area has to offer. Optional activities include sandboarding, skydiving, and a township tour.

There's plenty to see and do in Swakopmund, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Optional activities include sandboarding, skydiving, and a township tour. Swakopmund has bizarre lunar landscapes, unforgettable sunsets, and prehistoric Welwitschia plants. **Accommodation:** Hotel Eberwein **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 12: Swakopmund/Namib Desert Travel into the beautiful Namib Desert, stopping at Walvis Bay on the way.

Get a real feel for the Namib Desert as we spend hours crossing this empty region. En route, take a coffee break in Solitaire, a mystical village consisting of a filling station, a general dealer/coffee shop, and a small mechanical workshop. Drive through Walvis Bay, the only town on the Namibian coastline that boasts a deep-sea harbor. Arrive in the area in the late afternoon, where the towering red sand dunes of Sossusvlei form the gateway into the Namib Desert. The campsites in the Namib over the next two nights are very basic. Travelers who prefer not to camp in tents can pre-book rooms at [Sossusvlei Lodge](#) or [Sossus Dune Lodge](#). Note that travelers who book rooms at the lodge will be responsible for the cost of the rooms and will not be reimbursed for the cost of the campsite. Please inform us [by email](#) if you pre-book rooms. See the Accommodation Notes below for more information and a full list of all camping nights and available upgrades. **Approximate travel time:** 4.5 hrs by private vehicle
Accommodation: Taleni - Sossus Oasis Camp **Meals included:** Breakfast | Dinner

Day 13: Namib Desert Visit Sossusvlei Dunes and Sesriem Canyon. Opt to climb up breathtaking Dune 45.

Enjoy a visit to Sossusvlei, a clay pan enclosed by the world's largest sand dunes, up to 300m (984 ft) high. Spend some free time here enjoying the sand dunes on your own. Opt to climb up breathtaking Dune 45. Then enjoy a short stop at Sesriem Canyon, a small canyon typical of the area. The Tsauchab River flows through the canyon every five to ten years, which creates the nearby salt and clay pan of Sossusvlei. **Accommodation:** Taleni - Sossus Oasis Camp **Meals included:** Breakfast | Dinner

Day 14: Namib Desert/Keetmanshoop Continue south through the Namib Desert

to Keetmanshoop, enjoying dramatic Namibian landscapes along the way. In the afternoon enjoy a visit to the rare Quiver Tree Forest.

Continue south through the Namib Desert to Keetmanshoop. We visit the Quiver Tree Forest. These trees get their name from their Afrikaans name, Kokerboom, which is a reference to the indigenous San peoples' practice of hollowing out the tubular branches to make quivers for their arrows (they're known as choje in the San language). All of the trees in the forest are naturally occurring and self-propagating. You'll find young trees growing out of rock crevasses. The oldest trees in the forest are estimated to be between 200 and 300 years old. The unusual micro-ecosystem this forest creates also attracts a surprising abundance of wildlife, most notably a large population of rock hyrax, which hikers will almost certainly find (or hear) scurrying among the rocks. **Approximate travel time:** 6-8 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Quiver Inn Guest House **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 15: Keetmanshoop/Orange River Early start and visit the geological formation called the Giant's Playground. Drive South and later in the day visit the breathtaking Fish River Canyon. Then, continue on to the banks of the Orange River with time to relax. Enjoy the beautiful scenery in this part of the country.

We will have an early start and visit the geological formation called the Giant's Playground. Close your eyes for a moment and imagine a group of young giants frolicking amongst stone formations. Leaping from pedestal to pedestal and crouching behind the stones during a game of hide and seek. This geological phenomenon is named Giant's Playground because of the way the series of dolerite boulders have been packed as though someone was playing a really over-the-top version of Jenga. Visit this series of formations and a rock maze just outside of Keetmanshoop. We'll then drive another two hours to the Fish River Canyon, the largest canyon in Africa and, arguably, the second largest in the world. We will only have access to the rim, but the views are spectacular. After a further 6-hour drive we will reach the Orange River. Relax on the river bank and enjoy the beautiful scenery in this part of the country.

Approximate travel time: 8 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Norotshama River Resort **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 16: Orange River/Lambert's Bay Cross the border into South Africa and continue down the coast to Lambert's Bay, stopping along the way for an included wine tasting. Opt to visit Bird Island or stroll through this charming town.

Cross the border into South Africa and continue down the coast, stopping along the way, until we come to Lambert's Bay, a picturesque town on the west coast of South Africa. Enjoy an included wine tasting at Lambert's Bay. This small coastal town is named after a senior navy officer who championed the principles of conservation as he monitored the marine life here. During the tasting you will learn how to analyze your palates and listen to your taste buds. You'll learn how to pair your food with the best wine raised in the foothills of the Cederburg Mountains. In the afternoon, opt to visit the well known Bird Island where you can find more than 25,000 blue-eyed gannets at certain times of the year. Penguins also gather on this island for breeding between August and October. Opt to stroll through this lovely town, visiting unique artisan shops and boutiques. **Approximate travel time:** 7 hrs by private vehicle

Accommodation: Sir Lamberts Guest House **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 17: Lambert's Bay/Cape Town Continue on the last stretch of the trip to lovely Cape Town. Stop at the G Adventures-supported !Kwa ttu San Culture and Education Centre along the way, then get ready to explore the vibrant streets of this scenic coastal city.

Continue on the last stretch of the trip to lovely Cape Town. Stop at the G Adventures-supported !Kwa ttu San Culture and Education Centre along the way. The San people of Southern Africa have historically faced centuries of political and cultural oppression. The !Kwa ttu San Culture and Education Centre

provides tailor-made training for young San women and men of Southern Africa. Travelers learn about San culture and history at the interpretive museum. Visits help trainees gain experience with international clients while garnering support for the center's efforts to preserve San culture and history. We arrive in Cape Town in the early afternoon, so you might not have time to participate in lengthy activities or see many sights. If you would like to see or do anything, we recommend booking an extra night or two before your return flight home. Cape Town has many different options should you book extra time to explore after the tour. Visit Table Mountain, explore Cape Point (Cape of Good Hope), or join a wine tour in and around Stellenbosch (45 min drive). Visit the old French Huguenot town of Franschoek and surroundings (1 hr drive). For the truly adventurous, try skydiving, abseiling, or even cage diving, for a close encounter with the great white sharks. Opt to wander through the city center, which has some of the oldest buildings and gardens in South Africa (Botanical Gardens and Parliament Gardens), or visit the Cultural Historical Museum, Planetarium, and numerous other small museums and theaters.

Approximate travel time: 5.5 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Cresta Grande **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 18: Cape Town Depart Cape Town at any time. We recommend staying at least one extra night.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Cape Town at any time. The airport is **Cape Town International Airport (CPT)**. The fully enjoy this city, consider staying an extra night. You can book post-tour accommodation with us. Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO programs in the same school year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs per year). If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEEO program that interests you, let us know. We can work with you to find a trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but we can still offer you and your travel companions a discounted educator price on any additional tours that you book. **Meals included:** Breakfast

***Itinerary Disclaimer:** *While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*