

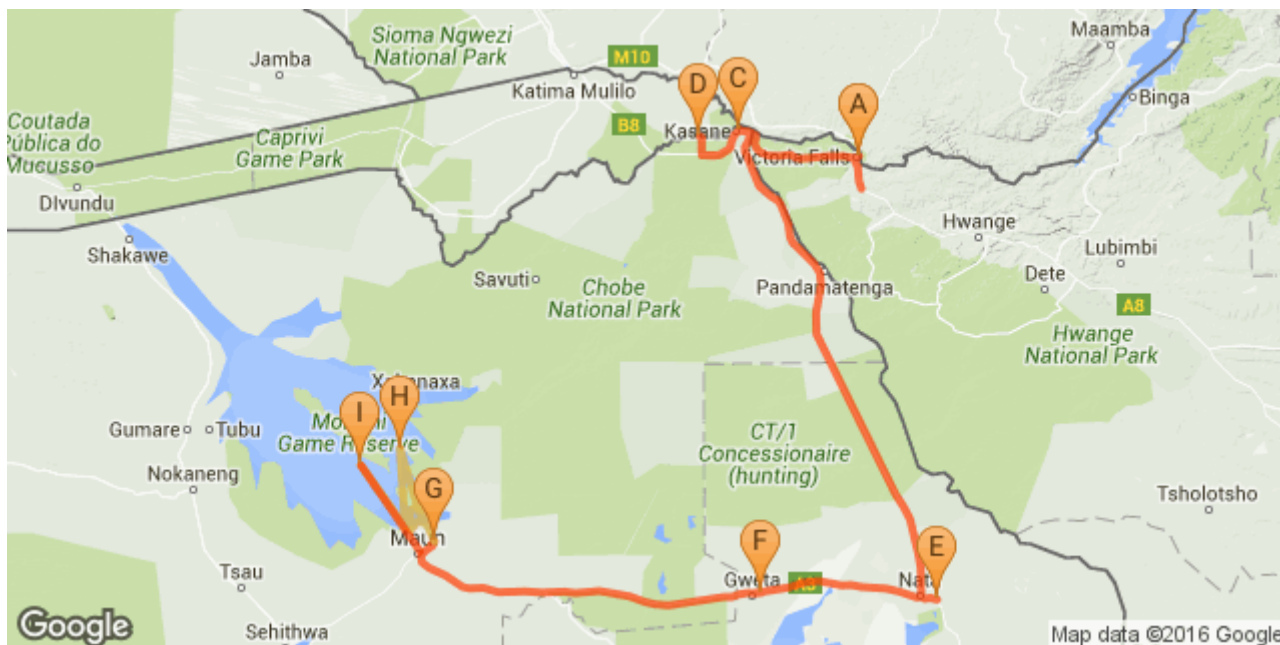
Oxley College
Community Service Expedition to
Botswana September/October 2017
 (prepared July 2016)

PART 1 - Fly Sydney/Perth/ Johannesburg/Victoria Falls (Virgin Aus/SAA)

Depart 22 September 2017

PART 2 - 10 Day Tailor Made Camping Expedition Itinerary

*Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe - Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe - Kasane - Chobe River Front - Nata -
 Gweta - Maun - Okavango Delta - Okavango Delta*
 10 Days / 9 Nights



Overview

Accommodation	Destination	Nights	Room Type
Victoria Falls Rest Camp	Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe	2	Camping
Thebe River Camp	Kasane	2	Camping
Nata Lodge	Nata	1	Camping
Planet Baobab	Gweta	1	Camping
Island Safari Lodge	Maun	1	Camping
Okavango Delta	Okavango Delta	2	Camping

Day 1: Victoria Falls Rest Camp, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Transfers

Date	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time
22 Sept 2017	Victoria Falls International Airport	Victoria Falls Rest Camp	TBA



One of the original natural wonders of the world, the Victoria Falls is a World Heritage Site and an extremely popular tourism attraction. Known locally as 'The Smoke that Thunders' this spectacle is accessible from both Zambia and Zimbabwe and it is an ideal place to combine game viewing and water sports. There is excellent fishing, a terrifying bungee jump and arguably the best commercial white water rafting in the world.

Victoria Falls Rest Camp

Victoria Falls Self Catering and Camping Accommodation at the Vic Falls Rest Camp is the best budget accommodation available in the Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The Rest Camp is situated right in the middle of Victoria Falls town in Zimbabwe making it a perfect place to be based with all amenities within walking distance. The Rest Camp is only 2 km from the Falls making it the closest campsite to the Victoria Falls. The security around the camp is a top priority with high stainless steel fences and electric fences making it first-class. The rest camp boasts numerous well maintained grass areas and an abundance of different varieties of trees making the surroundings in the camp very enjoyable. It makes this rest camp very popular for families as children have a safe and secure scenic environment to play in.

Overnight: Victoria Falls Rest Camp including dinner

Day 2: Victoria Falls Rest Camp, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Activities Included

Victoria Falls Guided Tour including park fees and transfers

The Boma Restaurant including transfers

Victoria Falls Guided Tour

A view of the Victoria Falls is something you will never forget and the best way to see them is on a guided tour. Discover how the Falls were formed and what local customs and traditions surround them. These tours are extremely informative and end with a visit to the local art and crafts centre.



The Boma Restaurant

Described as an unforgettable African experience infused with Zimbabwean cuisine, spirited performances and traditional storytelling, The Boma – Place of Eating - has firmly established itself as a Victoria Falls highlight.

Partially open to the skies, The Boma specialises in a superb selection of Zimbabwean dishes. A four-course meal combines a choice of starters with a barbecue buffet. The adventurous are enticed with local delicacies such as mopani worms and potjiekos (hunter’s game stew), whilst those wishing to enjoy beef, pork, fish and chicken or a variety of vegetarian meals are welcome to do so.

The sights and sounds of the evening are accentuated by a feast of nightly entertainment, incorporating traditional dancers, who captivate guests with their vibrant songs and dance. The acclaimed Zambezi Drumbeat provides a wonderful interactive drumming experience.



Overnight: Victoria Falls Rest Camp including dinner at the Boma

Day 3: Thebe River Camp, Kasane

Transfers

Date	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time
24 Sept 2017	Victoria Falls Rest Camp	Thebe River Camp	TBA



Kasane is almost part of the Chobe National Park as there are no boundary fences separating the village from the park. In fact, game such as elephant and hippo are often spotted in Kasane. If on the lookout for game in the area, pay a visit to the large, dead trees along the Sedudu Valley Road as they often act as temporary homes for leopards. These aren't the only enticing trees in Kasane – the village is also the proud owner of an old baobab tree whose tree trunk was once a local prison. Kasane is the main town servicing Chobe and the Linyanti.

Activities

Chobe National Park Game Viewing including park fees

Chobe National Park Game Viewing

The Chobe National Park in Botswana is only a 1¾-hour drive from Victoria Falls. It is one of the greatest game reserves in southern Africa, famous for its elephant numbers. The Chobe River and Caprivi flood plains provide a haven for huge herds of buffalo, elephant, zebra, wildebeest and impala which are followed closely by lions, hyenas and leopards and the bird life is exceptional.



Thebe River Camp

Thebe River Safaris is ideally situated for visitors to the Chobe Park and Chobe River area in Northern Botswana. The lodge and camp overlooks the placid Chobe River and echo the surrounding bush with a rustic design. Thebe River Safaris is 12 km from the Kazungula border and 5 km from the Chobe Park entrance. There's a restaurant and bar providing welcome food and drinks and visitors can enjoy the sparkling swimming pool.

Overnight: Thebe River Camp including all meals

Day 4: Thebe River Camp Kasane



The Chobe River forms the northern boundary of the Chobe National Park, renowned for its reliable and diverse game viewing. Safaris are conducted both by boat and on land. This section of the park is best known for its

elephant and hippo populations but the waters attract all manner of game including large herds of buffalo and the lions that prey on them.

Activities Included

Chobe National Park Game Viewing including park fees

Chobe Boat Cruises including park fees

Chobe Boat Cruises

Take to the waters of the Chobe River and get a chance to see some game on the islands and riverbanks. There is a good likelihood of seeing some fantastic bird species as well as crocodiles and other wildlife. Elephant, buffalo, giraffe and hippo are common sightings with sable, leopard and numerous antelope also being regulars on guests check lists.



Overnight: Thebe River camp including all meals

Day 5: Nata Lodge, Nata

Transfers

Date	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time
26 Sept 2017	Thebe River Camp	Nata Lodge	TBA



This small village, situated 180km north of Francistown, is a popular stop-over destination on the way to or from Maun and Kasane (both ~300km away) further north. The white sand, tall termite mounds and Mokolwane palm trees are a feature of the area around this village.

Nata is the best place from which to explore the eastern section of the Makgadikgadi Pans. Nata Sanctuary is only 10km away and self-drive trips here can be rewarding at the right time of year with large flocks of Flamingos and Pelicans which breed here each year.

Activities Included

Makgadikgadi Pan Excursion

Makgadikgadi Pan

The name Makgadikgadi means “vast open lifeless land” and is located to the south-east of the Okavango Delta and surrounded by the Kalahari Desert. It is one of Botswana’s lesser known parks; and is not a single pan but many separated by a sandy desert.

The park is known as one of the largest salt flats in the world, although it is not always dry. Heavy rain falls from mid-November filling the dry, salty, clay crust with water and grass, which remains until April or May. At this time the land becomes a refuge for migrating birds and animals including the huge zebra migration and large elephant herds. However, during the inhospitable dry season very little wildlife exists.

Overnight: Nata Lodge [View iBrochure](#)

An oasis set among the Mokolwane palms on the edge of the pans. It is ideally situated close to the entrance to the Nata Sanctuary and is just off the main road, 10 km from Nata village. This is the junction to the Okavango, Chobe and Francistown areas.

The Nata River delta feeds the Sua Pan in the Nata sanctuary and forms the breeding ground for a host of water birds including pelicans and flamingo in their thousands, transforming the shore line into a pink haze blending into the western sky. Nata Lodge offers guided tours in open safari vehicles into the sanctuary, not to be missed.

Overnight: Nata Lodge including all meals

Day 6: Planet Baobab, Gweta

Transfers

Date	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time
27 Sept 2017	Nata Lodge	Planet Baobab	TBA



Known as the gateway to the Makgadikgadi Pans, the tiny old Botswanan village of Gweta is a pleasant place to stay while exploring the vast salt pans. Take a guided walk or quad bike ride through Gweta’s surrounds and discover flint-head spears and other artifacts abandoned by the area’s early Stone Age inhabitants. Experience a barbecue under the star-studded African sky while sipping on traditional, organic sorghum beer or a creamy baobab milkshake. During the rainy season, the Gweta area teems with zebra and wildebeest and these, in turn, attract hungry predators such as lion and cheetah. If a unique and interesting getaway is what you are after, Gweta won’t fail to impress.

Activities Included

Planet Baobab Ntwetwe Pan

NTWETWE PAN DAY TRIP

Duration of the activity: Approximately 6.5 hours

Drive across the vast grasslands, past lonely baobab sentinels to the edge of Ntwetwe Saltpan. Along the way, your Guide will explain the incredible adaptations of the species that are unique to the Kalahari Desert environment.

Head off with your Guide to explore the surrounds in search of bat eared foxes, ground squirrels and other unique desert species. Learn of their incredible struggle against the elements of Africa's harshest wilderness.

Get up close and personal with a resident gang of habituated Meerkats; see how these incredibly social, superbly adapted animals interact with each other and their environment. You also get the chance to view the desert through the eyes of a Meerkat – which, despite the fact that it's only a foot off the ground, is a pretty spectacular vantage point, and definitely one of the most special and memorable game experiences you will encounter in Botswana.

On reaching the lunar landscape of Ntwetwe Saltpan, the bigger of the two Makgadikgadi Saltpans, and after listening to a brief safety chat, zoom off for a lightning tour of the archaeology, geology and zoology of the area. Explore the vast nothingness of the Makgadikgadi in an ecologically correct fashion leaving only a shallow track that will be washed away by summer rains.

Breathtaking views of vast expanses of sparkling saltpan extend as far as the eye can see.

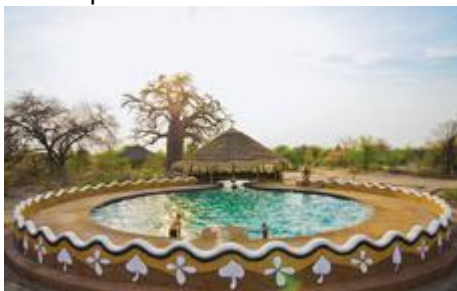
Search for the stone tools that remain scattered on the surface of the pan, while your Guide gives a comprehensive explanation of the manufacture of stone tools and the evolution of man himself.

Next stop, the enormous Green's Baobab. It was under this remarkable tree that traders, missionaries and explorers such as David Livingstone (his trademark cross is carved into the tree) used to camp when crossing this inhospitable part of the country. The tree is named after the Green brothers, Frederick and Charles, who carved the words "Green's Expedition, 1858 – 1859" into the tree. After this fascinating journey into the past, head back to Planet Baobab

Planet Baobab [View iBrochure](#)

Situated close to the village of Gweta, 290 km from Francistown and 200 km from Maun, this family friendly camp accepts children of all ages. Planet Baobab combines style with comfort while remaining true to its African inspiration. Accommodation provides different options at all price levels. Traditionally styled, beautifully painted Kalanga Huts with en-suite bathrooms or the shady campsite are a couple of accommodation options available. The Africantastic 'shebeen' style central mess features a tasty bar menu, and when it heats up, cool off in the biggest coolest pool in the Kalahari. Activities on offer all year round include: guided bush walks; traditional cattle post and village visits; incredibly friendly habituated meerkats; expeditions to Nxai Pan.

During the dry season (25th April to 31st October) activities include quad biking on the saltpans; a sleep out under the magnificent Makgadikgadi night sky. During the wet season (1st November to 24th April) visitors can witness the spectacular zebra and wildebeest migration experience.



Overnight: Planet Baobab including all meals

Day 7: Island Safari Lodge, Maun

Transfers

Date	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time
28 Sept 2017	Planet Baobab	Island Safari Lodge	TBA



Activities Included

AM Cattlepost Visit

VISIT THE VILLAGE OF GWETA & ENJOY A TRADITIONAL CATTLEPOST MEAL

Duration of the activity: Approximately 3.5 hours

Take a tour of the thriving metropolis of Gweta (population 2000 - anonymous source 1967) to experience modern African village culture. Learn about the history and traditions of the Batswana from our Guides whose knowledge has been inherited from their forefathers.

Visit the local primary school, 'Sekolo' with its outdoor classes under the morula tree, the Kgotla – a traditional court that governs the village and people of Gweta and the Traditional Healer, 'Sangoma' where, if you are lucky, you might benefit the mixing of aphrodisiac droppings and roots.

Set off to visit a local cattle post, where you will be shown around a traditional Batswana home. Get a glimpse of rural Botswana life and join your hosts for a traditional Kalanga meal of sorghum, mealie meal, "seswaa" (beef stew), wild spinach, mophane worms (optional!!) and wild beans followed by a lip-smacking baobab fruit milkshake.

Overnight: Island Safari Lodge [View iBrochure](#)

The 12 chalets and 6 rooms are set amongst the trees that overlook the Thamalakane River. Each en-suite chalet has air-conditioning, television and a hot beverage station. Situated to the rear of the tree line are our 4 budget rooms which, although smaller, offer the same facilities as the chalets. The large campsite, nestled under the riverine canopy, is situated on the southern side of the property. Two clean ablution blocks with 4 hot showers and 4 toilets in each, service the needs of the camping fraternity. The campsite has a large, fenced swimming pool. Walking access to the lodge, restaurant and bar is along a promenade that runs along the river bank.

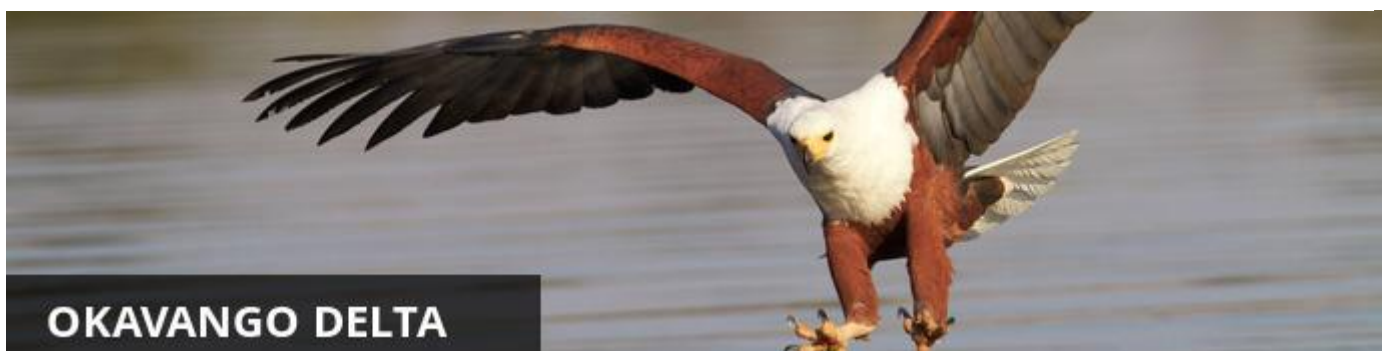


Overnight Island Safari Lodge including all meals

Day 8/9: Okavango Delta, Okavango Delta

Transfers

Date	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time
29/30 Sept 2017	Island Safari Lodge	Okavango Delta	TBA



Lying in the middle of the largest expanse of sand on earth the Okavango Delta is one of Africa's most amazing, sensitive and complex environments supporting a spectacle of wilderness and wildlife. Unique as one of the world's few inland deltas, the placid waters and lush indigenous forests offer a safe haven for innumerable bird and wildlife species. The Okavango Delta offers a number of activities for the visitor; game viewing, birding and fishing are all on offer. One can experience this magical world of islands and waterways from land, air and water. Highlights include the elusive Sitatunga antelope which has found refuge in this pristine wetland ecosystem, while birds such as the African fish eagle, Pel's fishing owl and many others provide a spectacular display.

Activities

2 night delta excursion with game walks and mokoros

Overnight: Okavango Delta including all meals

Day 10: Departure

Transfers

Date	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time
1-6 Oct 2017	Delta Camp Mokoro Trips	Maun Hotel	TBA

PART 3 – WORKING WITH THE SEDIE & MATHIBA SCHOOLS COMMUNITIES (MAUN, BOTSWANA)

Oct 2017 - Maun Accommodation in local hotel (Alfa Lodge) (all meals included) TBA

Students will be immersed in another school and society's culture. By living and working in a close knit community for a week students get many more rich experiences than the much maligned model where you drop in for a day, paint a wall, have a game of soccer and leave. In addition, by learning about the community in advance in Geography, Global Perspectives and Design and Technology, students will be well aware of the community into which they are going. Indeed, in many cases the students in the developing world have and we can kick start friendships months in advance of meeting. We can also keep the relationships going after our Oxley kids return to Bowral. Indeed, students may ultimately choose to take a GAP year in these developing world communities.

Students will be embedded within the school to work on designated tasks including joining high school lessons, creating a cultural programme and teaching English at Mathiba Primary School. We can also play sport with them - although they are the National Basketball Champions so we should be wary.



PART 4- Fly Maun/ Johannesburg/Perth/Sydney (SAA/Virgin Aus)

Depart Maun Oct 2017, arrive Sydney International 7 Oct 2017

LIKELY COSTING

It is anticipated that the total cost of the trip will be approximately \$6,000 which includes flights, accommodation, meals and transport.

Essential Information for BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE

VISA REQUIREMENTS:

The information provided is based on Australian passport holders. If you are holding a foreign passport please check direct with the Embassy for visa requirements. Our information is correct at time of printing, but we take no responsibility for any changes by the Governments. We therefore recommend that clients carry extra US\$ cash in case of such events. All visitors must hold onward tickets, documents and sufficient funds for duration of travel.

PASSPORT VALIDITY You will require a valid acceptable passport or travel document good for a sufficient period to cover your intended stay (at least 6 months), a valid visa if required, sufficient funds, a return or onward ticket and at least two blank pages for each visiting country.

BOTSWANA: No visas are required for Australian Passport Holders.

ZIMBABWE: US\$50 cash at point of entry (valid for 30 days)

- Passport valid for a least 6 months from your date of entry.
- Return ticket to your country (or enough money to buy one)
- Sufficient funds to cover your stay in Zimbabwe
- Enough blank pages in your passport to fit the required entry visa.

SOUTH AFRICA (even though we are in transit):

Travelling with Children: When leaving South Africa with children, parents or guardians must be able to produce unabridged birth certificates reflecting the details of both parents, as well as a valid passport for each child.

If children are travelling with a guardian, this adult is required to produce affidavits from both parents giving permission for the children to travel. They will also need copies of the passports of the parents, as well as the contact details of the parents.

HEALTH ISSUES

- **YELLOW FEVER POLICY** - This is the revised Yellow Fever (YF) vaccination requirements for Africa. It is compulsory that you have the YF inoculation and carry your certificate with you are travelling through Botswana and have visited the following countries - The Congo, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania & any West African Countries.
- **MALARIA:** Please consult your Physician before you travel to Africa for advice on precautions against malaria prior to your departure.

SPENDING MONEY

*** It is recommended that you travel with foreign cash (preferably in small denomination bills of US Dollars or Rand) places will NOT accept any US Dollars printed prior 2006 or in poor condition. ***

There are constant changes to the cost of visas, park fees, entry fees etc. Please be sure to carry extra US\$ cash with you for these instances. We do our best to advise prior to departure of any changes BUT sometimes circumstances change quickly and are totally out of our control.

Money and Banking hours: Banks and foreign exchange bureaux are available at all international airports and in all main towns. Most hotels and lodges accept Visa and MasterCard.

Surcharges could apply on credit cards

ZIMBABWE: The currency in general use in Victoria Falls is the US\$.

BOTSWANA: The currency is the Pula (P) US Dollars cash are widely accepted. General banking hours in Maun and Kasane: Monday – Friday 08.30 – 14.30, Saturday 08.15 – 10.45

TIME DIFFERENCE to Australia: Zimbabwe & Botswana – 8 hours

ELECTRICITY:

Campgrounds in the more remote areas do not have electricity. These generally rely on generator power for lighting and refrigeration but this power only runs at critical times of the day. Please be aware that you will not find a plug socket in your tent.

Botswana

230V, 50 Hz. Plugs are of the round 3-pin South African variety.

Dietary requirements:

Most dietary requirements can be catered for but please tell us well in advance so we can inform the tour operators and lodges. With most destinations a shop isn't simply around the corner so lodges need all information well in advance.

It is generally recommended that you drink and brush your teeth with bottled water during your stay in Southern Africa both in the cities and whilst visiting the camps and lodges. Ice at the lodges is made with treated and filtered water. Visitors should buy bottled water at all times. Some camps and lodges do provide limited bottled water in the rooms free of charge. Check with each lodge on the situation with drinking water as some lodges do filter their water and it will be safe to drink.

Border Crossing: ZIMBABWE/BOTSWANA: You are required to show your passport at all border crossings and our Representative/Driver will assist you with the border crossing.

Language: English is widely spoken throughout Southern Africa.

CLIMATE:

Botswana's climate is mainly temperate. Summer, between October and April, can be very hot but daytime temperatures typically average around 30°C (86°F). The rainy season lasts from January to March. Winter, from May to September, brings cooler weather with an average temperature of 25°C (77°F); early mornings and evenings may be cold and frosty, particularly in the Kalahari.

Game Drives: Game drives are usually twice a day AM & PM between 2-3 hours. There may be long and slow driving conditions due to road surfaces.

What to pack: Dress should generally be informal, comfortable and practical. Washable cotton clothing in neutral colours is best for safari. Light to medium weight khaki trousers or shorts, skirts for women, and t-shirts work well. A light jacket and warm sweater are recommended during the early morning and evening game drives. Sandals or sneakers are suitable footwear. Laundry is available at most camps and lodges so avoid bringing too much gear. We advise all clients to pack as little as possible to minimize 'headaches'.

Baggage Restrictions: One average sized suitcase with a luggage limit of 23kgs is allowed on normal scheduled flights in economy class to/from and within Africa.

Tipping: It is customary to tip 10% of the bill at all restaurants. It is also the custom to tip when staying in Game lodges/camps to local rangers/guides, and Game lodge/camp staff of US\$5-\$10 per person per day for each the guide and the staff. Porters are given a tip of R5/US1 per item of luggage, paid directly at the time they provide the service.