

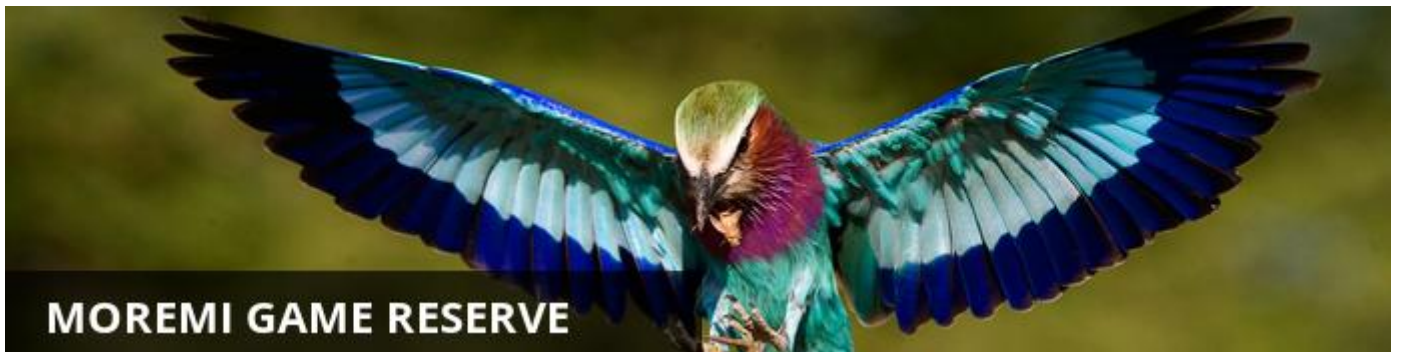


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**Oxley OSSO Botswana Sept-Oct 2019**

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## Oxley OSSO Botswana Sept-Oct 2019

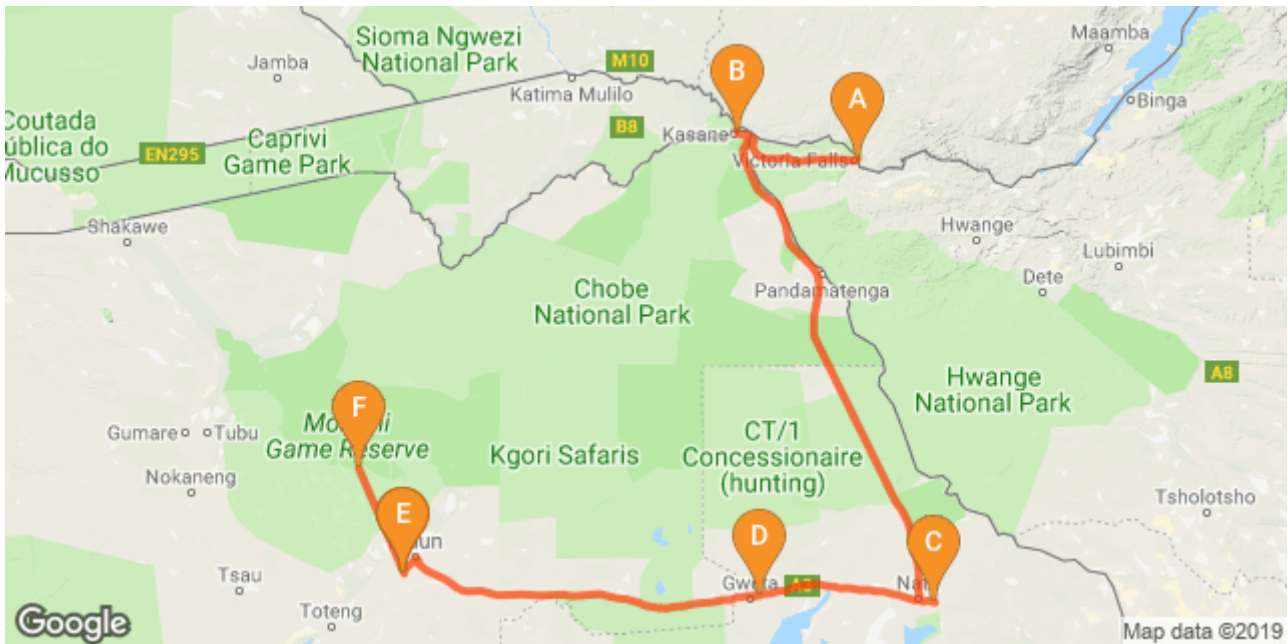
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe - Kasane - Nata - Gweta - Maun - Moremi Game Reserve

18 Days / 17 Nights

29 Persons

Date of Issue: 19 June 2019

27 September 2019 - 14 October 2019



[Click here to view your Digital Itinerary](#)

## Introduction

The Oxley College OSSO trip to Zimbabwe (Victoria Falls only) and Botswana is designed to give students an introduction to southern Africa before they meet the community that they are going to work and share experiences with.

Starting at the world-famous Victoria Falls, the itinerary caters for the differing geographical features available by taking the group from the lush Chobe River banks (teeming with wildlife) through the Kalahari Desert to the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans and on to the Okavango Delta (the largest inland delta in the world) before finishing in Maun, on the Thamalakane River.

There will be wildlife to be seen throughout the trip, whether it is by park jeep, boat cruise, mokoro pole, horse-back or on a walking safari, or even just driving down the main roads in the safari truck.

With this background, the Oxley students are then a little more prepared to understand Botswana and work with the students of Sedie Junior Secondary School and Mathiba Memorial Primary School in Maun.

Once the 'safari' component of the trip is completed the Oxley group will be based at Sitatunga Camp (13 kms outside of Maun) from where a daily bus trip will take them to the two Maun schools with which they will be involved.

While based at Sitatunga, all students will have the added experience of riding a horse in a local private game reserve.

The whole fortnight will be an experience that the students will never forget and hopefully will provide a start to a greater awareness of the world in which they live, and how they can contribute positively to it.

Accommodation	Destination	Basis	Room Type	Duration
Overnight Travel				<b>1 Night</b>
Shearwater Explorers Village	Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe	FB+	1x Campsite	<b>1 Night</b>
<a href="#">Thebe River Lodge and Campsite</a>	Kasane	FB+	1x Campsite	<b>3 Nights</b>
<a href="#">Nata Lodge</a>	Nata	FB+	1x Campsite	<b>1 Night</b>
<a href="#">Planet Baobab</a>	Gweta	FB+	1x Campsite	<b>1 Night</b>
Sitatunga Camp	Maun	FB	1x Campsite	<b>1 Night</b>
Delta Rain Safaris	Moremi Game Reserve	FB+	1x Campsite	<b>2 Nights</b>
Sitatunga Camp	Maun	FB+	1x Campsite	<b>6 Nights</b>
Overnight Travel				<b>1 Night</b>

### Key

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

FB: Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

FB+: Dinner, Bed, Breakfast, Lunch and Activities Daily

## Price

AUD \$6500.00

## Included

- 17 days/16 nights
- Six flights Sydney/Perth/Johannesburg/Victoria Falls//Maun/Johannesburg/Perth/Sydney
- All land travel, whether it is safari truck, game viewing jeep, river cruise boat, mokoro (canoe) or school bus
- All meals (except for the first lunch in Victoria Falls)
- Tented accommodation throughout
- Tour Director and two Oxley staff
- Safari truck driver and cook; minibus & trailer
- All National Park fees
- Horse-riding safari

## Excluded

- Zimbabwe visa (US\$30 paid at port of entry)
- Tipping requirements
- Individual purchases or laundry arrangements.
- Any other costs not included in the itinerary

## **Day 1: Overnight Travel (Fri, 27 September)**

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### **Day Itinerary**

The start of an exciting tour!

This afternoon you will leave Oxley by bus and you will be transferred by bus to the Sydney Domestic Airport where you will catch a Virgin Australia flight to Perth.

On arrival in Perth, you will go through Australian Customs & Immigration prior to your departure on a South African Airways flight to Johannesburg's O.R .Tambo International Airport

### **Overnight in flight**



## Day 2: Shearwater Explorers Village, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (Sat, 28 September)

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### Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Resting on the southern banks of the Zambezi River at the western end of the eponymous falls, this popular tourist town is compact enough to walk around and makes an ideal base for travellers exploring the seventh wonder of the world, the unfathomably vast Victoria Falls. About two-thirds of the falls can be viewed from the Zimbabwean side and, while the falls are undoubtedly the star attraction, the area provides both adventure seekers and sightseers with plenty of opportunities to warrant a longer stay. Popular activities include scenic flights over the falls in helicopters or microlights, bungee jumping off the Victoria Falls Bridge, white-water rafting (seasonal), and day trips to Chobe National Park. The town itself offers some excellent accommodation and restaurant options as well as an eclectic variety of African curios and authentic art sold by friendly Zimbabwean locals who are wonderfully welcoming and eager to help you enjoy your stay.

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### Day Itinerary

After an early morning arrival you will have time to unwind and have a snack in an airport cafe.

Mid-morning you will depart on a South African Airways flight to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

#### Visa required for Zimbabwe USD 30.00 cash per person (bought on entry)

Upon arrival at Victoria Falls Airport, you will meet the safari crew and the safari truck and you will be transferred to **Shearwater Explorers Village** where you will set up camp for one night .

After that you will walk, via the majestic Victoria Falls Hotel, to the **Lookout Cafe** for a late drink and snack.

That evening you will be transferred to the **Boma Restaurant** for an evening of good food (local and international), music and dance.

### Overnight Victoria Falls

#### Overnight: Shearwater Explorers Village

Located merely 400m from the Victoria Falls, 100m from the epicenter of the Victoria Falls town with its craft and craft & curio markets, bohemian cafes and overlooking a natural African bush panorama, the Shearwater Explorers Village is the perfect "Base Camp".

Comprising of 5 bespoke Overland camping sites, modern ablution facilities and 16 private chalets, the Village represents affordable accommodation at its finest – clean, cool, relaxing, elegant, excellent traditional food, ice cold drinks and exceptionally friendly hosts ready to welcome you and guide you through your Victoria Falls experience.

Oxley has found this secure campground in the centre of Victoria Falls town to be the ideal first-night venue for our brief visit to the famous falls.

From the camp our group will go the The Boma restaurant for unique evening of African dance and food.



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## Meet and Greet

Africa Travel Company

13:00

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## Basis

Full Board and Activities

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## Day 3: Thebe River Lodge and Campsite, Kasane (Sun, 29 September)

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### Kasane

Tucked away in the northeastern corner of Botswana, on the banks of the famous Chobe River, the scenic little town of Kasane rests on the doorstep of the spectacular Chobe National Park. There are no boundary fences separating the village from the park and game such as elephant and hippo are often spotted roaming around the town. If on the lookout for elusive game, pay a visit to the Sedudu Valley Road, where large dead trees provide temporary homes for leopards. Within Kasane, an ancient baobab tree stands on display, once serving as a local prison. Visitors can look forward to a multitude of activities including: enjoying a game drive through the park, taking a sunset cruise down the Chobe River, visiting a local village or jumping on a day trip to the breathtaking Victoria Falls.

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### Day Itinerary

After breakfast you will assist in taking down tents and packing the vehicles,

You will then depart with a local guide for a walking **Tour of the Falls** (2 hours)

The group will then travel to the border, go through Customs and enter Botswana. A short drive will take you to **Kasane** and the **Thebe River Safari Camp** for 3 nights including all meals,

**Thebe River Safaris Camp** offers spacious camping areas with shaded cooking/braai (BBQ) areas. Ablutions are shared and there are 2 large communal ablution blocks with showers with loads of piping hot water, basins, mirrors and toilets. There is also a swimming pool which can be used after returning from a morning game drive

**Afternoon game drive** in game-viewing jeeps in the **Chobe National Park**, via the Sedudu Gate.

### Overnight Kasane

#### Overnight: Thebe River Lodge and Campsite [View iBrochure](#)

Thebe River Safaris is ideally situated for visitors to Chobe National Park and Chobe River region in Northern Botswana. The lodge and camp overlooks the placid Chobe River and echoes 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 is a restaurant and bar providing welcome food and drinks and visitors can enjoy the sparkling swimming pool and free Wi-Fi. Available activities include game drives, boat cruises, overnight safari excursions and Victoria Falls day trips.

This is Oxley's base for 3 nights. Two of the days are set aside for game-viewing while the third day allows the group to visit the Elephants without Borders operation.



**Basis**

Full Board and Activities

**Day 4: Thebe River Lodge and Campsite, Kasane (Mon, 30 September)****Day Itinerary**

Today, you have a day filled with **game viewing**.

After a quick tea/coffee and snack head off on an early morning game drive in the **Chobe National Park**

You will return mid-morning, with time then to relax, swim, wash clothes, etc.

Lunch in the campsite

Later that afternoon (around 3.00 pm), you will be taken for a **Game viewing Cruise** on the **Chobe River** for approx 2-3 hrs, ending at sunset.

Dinner in the campsite

**Overnight Kasane****Basis**

Full Board and Activities

**Day 5: Thebe River Lodge and Campsite, Kasane (Tue, 1 October)****Day Itinerary**

Today is spent working with "**Elephants without Borders**" (**EWB**), in nearby **Kasangula**. You will be transferred there and back by the safari truck.

Breakfast and dinner in the campsite, with packed lunch taken with you to EWB.

The day's programme will be organised by 2006 Old Oxleyan, **Dr Tempe Adams**, who is based there. Previously it has involved an introductory talk and video, a visit to the elephant orphanage and then hands-on assistance making simple rattles to scare elephants away from farmers' fields.

Dinner in the campsite

**Overnight Kasane****Activities**

ELEPHANTS WITHOUT BORDERS
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***ELEPHANTS WITHOUT BORDERS***

**Elephants Without Borders** is a charitable organization dedicated to conserving wildlife and natural resources; through innovative research, education, and information sharing with all people, we strive to encourage mankind to live in harmony with wildlife and the natural world.

The African elephant is an ambassador for conservation, providing motivation for raising awareness, stimulating action, encouraging funding for conservation efforts, and generating opportunities to reconsider the boundaries between conservation and rural development.

**Elephants Without Borders'** vision is to open borders for Africa's wildlife through research and education, and to help ensure a prosperous and compatible future between people and wildlife.

2006 Old Oxleyan, Dr. Tempe Adams, works for Elephants without Borders at Kazangula. We will be spending a day with her, with the intention of assisting one of her projects.

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## **Basis**

Full Board and Activities

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## Day 6: Nata Lodge, Nata (Wed, 2 October)

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### Nata

Situated 180 kilometres north of Francistown, the small village of Nata is a popular stopover between Maun and Kasane along a road known as the 'game drive route' as there is often a chance to catch a glimpse of wildlife along the way. The unique landscape that surrounds the area around Nata features white sand, tall termite mounds and the Mokolwane palm trees. Nata is a convenient stop for tourists to fill up at numerous filling station. Nata serves as an excellent base from which to explore the eastern section of the spectacular Makgadikgadi Pans. The Nata Sanctuary is a popular stop and a highlight for avid bird watchers, where lucky visitors can be rewarded with large flocks of Flamingos and Pelicans, which breed here each year.

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### Day Itinerary

After an early morning breakfast, depart for Nata and **Nata Lodge**. After setting up camp and lunch there will be time for a swim in the Lodge pool.

Mid-afternoon you will be taken by local guides to the nearby salt pans and **Nata Bird Sanctuary** where it is possible to see herds of wildebeest and zebra and flocks of flamingos and pelicans.

You will spend one night at Nata including all meals

### Overnight Nata

#### Overnight: Nata Lodge [View iBrochure](#)

An oasis set among the Mokolwane palms on the edge of the pans, Nata Lodge is ideally situated close to the entrance to the Nata Bird 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 flamingos 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.



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### Basis

Full Board and Activities

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## Day 7: Planet Baobab, Gweta (Thu, 3 October)

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### Gweta

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 artefacts abandoned by the area's early Stone Age inhabitants. Experience a barbeque 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.

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### Day Itinerary

After breakfast, you will pack up camp and head to nearby Gweta.

Situated close to the village of Gweta, 290 km from Francistown and 200 km from Maun, **Planet Baobab** combines style with comfort while remaining true to its African inspiration.

After setting up camp, there will be an opportunity for a swim in the campsite swimming pool surrounded by baobab trees.

In the afternoon you will be taken on a tour of the village of Gweta as well as a local cattle post (where a few families look after all the village's cattle).

Dinner at the Planet Baobab campsite

### Overnight Planet Baobab

#### Overnight: 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 salt pans; 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.



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## Basis

Full Board and Activities

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## Day 8: Sitatunga Camp, Maun (Fri, 4 October)

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### Maun

Set on the banks of the beautiful Thamalakane River in northern Botswana, Maun is the third largest town in this spectacularly scenic southern African country. Maun is the starting point for most expeditions into the Okavango Delta and as a result, has developed into a bustling metropolis that is considered Botswana's tourism capital. Area attractions include a renowned riverboat that offers cruises up and down the Thamalakane River; the forest groves of the Maun Game Reserve; and Moremi Game Reserve, home to hippos, lions and rhinos. Maun also serves as the jumping off point for many safaris and air charters as well as offers 4x4 rentals. Don't miss the Nhaba Museum exhibiting the local history, art and culture of the Ngamiland region.

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### Day Itinerary

An early start this morning and you will be in a jeep by 6.00 am heading for the **Ntwetwe Pan & the Meerkat experience** (06.00-12.30)

Back to Planet Baobab for lunch before heading to **Maun** (where you will stop to purchase fresh provisions) and then it is on to Sitatunga Camp, Maun.

Dinner in Sitatunga campsite

### Overnight Sitatunga

#### Overnight: Sitatunga Camp

Sitatunga Campsite is located 10 km outside of Maun on the road to Ghanzi. The campsite offers large well-shaded areas with some powered sites and barbecue facilities. Guest facilities include simple and affordable cabin accommodation with twin beds, clean linen, electrical sockets and lighting in each. There is also the option of en suite chalet accommodation with additional air conditioning in the summer months, ceiling fan as well as tea and coffee facilities. The campsite offers an onsite bar and restaurant, an excellent setting for guests to relax in.

Oxley has stayed here in the past and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. This year we will be camping in a secluded part of the campground with our own dedicated toilet facilities. This secure campsite, with its swimming pool, volleyball court and restaurant, is our base for the duration of our stay in the Maun region. From Sitatunga we are ferried each day to the schools we are visiting.



### Basis

Full Board



## Day 9: Delta Rain Safaris, Moremi Game Reserve (Sat, 5 October)

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### Moremi Game Reserve

Situated in the east of the Okavango Delta, Moremi Game Reserve ranks as one of the most beautiful reserves in Africa. It covers more than 4871 square kilometres of pristine wilderness, and the varied terrain includes savannah, winding waterways, and dense forest. This diverse ecosystem supports an incredibly wide spectrum of wildlife, ranging from large herds of buffalo, wildebeest and zebra, to the rare sitatunga and lechwe antelope, lion, cheetah and packs of wild dog in the open grasslands. The birdlife is prolific and includes most of the 550 bird species recorded on Botswana's national bird list. A range of luxury lodges in the reserve offers visitors the perfect base to experience this corner of paradise.

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### Day Itinerary

Today, we leave most of our bags behind and take our day packs on board the truck that will take us the 1.5 hour drive, through Maun, to the Okavango Delta village of **Boro**.

Once there, we load up all our camping gear on **mokoros** and head off down channels through the reeds to our island base for the next two nights. On arrival, we set up camp and have lunch, and in the late afternoon we go for a short walking safari to a hippo pool.

There is the possibility of seeing elephant, zebra, wildebeest, warthog, impala and giraffe

Dinner at the campsite.

### Overnight in the Okavango Delta

#### Overnight: Delta Rain Safaris

Today you will be taken on a 2-hour journey by truck to the village of Boro, on the edge of the Okavango Delta. Travelling in mokoros with all our camping gear, we set off for an island one hour into the delta.

Once there we will set up a base camp which will be our home for the next 2 nights. From our camp, we will go on several walking safaris as well as a mokoro adventure. There is a good chance we will see herds of elephant, giraffe, zebra, and wildebeest, as well as hippopotamus and buffalo..

in the evenings, there is the opportunity for a singsong under the stars, around the campfire.



### Basis

Full Board and Activities

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**Day 10: Delta Rain Safaris, Moremi Game Reserve (Sun, 6 October)**

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**Day Itinerary**

An early start this morning, with a drink and snack before we head off in our mokoros to another island a short distance away.

Here we will walk for 3-4 hours with the possibility of seeing elephant, giraffe, wildebeest and zebra, as well as many birds including fish eagles.

Back to the camp for a late breakfast and swim, with a laze around until mid-afternoon when we take our mokoros to a large hippo pool to watch the sunset.

Dinner and singsong at the camp

**Overnight in the Okavango Delta****Basis**

Full Board and Activities

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## Day 11: Sitatunga Camp, Maun (Mon, 7 October)

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### Maun

As previously described

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### Day Itinerary

We breakfast early, pack all our equipment back into the mokoros, and return to Boro village port from where we will be transported back in the truck to Sitatunga Camp.

This is the end of the 'safari' part of your trip. It is time to say goodbye to the drivers and cook who have been such an important part of your tour so far.

After lunch there is an opportunity to wash some clothes and relax beside the pool after two days of free camping in the delta.

Dinner in the camp restaurant.

### Overnight at Sitatunga Camp

#### Overnight: Sitatunga Camp

Sitatunga Campsite is located 10 km outside of Maun on the road to Ghanzi. The campsite offers large well-shaded areas with some powered sites and barbecue facilities. Guest facilities include simple and affordable cabin accommodation with twin beds, clean linen, electrical sockets and lighting in each. There is also the option of en suite chalet accommodation with additional air conditioning in the summer months, ceiling fan as well as tea and coffee facilities. The campsite offers an onsite bar and restaurant, an excellent setting for guests to relax in.

Oxley has stayed here in the past and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. This year we will be camping in a secluded part of the campground with our own dedicated toilet facilities. This secure campsite, with its swimming pool, volleyball court and restaurant, is our base for the duration of our stay in the Maun region. From Sitatunga we are ferried each day to the schools we are visiting.



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### Basis

Full Board and Activities

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## Day 12: Sitatunga Camp, Maun (Tue, 8 October)

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## Day Itinerary

After breakfast, we are driven in the camp vehicles into Maun (13 kms) to **Sedie Junior Secondary School**

You will be greeted by the School Head, (Mrs Senatla Mokobela), staff and students of Sedie School.

The day will be spent at either Sedie School or nearby (walking distance) **Mathiba Memorial Primary School**

At the end of the day, you will return to Sitatunga Camp to relax and have dinner in the restaurant.

## Overnight at Sitatunga Camp

### Activities

Sedie & Mathiba Schools

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### *Sedie & Mathiba Schools*

Oxley College has established a special relationship with two Maun schools, Sedie Junior Secondary School and nearby Mathiba Memorial Primary School.

Students spend four school days with the students from these schools, holding English conversations with the primary school students and attending lessons with their own year group friends in the secondary school.

In the past, the schools have provided additional excursions and Oxley students have visited the Museum, local family homes, the nearby 'kgotla' (meeting place) for a tree-planting ceremony and the Life Centre for a dance exhibition.

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## Basis

Full Board and Activities

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## Day 13: Sitatunga Camp, Maun (Wed, 9 October)

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### Day Itinerary

Day spent at Sedie School (where you could attend a class or two) or at Mathiba Primary School (where you could be working with Year 2 students).

Possibility of an excursion organised by Sedie to Maun town museum.



After dinner talk arranged by visiting experts on rhino or leopard or lion rehabilitation into the Delta. (tbc)

### **Overnight at Sitatunga Camp**

#### **Basis**

Full Board and Activities

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### **Day 14: Sitatunga Camp, Maun (Thu, 10 October)**

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#### **Day Itinerary**

Day spent at Sedie Junior Secondary School or Mathiba Primary School

Possibility of an excursion to the **Nhabe Museum**, to the Old Bridge , to the Maun **kgotla** (a public meeting, community council or traditional law court of a Botswanan town), or the medical clinic that serves the two schools.

### **Overnight at Sitatunga Camp**

#### **Basis**

Full Board and Activities

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### **Day 15: Sitatunga Camp, Maun (Fri, 11 October)**

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#### **Day Itinerary**

Final day spent at Sedie Junior Secondary School and Mathiba Primary School

Dinner at Sitatunga Camp

### **Overnight at Sitatunga Camp**

#### **Basis**

Full Board and Activities

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### **Day 16: Sitatunga Camp, Maun (Sat, 12 October)**

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#### **Day Itinerary**

After breakfast, taken in groups by boat on the nearby Thamalakane River to a horseback game-viewing ride in a private game reserve. Our providers are **Rides on the Wildside**

Remainder of group relax at Sitatunga Camp (swimming, volleyball, etc)

Dinner at the Camp

## Overnight at Sitatunga Camp

### Activities

RIDES ON THE WILDSIDE

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#### *RIDES ON THE WILDSIDE*

Rides On The Wild Side is a unique horseback adventure company.

Riding is fantastic. Wherever you are, being on the back of a horse transforms that experience. So, when you choose to ride in an unforgettable location, you are guaranteed to have an experience that is utterly mind-blowing.

Here at Rides On The Wild Side, we specialize in creating bespoke horseback adventures. Our aim? To bring your riding dream to life. Whatever you want to do, where ever you want to go, Rides On The Wild Side can make your dream a reality. We open doors to wild places only accessible by that noblest of animals, the horse.

The world is a beautiful place. Being able to see it from the saddle is an incredible privilege and an unforgettable experience. From Argentina to India, Spain to South Africa, endless opportunities to ride present themselves. We have ridden these places, met their people and know the experiences. When we advise you on your adventure, we will be doing it from experience.

We want to give you a unique and special experience. We will build that experience around you. And, while you're on it, we will be there to support you through every walk, trot and gallop.

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### **Basis**

Full Board and Activities

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## Day 17: Overnight Travel (Sun, 13 October)

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### Day Itinerary

Our last day in Botswana.

After breakfast we will be taken into Maun for some last minute curio shopping.

10.30 am we will meet at **African Art & Images** (opposite the International airport building). There we will watch a video of the extraordinary life of **Dr Tim Liversedge** (and his wife, June). Tim Liversedge is an internationally famous wild-lifer, animal conservationist and cinematographer who has had a tremendous influence on the tourist industry in Botswana.

12.00 We start our return to Australia by going through Botswana's **Customs & Immigration** in the airport and catching an afternoon flight to Johannesburg.

After a lengthy stopover in Johannesburg (last minute shopping?), we continue on to Perth.

### Overnight in flight

## **Day 18: End of Itinerary (Mon, 14 October)**

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### **Day Itinerary**

We land in Perth about midday, local time, and after collecting our bags go through Australian Customs & Immigration.

Later we embark on the final leg of our journey with a Virgin Australia flight through to **Sydney Domestic Airport**.

### **Basis**

Bed & Breakfast

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## Transport

### Flight Information

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time	Class	Ref
27 Sep	VA569 (Scheduled)	Virgin Australia	Sydney Domestic Airport	19:00	Perth International Airport [PER]	22:10	Y	
27 Sep	281 (Scheduled)	South African Airways	Perth International Airport [PER]	23:40	OR Tambo International Airport [JNB]	04:55 (28 Sep)	Y	
27 Sep	40 (Scheduled)	South African Airways	OR Tambo International Airport [JNB]	10:50	Victoria Falls International Airport [VFA]	12:30 (28 Sep)	Y	
13 Oct	8301 (Scheduled)	South African Airways	Maun Airport [MUB]	14:00	OR Tambo International Airport [JNB]	15:40	Y	
13 Oct	280 (Scheduled)	South African Airways	OR Tambo International Airport [JNB]	21:15	Perth International Airport [PER]	12:20 (14 Oct)	Y	
14 Oct	562 (Scheduled)	Virgin Australia	Perth International Airport [PER]	15:30	Sydney Domestic Airport	22:40	Y	

### Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
27 Sep		Victoria Falls International Airport [VFA]	Shearwater Explorers Village		Transfer
28 Sep		Shearwater Explorers Village	Shearwater Explorers Village		Transfer
29 Sep		Shearwater Explorers Village	Thebe River Lodge and Campsite		Transfer
2 Oct		Thebe River Lodge and Campsite	Nata Lodge		Transfer
3 Oct		Nata Lodge	Planet Baobab		Transfer
4 Oct		Planet Baobab	Sitatunga Camp		Transfer
5 Oct		Sitatunga Camp	Delta Rain Safaris		Transfer

7 Oct	Delta Rain Safaris	Sitatunga Camp	Transfer
8 Oct	Sitatunga Camp	Maun	Transfer
13 Oct	Sitatunga Camp	Maun Airport [MUB]	Transfer

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## Voyage Information

Date	Boat	Agency	Departure Port	Time	Arrival Port	Time	Class	Ref
12 Oct	Cruise		Sitatunga Camp		Sitatunga Camp			

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## Urgent Contact Numbers

Company Name	Telephone	Email Address	Contact Person
VIV'S INDIA	1300 815 512	peter@vivstravelbug.com.au	Peter Craig

## Service Provider Directory

Service Provider	Ref. Number	Telephone	Address
Shearwater Explorers Village		+2632132847362	Adam Stander Drive Victoria Falls Zimbabwe
Sitatunga Camp		+267 680 0380	
Thebe River Lodge and Campsite		+267 625 0995	Plot 706 President Avenue Kasane Botswana



## Travel Information



A nation of spectacular natural beauty, friendly people and rich culture, Zimbabwe's status as one of Africa's leading safari destinations was dampened for years by its political instability. But now that the country is transcending its strife and returning to a state of equilibrium, it is once again emerging as a vacation highlight of the continent. Victoria Falls – known to locals as 'The Smoke That Thunders' – is one of the seven natural wonders of the world and the sheer power of this massive body of water plunging into the Zambezi Gorge is awe-inspiring and unforgettable. Lake Kariba, with its game-rich shores and islands, is an idyllic safari spot featuring mind-blowing sunsets; Hwange National Park is known for its huge herds of elephants; and a kayak trip down the Zambezi through the Mana Pools National Park will appeal to the intrepid traveller, providing close encounters with crocodiles, hippos and a host of other wildlife.

### *Banking and Currency*

#### **Currency**

Zimbabwe uses US\$ as well as its own unit of currency, the Zimbabwe Bond Dollar. It is advised to carry small denominations of change with you, however it is best to pay for as much as possible outside of the country. US\$ work best and are widely accepted in supermarkets, and for curios, accommodation, activities and gratuities. South African Rand and Euros are only accepted in some places in Victoria Falls. Do not plan on being able to use cash machines in Zimbabwe to draw money. Before leaving home please exchange all the money that you will need for your trip, plus extra, into US\$. Most of this should be in 1, 5, 10 and 20 denominations because change is not always available. In an emergency you can try Barclays Bank, Stanbic Bank or Standard Chartered Bank as they will infrequently accept foreign debit cards for withdrawing cash.

#### **Banking**

Banks in Zimbabwe are open for business Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 08h00 to 15h00, on Wednesdays from 08h00 to 13h00 and Saturdays from 08h00 to 11h30. They are closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.

Only VISA and MasterCard are accepted in Zimbabwe, however it should be noted that very limited facilities will have credit card machines, and the connection is not always reliable so it is advisable to carry cash as back up.

### *Travel, Transport and Getting Around*

Taxis are safe and reliable, and can be booked through your hotel front desk. Taxis in cities travel within a 40km radius of the city. Always take a taxi at night.

Major airlines fly into Victoria Falls, Harare and Bulawayo. Charter flights are available to most attractions and camps.

Zimbabwe has a good road infrastructure, by African standards, although potholed. Between major towns, there are frequent road blocks. Traffic drives on the left side of the road.

If you are driving yourself around Zimbabwe, be sure to check on fuel availability in advance. If you are covering long distances within the country, ensure you carry extra fuel in 5 or 10lt metal containers in case of emergency. Fuel is generally available, but supply can fluctuate. Fuel is only available for cash.

### *Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice*

Zimbabwe's native cuisine is based on sadza, a cooked porridge made from ground maize which is normally be accompanied by some tasty relish, perhaps made of meat and tomatoes, or dried fish. Safari camps will often prepare sadza if requested, and it is almost always available in small restaurants in the towns.

Camps, hotels and lodges that cater to overseas typically serve a variety international fare, and the quality of food prepared in the most remote bush camps is usually excellent.

If you are driving yourself around and plan to cook, then get most of your supplies in main towns. There are a number of South African shopping chains operating in Zimbabwe which will generally have all that you will need.

Water in the main towns is usually purified.. The locals drink it, and are used to the relatively innocuous bugs that it may harbour. If you are in the country for a long time, then it may be worth acclimatising yourself to it. However, if you are in Zimbabwe for just a short period of time, then try to drink only bottled, boiled, or treated water available in towns and from all camps, lodges and hotels.

### *Climate and Weather*

In Zimbabwe, the rains come principally in **December, January, February and March**; the further north you are, the earlier the precipitation arrives and the later it leaves. Zimbabwe's higher eastern areas usually receive more rainfall than the lower-lying western ones.

By **April and May** most of the rain is gone, leaving a verdant setting, which is starting to dry out. Especially in more southerly and higher locations, the night-time temperatures start to drop.

The nights in **June, July and August** become much cooler, so don't forget to bring some warmer clothes, in case you want to spend an evening outside; the days are still clear and warm. For Zimbabwe, this is the start of the 'peak season'— days are often cloudless and game sightings continually increase.

Into **September and October** the temperatures rise once again: Zimbabwe's lower-lying rift valley – Mana Pools – can get very hot in October. During this time, you'll see some fantastic game, as the Zimbabwe's wildlife concentrates around the limited water sources.

**November** is unpredictable; it can be hot and dry, it can also see the season's first rainfalls – and in this respect it's a very interesting month, as on successive days, you can see both weather patterns.

### *Clothing and Dress Recommendations*

When in Zimbabwe the cardinal rule is to wear casual, comfortable clothes during the day as temperatures can get very hot. It is advisable to wear light loose fitting clothing, such as cotton or linen, as they are cool and easy to wash. Warmer clothes are advised for the evenings and rainwear for the wet season.

A brimmed hat and sunglasses are a good idea year round. Long sleeved shirts and long trousers will also guard against the scorching sun rays. It is recommended you wear light shoes, especially if your itinerary entails a lot of walking.

For safaris, please remember to wear appropriate clothing and shoes. Earth colour clothes, such as browns, greens and tans are advisable.

## *Electricity and Plug Standards*

Current is 220/240 volts at 50 cycles per second. Both square and round plugs are used.



Situated in the southern reaches of Africa, Botswana is renowned for its pristine wilderness areas characterised by deep lagoons, wetlands, lush palms, rugged hills and desert plains scattered with scrubland. The country's primary tourist drawcard is undoubtedly the vast red expanse of the Kalahari Desert and its remarkably beautiful Okavango Delta, the largest inland delta in the world. These natural wonders provide a tranquil haven for an abundance of African wildlife to thrive. Other highlights include the impressive Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, where visitors are privy to massive zebra migrations during the flood season; the Savuti plains, which host large prides of lions; and the Tsodilo Hills, where 4500 rock paintings form a unique record of human settlement over many millennia.

## *Banking and Currency*

### **Currency**

Botswana's currency is Pula (which means 'rain' in Setswana). It is divided into 100 thebe (which means 'shield' in Setswana). Travellers' cheques and foreign currency may be changed at banks, bureaux de change and authorised hotels.

The US dollar, Euros, British Pound and the South African Rand are the most easily convertible currencies (and accepted by some establishments - but, generally, then an inflated rate of exchange will be applied).

### **Banking**

Seven main commercial banks, as well as a number of foreign exchange bureaux, operate in Botswana. Operating hours are Monday to Friday 08h30 to 15h30 and Saturday 08h30 to 10h45.

Full banking services are available in major towns, although ATMs are sprouting up all over the country. Most credit cards are accepted at hotels and restaurants. Cultural sites and community art and craft outlets usually only accept cash.

## *Travel, Transport and Getting Around*

Public transport in Botswana is geared towards the needs of the local populace and is confined to main roads between major population centres. Although cheap and reliable, it is of little use to the traveller as most of Botswana's tourist attractions lie off the beaten track.

Driving off the main roads in Botswana is only recommended to experts in 4x4 vehicles, that are equipped correctly. Most lodges offer transfers or they can be arranged. If, however, you will be driving in Botswana: your home driving licence will be accepted (with an official English translation if necessary; driving is on the left side of the road; and the national speed limit is on tarred roads is 120km/h and 60km/h in towns and villages.

**Be sure to watch out for wild animals on the roads!**

There are major airports in Maun, Kasane and Gaborone, while smaller charter flights are used to get to the other top attractions and camps.

### *Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice*

Tap water is considered safe to drink, although outside main cities and towns, visitors are advised to check first and sterilise water if in any doubt. Bottled water is available in most tourist centres. Filtered water is available at most camps and shops offer bottled water - it is advised to be well stocked of bottled water if you are travelling off the beaten track. Milk is pasteurised, and dairy products, local meat, poultry, seafood, fruit and vegetables are generally safe.

Safari lodges and camps serve international-style cuisine, generally of an extremely high standard, along with local beer and imported wine and spirits. Good restaurants and bars can be found in main towns, often within hotels. Beef and goat are very popular meats. Elsewhere, food is more basic: millet and sorghum porridge are the local staples.

A discretionary 5 to 10% tip is typical for restaurant bills. In many places, a service charge is automatically added. It is customary to tip the game guide and lodge staff while on safari.

### *Climate and Weather*

Botswana's climatic pattern is typical of southern Africa, although its rainfall is less than countries further east. The rains in Botswana come mostly between December and March, when average minimum temperatures are in the low 20°s. Some days will be bright and sunny, some will have afternoon thunderstorms, and some will just be grey.

As with Namibia, April and May in Botswana are generally lovely, with the sky clear and the landscape green. Night temperatures start to drop during these months, especially in the Kalahari. Note that places in and around the Okavango tend to have less extreme, more moderate temperatures than the drier areas of the Kalahari.

From June to August the night-time temperatures in drier areas can be close to freezing, but it warms up rapidly during the day, when the sky is usually clear and blue. It's now very much 'peak season' for most safari areas: the land is dry in most areas so the animals congregate around the few available water sources.

This continues into September and October, when temperatures climb again, drying the landscapes and concentrating the game even more. This is the best time for big game safaris – although October can feel very hot, with maximum temperatures sometimes approaching 40°C.

November is difficult to predict, as it can sometimes be a continuation of October's heat, whilst sometimes it's cooled by the first rains; it's always an interesting month.

### *Clothing and Dress Recommendations*

In summer, lightweight, lightcoloured cottons are preferable. Avoid synthetic materials and black clothing, as they increase perspiration and discomfort. In winter, wear trousers, longsleeved shirts / blouses and jerseys. From May – August, night temperatures can fall below zero degrees celsius, so warm jerseys and jackets are vital, especially on morning and evening game drives. Garments of neutral colours that blend with the bush and forest are advisable for safaris and game viewing. Bring a lightweight jacket and/or jersey for unexpected temperature changes or rain. Closed, comfortable walking shoes or gym shoes are a must in all seasons. Special attention should be given to protection from the sun. Bring a sunhat, good quality sunscreen, sun lotion and polarised sunglasses. Wide brimmed sun hats are essential.

### *Electricity and Plug Standards*

Electrical sockets (outlets) in Botswana are the "Type M " South African SABS1661 ("Large" 15 amp BS-546) sockets. This is actually an old British standard. The "Type M " South African plug and socket is not to be confused with the

"Type D " Indian plug and socket. In pictures, they look very similar, but the South African type is much larger than the Indian type, and they are physically incompatible. If your appliance's plug doesn't match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to plug in. Travel plug adapters simply change the shape of your appliance's plug to match whatever type of socket you need to plug into.

Electrical sockets (outlets) in Botswana usually supply electricity at between 220 and 240 volts AC. If you're plugging in an appliance that was built for 220-240 volt electrical input, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need.

But travel plug adapters *do not change the voltage*, so the electricity coming through the adapter will still be the same 220-240 volts the socket is supplying. If you need to use appliances that are not compatible with 220-240 volt electrical input, you will need a voltage converter.

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## Terms and Conditions

### Itinerary Terms and Conditions

This a custom-made tour designed specifically for Oxley students and staff. As such there are the following terms and conditions:

- The \$500 deposit, used to secure flight places and safari vehicles, is non-refundable. However, the deposit is applied to the final tour costs for each participant.
- The final cost of the airline tickets might vary a little if fuel taxes, surcharges and fees change before final payment
- Travel wholesalers in Zimbabwe and Botswana base their costings on the US\$. This tour has been costed when the value of the AUD\$ was above US\$0.71. If the value of the AUD\$ to the US\$ drops below 0.71 cents at the time of final payment, there could be a price adjustment.

### Viv's Travel Bug Terms and Conditions

#### VIV'S TRAVEL BUG Terms and Conditions

In this document, "we", "our" or "us" refers to Viv's Travel Bug registered in Australia (ABN 99 860 907 350), "you" refers to our client, and "T & Cs" refers to Terms and Conditions

Viv's Travel Bug is concerned that all our clients have read our Terms and Conditions and understand, or acknowledged reading and understanding, them. The list of issues is not exhaustive but rather identifies suggested areas that should be addressed.

As an ATAS accredited travel agency, Viv's Travel Bug is required to provide you, or any person, as soon as practicable, these standard T & Cs and where available, full details of any standard fees and charges that we may apply.

Our Terms and Conditions will be clear: consistent; provided at the time of, or before you enter into, a sale with us; advise you of our obligation to protect the confidentiality of your information; and provide you with information about our ATAS-standard complaints handling policy/conflict resolution.

You should use the following information as a guide to what is your responsibility and what is that of Viv's Travel Bug

#### Passport / Visa

- Best to assume you need a visa but to be sure, enquire on Smartraveller website.
- We may be able to assist with general enquiries but your responsibility to check.
- You will not generally be permitted to board plane/vessel unless six months validity of passport.
- Travel on foreign passport may require re-entry visa on return to Australia.
- Passenger's responsibility to inform us if passport / visa difficulty.

#### Travel Insurance

- You acknowledge we recommend.
- Short warning of lack of insurance.

#### General / Specific Travel Advice

- Your responsibility to
- Check Smartraveller for information and advice.
- Register with DFAT for emergencies.

### **Health Precautions**

- Need for vaccinations / some countries may deny entry.
- Consult medical specialists.
- General advice Smartraveller.

### **Prices / Cancellation Fees**

- Generally price is only guaranteed once paid for in full.
- Quoted prices subject to change.
- Even if paid in full, price may change by reason of matters outside our control.
- Cancelled bookings may incur cancellation fees that may be up to one hundred percent of the cost of the booking.
- Some tickets may be non-refundable or transferrable.
- Supplier fees may apply where a booking is changed. If we incur a fee for booking you change or cancel, you are responsible.
- Any refund for cancelled booking will not be paid until supplier provides any refund
- Required to pay deposit when booking – we will advise of amount of deposit.
- Some airfares or services must be paid in full at time of booking.
- Deposit non-refundable.
- Final payment no later than six (6) weeks prior to departure or booking may be cancelled and deposit lost.
- Credit card surcharge / delay for cheque clearance.
- Cancellation fees for domestic / international travel.
- Local taxes.
- Changes to reservations, may not be possible or may incur fees.
- Excess baggage, traveller's responsibility.

### **Travel Documents**

- Your responsibility to check accurate names corresponding with passport or identification for domestic travel.
- Not be permitted to travel if identification / passport not match ticket.
- Your responsibility to review all travel documents and immediately advise of errors in names, dates or timings.

### **Airlines / Cruise Lines**

- Airlines/cruise lines are third party providers and impose different terms and conditions to the ones imposed by us. Client should read their T & Cs before finalising travel bookings.
- There are numerous rules and regulations in relation to advance purchase and other discounted airfares which involve substantial cancellation or amendment fees and may be no refund on cancellations or amendments.
- Client's responsibility to re-confirm outbound and inbound flights and times.
- We not responsible for amended flight timings or other charges.

### **Frequent Flyer**

- Your responsibility to let us know.

### **Service Providers**

- We act as an agent and sell products on behalf of accommodation, transport and other providers such as airlines, rail, coach and cruise line operators.
- We are not a travel provider and, whilst we exercise care, we have no control over or liability for the services provided by the third parties.
- All bookings are subject to the provider's T & Cs including conditions of carriage and limits on liability. You should read them before finalizing transaction.
- *(Issues for discussion)* We can provide their T & Cs if you ask / your responsibility to look up / or give a link to their T & Cs / or actually provide them.
- Our service is to arrange and co-ordinate the service offered by third party services providers. We arrange a contractual relationship between you and the provider.
- We cannot guarantee the performance of the service providers.
- Any brochures are not ours but are supplied by the service providers and we accept no liability for errors in that material.

### **Limits and Liability**

- Subject to Australian Consumer Law we are not liable.
- Importance of travel insurance.

### **Governing Law**

- Laws of Australia and NSW apply.

### **Your Responsibilities**

- You warrant that you are over the age of eighteen (18) and have sufficient funds to pay for the travel services.
- You have read our T & Cs and if booking for third parties have conveyed these T & Cs to them.
- You have read the T & Cs of any third party service providers and agree to be bound by those.



- You are responsible for checking the accuracy of all documents provided to you.
- You are responsible for contacting the airline at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to travel.
- You warrant and acknowledge that you have accessed the Smartraveller website for any specific enquiries in relation to your intended destination.
- Passport / visa and other required identification documents are your responsibility.

**Force Majeure**

- This should be detailed in T & Cs to avoid issues where severe weather or other disasters prevent scheduled arrangements occurring or flights departing.
- We are not responsible and reiterate importance of insurance.