

Botswana / Namibia – Chobe River



Trip Summary

Travel aboard the Zambezi Queen offers world class sophistication in one of the most remote locations on earth. This 4 day/3 night river cruise can easily be added on to your southern Africa travels to provide you with an incredible vantage point from the Chobe River, a destination in itself for those looking to experience the thrill of wildlife up close. Capture that sense of adventure with a water-based game drive by tender boat, allowing you to explore nature at its best! We like to think of a stay on-board the Zambezi Queen as a different kind of cruise, the kind where relaxation and flexibility rules over schedules and strict time keeping, hence it is the ultimate Luxury African River Safari. This is where your holiday starts, and in these parts, you'll let nature guide your days.

Itinerary

Day 1: Collection from Kasane, Botswana / Chobe River, Namibia

Upon arrival into Kasane, Botswana and after going through immigration, you'll be picked up by a crew member of the Zambezi Queen for a transfer to your vessel • Eat a light lunch before heading out on an afternoon sail on the main vessel or one of the tender boats • Around 7:00 PM, settle in for a safety briefing with your captain and then enjoy a delicious African dinner on the upper level with unobstructed views of the picturesque surroundings • At 10:00, the generator shuts down and the inverter system kicks in, making only reading and LED lighting available • This leaves you open to a quiet and peaceful night enjoying the African stars and sounds of your surroundings • *Overnight Zambezi Queen (L, D)*

Day 2: Chobe River Cruise

Wake up early to enjoy a Chobe sunrise, coffee in hand • Around 8:00, breakfast will be served in the dining room • After, you have the option to head out on the tender boat for a water-based game viewing, go on a local village tour in Namibia, or hook a big one fishing from the tender boat • Return midday for lunch and an afternoon of relaxation on board the main vessel • In the afternoon, you once again have the option to head out on the tender boats to search for wildlife or throw a line in the water • This evening, look forward to a traditional African dinner along with some singing and dancing • Once the generator turns off, listen to the sounds of Africa as you drift off to sleep • *Overnight Zambezi Queen (B, L, D)*

Day 3: Chobe River Cruise

After breakfast, you once again have the choice to do some tiger or bream fishing, or you can head out to look for elephants, hippos and crocodiles • Eat lunch back on board and spend the hotter part of the afternoon relaxing on the pool deck or viewing the river and wildlife around you from the comfortable lounge • This afternoon, head out to look for wildlife, fish, or visit the local shebeen (bar), interacting with the locals and enjoying a drink • Tonight, eat dinner in the dining room with your fellow passengers and then listen to an interesting geographical talk given by your captain • This evening, kick back for an after dinner drink or two while you share stories of your stay in Africa before getting a good night's rest in the comfort of your suite • *Overnight Zambezi Queen (B, L, D)*

Day 4: Chobe River / Departure from Kasane, Botswana

This morning, enjoy a last breakfast aboard the Zambezi Queen before disembarking the vessel • Depending upon your post-cruise plans, you'll either be taken straight to Kasane Airport for your outbound flights, or you will be transferred to a nearby lodge where you can enjoy the facilities and lunch before your onward arrangements • *End of services (B, L)*

* *This trip is run in partnership with Zambezi Queen.*

***Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather, river and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures and Zambezi Queen.*



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Activities

Water-Based Game Drives – Bring your camera and a keen set of eyes as your guide motors you up and down the Chobe River in your tender boat in search of big game, small creatures, birds, and interesting African flora, geology, history, etc.

Fishing – Tiger and bream fishing, no experience necessary, equipment and instruction provided.

Land Based Cultural Village Tour – Depending on availability, this interactive tour allows you to get to know the locals, their customs/traditions, and the way they live, up close and personal.

Discovery – Botswana, one of the most sparsely populated countries in the world, is a land abundant with wildlife. Explore along the Chobe River, which takes its rise in Angola from which it travels under it's Hambukushu name, *Kwando*. The river becomes the *Linyanti* as it reaches Botswana and finally becomes the *Chobe* at the border post of Ngoma, Namibia. The Chobe runs along the northern border of Botswana, meeting the Zambezi and tumbling over the fault-line of Victoria Falls. Find out about the differences between Botswana (the country), Batwana (the people as a whole), and Motswana (an individual). Keep an eye out for wild herds of zebra, Botswana's national animal, to see for yourself that no zebra's stripes (just like a human's fingerprint) are exactly the same! Discover this country's conservation practices and extensive nature preserves. Did you know that "pula," (meaning "rain") Botswana's national currency, emphasizes just how important water is in this arid country? Keep an eye out for herds of elephant swimming across the Chobe River or particularly close encounters with hippo or crocodiles from the safety of your tender boat. Come explore Botswana and Namibia with the experts in adventure travel...by boat!

Our Partner – Zambezi Queen

Austin Adventures is proudly offering this trip in conjunction with Zambezi Queen, a river cruise boat owned by the award winning Mantis Group. With 5 star Boutique Hotels and Eco Lodges throughout the world, their experience in international marketing and hospitality management, gained over many years, is extremely helpful to the successful running of the elegant Zambezi Queen. All of their properties represent the finest example of its kind and celebrate the culture, gastronomy, architecture and nature of the locations in which they are found to offer guests a truly authentic experience. Officially founded by Adrian Gardiner in 2000, Mantis is committed to the spirit of conservation and restoration, and each property is sensitive to its surroundings in respect of the building, environment and local community.

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Distinctive Accommodations

Nights 1 – 3: Zambezi Queen

Located along the banks of the great Chobe River, the Zambezi Queen, affectionately known as the ZQ offers world class sophistication in one of the most remote locations on earth. With only 14 suites, the ZQ is as unique and adventurous as it is comfortable and elegant. In fact, it is unsurpassed in all aspects and the last word in luxury African river safaris.

Each suite features air conditioning and a private balcony, offering unobstructed views of the river and vistas. Enjoy remarkable game viewing from the comfort of your bedside.

Whether dining on the upper deck restaurant while watching the animals gather at dusk, doing a water-based river safari from one of the private boats, or attempting to land your first tiger fish, this professional team will be on hand to meet your every need.

Unlike a land-based lodge, the ZQ allows for an entire stretch of river to be explored from a vantage point making for incredible game viewing. And rightly so, as the banks of the Chobe National Park boast one of the densest populations of elephant on the African continent, currently estimated at approximately 120,000. The park is also home to a large number of buffalo, leopard, and lion along with a variety of antelope and abundant birdlife.

Room Types and Facilities

10 Suites and 4 Master Suites

All Suites and Master Suites offer king size beds with twin beds on request, and are furnished to the highest level. All Suites accommodate 2 guests except for suites 24 & 26, which have an extra sleeper couch.

All Suites are equipped with:

- En-suite bathrooms with shower only
- Private balconies overlooking the Chobe River affording amazing views of the river and surroundings
- Full length sliding shutters for both privacy and protection from the sun
- Sliding mosquito net doors
- Electronic safes
- Hairdryers

Meals

A stay on-board the Zambezi Queen includes three meals daily – a full English breakfast in the morning, buffet lunch and either a buffet or a la carte menu for dinner. Scrumptious and mouth-watering, ZQ's meals are prepared using only fresh ingredients sourced from the local markets. The kitchen staff are all locally trained Namibians and proud to display their skills – it shines through in every plate served.



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Arrival and Departures

There are three main access points to the Zambezi Queen – Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe), Livingstone (Zambia) as well as Kasane International Airport, Botswana. Transfers from Livingstone or Victoria Falls airports to Zambezi Queen are by road and take approximately 90 minutes to 2 hours depending on border crossing times. All guests will be collected from the Immigration office situated on the banks of the river in Kasane (Botswana) for the estimated 20 minute boat transfer to the Zambezi Queen in Namibia. Guests arriving by air, into Botswana, will be collected at Kasane Airport on a complimentary basis. Total travel time from this airport to the boat is approximately 45 minutes to an hour. Check-in is from 1:00 PM on day of arrival. Arrival transfers go to the main vessel on the hour between 1:00 and 4:00 PM. Departures are up to 10:30 AM on your day of departure. Later departures will be transferred to a lodge in Kasane where you can relax, enjoy their facilities and have lunch before your flight out of Kasane Airport or onward arrangements.

Trip Price

Call for pricing.

Trip Length

4 days/3 nights

2020 Dates

Departing weekly, call for availability.

Host City

Kasane, Botswana (BBK)

Livingstone, Zambia (LVI)

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (VFA)

Reservations & Availability

800.575.1540

*Botswana's Chobe is a destination in itself for
those looking to experience the thrill of
wildlife up close*

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Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A 30% deposit is required to confirm your reservation. Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800.575.1540

Phone: 406.655.4591

Online: www.austinadventures.com

Email: info@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

* You may also book your AA adventure with your preferred travel professional.

** We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- Cabin accommodations on a sharing basis.
- All meals as specified in detailed itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Road transfers to/from Kasane Immigration Office (Botswana) on the Chobe River.
- Boat transfers to/from Kasane Immigration Office and Namibia Immigration Office.
- Boat transfers to/from Namibia Immigration Office (Namibia) and ZQ River Boat.
- All soft drinks, mineral water, tea and coffee, local wine and beer/ciders.
- Water-based game viewing and bird watching on tender boats.
- One land-based cultural tour of a local village in Zambezi Region, Namibia.
- Tiger and bream fishing in season (basic fishing).
- 15% VAT and tourism levy (Namibia).
- Austin Adventures T-shirt & luggage tags.
- Pre-departure and packing information.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Alcoholic beverages other than local beer/wine.
- Crew and guide gratuities.
- Private guiding or additional safari activities.
- Land-based open vehicle gamedrive in Chobe National Park, Botswana (optional).
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities and related taxes.
- Visas.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses (including curios, spirit liquors, etc.)

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.



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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge.

Minimum Age

Children aged 7 – 15 years (inclusive) are allowed on Zambezi Queen and are subject to discounted rates. Children 16 years and older are considered adults.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 121+ days before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

Cancellation 91 – 120 days before trip departure – All deposits are nonrefundable.

Cancellation 0 – 90 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.