

Africa!2019

June 21 - July 4, 2019



Guest List

**Your
name
here?**



Listening to Whispers

Hi all,

Here's information you will probably find useful - and please don't hesitate to ask for more. Please let me know if you have questions or ideas, especially about things to do in JNB. The most important thing for me is that you have a wonderful time from start to finish. Edie Jane

Arrival in Johannesburg.

When to arrive?

Most flights arrive in the morning. If you are considering arriving on a later flight, I suggest you plan on arriving the day before - June 20. The additional cost for the night and breakfast is around \$45pp. I'd hate to have you miss the first day with a late arrival.

Airport pickup.

After exiting the main doors to the area where people are standing around flapping papers with names on them - or, more modernly, cradling iPads (at Heathrow, at any rate), you should bear right and follow the curve of the black line on the floor - heading towards the tourist info booth, which has a yellow top. The booth will be the meeting point if you haven't been intercepted already. You will be picked up by either me or a driver.

The sign for you - not sure how modern, may also have my my name or (unofficial) logo - above. The company is Asendulo.

You don't have to pay the driver, nor do you have to tip. I'll be taking care of both.

Note: Make sure that only you or the driver handle your luggage, and keep it in sight at all times. There may be people grabbing it without asking or offering to help. Be firm and say 'no thank you'.

You will be taken to [Donnybrook Guest House](#), which is owned by Dieneke Swart. It's a place I know well, and we'll be very comfortable there. We will be taking over several houses on the property, and will be served breakfast in one of them. We will be returning there between our various forays, and can leave luggage there that we don't want to take to Pilanesberg or Botswana.

Friday, June 21. Arrived!

Here's the plan: (but it is Africa, after all, so I feel I should say it's subject to change without a lot of notice.)



My thought was that after a quiet morning - or few hours - at Donnybrook, some people might take the hop-on/hop off [Red Bus](#) tour around the city and suburbs. It's a really good way to see the city, learn some history, and give you an idea of what you might want to see more of. It takes roughly two hours and costs only about \$20. If you are early enough you might have time to get off at some of the stops. Take a look at the [timetable](#), which will give you an idea of the stops. I recommend the Red tour. Worth seeing are [Constitution Hill](#) (1-2 hours, R65pp), where it starts and finishes, [Origins Centre](#) at Witswatersrand University (1.5-2 hours, R80pp), and the [Apartheid Museum](#) (2 hours, R85pp). If you opt for the Soweto extension it will add an additional 2 hours.

Red Bus riders will be picked up at 4:50 at Constitution Hill. Here is the timetable again in case you want to plan your trip: https://www.citysightseeing.co.za/uploads/files/JHB_timetable.pdf

Dinner at [Moyo Zoo Lake](#) restaurant. We'll time it to arrive around 5:30 fresh from the Red Bus - or wherever. You can check out Moyo's menu on their website - it's your chance to experiment with African dishes.

If you have any thoughts on my proposal for this first day - and the next - please let me know. You can always change your mind, but a bit of lead time will help with the organization of the driver. Even if you spend the day relaxing at Donnybrook, I'm counting on you coming to dinner and will arrange transportation.

Saturday, June 22 - Donnybrook

This day is your own, as will be our last day - July 4 - when, if you have the usual late flight (8:00-ish), you'll have a chance to do quite a bit.

You can veg out at Donnybrook, if you wish, but if not...

I suggest a morning visit to [Bryanston Market](#) - organic market at the Waldorf School - it's in the neighbourhood and has the best quality crafts, etc as well as yummy food for elevenses - or for lunch. It opens at 9:00am, so a morning visit leaves time for afternoon activities. If you want to take back presents, this is probably your best chance for getting things that are good quality. You'll see plenty of things for sale in Victoria Falls - in fact it will be hard to overlook them! - but what's at Bryanston is completely different. Whatever you buy there can stay in JNB while you go gallivanting around the continent. You will also have the chance to get back there on your last day, if you wish.

Afternoon: There is time to go to the [Elephant](#) and [Monkey](#) Sanctuaries. Several people have been and enjoyed it. A bit touristy, but good quality and they do good rescue work. The total cost is about \$110. (R1250, including transportation)

Other options: It's also possible to arrange for a driver to take you wherever you wish - the cost is generally very minimal, and Uber is good around the city. The [Origins Museum](#) at Wits University has the best of the material taken from the [Cradle of Humankind](#) and the Sterkfontein Caves. The [Maropeng Museum](#) is at the C of H, but I found it disappointing though others enjoyed it. However, that was 20 years ago! If you like caves, the museum and the caves can be combined in a single trip, and you can add [Kromdraai Gold Mine](#). In that same area is [Lesedi Cultural Village](#), which many people have enjoyed.

There's also the [Apartheid Museum](#) - and other places you'll get a glimpse of on the Red Bus tour. Some of you might be interested in a visit to [Soweto](#), or [Alexandra Township](#). It may also be easy to plan for extra days in Johannesburg before or after the 'official' trip.

Do spend some time on the internet seeing what looks most interesting to you. You may come up with more ideas. Please consider sharing your thoughts with the group - especially those of you who have been there before (so much for it being a once-in-a-lifetime trip!) and can speak from experience.

Sunday June 23 - Monday June 24: Pilanesberg Reserve

On Sunday we head up to the [Pilanesberg Reserve](#) in three cars. I will be driving one, and friends will be driving the other two. In order to be there at the best times of day - dusk and dawn - we'll spend one night on the edge of the reserve at the [Bakgatla](#) resort, where we'll occupy several chalets.

The Pilanesberg is a self drive reserve and can choose where to go. We arrange the vehicles so that one is largely for serious and/or wannabe photographers. Please let me know if you consider yourself in that group. In that vehicle you won't be hurried along, so will be able to spend more time in the hides or at stops. It will be possible to change places the next day, or if we happen to meet up during the day.

I've included a morning game drive because not only will we have a guide, but the drives can go out when other vehicles are prohibited from the reserve. Pilanesberg is high country and will be cold at night. For the game drive you'll need warm clothes. A light-weight down jacket and silk long-johns might come in handy here and later in the Delta. Bring a warm hat - hoods don't work unless they are tight around the face.

We drive back to Johannesburg at the end of the day on Monday, June 24 and get ourselves packed for the flights to [Motswiri](#) camp the next morning.

June 25 - flying into the Delta:

We'll probably be leaving around 8:00am. As you will see on the RAWBotswana website we are each allowed 20Kg (44lbs) in a soft-sided bag. If you are going to be traveling with a hard and/or wheeled suitcase, make sure to include a soft-sided bag of some sort. **Soft bags are required.** We can leave other bags at Donnybrook. Although we fly into the Delta through Maun, the home of the main RAWBotswana office, we will be flying back directly from Vic Falls so will NOT be able to leave excess luggage in the Maun office, as they offer on their Fact Sheet, so what you take will have to work for Victoria Falls also.

The flights over the Delta in and out of camp offer [great views](#), and sharp eyes will be able to pick out wildlife. Have cameras and binoculars on hand. We fly with [Mack Air](#), which is rather like the taxi/bus service of the Delta.

Tuesday, June 25 - Sunday, June 30, Motswiri:

We spend five nights at Motswiri, the camp name for [RAWBotswana](#), where we can venture into the surrounding area on horseback, in mekoros (dugout canoes), on foot or in vehicles - when not enjoying luxurious accommodation and delicious food. We'll make an overnight trip to a rustic fly-camp, and have the chance to see more of the reserve. The [RAWBotswana Facebook](#) page is worth looking at. It's fun to find out what's roaming around the camp. This lion kill was just in front of one of the tents. (taken by the guide, Wisdom)





A word about the horses - I normally shy away from places that involve riding tours, but I first went up to camp as a guest of the then owner, who wanted me to do some work with the



horses. They are fit, healthy, and happy. The horse manager - Carmen - takes wonderful care of them, and encourages the grooms to do TTouch work with them each day. One has to be a competent rider to ride at Motswiri. The horses are steady and safe, but not dull - they have to be alert and aware since we are riding in big game country.

Sunday, June 30, Kasane:

From here on we are under the care of a company called Liquid Giraffe, owned by a friend of mine, Glen Stephens.



We leave Motswiri in the late morning on a flight to Kasane, where we book into the [Chobe Marina Lodge](#) before an evening cruise on the Chobe River. Here's what they say: "there's not much in Southern Africa that can beat the Chobe River in the dry season - exceptional game viewing and birding". We may have time to walk in the village - it will depend on our flight time.



Monday, July 1: Kasane - Victoria Falls

We join a morning game drive into Chobe Reserve before breakfast and then head off - by road - to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, for two nights B&B at the [Victoria Falls Hotel](#), which "exudes original colonial Edwardian charm" (bring your pith helmet/sola topee!) and is within walking distance of the falls and the town. You'll have to get used to sidestepping people trying to sell you things, but some of my favorite things have come from sellers on the walk to the Falls.



July 2: Victoria Falls:

Adrenaline adventure or gentle sightseeing.

To each his/her own: helicopter trip over the

falls, zip-lining or bungee jumping in the gorge, crossing the [Bridge](#), white-water rafting on the Zambezi, a walk through the rain forest, strolling into Zambia, or having traditional high tea on the hotel's Stanley Verandah. I hope to spend

time at a cafe lookout on the Zambian side - watching some of you zipping or jumping. The helicopter flight is great. Expensive (\$150) but stunning and considered well worth it.

Included in the trip is an evening cruise in the iconic [Ra-Ikane](#) boat on our last night. Gentle and genteel.



July 3: Back to Jo'burg and a final dinner together at Donnybrook.

July 4: Departure? staying on?

FINANCIAL STUFF

Costs and Reservations:

Places on the safari will be reserved in the order that payments are made, so let me know when you have mailed your check or processed a bank transfer since they may take time to get through. There is a limit of only 10 guests at Motswiri, so it is recommended that you get your deposit in right away.

The total cost is US\$7950.00 for double occupancy and can be paid in installments as below. It may be possible to arrange single occupancy in some places (not at Motswiri) if requested.

A deposit of US\$2750.00 will hold your place. Your deposit will be used to confirm your place on safari and to buy necessary air tickets immediately.

The balance of US\$5200.00 is due no later than February 10, 2019 (Please note that cheques can take 2 weeks to clear if coming from the US)

I need to include what my suppliers write: **Until the trip is fully paid, costs are subject to change at any time due to fluctuations in fuel costs, taxes, levies, Government regulations, exchange rates and factors imposed on suppliers that are beyond our control.**

Cancellation Policy:

Deposit is non-refundable

90 - 60 days before start date 50% is forfeited

Within 59 or less days of start date 100% is forfeited

Payment methods: (Please ensure that all transfer costs are covered)

- Paypal to Edie Jane Eaton
- Bank transfer to Edith J Eaton, US Account #20-023-55, National Bank transit #4291, 741 Chemin Riverside, Wakefield, QC, J0X3G0, Canada
- Cheque to E J Eaton, 229 Ch du Lac Bernard, Alcove, QC, J0X 1A0

Cost includes (with all taxes):

- All flights between: Johannesburg, Maun, Motswiri, Kasane, Victoria Falls, Johannesburg.
- Transport to and from all airports, and to/from dinners and activities on the itinerary.
- Tips for group meals on the itinerary.
- All accommodation B&B: Johannesburg, Pilanesberg, Chobe Marina, Victoria Falls.
- At RAW Botswana meals and beverages (within reason)(?) are included. Accommodation is based on double occupancy.
- Dinners June 21st, June 23rd, and July 3rd.

Cost does not include:

- Airfare between your home and Johannesburg.
- Travel and medical insurance - which is essential. (your local travel agent or airline will be able to advise you on this)
- Visas – see Travel Documentation, below.
- All expenses related to individual activities in Johannesburg, Kasane and Victoria Falls such as entry fees, transportation, tips (usually 15%) etc.
- Since we may not always be together, lunches and dinners in Johannesburg and Victoria Falls (excluding dinners June 21, 23 & July 3) are not included. We'll have a kitchen available at Donnybrook in Johannesburg and can prepare our own food - to eat there or take out. In the past I have bought the food and divided the cost later, which came to something less than \$50/person. Food in South Africa is amazingly cheap. In Victoria Falls it's more expensive.
- Additional nights at Donnybrook – which can be arranged, as can transportation.
- Personal purchases and gratuities. Suggestions for tips below.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION...

There may be updates to this - depending on what questions I get.

Clothing:

There's a suggested clothing list on a RAWBotswana website Fact Sheet. Usually the weather is warm during the day - t-shirts are fine - but in the early mornings and in the evenings you will want something cozy. Make sure the warm layer is on the outside and can be easily shed. Jackets can be tied to saddles if you are riding. I take warm sleepwear for camp, and silk long-johns (and wear them to bed in camp) for morning game drives in Pilanesberg and Chobe, when you will also be glad of something wind-proof. Bush colours and quick-dry fabrics are best there. Footwear - for riders: something that can get wet is good, just in case you ride through deep water. Footwear doesn't get the chance to dry properly if you ride every day. For walkers - something light weight and comfortable, but not with the kind of fabric that lets in sand. You won't be walking hard and fast so they don't have to be hiking boots, and you'll be given walking gaiters to protect against prickles. I like to have a sun-shady long-sleeved shirt to wear over a t-shirt. Oh - and a hat for sure! The camp sells very thick and cosy zip fleeces (\$65, I think), which many people buy and all the guides wear. There's a one-day turnaround for laundry at camp. It's sun-dried, so make sure fading is not an issue for you.

It's likely you will get soaking feet from the spray at Vic Falls, so have something that dries easily. I've used sandals. The paths there are stone and can be slippery. I think it's wise to have something moderately nice looking for the Vic Falls part of the trip. However, by the time we get there 'nice looking' could have devolved into a clean t-shirt or sweater. Evenings in the Delta are likely to be too chilly for strapless gowns, etc. (Joke)

If you are a swimmer bring a bathing suit - just in case!

Amenities:

The camp - and the hotels, provide soap, etc. No hairdryers until until you get to Kasane and Chobe Marina Lodge. (Unless someone brings one and is willing to share)

Travel insurance:

I urge you to get it, and riders require medical evacuation insurance. You can usually adjust it as you pay for the various parts of the trip. You all paid money to me, not to ListeningTo Whispers (the name on my logo). LTW is not a registered or business name. If you are getting

trip insurance note Edie Jane Eaton as the recipient of your \$\$ if you have to give a name.

Electric plugs:

At camp the outlets are in the mess area and they have some adaptors there, as do I. Many South African plugs (Type M) have an adaption for the 2 round-prong European plugs (Type C), so bring any adaptors for them with you. Chobe Marina, in Botswana, is equipped for tourists - they use Type M. The Vic Falls Hotel has adaptors, but their Type G is the same as in the UK. Below is information from <http://electricaloutlet.org/>

Botswana	231 V	50 Hz	 <p style="text-align: center;">Type M Electrical Outlet</p>	* Type G is also rarely found.
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South Africa	220 V / 230 V	50 Hz	 <p style="text-align: center;">Type M Electrical Outlet</p>	* Types C and G may still be found in some areas. In Grahamstad, Port Elizabeth, and King Williams, voltage is 250V.
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Zimbabwe	220 V	50 Hz	 <p style="text-align: center;">Type G Electrical Outlet</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Type D Electrical Outlet</p>
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Check the voltage. African voltages are either 230V or 220V(Zimbabwe). Make sure your electronics are dual voltage. **Let me know if you need a transformer.**

Binoculars:

When life gets exciting one rarely hears "here, borrow mine!" I suggest that if you don't want to miss stuff, take binoculars with you. I bought a new pair a few years ago - recommended by <http://store.birdwatching.net/binoculars/binocular-faves.html> I got the Endeavor ED 8x42, which got a 5 out of 5 on their rating and cost now \$399.99 with an \$80 mail-in rebate. AND... my binoculars were broken last year, while being borrowed to watch lions feeding, and I got sent a replacement pair for free!

A great site for general information about binoculars is: <http://www.birdwatching.com/optics/binoculars1.html>. You can learn all about Porro and roof prisms and other fun stuff.

Internet:

Donnybrook (in the main guesthouse), Chobe Marina and Victoria Falls Hotel have internet. In Motswiri we are away from internet and phone, but will have radio contact. We'll make sure you know how people can reach you in an emergency.

Currency:

South Africa uses Rand. Credit cards are accepted everywhere except local markets. Bryanston Market accepts them.

Our stay in Botswana will be in the town of Kasane. We won't have much free time and I do not intend to purchase Pula - we can manage with credit cards, USD\$ or Rand.

Zimbabwe uses the American Dollar(USD\$) as its major currency. Please note that they will only accept the new series of US\$ notes (2000 series with large presidential portraits). No US\$ coins are accepted although ZAR cents and BWP thebe might be accepted in some shops.

Do not expect to get money from ATM's or banks in Zimbabwe. There is an extreme shortage of currency. Carry mixed denominations and lots of 1\$bills, since you are bound to want to buy something off the street, and getting change can be difficult.

Visa and MasterCard can be used at most hotels and lodges. AMEX less often.

Cash for tips, etc:

At the end of the trip I'll be able to credit you with some or all of your left-over Rand or dollars to go against the bill I will be making up for extra-curricular food, transpo, tips (and whatever other small things arise.)

\$USD: \$300 should do it, though if you are the least bit tempted to buy the sometimes wonderful things in Victoria Falls you might do better to have \$500. For Vic Falls the US dollar bills need to be the new ones with big pics of the presidents.

Motswiri's recommendation for tips for each of guides and general staff is \$10-15/day/guest, so between \$100 - \$150 total for the days at camp. Zimbabwe visa costs vary according to nationality from \$30 for US citizens to \$75 for Canadians. Tips for housekeeping (\$3-\$5/ person/night?) and baggage handling (\$1-\$2?) in Kasane and Vic Falls are at your discretion and can be in \$\$ (or Rand in Kasane).

For rand, R1,500 should do it for Donnybrook tips (can also be paid in US\$), Red bus and lunch at Bryanston market, and miscellaneous 'stuff'.

Monkey and Elephant Sanctuaries can be paid for by credit card. Purchases at Bryanston (but not food) market can also be paid for by credit card. Entrances to museums and activities such as the helicopter ride or zip line in Victoria Falls can also be paid by credit card. Do note that in certain places, there is an additional charge for using a credit card.

I'll handle the tips for Donnybrook, boat rides and vehicle transfers, and will bill you later.

A currency conversion site I use is: <http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>

Travel Documentation:

Please check everything below with your own research. Let me know if you find discrepancies.

South Africa: Technically, your passport should be valid for a minimum period of 30 days from the date of exit from South Africa. However, some immigration officials still request that a passport should have at least 6 months validity on the date of entry to South Africa. To avoid problems at the airport on arrival we recommend you meet this requirement. It also needs to have at least TWO blank facing pages in it. Remember that you will be entering South Africa when you first arrive and later upon returning from Botswana. Allow two sets of blank facing pages.

Check the visa requirements for your nationality.

Botswana: All travelers will need a passport valid for at least 90 days following their departure date from Botswana. However, we strongly recommend traveling with 6 months validity on your passport at all times 6 empty pages. There may be a \$30 conservation tax payable upon entry - this is still under discussion.

Zimbabwe:

Passport should have 6 months validity from date of entry. Unspecified number of blank pages. (enough for entry visa)

You need to have your onward ticket, or funds to buy one.

Visitors to Zimbabwe need to pay for their visa on entry into Zimbabwe in USD Cash.

Europe and USA: USD 30.00 for single entry.

UK & Ireland: USD 55.00 for single entry.

Canada: USD 75.00 for single entry!!

Zambia:

You do not need a visa - single or multiple entry - to cross the bridge at Vic Falls. You are not officially entering Zambia unless you continue to the border post beyond the bridge. To cross the bridge you can pick up a small piece of paper on the Zimbabwean side (at no charge) that allows you back in to Zimbabwe with no official paperwork. Have your passport with you in case you are asked for it. The best views of the bungee and zip line activities are from a cafe on the Zambian side of the bridge, so it's likely you'll want to cross. Besides which, there's a good view from the bridge, and you can experience what Cecil Rhodes wanted for his train - to feel the spray while crossing it.

There are no plans for us to go into Zambia proper, but you are welcome to if you wish - by walking across No-Man's Land and into Livingstone. The cost of a Day-Tripper (.♪.one-way ticket, yeahh..♪.) Visa is USD\$20. If you do that you would be wise to get a double entry visa for Zimbabwe. I believe it's \$45. There may also be the Univisa available, but this means you **must** go into Zambia.

Here's a webpage comparing the two sides of the falls: <http://www.go2africa.com/africa-travel-blog/12073> and a blog about crossing the bridge: <http://www.earthtrekkers.com/crossing-victoria-falls-bridge-zambia/>

Departure Taxes: Recent experience is that no taxes are required, but are included in airfare.

Lost Luggage:

Lost luggage on international flights can be a common problem anywhere. Airlines suggest that you pack a small bag with essentials including any life sustaining medication, which can be carried with you as hand luggage. A couple might split clothing between bags so that if one bag gets lost, you will have basic items on hand to see you through the first couple of days while they try and recover your lost baggage.

Malaria:

Note that Zimbabwe is a Malaria area, as can be the Okavango Delta. Please consult your doctor for medical advice prior to travel. I intend to take Malarone, from which I have never had a bad reaction. You will be in a malarial area for 9 days, which means, if you are taking Malarone, that you will require 17 pills. (One day before exposure and 7 days after)

The Botswana tourism website says: " it would be wise to have an updated TPD (tetanus, polio, diphtheria) vaccine, and a Hepatitis A vaccine.

(Not such a cheery note to end on, is it? Sorry about that!)

I look forward to All the best,

Eddie Jane

If you have any questions, please get in touch with me at ediejane@gmail.com, 819 459-2110

I am really looking forward to getting back to the Delta – and it will be fun sharing the delights of safari life with you. It's a wonderful trip, in exciting and very special places.

All the best,

Eddie Jane