Welcome to Southern Africa........ 2
Map................................. 4
17 Top Experiences............ 6
Need to Know.................... 14
If You Like....................... 16
Month by Month................. 19
Itineraries....................... 22
Planning a Safari............... 28
Countries at a Glance......... 30

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"All you've got to do is decide to go and the hardest part is over. So go!"
TONY WHEELER, COFOUNDER – LONELY PLANET

Southern Africa Today........ 644
History........................... 646
Wildlife.......................... 653
Culture............................ 669
Music in Southern Africa..... 677
The Natural Environment.... 685

PAGE 2
PLAN YOUR TRIP
YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT
Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions
to help you put together your perfect trip

PAGE 643
UNDERSTAND
SOUTHERN AFRICA
GET MORE FROM YOUR TRIP
Learn about the big picture, so you
can make sense of what you see

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ISBN 978-1-74179-089-0
Good afternoon.

Good morning, sir.

Hello.

Afrikaans remains the lingua franca.

Herero and Himba, both Bantu languages, are quite similar, and will be especially useful when travelling around Kaokoland and re-

Africans languages in Namibia and   Botswana are characterised by click sounds.

The Khoisan languages in Namibia and   Bushmanland in Namibia and around the   !Kung people, who are concentrated in the northwestern Botswana.

Perhaps the most useful dialect is that of   Tswana are characterised by click sounds.

The Khoisan languages in Namibia and   Bohoma are characterised by click sounds.

The sideways click sound, like the sound 'tsk!' in English used to indicate disapproval.

The clicks represented by / represent a sucking motion between the upper and lower teeth, like blowing on a bottle. The click represented by // is made when encouraging a horse, is represented by //. However, you'll be forgiven if presented by //

The clicks represented by \ are made by a sucking motion between the upper and lower parts of the mouth to produce di \ sounds. The clicks are made by a sucking motion between the upper and lower parts of the mouth to produce di \ sounds. The clicks represented by / are a hol-

The Damara and Nama peoples' languages belong to the Khoisan group and, like other Khoisan varieties, they feature several 'click'

Goodbye.

Yes.

Ii.

Pardon.

Matisa?

How are you?

!Gai//oas.

you just render all the clicks as a 'k' sound.

The     Damara and Nama peoples' languages belong to the Khoisan group and, like other Khoisan varieties, they feature several 'click'

Where is the …?

Maha … ha?

ni gan?

How much is this?

Ne xu e matigo marie

I'm from …

My name is …

What's your name?

Mati du/onha?

Do you speak English?

Engelsa !goa idu ra?

p322

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Addresses

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Other

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Transportation

Getting there

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City guides

This edition written and researched by

Alan Murphy,
Kate Armstrong, Lucy Corne, Mary Fitzpatrick,
Michael Grosberg, Anthony Ham, Trent Holden,
Kate Morgan, Richard Waters
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**BOTSWANA** 40
- **GABORONE** 41
  - Mokolodi Nature Reserve 46
- **EASTERN BOTSWANA** 47
  - Khama Rhino Sanctuary 47
- **Francistown** 47
- **Tuli Block** 49
- **MAKGADIKGADI & NXAI PANS** 51
  - Nata 51
- **CHOBE NATIONAL PARK & KASANE** 54
  - Savuti 59
  - Linyanti Marshes 60
- **OKAVANGO DELTA** 61
  - Maun 61
  - Moremi Game Reserve 70
- **THE KALAHARI** 72
  - Khutse Game Reserve 75
  - Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park 75
- **UNDERSTAND BOTSWANA** 76
- **SURVIVAL GUIDE** 83

**MALAWI** 112
- **LILONGWE** 114
- **NORTHERN MALAWI** 122
  - Livingstonia 122
  - Nyika National Park 125
  - Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve 127
  - Mzuzu 127
  - Nkhata Bay 129
  - Likoma Island 131
  - CENTRAL MALAWI 132
  - Viphya Plateau 132
  - Senga Bay 135
  - Cape Maclear 136
- **SOUTHERN MALAWI** 139
  - Liwonde National Park 141
  - Zomba Plateau 143
  - Blantyre & Limbe 144
  - Mulanje 151
- **UNDERSTAND MALAWI** 154
- **SURVIVAL GUIDE** 158

**MOZAMBIQUE** 167
- **MAPUTO** 170
  - SOUTHERN MOZAMBIQUE 181
  - Ponta d’Ouro & Ponta Malongane 181
  - Inhambane 186
  - Tofo 188
  - Vilankulo 191
  - CENTRAL MOZAMBIQUE 196
  - Beira 196
  - Chimoio 200
  - Quelimane 204
- **NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE** 207
  - Nampula 207
  - Mozambique Island 210
  - Lichinga 215
  - Lake Niassa 216
  - Pemba 219
  - Quirimbas Archipelago 224
  - Moçimboa da Praia 226
- **UNDERSTAND MOZAMBIQUE** 228
- **SURVIVAL GUIDE** 232

**NAMIBIA** 244
- **WINDHOEK** 245
- **NORTH-CENTRAL NAMIBIA** 257
  - Grootfontein 260
  - Etosha National Park 263
- **NORTHERN NAMIBIA** 266
  - Otjozondjupa 273
  - NORTHERN NAMIBIA 275
  - Damaraland 275
  - Kaokoveld 277
  - Skeleton Coast 280
  - CENTRAL NAMIBIA 281
  - Swakopmund 281
  - Namib-Naukluft Park 291
  - Sesriem & Sossusvlei 296
- **SOUTHERN NAMIBIA** 298
  - Luderitz 300
  - Fish River Canyon 304
  - UNDERSTAND NAMIBIA 306
  - SURVIVAL GUIDE 313

**LESOTHO** 94
- **MASERU & AROUND** 95
- **NORTHEASTERN LESOTHO** 100
  - Sani Top 101
- **SOUTHERN LESOTHO** 101
  - Malealea 103
  - Quthing 104
- **UNDERSTAND LESOTHO** 104
- **SURVIVAL GUIDE** 108
Southern Africa

- **Victoria Falls**
  The mightiest waterfall on Earth (p533)

- **Chobe National Park**
  An astounding array of wildlife (p54)

- **Okavango Delta**
  A watery paradise for wildlife (p61)

- **Etosha National Park**
  Wildlife-watching doesn’t get any easier (p263)

- **Sossusvlei**
  The world’s oldest sand dunes (p296)

- **Fish River Canyon**
  A classical symphony in stone (p304)

- **Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park**
  Iconic desert reserve (p486)
Top Experiences

- Quirimbas Archipelago
  - Mozambique at its most enchanting (p224)

- Lake Malawi
  - A lake that defines a country (p136)

- Mozambique Island
  - Step back in time (p210)

- Great Zimbabwe
  - Southern Africa's greatest medieval city (p622)

- Mkhaya Game Reserve
  - Rare black rhino viewing opportunity (p524)

- The Drakensberg
  - The mountains that define South Africa (p416)

- Lesotho Lodges
  - Mix accommodation with culture (p94)
Michael Grosberg
Zambia With a valuable philosophy degree in hand and business experience on a small Pacific island, Michael moved to Durban, South Africa where he wrote about political violence and helped train newly elected government officials. He also found time to travel all over Southern Africa, including forays into Zambia. Later, during his years in graduate school and while teaching in New York City, he fantasised about returning to the region, which he has been fortunate to visit on numerous Lonely Planet assignments and for other publications.

Anthony Ham
Botswana Anthony has been travelling around Africa for more than a decade. A writer and photographer, his past Lonely Planet guidebooks include Kenya, Botswana & Namibia, Africa, Libya and West Africa. Anthony has written and photographed for magazines and newspapers around the world, among them Travel Africa and Africa Geographic. When he’s not in Africa, Anthony divides his time between Madrid and Melbourne where he lives with his wife and two daughters.

Trent Holden
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe As a regular visitor to Africa, Trent rates Zimbabwe up there with the best of them. It’s a nation that first grabbed his attention when it upset Australia in the 1983 cricket World Cup, and it’s this underdog quality that continues to bowl him over to this day. World-class sights, amazing wildlife, striking msasa trees and friendly down-to-earth people are what makes this place so great. All it needs now is the tourists it deserves. Trent lives in Melbourne, Australia and has worked on more than 10 books for Lonely Planet – most recently East Africa and India.

Kate Morgan
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe Having travelled in East and North Africa, tracking mountain gorillas, spotting wildlife and winding though Moroccan medinas, Kate was keen to check out what the southern part of the continent had to offer. She was lucky enough to head off to Zimbabwe and realise a country that’s been completely misrepresented. Humbled by the character of Zimbabweans and floored by the glorious Victoria Falls, Kate is hoping to get back there to do it all again soon. Kate is a freelance writer and editor based in Melbourne, and has worked on other titles such as Philippines, Phuket and Japan.

Richard Waters
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David Lukas wrote the Wildlife chapter. David teaches and writes about the natural world from his home on the edge of Yosemite National Park. He has contributed Environment and Wildlife chapters to more than 25 Lonely Planet guides, including Tanzania, East Africa, South Africa, Lesotho & Swaziland and Botswana & Namibia.
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OUR STORY
A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that’s all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, Across Asia on the Cheap. Within a week they’d sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony’s belief that ‘a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse’.

OUR WRITERS

Alan Murphy
Coordinating Author, Namibia
Alan remembers falling under Southern Africa’s ambient spell after bouncing around in the rear of a bakkie (pick-up truck) on the way from Johannesburg airport in 1999. Since then he has been back numerous times for Lonely Planet and travelled widely throughout the region, including this trip to Namibia. Alan finds wildlife watching, in particular, exhilarating and he has certainly taken years off his life staking out waterholes. This was Alan’s third trip to Namibia, a country custom-built for road trips with landscapes that never cease to inspire. Alan lives with his wife in the Yarra Valley outside Melbourne, which he wishes was just a touch closer to Melbourne airport.

Kate Armstrong
Lesotho, Swaziland
Kate was bitten by the Africa bug when she lived and worked in Mozambique, and returns to Southern Africa regularly. For this edition she danced her way through Swaziland, got her car bogged (more than once) and enjoyed hanging out for a day with some black rhinos. When she’s not eating, hiking and talking her way around parts of Africa, Europe and South America, she’s a freelance writer for newspapers and magazines around the world from wherever she’s living at the time. For more of Kate’s adventures, see www.katearmstrong.com.au.

Lucy Corne
South Africa
Since she first visited South Africa in 2002, Lucy has been hooked and has returned on six occasions, spending time in more than 200 towns across the country. South Africa still manages to deliver firsts at every turn and research for this book brought Lucy her first black rhino sighting (in Addo Elephant National Park), her first full-on conversation in Xhosa and her first experience of brewing umqhombothi. Lucy currently lives in Cape Town where she writes about travel and beer.

Mary Fitzpatrick
Mozambique
A travel writer for more than 15 years, Mary has lived, worked and travelled in Mozambique, returning many times to explore this magnificent country, to enjoy its beaches and to keep in contact with the countless amazing Mozambicans whom she has met along the way. In addition to authoring many Lonely Planet Africa titles, Mary also writes for various newspapers and magazines, focusing on Africa.
Whether you’ve got six days or 60, these itineraries provide a starting point for the trip of a lifetime. Want more inspiration? Head online to lonelyplanet.com/thorntree to chat with other travellers.

One Week
Natural Wonder & Sensational Safaris

Start your trip at one of the great natural wonders of the world, **Victoria Falls**. For the best perspectives, visit from both **Livingstone** (Zambia) and the town of **Victoria Falls** (Zimbabwe). There’s a plethora of activities on offer, including serene canoe trips on top of the falls and, for those after an adrenalin rush, rafting below the falls down the churning Zambezi. From the Zambian side, cross the nearby border at Kazungula and head for **Kasane** in Botswana, the gateway town to the stunning, wildlife-rich **Chobe National Park**. Here you can organise wildlife drives and river cruises along the Chobe River front, where nearly every Southern African mammal species is represented. From Chobe it’s an easy hop, skip and jump southwest to **Maun** and the vast **Okavango Delta**, where one of the world’s most impressive ecosystems breathes life into the Kalahari sands and attracts astonishing amounts of wildlife and incalculable numbers of birds. From Maun, take a minibus clockwise around the delta towards Namibia, perhaps stopping in Sepupa to take a boat to **Seronga** and do a **mokoro** (dug-out canoe) trip in the Okavango Panhandle.
Three Weeks

Nature & Fun in the Sun

This 2000km-plus route serves up delightful variety, and you can get a good sampling of wildlife and local culture and still have time to laze on the beach. Short on time? Whiz through the Swaziland leg and stick to motorways where possible. Using Johannesburg as a gateway, head east via Nelspruit to world-renowned Kruger National Park (Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park). The teeming wildlife will undoubtedly mesmerise you for several days. One option here is to cross into Mozambique via official border posts within the park, taking a look around in the Mozambiquan side of this gigantic transfrontier park. The wildlife is sparse but it’s a serious bush adventure. Then you could nip across to the coast and do the rest of this itinerary in reverse, making a nice loop back through Swaziland and into South Africa again. Otherwise, if you’ve time, duck out of Orpen Gate for a look at remote and off-the-tourist-radar Blyde River Canyon. This awe-inspiring natural sight has good access points such as the Three Rondavels and Gods Window, and if you’re really captivated, consider a 2½-day walk along the valley floor. Continue south into Swaziland, where you can spend a few days hiking through the grasslands and forests of Malolotja Nature Reserve before heading on via Mbabane to the tiny, but brilliant Mkhaya Game Reserve, noted for its black rhinos. After sampling the fine hospitality and food of this tiny mountain kingdom, it’s time to get your feet wet. Head for the border town of Lomahasha in Swaziland and cross into the former Portuguese colony of Mozambique (formalities are straightforward) via the Mozambican border town of Namaacha. Motor down approximately 50km to culturally intriguing Maputo and then head north on the EN1 and, if you’re getting desperate for a dip, stop to enjoy the quiet beaches at Xai-Xai. Continue up the EN1 to Inhambane, one of the country’s oldest and most charming towns. Beaches close by include legendary Tofo, with azure waters, and the more sedate Barra. If you’ve more steam, trundle a bit further north to Vilankulo, the gateway to the tropical paradise of the Bazaruto Archipelago.
Three Weeks
A Southern African Slice

For road-trip lovers. Even if you can’t squeeze in all of this 3000km-plus journey, you’ll come away with an immense appreciation of this remarkable region. Looking to make cuts? Shave some kilometres off the Western Cape loop. A car (4WD useful but not necessary) is definitely your best bet for this mega road trip. After a few days in Cape Town, ogling Table Mountain from various vantage points around town, tear yourself away from this wonderful city and head to the fertile valleys of the Winelands, with a night or two in Stellenbosch or Franschhoek.

From here, continue east to the artists enclave of Montagu, and then via the scenic Route 62 through the Little Karoo to Oudtshoorn, South Africa’s ostrich capital. Some possible detours along the way include a trip to Hermanus for whale-watching if the season is right, or to Cape Agulhas for the thrill of standing at Africa’s southernmost point.

From Oudtshoorn take the N12 north and then loop back towards Cape Town via the N1, link up with the N7 and head for Namakwa to see the fabulous wildflower displays, which are especially good in August and September.

Keep tracking up the N7, cross into Namibia at Vioolsdrif and head to Hobas to see the Fish River Canyon National Park – a mighty gash hacked out of the Earth’s surface – one of the continent’s great natural wonders. The best way to appreciate this work of a master builder is a five-day trek along the valley floor.

Further north along the B1, Keetmanshoop has some colonial architecture; but don’t linger, head west along the B4 to surreal Lüderitz, a coastal colonial relic sandwiched between the desert and the Atlantic seaboard. Heading back to the B1, turn north at the C13 and make a beeline for the baroque Duwisib Castle, which is well worth exploring. You can stay 300m from the castle on a rustic farm or camp. From there head to Mariental back on the B1, and it’s another couple of hours to Windhoek, the small but colourful and cosmopolitan capital city with its bracing highland climate.
A 2000km route through the Southern African outback. Travelling in Zambia offers a taste of the real Africa, though the dusty roads will become a distant memory once you’re lazing by the crystal-clear waters of Lake Malawi. Start with a few days in Zambia’s cosmopolitan capital, Lusaka, with its genuine African feel and the country’s best nightlife. Then head out on the highway to the stunning Lower Zambezi National Park, with its beautiful flood plain that’s dotted with acacias and other large trees. There’s no public transport to the park, so you’ll need your own car to get there, or go on an organised tour.

Hook up with the Great East Rd and head to chaotic Chipata. Before you get here, you’ll come across Tikondane, a small grassroots NGO working with local communities that has decent budget accommodation and meals. At Chipata you can organise a trip to South Luangwa National Park, one of the most majestic parks on the continent. Make sure you do a walking safari when you’re here – it’s one of the best places in Southern Africa to do it. From Chipata you can drive to Mfuwe Gate, or take one of the minibuses that make the trip to Mfuwe village. The really adventurous could try to reach the wild and spectacular North Luangwa National Park, but it’s important that you seek local advice before doing this; you need to be well prepared.

Then it’s on to Malawi and the town of Lilongwe, which is worth a day or two to check out the old town and the local Nature Sanctuary. From Lilongwe strike out north along the M1 to Nkhata Bay on Lake Malawi, which is perfect for swimming, kayaking or just lazing about after some hard weeks on the road. A possible detour on the way to/from Nkhata is historic Nkhotakota from where you can organise a trip to the revitalised Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. The reserve offers a good chance of seeing elephants and roan and sable antelope and there’s excellent lodge accommodation available in the park.
Three Weeks
Lakeshore to Seashore

This 1500km Mozambican bush adventure could be tacked onto the Dusty Roads and Shimmering Waters itinerary, but it also stands well alone. Mozambique Island makes a wonderful contrast to the bush, and you can finish on the beach in the tropical island paradise of Quirimbas Archipelago.

Drag yourself out of the crystal waters at Nkhata Bay and, if you have time before heading across the lake, make a beeline to the enigmatic Nyika National Park. Here, you can briefly forget you're in Africa on a multiday hike among rolling grasslands and a surprisingly cool climate. When you're ready, hop on the Ilala ferry for the blissful Likoma Island, where swimming, snorkelling and local cultures are the star attractions. Splash out for a night at Kaya Mawa if you've the pennies – it's one of Africa's finest paradise retreats. Take the ferry over to the Mediterranean-esque Chizumulu Island, with its idyllic beaches, and return by dhow (if the waters are calm enough). From Likoma hop back on the ferry to Metangula and from there take a chapa up towards Cóbuè, on the other side of the lakeshore in Mozambique. (Or take a dhow direct from Likoma to Cóbuè). Stay the night just south of Cóbuè at Nkwichi Lodge, a magnificent bush retreat that is part of an important development and conservation project; it's well worth a splurge. If your budget isn't up to Nkwichi, try one of several backpacker-friendly places in Cóbuè itself.

After exploring the lake area, head south to cool Lichinga. Surrounded by scenic, rugged terrain, it is the capital of remote Niassa province. Carry on through to Mandimba and on to bustling Cuamba, where you can pick up a train all the way through to Nampula. Then jump on a bus to magnificent Mozambique Island, with its intriguing architecture and time-warp atmosphere. If you need a beach break after exploring the island, hire a dhow to take you over to Chocas and the lovely nearby beach at Cabaceira Pequena. The trip finishes up a bit further north at Pemba, which is the gateway to the superb Quirimbas Archipelago.
One Month
Wilderness & Culture

Starting on Namibia’s Skeleton Coast, a treacherous coastline with rusting shipwrecks and desert wilderness, check out the Cape Cross Seal Reserve. Track north along the coast to Torra Bay, where you can camp, or head for Terrace Bay for more luxurious accommodation. Then travel east into the wonders of Damaraland, with its wild, open spaces, and make a beeline for Twyfelfontein, one of the most extensive galleries of rock art in Africa. Then journey further east into Etosha National Park, teeming with animals and one of the continent’s great wildlife-viewing areas. Exit Etosha via von Lindequeist Gate. Track along the B8 into Botswana at the Mahango–Mohembo border crossing. Drive down the west side of the Okavango Delta, perhaps stopping in Sepupa to do a boat trip in the Okavango Panhandle. The last leg of this ambitious trip is the iconic Central Kalahari Game Reserve to the southeast, lying at the heart of Botswana. Enter at the Matswere Gate at the northeastern end of the reserve: wildlife includes lions and brown hyenas. You can finish your trip by exiting the same gate and travelling east to Francistown.

One Month
An Adventurous Spirit

Starting in the magnificent Kafue National Park in Zambia – classic wildlife country and one of the largest parks in the world – head south to the iconic Victoria Falls, a thunderous sight that will blow your mind and soak your T-shirt. From here head into Kasane in Botswana to duck your head into the Chobe Riverfront. Wildlife is prolific and includes huge elephant herds. Charter a plane or boat to Mpalila Island, a luxuriously remote retreat stranded in the middle of the Zambezi. From here, head into Namibia’s Caprivi Strip and visit the mini-Okavango of the Mamili National Park, where the rains bring a delta-like feel to the forested islands. Then drive to the untamed wilderness that is Khaudum National Park, a serious adventure destination. From Khaudum the road will take you south through Grootfontein, from where it’s worth making a short detour to the Waterberg Plateau Park. North of Grootfontein the road takes you into Namibia’s cultural heartland, the Owambo region, from where you can access the remote and mysterious Kaokoveld, homeland to the Himba people and possibly one of the last true wildernesses left in Southern Africa.