# ULTIMATE AFRICA: OCEAN, RAIL & SAFARI WITH AZAMARA CRUISES

## Classic Cruising Tour | 27 Days | Physical Level 1

PORT LOUIS - POINTE DES GALETS (REUNION) - TAOLAGNARO - RICHARDS BAY - DURBAN - PORT ELIZABETH (GQEBERHA) - CAPE TOWN - PRETORIA - ROVOS RAIL - CHOBE NATIONAL PARK – VICTORIA FALLS

From Mauritius across the Indian Ocean to Cape Town, this spectacular Cruise & Tour combines tropical islands, rich culture, dramatic landscapes and unforgettable wildlife. Sail onboard Azamara Onward via Réunion, Madagascar and the South African coast, before travelling through Southern Africa on Rovos Rail, then continuing to Chobe National Park and Victoria Falls.

- Explore the tropical island of Mauritius
- Cruise across the Indian Ocean onboard Azamara Onward
- Discover Réunion, Madagascar and South Africa's coast
- Ride the luxurious Rovos Rail through Southern Africa
- Spot wildlife in Hwange and Chobe before admiring Victoria Falls

## TOUR MAP

## TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- 12 nights Azamara cruise on Azamara Onward
- 4 night Rovos Rail journey based on Pullman cabin
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated (if dining onboard throughout) – 24 breakfasts (B), 23 lunches (L), 24 dinners (D)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees, transportation and transfers pre and post cruise
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides pre and post cruise
- Visa fees for Australian passport holders
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

*Pre and post cruise, the only elements or aspects you may have to pay for are personal expenditure, e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check-in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.*

*During the cruise, your meals onboard will be included in the main dining areas. Your cruise package also includes selected drinks, cruise gratuities and self-service laundry onboard. However, should you wish to dine in any of the speciality restaurants not included in your cruising package, you will be required to pay for these locally. In addition, if you opt to dine off the ship, these meals will also be paid for locally, and please note you will not be refunded for meals missed onboard. Excursions are also available to book with your cruise reservation at your own expense.*

## CLASSIC CRUISING TOURS

These tours are designed for those who wish to discover local culture, breathtaking sights, tropical islands, wildlife and natural wonders on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people combined with a cruise.

Your tour is fully inclusive before and after the cruise, ensuring that all arrangements, from accommodation to guided sightseeing, are seamlessly taken care of. Throughout the land portions of your journey, you will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and Local Guides, whose expert knowledge and passion will transform your holiday into an extraordinary adventure. While on the cruise, you will enjoy the excellent services and facilities provided by the cruise staff. There will be no Wendy Wu guides or representatives on the Azamara cruise or Rovos rail journey.

## PHYSICAL LEVEL

Our tours come with a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of our tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for fully enjoying each destination.

'Ultimate Africa: Ocean, Rail & Safari' falls under a Physical Level 1 category. A reasonable level of fitness is required, and you should expect to be on your feet for much of the day. You will be getting on and off coaches, trains, boats, safari vehicles and the cruise ship, as well as walking around the sights, often including steps and some uneven surfaces.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time, often on uneven surfaces
- You will be required to get on and off boats and safari vehicles without assistance
- You will be required to board the cruise ship without assistance and get on and off at ports if you wish to disembark the ship
- You will be required to board and disembark Rovos Rail without assistance

Of course, while on land, our National Escorts and/or local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

## JOINING YOUR TOUR

The tour is 27 days in duration including international flights. Join the tour on Day 2 in Mauritius, arriving into Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport, and end the tour on Day 26 at Victoria Falls Airport, Zimbabwe.

For travellers booked on a 'Land and Cruise Only' package, which omits the inclusion of international flights, the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour or if booking pre/post accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours. Please advise your international flight information to our reservations team.

## ITINERARY CHANGES

We intend to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours, or as dictated by local conditions. In these circumstances, we will endeavour to make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

This itinerary includes travel by road, train, air and cruise ship, and timings may be affected by weather, traffic, port operations, sea conditions or other local operational factors. Rail journeys may also be subject to operational changes, delays or amendments outside of Wendy Wu Tours' control. Similarly, while Azamara will endeavour to follow the published cruise itinerary, port calls, scenic cruising routes and timings may be changed at the discretion of the cruise line due to weather advisories, port traffic, sea conditions, safety considerations or other unforeseeable circumstances.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

**Days 1-2** **Arrive in Mauritius** **Meals: D**

Fly overnight to the beautiful island of Mauritius. On arrival, you will be met at the airport by an English-speaking representative and transferred to your hotel. Together with any other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, travel to your hotel and check in.

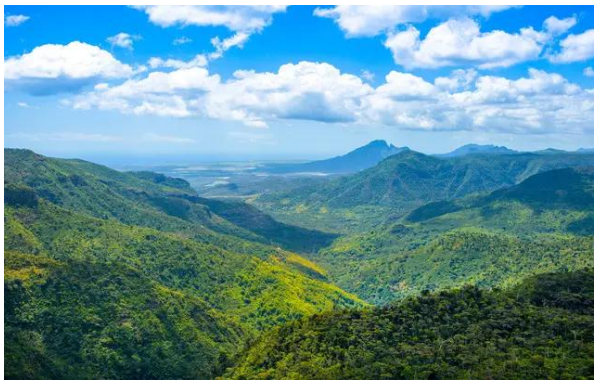
Upon check-in, enjoy all the hotel has to offer, including all-inclusive food and drinks. The rest of the day is at leisure to relax after your flight or begin enjoying your tropical island surroundings.

*Please note: Early check-in is not included. If your flight arrives in the morning and you wish to arrange this, please speak to your reservation consultant. Transfer arrangements may differ depending on group size.*

**Destination Information**

**Mauritius -** A jewel in the Indian Ocean, Mauritius is renowned for its pristine beaches, turquoise lagoons, and vibrant coral reefs. This tropical paradise offers a rich cultural tapestry, lush botanical gardens, and iconic landmarks like the Seven Coloured Earths and Le Morne Brabant.

**Day 3: Explore Mauritius** **Meals: B, L, D**



After breakfast this morning, begin your full-day tour of southwest Mauritius. Start with a visit to Grand Bassin, also known locally as Ganga Talao, a sacred Hindu site set in the mountains.

Continue through Black River Gorges National Park to Alexandra Falls Viewpoint, where you can enjoy views over the surrounding forests and cascading waterfalls. Afterwards, visit the Seven Coloured Earths of Chamarel, one of Mauritius' most famous natural attractions, known for its unusual sand dunes displaying shades of red, brown, violet, green, blue, purple and yellow.

Next, enjoy a guided tour of a rum distillery, followed by a tasting of locally produced rum. After lunch, visit Curious Corner of Chamarel, an interactive gallery featuring optical illusions, creative exhibits and engaging art installations.

**Destination Information**

**Black River Gorges National Park -** A haven for nature lovers, Black River Gorges National Park is Mauritius' largest nature reserve. The park features dense forests, dramatic cliffs, and deep valleys, home to unique wildlife and endemic plant species. It's perfect for hiking, birdwatching, and enjoying breathtaking views of the island's rugged interior.

**Seven Coloured Earths** - This unique natural phenomenon features striking shades of red, brown, violet, blue and green soil, created by volcanic activity and natural mineral variation. It is one of Mauritius' best-known natural attractions.

**Day 4: Mauritius at leisure** **Meals: B, L, D**

Today is at leisure to enjoy the amenities of your hotel and relax, or alternatively choose to book an optional excursion.

**Day 5: Embark cruise ship in Port Louis (Mauritius) Meals: B, L, D**

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before checking out. You will then be transferred to Port Louis cruise port to board Azamara Onward.

Once onboard, the rest of the day is at leisure to settle in and begin exploring the ship's facilities. Lunch and dinner can be enjoyed onboard your cruise ship today.

***Please note:*** *Your National Escort or local representative will accompany you to the port; however, they will not board the cruise with you. Check-in and embarkation will be completed with Azamara staff.*

**Day 6: Cruising - Pointe des Galets, Réunion Meals: B, L, D**

Your first stop on your cruise is Pointe des Galets, Réunion. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

*Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Pointe des Galets -** Situated on the northwest coast of Réunion, Pointe des Galets is a bustling port town known for its maritime heritage and vibrant local culture. It serves as a gateway to the island's dramatic landscapes, including volcanic peaks, lush forests, and stunning coastal views.

**Day 7:** **Cruising – At Sea** **Meals: B, L, D**

Enjoy a full day at leisure onboard Azamara Onward and discover all the ship has to offer. Relax by the pool, enjoy the ship's dining venues and lounges, or take part in the entertainment and activities available onboard.

**Day 8:** **Cruising – Taolagnaro, Madagascar** **Meals: B, L, D**

Today you will dock in Taolagnaro, Madagascar. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

*Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Taolagnaro** – Also known as Fort Dauphin, Taolagnaro is located on Madagascar's southeast coast. Surrounded by beaches, mountains and lush landscapes, the town offers a gateway to the island's distinctive natural scenery, local culture and unique wildlife.

**Day 9:** **Cruising – At Sea** **Meals: B, L, D**

Spend today at leisure onboard Azamara Onward as your cruise continues across the Indian Ocean. Relax and enjoy the ship's facilities, dining venues and entertainment.

**Day 10:** **Cruising – At Sea** **Meals: B, L, D**

Spend today at sea as Azamara Onward continues her journey towards South Africa. Take time to relax onboard, enjoy the ship's facilities or join the activities and entertainment available throughout the day.

**Day 11:** **Cruising – Richards Bay, South Africa** **Meals: B, L, D**

Welcome to South Africa. Today, your ship arrives in Richards Bay, a coastal town in KwaZulu-Natal. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

*Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Richards Bay** – Located on the north-east coast of South Africa, Richards Bay is known for its coastal setting, beaches and surrounding natural landscapes. The town forms part of the Zululand Birding Route, with the wider area home to a variety of birdlife, wildlife reserves and Zulu cultural experiences.

**Day 12: Cruising – Durban** **Meals: B, L, D**

Your cruising adventure continues in Durban, where the ship will dock today. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

*Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Durban** – Set on South Africa's east coast, Durban is known for its golden beaches, warm Indian Ocean waters and blend of Zulu, Indian and European influences. The city has a lively waterfront and food culture, and also serves as a gateway to KwaZulu-Natal's cultural landscapes and the wider Drakensberg region.

**Day 13: Cruising – At Sea** **Meals: B, L, D**

Enjoy a day at sea as Azamara Onward continues along the South African coast.

**Day 14: Cruising – Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha) Meals: B, L, D**

Today you will dock in Port Elizabeth, also officially known as Gqeberha. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

*Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha)** – Located on Algoa Bay in South Africa's Eastern Cape, Port Elizabeth is known for its beaches, coastal scenery and marine life. The city was established as a British settlement in 1820 and retains a number of historic buildings. It also serves as a gateway to Addo Elephant National Park, one of South Africa's best-known wildlife areas.

**Day 15: Cruising – At Sea Meals: B, L, D**

Today is your final full day at sea before arriving in Cape Town. Take the opportunity to relax onboard Azamara Onward and enjoy the ship's facilities as you continue along the South African coast.

**Day 16: Cruising – Cape Town** **Meals: B, L, D**

Today you will dock in Cape Town. After breakfast onboard the ship, meet your guide and begin exploring the 'Mother City'. Start with a drive through the city centre, passing the stadium, before making a stop at Greenmarket Square. Next, visit the Castle of Good Hope, then take a walk through the Company's Garden, the former gardens of the Dutch East India Company.

Continue to Bo-Kaap, formerly known as the Malay Quarter. This picturesque area of Cape Town is well known for its colourful houses and cobbled streets. After lunch at a local restaurant, take the cable car up Table Mountain, weather permitting, for spectacular views over the city, coastline and surrounding mountains.

This evening, dine at Gold Restaurant, an immersive African dining experience in Cape Town. Enjoy a 14-course taste safari inspired by flavours from across the continent, accompanied by traditional music, drumming, dancing and storytelling. After dinner, return to your cruise ship for your final night onboard.

**Destination Information**

**Cape Town** – Located on the southwest coast of South Africa, Cape Town is known for its dramatic natural setting, rich history and cultural diversity. Set between Table Mountain and the Atlantic Ocean, the city is home to historic neighbourhoods, coastal scenery, lively markets and a strong food and arts scene.

**Castle of Good Hope** – Built by the Dutch East India Company in the 17th century, the Castle of Good Hope is considered one of the oldest surviving colonial buildings in South Africa. The fort has served a number of roles over the centuries and remains an important site for understanding Cape Town's colonial and military history.

**Table Mountain** – One of Cape Town's most iconic landmarks, Table Mountain rises over 1,000 metres above sea level. Its flat-topped summit offers panoramic views over the city, Table Bay, the Atlantic coastline and, on clear days, the surrounding mountains.

**Day 17: Disembark Cruise in Cape Town - Pretoria** **Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast onboard the ship, disembark and be met by a National Escort at Cape Town cruise port for a panoramic exploration of the Cape Peninsula. Head south and, weather permitting, drive along Chapman's Peak Drive, a scenic coastal road on the Cape Peninsula, south of Cape Town. Continue to Boulders Beach to visit the colony of African penguins before enjoying lunch at a local restaurant on the Peninsula. Afterwards, transfer to Cape Town Airport for your flight to Johannesburg.

On arrival in Johannesburg, you will be met and transferred to your hotel in Pretoria for check-in. This evening, walk with your guide to a nearby local restaurant for dinner.

**Destination Information**

**Chapman's Peak Drive** – Chapman's Peak Drive is a spectacular coastal road and mountain pass offering views of the Atlantic Ocean, rugged cliffs and the surrounding coastline. The drive is renowned for its dramatic scenery and panoramic viewpoints.

**Boulders Beach** – Boulders Beach is famous for its resident colony of African penguins. The beach's distinctive setting, with granite boulders and clear waters, makes it a memorable place to observe the penguins in their natural habitat.

**Day 18: Pretoria - Rovos Rail** **Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast at the hotel, meet your guide and depart on a tour of Pretoria, one of South Africa's three capital cities and the seat of the country's executive branch of government. Begin with a visit to the Union Buildings, the official seat of the national government, where the landscaped gardens offer panoramic views over the city and surrounding hills.

Continue to the Voortrekker Monument, which commemorates the Great Trek, a 19th-century movement during which Voortrekkers migrated northwards from the Cape into the interior. Next, visit the Paul Kruger House Museum, the former home of Paul Kruger, president of the South African Republic. Afterwards, drive past Church Square, a historic hub surrounded by notable buildings including the Ou Raadsaal, the Palace of Justice and the Capitol Theatre.

After lunch at a local restaurant, transfer to Rovos Rail Station for embarkation. On arrival, enjoy a tour of the train station before boarding Rovos Rail. Bid farewell to your guide and settle into your suite before the train departs in the early evening. Join your fellow travellers in the lounge or observation car as the train travels through Warmbaths, also known as Bela-Bela, and Nylstroom, now known as Modimolle. This evening, dinner will be served in the dining cars as the train continues towards Polokwane. Formal dress is required for dinner onboard Rovos Rail.

**Destination Information**

**Pretoria** – Pretoria is one of South Africa's three capital cities and serves as the country's administrative capital. Known for its government buildings, jacaranda-lined streets, museums and monuments, the city offers insight into South Africa's political and colonial history.

**Rovos Rail** – Often referred to as the 'Pride of Africa', Rovos Rail is one of Southern Africa's most celebrated rail journeys. Its restored wood-panelled coaches, elegant dining cars and observation areas evoke the atmosphere of a bygone era of rail travel.

**Day 19: Rovos Rail** **Meals: B, L, D**

Today is at leisure to enjoy the facilities and atmosphere of Rovos Rail. Breakfast will be served in the dining cars from 07:00 as the train crosses the Tropic of Capricorn en route to Louis Trichardt. Lunch will be served in the dining cars from 13:00.

In the afternoon, enjoy tea in the lounge and observation cars as the train crosses the Limpopo River en route to Beitbridge, where border formalities take place. Dinner this evening will be served in the dining cars as the train continues towards Gwanda.

**Day 20: Rovos Rail (Matobo National Park)** **Meals: B, L, D**

Breakfast will be served in the dining cars between 06:00 and 09:00 as the train travels through baobab country and onwards to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second-largest city. Lunch will be served in the dining cars at around 12:00.

This afternoon, transfer approximately 45 minutes to Matobo National Park, known for its granite hills, balancing rock formations and ancient rock art. During your visit, see rock art sites and caves, as well as the grave of Cecil Rhodes at Malindidzimu. Return to the train later this afternoon, where dinner will be served in the dining cars as the journey continues.

**Destination Information**

**Matobo National Park** – Located in southwest Zimbabwe, Matobo National Park is known for the Matobo Hills, a striking landscape of granite kopjes and balancing rock formations. The area is also significant for its ancient rock art, cultural history and wildlife, including rhino and a variety of birdlife.

**Day 21: Rovos Rail (Hwange National Park) Meals: B, L, D**

Breakfast will be served in the dining cars between 07:00 and 10:00 as the train travels between Gwaai and Dete, along one of the world's longest straight stretches of railway line and near the eastern edge of Hwange National Park. Lunch will be served in the dining cars at around 13:00.

This afternoon, enjoy a game drive in an open vehicle in Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe's largest national park. The park is known for its varied wildlife and birdlife, with the chance to spot elephants, predators and other plains game. Back onboard the train, dinner will be served in the dining cars as the train continues towards Thompsons Junction.

**Destination Information**

**Hwange National Park** – Hwange National Park is Zimbabwe's largest national park, covering around 14,600 square kilometres. It is one of the country's most important wildlife areas, home to diverse habitats, large elephant herds, predators, antelope and hundreds of bird species.

**Day 22: Rovos Rail – Victoria Falls – Chobe National Park Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast onboard, Rovos Rail arrives at Victoria Falls, where you will disembark and meet your new guide. From here, transfer to your lodge in the Chobe area, near Kasane, Botswana, completing border formalities en route.

On arrival, enjoy lunch and some time at leisure. In the late afternoon, embark on a sunset cruise on the Chobe River, which forms the northern boundary of Chobe National Park. As you cruise along the river, look out for wildlife along the banks, including elephants, buffalo, antelope and birdlife.

**Destination Information**

**Kasane** – Located in northern Botswana, Kasane is set close to the borders of Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Namibia. The town is a gateway to Chobe National Park and is well placed for exploring the Chobe River and surrounding wildlife areas.

**Chobe River** – The Chobe River forms the northern boundary of Chobe National Park and is one of the region's key wildlife-viewing areas. Its riverbanks, wetlands and islands attract a wide range of animals and birdlife, particularly around sunrise and sunset.

**Day 23: Chobe National Park Meals: B, L, D**

Rise early this morning for a game drive in an open vehicle in Chobe National Park. The park is known for offering excellent wildlife-viewing opportunities, particularly around the Chobe River, where elephants and other animals are often seen drinking or moving through the riverfront landscape.

After your morning game drive, return to the lodge for some time at leisure before heading out again in the afternoon for a second game drive.

**Destination Information**

**Chobe National Park** – Chobe National Park is Botswana's second-largest national park, covering approximately 11,700 square kilometres. It is especially known for its large elephant population, as well as its varied landscapes, riverfront habitats, predators, antelope and abundant birdlife.

**Day 24: Chobe National Park – Victoria Falls Meals: B, L, D**

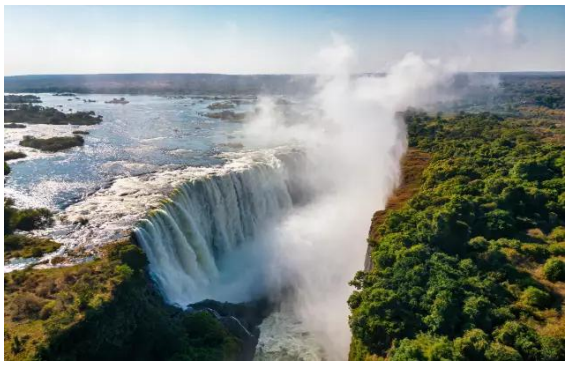
Rise early again today for another game drive in Chobe National Park. Return to the lodge for breakfast before checking out and transferring back to Victoria Falls, completing border formalities en route.

On arrival at your hotel, enjoy lunch before checking in. In the afternoon, meet your guide and head out for a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River, one of Africa's great rivers.

**Destination Information**

**Zambezi River** – The Zambezi River is the fourth-longest river in Africa and flows through several countries before reaching the Indian Ocean. Around Victoria Falls, it is central to the region's landscape, wildlife and river-based activities.

**Day 25: Victoria Falls Meals: B, L, D**



After breakfast at your hotel, enjoy a guided tour of the famous Victoria Falls. Located on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls is one of the world's largest and most spectacular waterfalls, stretching approximately 1,708 metres wide and dropping between 90 and 107 metres into the Zambezi Gorge.

As you explore with your guide, follow the walking trails and viewpoints while learning more about the formation, history and local significance of this natural wonder. The sheer volume of water creates towering clouds of spray and the distinctive sound that gives the falls their local name, Mosi-oa-Tunya, meaning 'the Smoke that Thunders'.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, then return to your hotel for the rest of the afternoon at leisure. This evening, enjoy dinner beside the Zambezi River.

**Destination Information**

**Victoria Falls** – Located on the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia, Victoria Falls is one of Southern Africa's most famous natural sights. Known locally as Mosi-oa-Tunya, meaning 'the Smoke that Thunders', the falls are formed as the Zambezi River plunges into a dramatic gorge, creating clouds of spray that can often be seen from miles away.

**Days 26-27: Depart Victoria Falls Meals: B**

This morning is free at leisure before transferring to the airport for your return flight home.

*Please note: Only breakfast is included today. Late check-out is not included. If you wish to book a late check-out for your final day, please contact our reservations department, who can confirm additional pricing and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.*

**PLEASE INFORM OUR RESERVATIONS TEAM OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AT TIME OF BOOKING.**

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

## VISAS

**Madagascar**
Entry visas are required for Australian passport holders to Madagascar. This visa fee is included in your tour cost and Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department will assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. Your passport must contain at least two blank pages.

**Zimbabwe**
Australian passport holders require a visa to enter Zimbabwe. Most visitors can obtain a visa on arrival, which is usually granted for 30 days. You should carry enough US dollars in small notes to pay for your visa, which is approximately USD45 for double entry. Please note this visa fee can change at any time. Your passport must have at least three blank pages.

**Mauritius**
Australian passport holders can stay in Mauritius visa-free for up to 90 days. A border official will stamp your passport on arrival to indicate the end date of your permitted stay. You must provide proof of onward or return travel and complete the "Mauritius All-in-One Travel Form" online before arrival, presenting the printed form with a QR code upon entry. Your passport must have at least one blank page. https://safemauritius.govmu.org/

**Réunion**
Australian passport holders do not require a visa to visit Réunion for tourism or business stays of up to 90 days.

**South Africa**
For stays of up to 90 days, Australian passport holders do not need a visa to enter South Africa. Your passport must contain at least two blank pages.

**Botswana**
Australians travelling to Botswana for tourist purposes are able to travel without a visa for visits of up to 90 days. Your passport must have at least three blank pages.

**Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia.**

Please note, the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.
Wendy Wu Tours does not accept responsibility for lost or undelivered items.

All information with regards to visas will be updated regularly on our website as we find visa processes are changing on regular basis. For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/

## INSURANCE

It is a condition of your booking that you are insured for the duration of your trip. We recommend comprehensive travel insurance to cover cancellation, medical requirements, luggage, repatriations and additional expenses. At a minimum, the policy is required to cover medical requirements including medical evacuations / repatriations. The choice of insurer is yours. We strongly suggest you purchase insurance at the time you pay your deposit. This is because cancellation fees and charges are payable from that time.

We may request you to provide evidence that you have taken out and paid for a policy to comply with this condition. If you fail to provide a certificate of currency of insurance within a reasonable time after our request, then this will be deemed a cancellation by you and standard cancellation fees will apply.

## LUGGAGE

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 5kg. It is essential that your luggage is lockable.

**On your cruise:** While luggage allowance on your cruise may permit further capacity, we ask you to adhere to the above restrictions due to airline and touring allowances. Luggage tags will be available to download through your personal cruise account. For your convenience, we recommend that your luggage tags are placed on your bags prior to arrival at the port.

It may take a few hours after embarkation for your luggage to be delivered to your stateroom. Likewise, suitcases are usually collected on the final night of your cruise. To avoid any complications, please bring a small bag, such as a backpack, for carrying any necessary medication, valuables, important documents and essential items.

## PORTERAGE

**Pre & Post Cruise:** Please be aware that porterage is not included throughout the land arrangements on this tour unless otherwise stated. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within hotels and lodges, and when using transportation such as coaches, transfers and trains.

**Cruise:** Porterage is included onboard Azamara Onward. When embarking, your luggage will usually be delivered to your cabin from the check-in area at the port. When disembarking, you may be asked to leave your luggage outside your cabin door on the final night of your cruise. Cruise staff will then make arrangements for your luggage, ready for disembarkation the following morning. Please also note, it is customary to tip for porterage services where these are provided.

**Rovos Rail:** Porterage is included on Rovos Rail.

## TRANSPORT

**Coaches:** Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, excursions and transfers where necessary. Roads and driving conditions can vary between destinations. In Mauritius and South Africa, roads are generally well maintained, although traffic congestion in urban areas and tourist hotspots can extend journey times. In Zimbabwe and Botswana, road conditions may vary more widely, particularly around national parks, border crossings and rural areas.

It may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before dinner, so flexibility is advised. Timings for transfers and tours are approximate and subject to weather, traffic, border formalities and local conditions.

**Rovos Rail:** This tour includes a journey onboard Rovos Rail. Train timings and route arrangements may be subject to operational requirements, border formalities and rail conditions. While every effort will be made to follow the planned schedule, delays or changes may occur.

**Safari Vehicles:** During the safari sections of the itinerary, game drives are usually operated in open safari vehicles. You will need to be able to get in and out of these vehicles without assistance. Drives may take place on uneven tracks, and conditions can be bumpy, dusty or affected by weather.

**Boats:** This tour includes boat-based activities, such as river cruises. You will need to be able to board and disembark boats without assistance. Water levels, weather and local operating conditions may affect timings or arrangements.

**Public Transport:** Public transport is not recommended for tourists in many of the areas visited on this tour, particularly when travelling independently or in the evening. We recommend using the included transfers and transport arrangements wherever possible.

**Taxis:** Taxis may be available in some cities and tourist areas, although availability, pricing and standards can vary. Where taxis are required during time at leisure, we recommend arranging these through your hotel or local guide and agreeing the fare before travelling where meters are not used.

## ACCOMMODATION PRE & POST CRUISE

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort and suitability for the itinerary. During the land sections of your tour, accommodation may include hotels and safari-style lodges, while your journey also includes 4 nights accommodation on Rovos Rail.

All hotels and lodges used on group tours will have private western bathroom facilities. Facilities and standards can vary between destinations, particularly when travelling through remote areas or staying in safari locations. Electricity supplies can occasionally be erratic, and in some properties the power in rooms may be turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your local guide or National Escorts. Hotels are generally rated as local four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between Australia and other countries abroad. Rest assured that all accommodation used by Wendy Wu Tours is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards are met.

## GROUP SIZE

For pre and post cruise touring, most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a different National Escort in each country. On this tour, there will be no more than 28 travellers in each group, although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

Your Azamara cruise is aboard Azamara Onward, which carries approximately 684 guests, most of whom will not be part of your Wendy Wu tour group. Your Rovo Rail journey will also be carrying guests who are not part of Wendy Wu Tours.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 10 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides only.

## TIPPING / GRATUITIES

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world, including the destinations visited on this tour. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not always have the right amounts of cash available at the right time.

In order to avoid inconvenience, Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is collected and tips are disbursed to local guides, drivers and relevant service staff throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people.

For this tour, tipping is paid locally per person in each country. This is currently advised as:

- Mauritius: EUR 34
- South Africa: ZAR 840
- Rovos Rail: ZAR 700
- Victoria Falls & Chobe: USD 84

If you are travelling in a smaller group with local guides only, tipping may be paid in each destination. To be fair to the guides, we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups. We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognise that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour, we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure the smooth operation of your tour.

**Cruise:** Onboard gratuities are included in your trip cost.

## FOOD, MEALS & DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

On this tour, you will have the opportunity to experience a wide variety of dining options, reflecting the diverse cuisines of the destinations you will visit. Meals will vary between hotel restaurants, local restaurants, onboard cruise dining, Rovos Rail dining and lodge-style dining during the safari sections.

**Mauritius:** The cuisine reflects the island's blend of Indian, African, Chinese and French traditions. Staples include curries, biryanis and rougaille, alongside street food favourites like dholl puri and gateaux piments. Fresh seafood is central, with dishes such as vindaye and bol renversé showcasing the island's creativity. Mauritius also has a strong rum culture, with sugarcane-based rums complementing its culinary offerings. From local markets to beachside restaurants, dining in Mauritius is a celebration of flavour and culture.

**South Africa:** The cuisine is a celebration of cultural diversity, blending indigenous, European, Asian and African influences. Signature dishes include the braai, a communal barbecue feast, and bobotie, a spiced meat dish with Cape Malay roots. Biltong and droëwors provide popular snacking options, while regional favourites such as bunny chow and pap and wors highlight the country's culinary variety. Seafood is abundant along the coast, and South Africa's wine regions are also well known. Restaurants range from fine dining establishments in cities such as Cape Town to casual cafés, offering something for every palate.

During the Rovos Rail section of your tour, meals will be served onboard in the dining cars. Dining on Rovos Rail is a more formal experience, with formal dress required for dinner each evening.

**Zimbabwe and Botswana:** Meals during the safari and Victoria Falls sections are generally taken at your lodge, hotel or included restaurants. Cuisine in this region often features grilled meats, stews, maize-based dishes and fresh local produce, with international options also commonly available at safari lodges and hotels. Dining in these areas is usually relaxed and lodge-based, with some meals offering scenic settings close to the river or surrounding wilderness.

**Cruise dining:** Meals in the main dining areas are included, offering a wide range of international dishes. Please note, there are no set menus onboard the cruise ship; instead, you will have the opportunity to dine at your choice of restaurants included in your cruise package. Speciality restaurants and onshore dining are payable locally, unless included in your cruise package. If you choose to dine off the ship while in port, these meals will be at your own expense and no refund will be given for meals missed onboard. Your cruise package also includes the basic beverage package which includes selected drinks whilst onboard your cruise.

**Dietary Requirements:** Please advise our reservation team of any dietary requirements at time of booking. Our guides will make every effort to accommodate requests such as gluten-free or vegetarian meals. However, it is important to note that some dietary needs may be more challenging to meet, particularly in remote areas, on rail journeys, during safari stays or due to differences in food preparation styles. The range of options may also be more limited than you are used to at home.

While on the cruise, the ship's restaurants are generally well-equipped to cater to a wide range of dietary requirements, though it is still recommended to notify the cruise line of any specific needs in advance. During shore excursions, land touring, rail journeys and safari arrangements, dining options may vary and local food establishments may have limited capacity to meet special dietary requests.

For travellers with food intolerances or specific dietary needs, it is highly recommended to bring additional snacks or food items, especially when travelling further from major cities. This ensures that you are well prepared in case certain dietary requests cannot be met. Your patience and understanding are appreciated, as local suppliers may not always be able to provide exactly what you would expect from Western cuisine. The aim is to provide you with an authentic experience while being mindful of your dietary preferences.

## CRUISE – AZAMARA ONWARD

Azamara Onward is a stylish, mid-sized ship offering a warm and intimate small-ship cruising experience. Designed for destination-focused voyages, the ship provides a more relaxed and personal atmosphere than larger resort-style cruise vessels, while still offering a wide choice of dining, leisure and entertainment spaces to enjoy between ports.

Onboard, you will find a selection of restaurants, cafés, bars and lounges, along with a pool area, sun decks, spa and fitness facilities. Entertainment is also offered throughout the cruise, with live performances taking place in the Cabaret Lounge and a programme designed to complement the destinations visited. Azamara Onward also features Atlas Bar, a distinctive cocktail venue found only on this ship.

## CRUISE EMBARKATION & DISEMBARKATION

Embarkation time is when you should arrive at the cruise terminal. Departure time is when your ship sets sail.

**Boarding Procedures:** Boarding times may vary and will be shown in your travel documents. Please allow plenty of time to get to the port on the day of boarding. Government regulations require Azamara to submit final departure manifests, and guests must check in at least 90 minutes before the scheduled departure time. If you fail to check in at least 90 minutes before the scheduled departure, this may constitute a "no-show" and result in automatic cancellation of your cruise booking.

**Boarding Time in Ports of Call:** In all ports of call, it is the guest's responsibility to be back onboard the ship by the time advised by Azamara and the ship's crew. Please be aware that shipboard time may differ from the time in the port of call, and it is the guest's responsibility to follow shipboard time. In the event a guest misses the ship, it will be the guest's responsibility to pay all expenses incurred to rejoin the ship.

## CRUISE ACCOMMODATION AND CABINS

At the time of booking, subject to availability, you may have the choice of booking an outside cabin or balcony cabin. Should you wish to upgrade to a suite or have a special request regarding cabin location, please speak to our reservations department, who may be able to assist.

Outside cabins offer natural light and ocean views from the window, providing a comfortable space to relax between days ashore. Balcony cabins offer the added benefit of a private veranda, allowing you to step outside and enjoy the sea air and surrounding views from your own cabin. Cabin availability, location and layout will vary by category and are subject to confirmation at the time of booking.

PLEASE NOTE: Staterooms allocated may be subject to obstructed views.

## SHORE EXCURSIONS

Your itinerary combines two different styles of touring, each offering a distinct experience. The land portion pre- or post-cruise is more in-depth and fast-paced, with full days of sightseeing, cultural highlights, and detailed commentary from local guides. This allows for a comprehensive understanding of each destination, although the pace can feel busy and information-rich.

During the cruise, the touring style becomes more relaxed. Shore excursions still provide opportunities to explore each port, but they are typically less intensive, with a slower pace, lighter commentary, and more free time. This contrast is designed to offer a balance between structured, guided touring and more flexible exploration.

At ports of call, optional shore excursions will be available through the cruise line. These are subject to availability and may be amended or cancelled due to weather or operational reasons at their discretion. Unless otherwise stated, excursions are at your own expense and can be booked in advance through your Holland America reservation, onboard the ship, or independently with a third-party provider. If you choose independently or through a third-party provider, it is your responsibility to ensure the excursion timing allows sufficient return time before the ship's all-aboard deadline.

If you opt to book through the cruise line, we recommend booking early, as availability is limited and operates on a first-come, first-served basis. A shore excursions desk is available onboard for last-minute arrangements although this does not always guarantee availability. Excursions can be pre-booked online via your Guest Account. Please note that any add-ons must be paid within 72 hours of being added to your reservation to avoid automatic removal. To secure your selections, payment should be completed at the time of booking. Shore excursions are not always available online straight away, and sometimes appear closer to the departure date. If you cannot see them, it is worth checking back at a later date.

## APPROPRIATE DRESS / WHAT TO PACK

When travelling on this tour, it is advisable to pack light, comfortable clothing made from breathable materials. Long-sleeved shirts and trousers are useful for protection against the sun and insects, particularly during the safari sections. A lightweight waterproof jacket is also recommended in case of rain or cooler weather.

A sturdy pair of trainers or walking shoes is essential for sightseeing, walking tours and exploring uneven surfaces. For sun protection, pack a wide-brimmed hat, sunscreen and sunglasses. Swimwear and light beachwear are useful for Mauritius, the cruise and hotel facilities, but please remember to dress modestly when visiting religious or cultural sites.

For the safari sections in Zimbabwe and Botswana, neutral-coloured clothing is recommended where possible. Early morning and evening activities can be cool, so bring a light jumper, fleece or jacket. You may also wish to pack insect repellent, a small torch, chargers, spare memory cards, a small medical kit and any personal medication.

During the Rovos Rail section, formal dress is required for dinner each evening. Smart casual clothing is suitable for daytime onboard the train.

**Onboard Dress Code:** In keeping with Azamara's friendly yet sophisticated atmosphere, the dress code onboard is resort casual. Guests are asked to avoid bare feet, tank tops, caps, bathing suits, casual shorts and torn jeans in the main dining room and speciality restaurants. At Windows Café, appropriate cover-ups and footwear are required.

Formal evening wear is not expected or required onboard Azamara Onward, though guests who enjoy dressing up are welcome to do so. A highlight of the cruise is White Night, a festive evening held once per voyage, weather permitting, where guests are encouraged to wear smart white attire and enjoy alfresco dining and entertainment on deck.

## TERRAIN CONSIDERATIONS (STEPS, SLOPES & UNEVEN SURFACES)

Sightseeing on this tour may involve walking on uneven ground, cobbled streets, slopes, steps, boardwalks, gravel paths and natural trails. In Cape Town, Mauritius, Pretoria and Victoria Falls, some sightseeing will be on foot and may include steps, gradients or uneven surfaces.

During the safari sections, you will need to get in and out of open safari vehicles without assistance. Game drives may take place on uneven tracks and can be bumpy, dusty or affected by weather conditions. Boat and river cruise activities will also require guests to board and disembark without assistance. At Victoria Falls, walking trails and viewpoints may be wet or slippery due to spray from the falls. Suitable walking shoes with good grip are recommended.

People with knee or hip injuries, poor balance or mobility concerns should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully. Guests must be able to complete the included activities independently.

## MONEY, CASH AND PERSONAL EXPENSES

This tour visits several countries, so different currencies may be required during your journey. It is important to plan ahead and ensure you have access to suitable cash for locally payable costs, tipping, small purchases and any personal expenses, particularly when travelling through more remote areas.

**Exchanging cash:** For this tour, the main currencies you may need for locally payable costs are Euros (EUR) in Mauritius, South African Rand (ZAR) in South Africa and on Rovos Rail, and US Dollars (USD) in Victoria Falls and Chobe. US Dollars are widely used for tourism expenses in Zimbabwe, including Victoria Falls.

We suggest exchanging or withdrawing money before travelling to more remote areas where possible, as exchange facilities and ATMs can be limited during rail journeys, border crossings and safari sections. Try to keep some small notes on you for tips, snacks, souvenirs and smaller purchases. If using US Dollars, please make sure notes are new, undamaged and not ripped, as damaged notes may not be accepted.

Most major credit cards are accepted in hotels, larger restaurants, shops and onboard the cruise, but card facilities may be limited in smaller towns, markets or remote areas. ATMs are available in larger towns and cities, although access may be limited during sightseeing days and in safari areas. We recommend consulting your bank about withdrawal fees, overseas card charges and daily limits before travelling. Your National Escorts or local guides will advise you locally where possible and may remind you when it is advisable to exchange or withdraw money before travelling to more remote areas.

**Personal expenses:** You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks not included in your package, laundry, souvenirs, optional shore excursions, additional sightseeing and any other personal expenses. During the cruise, most onboard purchases will be charged to your shipboard account and settled at the end of your voyage.

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES - PRE AND POST CRUISE

Our fully-inclusive Classic tours feature full days of sightseeing to ensure you experience the must-see sights and unforgettable moments included in your itinerary. Occasionally, when time allows, optional extras may be offered for those seeking additional experiences. These excursions will be communicated and paid for locally through your guide.

## SOUVENIRS

We want to give you the opportunity to buy souvenirs, so your itinerary may include stops at museums, markets, workshops or exhibitions which demonstrate a craft or product unique to the region, with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places which hold local interest. On this tour, you may find locally made crafts, textiles, artwork, jewellery, wood carvings, rum, tea, wildlife-themed souvenirs and other regional products. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts, crafts and culture, and understand their historical or regional importance.

## CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

The destinations visited on this tour are culturally diverse, with a mix of African, Indian, European, Chinese and French influences across Mauritius, Réunion, Madagascar and Southern Africa. Local customs, service styles and standards may differ from those in Australia, and showing respect for local traditions will help you get the most from your journey.

In some places, particularly at religious sites, modest dress may be expected. You should always ask permission before photographing local people and follow the advice of your National Escorts and local guides. During safari activities, it is important to listen carefully to the instructions given by guides and lodge staff, particularly when travelling in open vehicles or near wildlife.

## DEVELOPMENT

The countries visited on this tour vary in levels of infrastructure and development. In major cities and established tourist areas, such as Cape Town, Pretoria, Mauritius and Victoria Falls, facilities are generally of a good standard. However, in more remote areas, including safari regions and border areas, facilities may be more limited and travel can be affected by local conditions.

Roads, border formalities, weather and local operating conditions may affect journey times. Electricity and Wi-Fi access can also be less reliable in some destinations than you may be used to in Australia. We recommend travelling with patience, flexibility and an open mind, especially during the safari and rail sections of your tour.

## WEATHER

This tour travels in late April and May, during the transition into the cooler, drier months across much of Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean region. Mauritius, Réunion and Madagascar generally have warm tropical conditions, though rain showers and humidity are still possible. Coastal areas are usually warm, while higher or inland areas may feel cooler, particularly in the evenings.

In South Africa, autumn conditions can vary by region. Durban and Richards Bay are generally warmer and more humid, while Cape Town can be mild and changeable, with cooler evenings and the possibility of rain. Inland areas such as Pretoria are usually warm during the day but can be cooler in the mornings and evenings.

In Zimbabwe and Botswana, May is generally part of the dry season, with warm daytime temperatures and cooler early mornings and evenings. Early morning game drives and river activities may feel noticeably cool, so layers are recommended.

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

There are not expected to be any major public holidays that directly affect the included land touring days.

Please note that 1 May 2028 is Labour Day/Workers' Day in several countries visited on this itinerary, including Mauritius, Madagascar, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana. On this tour, guests are scheduled to be at sea on this date, so included sightseeing is not expected to be directly affected.

Public holidays can still affect local services, shops, banks, offices, transport, border formalities and visitor numbers at tourist sites. Cruise and rail schedules may also be affected by local operational requirements.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

The destinations visited on this tour are popular with international travellers, but as with any holiday, it is important to take sensible precautions and remain aware of your surroundings. Your National Escorts and local guides will advise you locally where necessary.

To help keep your belongings safe:

- Avoid carrying large sums of cash with you.
- Keep passports, spare cash and valuables in the hotel safe where available.
- Do not leave luggage, bags, phones or cameras unattended.
- Avoid displaying expensive jewellery, watches, cameras or other valuables in public.
- Take care in busy areas such as markets, ports, airports, tourist sites and city centres.
- Use ATMs inside banks, hotels or shopping centres where possible.
- If you need a taxi during time at leisure, ask your hotel or local guide to arrange one for you.
- Avoid walking alone at night, particularly in unfamiliar or quiet areas.
- Keep your hotel room locked and check who is at the door before opening it.

During the safari and river sections, please follow all instructions given by your guides, drivers and lodge staff. Do not approach wildlife/ leave vehicles unless advised it is safe to do so, or move around independently in safari areas after dark. Wildlife can be unpredictable, even when animals appear calm.

## VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au.

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smartraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

## AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive an email with your confirmation invoice, along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: July 2026